

¹Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them. ²For their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief. ³Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established. ⁴And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. ⁵A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength. ⁶For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety. ⁷Wisdom is too high for a fool: he openeth not his mouth in the gate. ⁸He that deviseth to do evil shall be called a mischievous person. ⁹The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men. ¹⁰If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. ¹¹If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; ¹²If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works? ¹³My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste: ¹⁴So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off. ¹⁵Lay not wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting place: ¹⁶For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief. ¹⁷Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad

¹لَا تَحْسِدْ أَهْلَ الشَّرِّ وَلَا تَشْتَهُ أَنْ تَكُونَ مَعَهُمْ² لِأَنَّ قَلْبَهُمْ يَلْهَجُ بِالْإِعْتِصَابِ، وَشِفَاهُهُمْ تَتَكَلَّمُ بِالْمَسْقَةِ³. بِالْحِكْمَةِ يُبْنَى الْبَيْتُ وَبِالْفَهْمِ يُبْنَى، وَبِالْمَعْرِفَةِ تَقْلُدُ الْمَخَادِعُ مِنْ كُلِّ تَزْوِجَةٍ كَرِيمَةٍ وَتَفِيْسَةٍ⁵. الرَّجُلُ الْحَكِيمُ فِي عِرٍّ، وَذُو الْمَعْرِفَةِ مُتَسَدِّدُ الْقُوَّةِ⁶. لِأَنَّكَ بِالدَّابِيرِ تَعْمَلُ خَزَنَتَكَ وَالْخَلَاصَ يَكْثُرُهُ الْمُشِيرِينَ⁷. الْحِكْمُ غَالِيَةٌ عَنِ الْأَحْمَقِ. لَا يَفْتَحُ قَمَهُ فِي الْبَابِ⁸. الْمَتَفَكَّرُ فِي عَمَلِ الشَّرِّ يُدْعَى مُفْسِدًا⁹. وَكَزُرَ الْحَقَاقَةِ خَطِيئَةٌ، وَمَكْرَهُهُ النَّاسُ الْمُسْتَهْزِئُونَ¹⁰. إِنْ ارْتَحَبْتَ فِي يَوْمِ الصَّبِيِّ صَاقَتْ قُوَّتُكَ¹¹. أَتَفِذُ الْمُتَقَادِرِينَ إِلَى الْمَوْتِ وَالْمَقْدُودِينَ لِلْقَتْلِ. لَا تَمْتَنِعْ¹². إِنْ قُلْتَ، هُوَذَا لَمْ تَعْرِفْ هَذَا أَقْلًا يَفْهَمُ وَارِثُ الْقُلُوبِ، وَخَافِطُ نَفْسِكَ أَلَا يَعْلَمُ. فَيَزِدُّ عَلَى الْإِنْسَانِ مِثْلَ عَمَلِهِ¹³. يَا ابْنِي كُلْ عَسَلًا لِأَنَّهُ طَيِّبٌ، وَقَطِرْ الْعَسَلَ خُلُوْ فِي حَتِكَ¹⁴. كَذَلِكَ مَعْرِفَةُ الْحِكْمَةِ لِنَفْسِكَ. إِذَا وَجَدْتَهَا فَلَا بُدَّ مِنْ تَوَابٍ، وَرَجَاؤُكَ لَا يَخِيبُ¹⁵. لَا تَكْمُنْ أَبْهَاطُ الشَّرِّ بِرَبِّ لِمَسْكَنِ الصَّادِقِ. لَا تُخْرِثْ رَنْعَةً¹⁶. لِأَنَّ الصَّادِقَ يَسْقُطُ سَبْعَ مَرَّاتٍ وَيَقُومُ. أَمَّا الْأَشْرَارُ فَيَعْتَرُونَ بِالشَّرِّ¹⁷. لَا تَفْرَحْ بِسُقُوطِ عَدُوِّكَ، وَلَا يَبْتَهِجْ قَلْبُكَ إِذَا عَثَرَ¹⁸. لِنَلَّا بَرَى الرَّبُّ وَيَسُوءُ ذَلِكَ فِي عَيْنَيْهِ، فَيَزِدُّ عَنْهُ غَضَبَهُ¹⁹. لَا تَعَزَّ مِنْ الْأَشْرَارِ وَلَا تَحْسِدِ الْأَتَمَةَ²⁰. لِأَنَّهُ لَا يَكُونُ تَوَابٌ لِلْأَشْرَارِ. سِرَاجُ الْأَتَمَةِ يَبْطَفِئُ²¹. يَا ابْنِي، أَحْسِنِ الرَّبَّ وَالْمَلِكَ. لَا تُخَالِطِ الْمُتَعَلِّبِينَ²². لِأَنَّ بَلِيَّيَهُمْ يَقُومُ بَعْتَهُ، وَمَنْ يَعْلَمُ بِلَاءَهُمَا كِلَيْهِمَا²³. هَذِهِ أَيْضًا لِلْحُكَمَاءِ، مُحَابَاةُ الْوُجُوهِ فِي الْحُكْمِ لَيْسَتْ صَالِحَةً²⁴. مَنْ يَقُولُ لِلشَّرِّيرِ، أَنْتَ صَدِيقُ تَسْبَةِ الْعَامَّةِ. تَلْعَنُ الشُّعُوبُ²⁵. أَمَّا الَّذِينَ يُؤَدِّبُونَ فَيَنْعَمُونَ، وَبَرَكَهٌ خَيْرٌ تَأْتِي عَلَيْهِمْ²⁶. تَقْبَلْ شَفَقًا مَنْ يُجَاوِبُ بِكَلَامٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ²⁷. هَبْنِي عَمَلَكَ فِي الْخَارِجِ وَأَعِدَّهُ فِي حَقْلِكَ. بَعْدُ تَبْنِي بَيْتَكَ²⁸. لَا تَكُنْ شَاهِدًا عَلَى قَرِيْبِكَ يَلَا سَبَبٍ، فَهَلْ تُخَادِعُ بِسَفْعَتِكَ²⁹. لَا تَقُلْ، كَمَا فَعَلَ بِي هَكَذَا أَفْعَلُ بِهِ. أَرُدْ عَلَى الْإِنْسَانِ مِثْلَ عَمَلِهِ³⁰. عَبَثٌ يَحْفَلُ الْكَسَلَانِ وَيَكْرُمُ الرَّجُلُ التَّافِصِ الْفَهْمِ³¹. فَإِذَا هُوَ قَدْ عَلَاهُ كُلُّهُ الْقَرِيبُ، وَقَدْ عَطَى الْعُوسُخَ وَجْهَهُ، وَجَذَارُ حِجَارَتِهِ اهْتَدَمَ³². ثُمَّ تَطَرَّتْ وَوَجَّهَتْ قَلْبِي. رَأَيْتُ وَقُلْتُ تَعْلِيمًا³³. نَوْمٌ قَلِيلٌ، بَعْدُ نَعَاسٌ قَلِيلٌ، وَطَيُّ الْيَدَيْنِ قَلِيلًا لِلرُّفُودِ³⁴. قِيَّاتِي فَمَرَكْتُ كَعْدَاءٍ وَعَوَزْتُكَ كَعَارٍ.

when he stumbleth:¹⁸ Lest the LORD see it ,
and it displease him, and he turn away his
wrath from him.¹⁹ Fret not thyself because
of evil men , neither be thou envious at the
wicked;²⁰ For there shall be no reward to
the evil man ; the candle of the wicked
shall be put out.²¹ My son, fear thou the
LORD and the king: and meddle not with
them that are given to change:²² For their
calamity shall rise suddenly; and who
knoweth the ruin of them both?²³ These
things also belong to the wise. It is not
good to have respect of persons in
judgment.²⁴ He that saith unto the wicked,
Thou art righteous; him shall the people
curse, nations shall abhor him:²⁵ But to
them that rebuke him shall be delight, and
a good blessing shall come upon
them.²⁶ Every man shall kiss his lips that
giveth a right answer.²⁷ Prepare thy work
without, and make it fit for thyself in the
field; and afterwards build thine
house.²⁸ Be not a witness against thy
neighbour without cause; and deceive not
with thy lips.²⁹ Say not, I will do so to him
as he hath done to me: I will render to the
man according to his work.³⁰ I went by the
field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of
the man void of understanding;³¹ And, lo, it
was all grown over with thorns, and
nettles had covered the face thereof, and
the stone wall thereof was broken
down.³² Then I saw, and considered it well:
I looked upon it, and received
instruction.³³ Yet a little sleep, a little
slumber, a little folding of the hands to
sleep:³⁴ So shall thy poverty come as one
that travelleth; and thy want as an armed
man.