

¹When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee:²And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite.³Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat.⁴Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.⁵Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.⁶Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats:⁷For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.⁸The morsel which thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words.⁹Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.¹⁰Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:¹¹For their redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.¹²Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.¹³Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.¹⁴Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.¹⁵My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.¹⁶Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things.¹⁷Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.¹⁸For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.¹⁹Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.²⁰Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters

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of flesh:²¹For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.²²Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.²³Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.²⁴The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.²⁵Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.²⁶My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.²⁷For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit.²⁸She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men.²⁹Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?³⁰They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.³¹Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.³²At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.³³Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.³⁴Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.³⁵They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.

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