

¹My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger,²Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.³Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend.⁴Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.⁵Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.⁶Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:⁷Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,⁸Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.⁹How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?¹⁰Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:¹¹So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.¹²A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.¹³He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers;¹⁴Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord.¹⁵Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.¹⁶These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:¹⁷A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,¹⁸An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,¹⁹A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.²⁰My

¹بَا اِبْنِي، اِنْ صَمَيْتَ صَاحِبَكَ، اِنْ صَمَيْتَ كَقَلِّ لِعَرِيبٍ، اِنْ عَلِمْتَ فِي كَلَامٍ فَمِكَ، اِنْ اَحَدْتَ يَدَكَ بِفِيكَ. اِذَا قَا فَعَلْ هَذَا بَا اِبْنِي وَتَجَّ تَفْسَكَ اِذَا صُرْتَ فِي يَدِ صَاحِبِكَ، اِذْهَبْ تَرَامْ وَالِخْ عَلَى صَاحِبِكَ. لَا تُعْطِ عَيْنُكَ نَوْمًا وَلَا أَجْفَاكَ نُعَاسًا. تَجَّ تَفْسَكَ كَالطَّبِيِّ مِنَ الْيَدِ، كَالْغُصْفُورِ مِنْ يَدِ الصَّيَّادِ. اِذْهَبْ إِلَى التَّمْلَةِ أَيُّهَا الْكَسْلَانُ. تَامَلْ طُرُقَهَا وَكُنْ حَكِيمًا. الَّتِي لَيْسَ لَهَا قَائِدٌ أَوْ عَرِيفٌ أَوْ مُسْتَسْلِطٌ، وَتُعَدُّ فِي الصَّيْفِ طَعَامَهَا وَتَجْمَعُ فِي الْحَصَادِ أَكْلَهَا. إِلَى مَتَى تَنَامُ أَيُّهَا الْكَسْلَانُ. مَتَى تَنْهَضُ مِنْ نَوْمِكَ. قَلِيلٌ نَوْمٌ، بَعْدُ قَلِيلٌ نُعَاسٌ، وَطَيُّ الْبَيْدِ قَلِيلًا لِلرُّفُودِ، قَيَّانِي فَقَرَكُ كَسَاعٍ وَعَوَزَكُ كَغَارِ. الرَّجُلُ اللَّيِّمُ، الرَّجُلُ الْأَشِيمُ يَسْعَى بِأَعْوَجَاجِ الْقَمِ. يَغْمِزُ بَعَيْنِهِ. يَقُولُ بِرِجْلِهِ. يُشِيرُ بِأَصَابِعِهِ. فِي قَلْبِهِ أَكَاذِبٌ. يَخْتَرِعُ الشَّرَّ فِي كُلِّ حِينٍ. يَزْرَعُ خُصُومَاتٍ. لِأَجْلِ ذَلِكَ بَعَثَهُ نِقَاجُهُ بَلِيَّةً. فِي لَحْطِهِ يَنْكَسِرُ وَلَا شِفَاءَ. هَذِهِ السَّنَةُ يَبْغِضُهَا الرَّبُّ، وَسَبْعَةُ هِيَ مَكْرُهُ تَفْسِهِ، عَيْنُونُ مُتَعَالِيَّةٍ، لِسَانٌ كَاذِبٌ، أَيْدٍ سَافِكَةٌ دَمًا بَرِينًا، قَلْبٌ يُنْشِئُ أَفْكَارًا رَدِيئَةً، أَرْجُلٌ سَرِيعَةٌ الْجَرَتَانِ إِلَى الشُّؤْمِ، سَاهِدُ زُورٍ يَقُودُ بِالْكَاذِبِ، وَزَارِعُ خُصُومَاتٍ بَيْنَ إِخْوَةٍ. بَا اِبْنِي، احْفَظْ وَصَايَا أَبِيكَ وَلَا تَتْرُكْ شَرِيعَةَ أَمَلِكِ. أَوْبُطْهَا عَلَى قَلْبِكَ دَائِمًا. قَلَدْ يَهَا عُنُقُكَ. اِذَا ذَهَبْتَ تَهْدِيكَ. اِذَا نِمْتَ تَحْرُسُكَ، وَإِذَا اسْتَيْقَظْتَ فَهِيَ تُحَذِّرُكَ. لِأَنَّ الْوَصِيَّةَ مِصْبَاحٌ وَالشَّرِيعَةَ نُورٌ، وَتَوْبِيخَاتِ الْأَدَبِ طَرِيقُ الْحَيَاةِ. لِيَحْفَظَكَ مِنَ الْمَرَاةِ الشَّرِيرَةِ، مِنْ مَلَفِ لِسَانِ الْأَجَنِّبَةِ. لَا تَسْتَهَيِّنْ جَمَالَهَا بِقَلْبِكَ، وَلَا تَأْخُذْكَ يَهْدِيهَا. لِأَنَّهُ يَسْتَبِ امْرَأَةً رَانِيَةً يَفْتَقِرُ الْمَوءُ إِلَى رَغِيْفِ خُبْرِ، وَامْرَأَةٌ رَجُلٌ آخَرُ تَقْنِيصُ النَّفْسِ الْكَرِيمَةِ. أَبَاخُذُ إِنْسَانٌ تَارًا فِي حَضْنِهِ وَلَا تَحْتَرِقُ نِيَابَةً. أَوْ يَمْشِي إِنْسَانٌ عَلَى الْجَمْرِ وَلَا تَكْتَوِي رِجْلَاهُ. هَكَذَا مَنْ يَدْخُلُ عَلَى امْرَأَةٍ صَاحِبِهِ. كُلُّ مَنْ يَمْسُهَا لَا يَكُونُ بَرِينًا. لَا يَسْتَخْفُونَ بِالسَّارِقِ وَلَوْ سَرَقَ لِيُسَبِّحَ تَفْسَهُ وَهُوَ جَوْعَانٌ. اِنْ وَجَدَ يَرُدُّ سَبْعَةَ أَضْعَافٍ، وَتُعْطِي كُلَّ فِتْنَةٍ بَيْنَهُ. أَمَّا الرَّانِي بِامْرَأَةٍ فَعَدِيمُ الْعَقْلِ. الْمُهْلِكُ تَفْسَهُ هُوَ يَفْعَلُهُ. صَرْبًا وَخَرْبًا يَجِدُ، وَغَارُهُ لَا يُمْحَى. لِأَنَّ الْغَيْرَةَ هِيَ حِمِيَّةُ الرَّجُلِ، فَلَا يُسْفِقُ فِي يَوْمِ الْإِنْتِقَامِ. لَا يَنْظُرُ إِلَى فِدْيَةٍ مَا، وَلَا يَرْضَى وَلَوْ أَكْثَرَتْ الرَّشُوءَةُ.

son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:²¹ Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.²² When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.²³ For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:²⁴ To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.²⁵ Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.²⁶ For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.²⁷ Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?²⁸ Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?²⁹ So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.³⁰ Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;³¹ But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.³² But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.³³ A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.³⁴ For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.³⁵ He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.