

¹Then answered Eliphaz the Temanite, and said,²Should a wise man utter vain knowledge, and fill his belly with the east wind?³Should he reason with unprofitable talk? or with speeches wherewith he can do no good?⁴Yea, thou castest off fear, and restrainest prayer before God.⁵For thy mouth uttereth thine iniquity, and thou choosest the tongue of the crafty.⁶Thine own mouth condemneth thee, and not I: yea, thine own lips testify against thee.⁷Art thou the first man that was born? or wast thou made before the hills?⁸Hast thou heard the secret of God? and dost thou restrain wisdom to thyself?⁹What knowest thou, that we know not? what understandest thou, which is not in us?¹⁰With us are both the grayheaded and very aged men, much elder than thy father.¹¹Are the consolations of God small with thee? is there any secret thing with thee?¹²Why doth thine heart carry thee away? and what do thy eyes wink at,¹³That thou turnest thy spirit against God, and lettest such words go out of thy mouth?¹⁴What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?¹⁵Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight.¹⁶How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?¹⁷I will shew thee, hear me; and that which I have seen I will declare;¹⁸Which wise men have told from their fathers, and have not hid it :¹⁹Unto whom alone the earth was given, and no stranger passed among them.²⁰The wicked man travaileth with pain all his

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days, and the number of years is hidden to the oppressor.²¹ A dreadful sound is in his ears: in prosperity the destroyer shall come upon him.²² He believeth not that he shall return out of darkness, and he is waited for of the sword.²³ He wandereth abroad for bread, saying, Where is it? he knoweth that the day of darkness is ready at his hand.²⁴ Trouble and anguish shall make him afraid; they shall prevail against him, as a king ready to the battle.²⁵ For he stretcheth out his hand against God, and strengtheneth himself against the Almighty.²⁶ He runneth upon him, even on his neck, upon the thick bosses of his bucklers:²⁷ Because he covereth his face with his fatness, and maketh collops of fat on his flanks.²⁸ And he dwelleth in desolate cities, and in houses which no man inhabiteth, which are ready to become heaps.²⁹ He shall not be rich, neither shall his substance continue, neither shall he prolong the perfection thereof upon the earth.³⁰ He shall not depart out of darkness; the flame shall dry up his branches, and by the breath of his mouth shall he go away.³¹ Let not him that is deceived trust in vanity: for vanity shall be his recompence.³² It shall be accomplished before his time, and his branch shall not be green.³³ He shall shake off his unripe grape as the vine, and shall cast off his flower as the olive.³⁴ For the congregation of hypocrites shall be desolate, and fire shall consume the tabernacles of bribery.³⁵ They conceive mischief, and bring forth vanity, and their belly prepareth deceit.

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