

¹Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth? are not his days also like the days of an hireling?²As a servant earnestly desireth the shadow, and as an hireling looketh for the reward of his work:³So am I made to possess months of vanity, and wearisome nights are appointed to me.⁴When I lie down, I say, When shall I arise, and the night be gone? and I am full of tossings to and fro unto the dawning of the day.⁵My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin is broken, and become loathsome.⁶My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope.⁷O remember that my life is wind: mine eye shall no more see good.⁸The eye of him that hath seen me shall see me no more: thine eyes are upon me, and I am not.⁹As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more.¹⁰He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.¹¹Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.¹²Am I a sea, or a whale, that thou settest a watch over me?¹³When I say, My bed shall comfort me, my couch shall ease my complaint;¹⁴Then thou scarest me with dreams, and terrifiest me through visions:¹⁵So that my soul chooseth strangling, and death rather than my life.¹⁶I loathe it; I would not live alway: let me alone; for my days are vanity.¹⁷What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?¹⁸And that thou shouldest visit

¹أَلَيْسَتْ حَيَاتُهُ الْإِنْسَانِ جِهَادًا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ، وَكَأَيَّامِ الْأَجِيرِ أَيَّامُهُ.²كَمَا يَتَسَوَّقُ الْعَبْدُ إِلَى الظِّلِّ، وَكَمَا يَتَرَجَّى الْأَجِيرُ أَجْرَهُ، هَكَذَا تَعَيَّنَ لِي أَشْهُرُ سُوءٍ، وَلَيَالِي سَقَاءٍ قُسِمَتْ لِي. إِذَا اضْطَجَعْتُ أَقُولُ مَتَى أَقُومُ. اللَّيْلُ يَطُولُ وَأَشْبَعُ قَلْقًا حَتَّى الصُّبْحِ. لَيْسَ لِحِمِي الدُّودُ مَعَ الطِّينِ. جِلْدِي تَتَشَقَّقُ وَتَقْيَحُ. أَيَّامِي أَشْرَعُ مِنَ الْمَكُوكِ، وَتَنْتَهِي بِغَيْرِ رَجَاءٍ. أَذْكَرُ أَنَّ حَيَاتِي إِنَّمَا هِيَ رِيحٌ وَعَيْنِي لَا تَعُودُ تَرَى خَيْرًا. لَا تَرَانِي عَيْنُ نَاطِرِي. عَيْنَاكَ عَلَيَّ وَلَسْتُ أَنَا. السَّحَابُ يَصْمَجِلُ وَيَزُولُ. هَكَذَا الَّذِي يَنْزِلُ إِلَى الْهَوَايَةِ لَا يَصْعَدُ.¹⁰لَا يَرْجِعُ بَعْدُ إِلَى بَيْتِهِ وَلَا يَعْرِفُهُ مَكَانُهُ بَعْدُ. أَنَا أَيْضًا لَا أَمْنَعُ قِيَمِي. أَتَكَلِّمُ بِضِيْقِ رُوحِي. أَشْكُو بِمَرَارَةِ نَفْسِي. أَبْخُرُ أَنَا أَمْ يَتَّبِعُنِي حَتَّى جَعَلْتَ عَلَيَّ حَارِسًا.¹³إِنْ قُلْتُ، فَرَاشِي يُعْزِيْنِي، مَصْجَعِي يَنْزِعُ كُرْسِيَّتِي تُرْبِعُنِي بِالْأَخْلَامِ وَتُرْهِبُنِي بِرُؤْيٍ، فَاقْتَنَارْتُ نَفْسِي الْحَقِيقَ وَالْمَوْتَ عَلَى عِطَافِي هَذِهِ. قَدْ دُبْتُ. لَا إِلَى الْأَبَدِ أَحْيَا. كُفَّ عَنِّي لِأَنَّ أَيَّامِي تَفْخَعُ. مَا هُوَ الْإِنْسَانُ حَتَّى تَغْتَبِرَهُ وَحَتَّى تَصْعَ عَلَيْهِ قَلْبُكَ، وَتَتَعَهَّدَهُ كُلَّ صَبَاحٍ، وَكُلَّ لَحْظَةٍ تَمْتَحِنُهُ. حَتَّى هَمَّتِي لَا تَلْتَفِتْ عَنِّي وَلَا تُزْجِيْنِي رَبَّنَا أَبْلَغُ رَيْفِي. مَاذَا أَفْعَلُ لَكَ يَا رَقِيبَ النَّاسِ. لِمَاذَا جَعَلْتَنِي هَدَفًا لَكَ حَتَّى أَكُونَ عَلَى نَفْسِي جَمَلًا.²¹وَلِمَاذَا لَا تَغْفِرُ ذَنْبِي وَلَا تُزِيلُ إِنِّمِي لَائِي الْآنَ اضْطَجِعْ فِي التُّرَابِ. تَطْلُبْنِي فَلَا أَكُونُ..

him every morning, and try him every moment?¹⁹ How long wilt thou not depart from me, nor let me alone till I swallow down my spittle?²⁰ I have sinned; what shall I do unto thee, O thou preserver of men? why hast thou set me as a mark against thee, so that I am a burden to myself?²¹ And why dost thou not pardon my transgression, and take away mine iniquity? for now shall I sleep in the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I shall not be .