

<sup>1</sup>الدَّبَابُ الْمَيِّتُ بُسْنٌ وَيُخَمِّرُ طِيبَ الْعَطَّارِ. جَهَالَةُ قَلِيلَةٍ  
 أَنْفُلُ مِنَ الْحِكْمَةِ وَمِنْ الْكَرَامَةِ.<sup>2</sup> قَلْبُ الْحَكِيمِ عَنْ يَمِينِهِ،  
 وَقَلْبُ الْجَاهِلِ عَنْ يَسَارِهِ.<sup>3</sup> أَيْضاً إِذَا مَسَى الْجَاهِلُ فِي  
 الطَّرِيقِ يَنْقُصُ فَهْمُهُ، وَيَقُولُ لِكُلِّ وَاحِدٍ إِنَّهُ جَاهِلٌ.<sup>4</sup> إِنْ  
 صَعِدَتْ عَلَيْكَ رُوحُ الْمُتَسَلِّطِ فَلَا تَتْرُكْ مَكَانَكَ، لِأَنَّ  
 الْهُدُوءَ يُسَكِّنُ خَطَايَا عَظِيمَةً.<sup>5</sup> يَوْجَدُ شَرُّ رَأْيِهِ تَحْتَ  
 الشَّمْسِ كَسَهُوَ صَادِرٍ مِنْ قَبْلِ الْمُتَسَلِّطِ.<sup>6</sup> الْجَهَالَةُ  
 جُعِلَتْ فِي مَعَالِي كَثِيرَةٍ، وَالْأَعْيَاءُ يَجْلِسُونَ فِي  
 السَّافِلِ.<sup>7</sup> قَدْ رَأَيْتُ عَبِيداً عَلَى الْخَيْلِ، وَرُؤَسَاءَ مَاشِيْنَ  
 عَلَى الْأَرْضِ كَالْعَبِيدِ.<sup>8</sup> مَنْ يَخْفِرُ هُوَةً يَقَعُ فِيهَا، وَمَنْ  
 يَنْقُصُ جِدَاراً تَلْدَعُهُ حَبَّةٌ.<sup>9</sup> مَنْ يَفْلَعُ جِدَارَةً يُوَجِّعُ بِهَا. مَنْ  
 يُسْقُو خَطَباً يَكُونُ فِي خَطَرٍ مِنْهُ.<sup>10</sup> إِنْ كَلَّ الْخَدِيدُ وَلَمْ  
 يُسْتَنْ هُوَ حَدُّهُ، فَلْيَزِدِ الْقُوَّةَ. أَمَّا الْحِكْمَةُ فَتَنَافَعُهُ  
 لِلْإِنْجَاحِ.<sup>11</sup> إِنْ لَدَعَتِ الْحَيَّةُ يَلَا رُفْيَةَ فَلَا مَنَفَعَةَ  
 لِلرَّاقِي.<sup>12</sup> كَلِمَاتُ قِمِّ الْحَكِيمِ نِعْمَةٌ، وَسَقَمَاتُ الْجَاهِلِ  
 تَبْتِلَعَايِهِ.<sup>13</sup> إِنْدَاءُ كَلَامٍ قِمِّ جَهَالَةٍ، وَآخِرُ قِمِّ جُبُونٍ  
 رَدِيءٌ.<sup>14</sup> وَالْجَاهِلُ يُكْثِرُ الْكَلَامَ. لَا يَعْلَمُ إِنْسَانٌ مَا يَكُونُ.  
 وَمَنْ يُخَيِّرُهُ مَاذَا يَصِيرُ بَعْدَهُ.<sup>15</sup> تَعَبُ الْجُهْلَاءِ يُعْيِيهِمْ، لِأَنَّهُ  
 لَا يَعْلَمُ كَيْفَ يَذْهَبُ إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ.<sup>16</sup> وَبَلْ لَكَ أَتْبَاهُ الْأَرْضِ  
 إِذَا كَانَ مَلِكُكَ وَلِداً، وَرُؤَسَاؤُكَ يَأْكُلُونَ فِي  
 الصَّبَاحِ.<sup>17</sup> طُوبَى لَكَ أَتْبَاهُ الْأَرْضِ إِذَا كَانَ مَلِكُكَ ابْنِ  
 شَرَفَاءَ، وَرُؤَسَاؤُكَ يَأْكُلُونَ فِي الْوَقْتِ لِلْقُوَّةِ لَا  
 لِلشَّكْرِ.<sup>18</sup> بِالْكَسَلِ الْكَثِيرِ يَهْطُ السَّقْفُ، وَيَتَدَلَّى الْبَيْدَيْنِ  
 يَكْفُ النَّيْبُ.<sup>19</sup> لِلصَّخْرِ يَعْمَلُونَ وَلَيْمَةً، وَالْخَمْرُ تُفَرِّخُ  
 الْعَيْشَ. أَمَّا الْفِصَّةُ فَتَحْصُلُ الْكُلَّ.<sup>20</sup> لَا تَسُبَّ الْمَلِكَ وَلَا  
 فِي فِكْرِكَ، وَلَا تَسُبَّ الْعَيْنِي فِي مَصْجَعِكَ، لِأَنَّ طَيْرَ  
 السَّمَاءِ يَنْفُلُ الصَّوْتِ، وَدُو الْجَنَاحِ يُخَيِّرُ بِالْأَمْرِ.

<sup>1</sup>Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour.<sup>2</sup>A wise man's heart is at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left.<sup>3</sup>Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool.<sup>4</sup>If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences.<sup>5</sup>There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, as an error which proceedeth from the ruler:<sup>6</sup>Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place.<sup>7</sup>I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth.<sup>8</sup>He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him.<sup>9</sup>Whoso removeth stones shall be hurt therewith; and he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby.<sup>10</sup>If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct.<sup>11</sup>Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babbler is no better.<sup>12</sup>The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself.<sup>13</sup>The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness: and the end of his talk is mischievous madness.<sup>14</sup>A fool also is full of words: a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him?<sup>15</sup>The labour of the foolish weareth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city.<sup>16</sup>Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child, and thy princes eat in the

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morning!<sup>17</sup> Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness!<sup>18</sup> By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.<sup>19</sup> A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things.<sup>20</sup> Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.