

<sup>1</sup>الصَّبِيحُ خَيْرٌ مِنَ الدُّهْنِ الطَّيِّبِ، وَيَوْمُ الْمَمَاتِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ  
يَوْمِ الْوِلَادَةِ.<sup>2</sup>الدَّهَابُ إِلَى بَيْتِ التَّوَجُّ خَيْرٌ مِنَ الدَّهَابِ  
إِلَى بَيْتِ الْوَلِيمَةِ، لِأَنَّ ذَاكَ نِهَائُهُ كُلِّ إِنْسَانٍ، وَالْحَيَّ  
يَضَعُهُ فِي قَلْبِهِ.<sup>3</sup>الْخُرُؤُ خَيْرٌ مِنَ الصَّحَكِ، لِأَنَّهُ يَكَابِتُهُ  
الْوَجْهُ يُضِلُّهُ الْقَلْبُ.<sup>4</sup>قَلْبُ الْحُكَمَاءِ فِي بَيْتِ التَّوَجُّ،  
وَقَلْبُ الْجُهَالِ فِي بَيْتِ الْفَرَحِ.<sup>5</sup>سَمِعَ الْإِنْتِهَارُ مِنَ الْحَكِيمِ  
خَيْرٌ لِلْإِنْسَانِ مِنْ سَمْعِ غِنَاءِ الْجُهَالِ، لِأَنَّهُ كَصَوْتِ  
السُّنُوكِ تَحْتَ الْفِدْرِ هَكَذَا ضُحْكُ الْجُهَالِ. هَذَا أَيْضاً  
بَاطِلٌ.<sup>7</sup>لِأَنَّ الظُّلْمَ يُحْمَقُ الْحَكِيمَ، وَالْعَطِيَّةُ تُفْسِدُ  
الْقَلْبَ.<sup>8</sup>نِهَائُهُ أَمْرٌ خَيْرٌ مِنْ بَدَائِيهِ. طُولُ الرُّوحِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ  
تَكْثِيرِ الرُّوحِ. لَا تُسْرِعْ بِرُوجِكَ إِلَى الْعَصَبِ، لِأَنَّ الْعَصَبَ  
يَسْتَفِرُّ فِي حِصْنِ الْجُهَالِ.<sup>10</sup>لَا تَقُلْ، لِمَاذَا كَانَتْ أَيَّامُ  
الْأُولَى خَيْراً مِنْ هَذِهِ. لِأَنَّهُ لَيْسَ عَنْ جُكْمَةٍ تَسْأَلُ عَنْ  
هَذَا.<sup>11</sup>الْحِكْمَةُ صَالِحَةٌ مِثْلُ الْمِيزَانِ، بَلْ أَفْضَلُ لِتَاطِرِي  
السَّمَاسِ. لِأَنَّ الَّذِي فِي ظِلِّ الْحِكْمَةِ هُوَ فِي ظِلِّ  
الْفِصَّةِ، وَقَفْضُ الْمَعْرِفَةِ هُوَ أَنَّ الْحِكْمَةَ تُخَيِّ  
أَصْحَابَهَا.<sup>13</sup>أَنْظُرْ عَمَلَ اللَّهِ، لِأَنَّهُ مَنْ يَقْدِرُ عَلَى تَقْوِيمِ مَا  
قَدْ عَوَّجَهُ.<sup>14</sup>فِي يَوْمِ الْخَيْرِ كُنْ بِخَيْرٍ، وَفِي يَوْمِ الشَّرِّ  
اعْتَبِرْ. إِنَّ اللَّهَ جَعَلَ هَذَا مَعَ ذَاكَ لِكَيْلَا يَجِدَ الْإِنْسَانُ شَيْئاً  
بَعْدَهُ.<sup>15</sup>قَدْ رَأَيْتُ الْكُلَّ فِي أَيَّامِ بَطْلِي. قَدْ يَكُونُ بَارٌّ يَبِيدُ  
فِي بَرِّهِ، وَقَدْ يَكُونُ شَرِيرٌ يَطُولُ فِي شَرِّهِ.<sup>16</sup>لَا تَكُنْ بَارّاً  
كَثِيراً وَلَا تَكُنْ حَكِيماً بِزَيَادَةٍ. لِمَاذَا تَحْرُبُ نَفْسَكَ.<sup>17</sup>لَا  
تَكُنْ شَرِيراً كَثِيراً وَلَا تَكُنْ جَاهِلاً. لِمَاذَا تَمُوتُ فِي غَيْرِ  
وَقْتِكَ.<sup>18</sup>حَسَنٌ أَنْ تَتَمَسَّكَ بِهِذَا وَأَيْضاً أَنْ لَا تُرْخِي يَدَكَ  
عَنْ ذَاكَ، لِأَنَّ مُتَّبِعِي اللَّهِ يَخْرُجُ مِنْهُمَا كِلَيْهِمَا.<sup>19</sup>الْحِكْمَةُ  
تُقَوِّي الْحَكِيمَ أَكْثَرَ مِنْ عَشْرَةِ مُسَلِّطِينَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي  
الْمَدِينَةِ. لِأَنَّهُ لَا إِنْسَانٌ صَدِيقٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَعْمَلُ صَلاحاً  
وَلَا يُحْطِي.<sup>21</sup>أَيْضاً لَا تَضَعْ قَلْبَكَ عَلَى كُلِّ الْكَلَامِ الَّذِي  
يُقَالُ، لِئَلَّا تَسْمَعَ عَبْدَكَ بِسَبْتِكَ.<sup>22</sup>لِأَنَّ قَلْبَكَ أَيْضاً يَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ  
أَنْتَ كَذَلِكَ مِزَاراً كَثِيراً سَبَبْتَ آخَرِينَ.<sup>23</sup>كُلُّ هَذَا امْتَحَنُهُ  
بِالْحِكْمَةِ. فُلْتُ، أَكُونُ حَكِيماً. أَمَّا هِيَ فَبَعِيدَةٌ عَنِّي.<sup>24</sup>بَعِيدٌ  
مَا كَانَ بَعِيداً، وَالْعَمِيقُ الْعَمِيقُ مَنْ يَجِدُهُ.<sup>25</sup>دُرْتُ أَنَا  
وَقَلْبِي لَا عِلْمَ وَلَا بَحْثَ وَلَا طَلَبَ حِكْمَةٍ وَعَقْلاً، وَلَا عَرِفَ  
النَّاسَ أَنَّهُ جَهَالَةٌ، وَالْحَقَاقَةُ أَنَّهَا جُنُونٌ.<sup>26</sup>فَوَجَدْتُ أَمْرَ مِنَ  
الْمَوْتِ، الْمَرْأَةُ الَّتِي هِيَ شَبَابٌ، وَقَلْبُهَا أَشْرَاكٌ، وَبَدَاهَا  
فُيُودٌ. الصَّالِحُ قُدَّامَ اللَّهِ يَنْجُو مِنْهَا. أَمَّا الْخَاطِئُ فَيُؤْخَذُ  
بِهَا.<sup>27</sup>أَنْظُرْ. هَذَا وَجَدْتُهُ قَالَ الْجَامِعَةُ، وَاجِدَةٌ فَوَاجِدَةٌ  
لَا جِدَ النَّيْجَةَ<sup>28</sup>الَّتِي لَمْ تَزَلْ تَفْسِي تَطْلُبُهَا فَلَمْ أَجِدْهَا.

<sup>1</sup> A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.<sup>2</sup> It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.<sup>3</sup> Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.<sup>4</sup> The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.<sup>5</sup> It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.<sup>6</sup> For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool: this also is vanity.<sup>7</sup> Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad; and a gift destroyeth the heart.<sup>8</sup> Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.<sup>9</sup> Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.<sup>10</sup> Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this.<sup>11</sup> Wisdom is good with an inheritance: and by it there is profit to them that see the sun.<sup>12</sup> For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.<sup>13</sup> Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?<sup>14</sup> In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.<sup>15</sup> All things have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just man that perisheth in his

رَجُلًا وَاحِدًا يَبْنَ أَلْفِي وَجَدْتُ. أَمَّا امْرَأَةٌ، فَتَيْنِ كُلُّ أُولَئِكَ  
لَمْ أَجِدْ. <sup>29</sup>أَنْظُرْ. هَذَا وَجَدْتُ فَقَطُّ، أَنَّ اللَّهَ صَنَعَ الْإِنْسَانَ  
مُسْتَقِيمًا، أَمَّا هُمْ فَطَلَبُوا اخْتِرَاعَاتٍ كَثِيرَةً.

righteousness, and there is a wicked man that prolongeth his life in his wickedness.<sup>16</sup> Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldst thou destroy thyself?<sup>17</sup> Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldst thou die before thy time?<sup>18</sup> It is good that thou shouldst take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all.<sup>19</sup> Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city.<sup>20</sup> For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.<sup>21</sup> Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee:<sup>22</sup> For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others.<sup>23</sup> All this have I proved by wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it was far from me.<sup>24</sup> That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out?<sup>25</sup> I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness:<sup>26</sup> And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her.<sup>27</sup> Behold, this have I found, saith the preacher, counting one by one, to find out the account:<sup>28</sup> Which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found.<sup>29</sup> Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.