

¹أَلَعَلَّ الْحِكْمَةُ لَا تُنَادِي، وَالْفَهِيمُ لَا يُعْطِي صَوْتَهُ.² عِنْدَ رُؤُوسِ الشَّوَاهِقِ، عِنْدَ الطَّرِيقِ بَيْنَ الْمَسَالِكِ تَقِفُ.³ بِجَانِبِ الْأَبْوَابِ، عِنْدَ تَعْرِ الْمَدِينَةِ، عِنْدَ مَذْخَلِ الْأَبْوَابِ مُصْرِّحٌ، لَكُمْ أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَنْتَادِي، وَصَوْتِي إِلَيَّ بَنِي آدَمَ.⁵ أَيُّهَا الْحَقَمَى تَعْلَمُوا ذِكَاءً، وَبَا جُهَالٍ تَعْلَمُوا فَهْمًا.⁶ اِسْمَعُوا قَائِي أَتَكَلِّمُ بِأُمُورٍ سَرِيفَةٍ، وَافْتِتَاحَ شَفَقَتِي اسْتِقَامَةً.⁷ لَأَنَّ حَتَكِي يَلْهَجُ بِالصِّدْقِ، وَمَكْرَهُهُ شَفَقَتِي الْكَذِبِ.⁸ كُلُّ كَلِمَاتٍ قَمِي بِالْحَقِّ. لَيْسَ فِيهَا عَوْجٌ وَلَا التَّوَأُّ.⁹ كُلُّهَا وَاضِحَةٌ لَدَى الْفَهِيمِ، وَمُسْتَقِيمَةٌ لَدَى الَّذِينَ يَجِدُونَ الْمَعْرِفَةَ.¹⁰ خُذُوا تَأْدِيبِي لَا الْفِصَّةَ. وَالْمَعْرِفَةَ أَكْثَرَ مِنَ الذَّهَبِ الْمُخْتَارِ.¹¹ لَأَنَّ الْحِكْمَةَ خَيْرٌ مِنَ اللَّالِئِ، وَكُلُّ الْجَوَاهِرِ لَا تُسَاوِيهَا.¹² أَنَا الْحِكْمَةُ أَسْكُنُ الذِّكَاءَ، وَأَجِدُ مَعْرِفَةَ النَّذَائِرِ.¹³ مَخَافَةُ الرَّبِّ بَعْضُ الشَّرِّ. الْكِبْرِيَاءُ وَالْتَّعَظُمُ وَطَرِيقُ الشَّرِّ وَقَمَ الْأَكَاذِبِ أَبْعَضْتُ.¹⁴ لِي الْمُسُورَةُ وَالرَّأْيُ. أَنَا الْفَهْمُ. لِي الْفَذْرَةُ.¹⁵ لِي تَمْلِكُ الْمُلُوكُ، وَتَقْضِي الْعُظَمَاءُ عَدْلًا.¹⁶ لِي تَتَرَأَسُ الرُّؤَسَاءُ وَالشَّرَفَاءُ، كُلُّ قُضَاةِ الْأَرْضِ.¹⁷ أَنَا أَحَبُّ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونِي، وَالَّذِينَ يُبْكِرُونَ إِلَيَّ يَجِدُونِي.¹⁸ عِنْدِي الْغَنَى وَالْكَرَامَةُ. قَنِيهِ فَاجِرُهُ وَحَطَّ.¹⁹ تَمَرِّي خَيْرٌ مِنَ الذَّهَبِ وَمِنَ الْإِبْرِيزِ، وَعَلْتَنِي خَيْرٌ مِنَ الْفِصَّةِ الْمُخْتَارَةِ.²⁰ فِي طَرِيقِ الْعَدْلِ أَمْسِسُ، فِي وَسْطِ سُبُلِ الْحَقِّ، فَأَوْرَثُ مُجِبِّي رِزْقًا وَأَمْلَأُ حَرَائِثَهُمْ.²² الرَّبُّ قَنَانِي أَوَّلَ طَرِيقِهِ، مِنْ قَبْلِ أَعْمَالِهِ، مُنْذُ الْقَدَمِ.²³ مُنْذُ الْأَرْلِ مُسِخْتُ، مُنْذُ الْبَدْءِ، مُنْذُ أَوَائِلِ الْأَرْضِ.²⁴ إِذْ لَمْ يَكُنْ عَمَرٌ أُبِدْتُ. إِذْ لَمْ تَكُنْ بَتَابِيعُ كَبِيرَةُ الْمِيَاهِ.²⁵ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ تَقَرَّرَ الْجِبَالُ، قَبْلَ التَّلَالِ أُبِدْتُ.²⁶ إِذْ لَمْ يَكُنْ قَدْ صَبَعَ الْأَرْضَ بَعْدُ وَلَا الْبَرَارِيَّ وَلَا أَوَّلَ أَغْفَارِ الْمَسْكُونَةِ.²⁷ لَمَّا ثَبَتَ السَّمَاوَاتُ كُنْتُ هُنَاكَ أَنَا. لَمَّا رَسَمَ دَائِرَةً عَلَى وَجْهِ الْعَمْرِ.²⁸ لَمَّا أَثَبَتَ السُّحُبَ مِنْ فَوْقِ. لَمَّا تَشَدَّدَتْ بَتَابِيعُ الْعَمْرِ.²⁹ لَمَّا وَصَعَ لِلْبَحْرِ حَدَّهُ فَلَا تَتَعَدَّى الْمِيَاهُ ثُخْمَهُ، لَمَّا رَسَمَ أَسْوَاسَ الْأَرْضِ، كُنْتُ عِنْدَهُ صَانِعًا، وَكُنْتُ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ لَدَيْهِ، قَرِحَةً دَائِمًا قَدَامَهُ.³¹ قَرِحَةً فِي مَسْكُونَةِ أَرْضِهِ، وَلَدَاتِي مَعَ بَنِي آدَمَ.³² فَالآنَ أَيُّهَا الْبَنُونَ اِسْمَعُوا لِي قَطُوبَى لِلَّذِينَ يَحْفَظُونَ طَرَفِي.³³ اِسْمَعُوا التَّلْعِيمَ وَكُونُوا حُكَمَاءَ وَلَا تَرْفُضُوهُ.³⁴ طُوبَى لِلْإِنْسَانِ الَّذِي يَسْمَعُ لِي سَاهِرًا كُلَّ يَوْمٍ عِنْدَ مَصَارِعِي، خَافِطًا قَوَائِمَ أَبْوَابِي.³⁵ لَأَنَّ مَنْ يَجِدُنِي يَجِدُ الْحَيَاةَ وَتَبَالَ رِضَى مِنَ الرَّبِّ، وَمَنْ يَخْطِئُ عَنِّي يَصْرُ نَفْسَهُ. كُلُّ مُبْغِضِي يُحِبُّونَ الْمَوْتَ.

¹Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?²She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.³She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.⁴Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man.⁵O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.⁶Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.⁷For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.⁸All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.⁹They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.¹⁰Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.¹¹For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.¹²I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.¹³The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.¹⁴Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength.¹⁵By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.¹⁶By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.¹⁷I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.¹⁸Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness.¹⁹My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.²⁰I lead in the way of

righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:²¹ That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.²² The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.²³ I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.²⁴ When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.²⁵ Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:²⁶ While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.²⁷ When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:²⁸ When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:²⁹ When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:³⁰ Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;³¹ Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.³² Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways.³³ Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.³⁴ Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.³⁵ For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.³⁶ But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.