

¹Lo, mine eye hath seen all this , mine ear hath heard and understood it.²What ye know, the same do I know also: I am not inferior unto you.³Surely I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God.⁴But ye are forgers of lies, ye are all physicians of no value.⁵O that ye would altogether hold your peace! and it should be your wisdom.⁶Hear now my reasoning, and hearken to the pleadings of my lips.⁷Will ye speak wickedly for God? and talk deceitfully for him?⁸Will ye accept his person? will ye contend for God?⁹Is it good that he should search you out? or as one man mocketh another, do ye so mock him?¹⁰He will surely reprove you, if ye do secretly accept persons.¹¹Shall not his excellency make you afraid? and his dread fall upon you?¹²Your remembrances are like unto ashes, your bodies to bodies of clay.¹³Hold your peace, let me alone, that I may speak, and let come on me what will .¹⁴Wherefore do I take my flesh in my teeth, and put my life in mine hand?¹⁵Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.¹⁶He also shall be my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him.¹⁷Hear diligently my speech, and my declaration with your ears.¹⁸Behold now, I have ordered my cause; I know that I shall be justified.¹⁹Who is he that will plead with me? for now, if I hold my tongue, I shall give up the ghost.²⁰Only do not two things unto me: then will I not hide myself from thee.²¹Withdraw thine hand far from me: and let not thy dread make me afraid.²²Then call thou, and I will answer:

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or let me speak, and answer thou me.²³ How many are mine iniquities and sins? make me to know my transgression and my sin.²⁴ Wherefore hidest thou thy face, and holdest me for thine enemy?²⁵ Wilt thou break a leaf driven to and fro? and wilt thou pursue the dry stubble?²⁶ For thou writest bitter things against me, and makest me to possess the iniquities of my youth.²⁷ Thou puttest my feet also in the stocks, and lookest narrowly unto all my paths; thou settest a print upon the heels of my feet.²⁸ And he, as a rotten thing, consumeth, as a garment that is moth eaten.

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