

¹عَهْدًا قَطَعْتُ لِعَيْنَيَّ، فَكَيْفَ أَتَطَّلُعُ فِي عَذْرَاءٍ؟² وَمَا هِيَ قِسْمَةُ اللَّهِ مِنْ قَوْفٍ وَتَصِيبُ الْقَدِيرِ مِنَ الْأَعَالِي.³ أَلَيْسَ الْبُورُ لِعَامِلِ السَّرِّ وَالشُّكْرُ لِقَاعِلِي الْإِيمِ.⁴ أَلَيْسَ هُوَ يَنْطُرُ طُرُقِي وَيُخْصِي جَمِيعَ خُطَوَائِي.⁵ إِنْ كُنْتُ قَدْ سَلَكَتُ مَعَ الْكَذِبِ، أَوْ أَسْرَعْتُ رَجُلِي إِلَى الْغِشِّ،⁶ لَيَزَيَّنِّي فِي مِيزَانِ الْحَقِّ فَيَعْرِفَ اللَّهُ كَمَالِي.⁷ إِنْ خَاذَتْ خُطَوَائِي عَنِ الطَّرِيقِ، وَدَهَبَ قَلْبِي وَرَاءَ عَيْنَيَّ، أَوْ لَصِقَ عَيْنُ يَكْفِي، أَرْزَعُ وَغَيْرِي يَأْكُلُ، وَفُرُوعِي تُسْتَأْصَلُ.⁸ إِنْ غَوَى قَلْبِي عَلَى أَمْرٍ، أَوْ كَمَنْتُ عَلَى بَابٍ قَرِيبِي،⁹ فَلَنْطَلَحَنَ أَمْرَاتِي لِآخَرٍ، وَلَيَنْحَنَ عَلَيْهَا آخِرُونَ.¹⁰ لِإِنَّ هَذِهِ رَذِيلَةٌ، وَهِيَ إِنْ تُعْرَضُ لِلْقَضَاةِ.¹¹ لَأَنَّهُ تَارُ تَأْكُلُ حَتَّى إِلَى الْهَلَاكِ وَتُسْتَأْصَلُ كُلُّ مَحْضُولِي.¹² إِنْ كُنْتُ رَفَضْتُ حَقَّ عُنْدِي وَأَمَتِي فِي دَعْوَاهُمَا عَلَيَّ،¹³ فَمَاذَا كُنْتُ أَصْنَعُ جِئَ يَقُومُ اللَّهُ. وَإِذَا افْتَقَدَ، فِيمَاذَا أَجِيبُهُ.¹⁴ أَوَلَيْسَ صَانِعِي فِي الْبَطْنِ صَانِعُهُ، وَقَدْ صَوَّرَنَا وَاجِدٌ فِي الرَّحِمِ.¹⁵ إِنْ كُنْتُ مَتَعْتُ الْمَسَاكِينَ عَنْ مُرَادِهِمْ، أَوْ أَقْنَيْتُ عَيْنِي الْأَرْمَلَةَ،¹⁶ أَوْ أَكَلْتُ لُقْمَتِي وَخَدِي فَمَا أَكَلَّ مِنْهَا الْيَتِيمُ.¹⁷ بَلْ مُنْذُ صَبَايَ كَبُرَ عُنْدِي كَابُ، وَمِنْ بَطْنِ أُمِّي هَدَيْتُهَا.¹⁸ إِنْ كُنْتُ رَأَيْتُ هَالِكًا لِعَدَمِ اللُّبْسِ أَوْ فَقِيرًا يَلَا كِسْفَهُ،¹⁹ إِنْ لَمْ تُبَارِكْنِي حَقْوَاهُ وَقَدْ اسْتَدْقَا بِجَرَّةِ عَنَمِي.²⁰ إِنْ كُنْتُ قَدْ هَزَرْتُ يَدِي عَلَى الْيَتِيمِ لَمَّا رَأَيْتُ عَوْنِي فِي الْبَابِ،²¹ فَلَنْسُقُطَ عَضْدِي مِنْ كَيْفِي، وَلَنْتَكْسِرَ ذِرَاعِي مِنْ قَضَبَتِهَا،²² لِأَنَّ الْبُورَ مِنَ اللَّهِ رُغْبٌ عَلَيَّ، وَمِنْ جَلَالِهِ لَمْ أَسْتَطِعْ.²³ إِنْ كُنْتُ قَدْ جَعَلْتُ الذَّهَبَ عُمْدَتِي، أَوْ قُلْتُ لِلْإِبْرِيزِ، أَنْتَ مُتَّكِلِي.²⁴ إِنْ كُنْتُ قَدْ قَرَحْتُ إِذْ كَثُرَتْ تَرْوِطِي وَلَأَنَّ يَدِي وَجَدَتْ كَثِيرًا.²⁵ إِنْ كُنْتُ قَدْ تَطَلَّعْتُ إِلَى النُّورِ جِئَ ضَاءً، أَوْ إِلَى الْقَمَرِ يَسِيرُ بِالْبَهَاءِ،²⁶ وَغَوَى قَلْبِي سِرًّا، وَلَتَمَّ يَدِي قَمِي،²⁷ فَهَذَا أَيْضًا إِنْ تُعْرَضُ لِلْقَضَاةِ، لِأَنِّي أَكُونُ قَدْ جَحَدْتُ اللَّهَ مِنْ قَوْفٍ.²⁸ إِنْ كُنْتُ قَدْ قَرَحْتُ بِلَيْلِيهِ مُنْعِصِي أَوْ سَمَيْتُ جِئَ أَصَابُهُ سُوءًا.²⁹ بَلْ لَمْ أَدْعُ حَتَاكِي يُخْطِئُ فِيهِ طَلَبُ نَفْسِهِ بِلَعْنَةٍ.³⁰ إِنْ كَانَ أَهْلُ حَتَمَتِي لَمْ يَقُولُوا، مَنْ يَأْتِي بِأَحَدٍ لَمْ يَسْبِعْ مِنْ طَعَامِهِ.³¹ غَرِيبٌ لَمْ يَيْتُ فِي الْخَارِجِ، فَخُذْتُ لِلْمُسَافِرِ أَوْيَايَ.³² إِنْ كُنْتُ قَدْ كَتَمْتُ كَالنَّاسِ ذَنْبِي لِإِخْفَاءِ إِثْمِي فِي جُصْنِي.³³ إِذْ رَهَيْتُ جُمْهُورًا غَفِيرًا، وَرَوَّعْتَنِي إِهَانَةُ الْعَسَائِرِ، فَكَفَفْتُ وَلَمْ أُخْرِجْ مِنَ الْبَابِ.³⁴ مَنْ لِي بِمَنْ يَسْمَعُنِي. هُوَذَا إِمْضَانِي. لِيُجِئَنِي الْقَدِيرُ. وَمَنْ لِي بِشَكْوَى كَتَبَهَا حَضْمِي،³⁵ فَكُنْتُ أَحْمِلُهَا

¹ I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?² For what portion of God is there from above? and what inheritance of the Almighty from on high?³ Is not destruction to the wicked? and a strange punishment to the workers of iniquity?⁴ Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps?⁵ If I have walked with vanity, or if my foot hath hasted to deceit;⁶ Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity.⁷ If my step hath turned out of the way, and mine heart walked after mine eyes, and if any blot hath cleaved to mine hands;⁸ Then let me sow, and let another eat; yea, let my offspring be rooted out.⁹ If mine heart have been deceived by a woman, or if I have laid wait at my neighbour's door;¹⁰ Then let my wife grind unto another, and let others bow down upon her.¹¹ For this is an heinous crime; yea, it is an iniquity to be punished by the judges.¹² For it is a fire that consumeth to destruction, and would root out all mine increase.¹³ If I did despise the cause of my manservant or of my maidservant, when they contended with me;¹⁴ What then shall I do when God riseth up? and when he visiteth, what shall I answer him?¹⁵ Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?¹⁶ If I have withheld the poor from their desire, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail;¹⁷ Or have eaten my morsel myself alone, and the fatherless hath not eaten thereof;¹⁸ (For from my youth he was brought up with me, as with a father, and I have guided her from my mother's

عَلَى كَيْفِي. كُنْتُ أُغْصِبُهَا تَاجًا لِي.³⁷ كُنْتُ أُخِيرُهُ يَعْدِرِ
 خُطُؤَاتِي وَأَذْنُو مِنْهُ كَسْرِيْفٍ.³⁸ إِنْ كَانَتْ أَرْضِي قَدْ
 صَرَحَتْ عَلَيَّ وَتَبَاكَتْ أَلَامُهَا جَمِيعًا.³⁹ إِنْ كُنْتُ قَدْ أَكَلْتُ
 غَلَّتْهَا يَلَا فِصَّةً، أَوْ أَطْفَأْتُ أَنْفُسَ أَصْحَابِهَا،⁴⁰ فَعِوَضَ
 الْجَنْطَةِ لِيَنْبُتَ شَوْكُ وَبَدَلَ الشَّعِيرِ رَوَانًا.

womb;)¹⁹ If I have seen any perish for want of clothing, or any poor without covering;²⁰ If his loins have not blessed me, and if he were not warmed with the fleece of my sheep;²¹ If I have lifted up my hand against the fatherless, when I saw my help in the gate:²² Then let mine arm fall from my shoulder blade, and mine arm be broken from the bone.²³ For destruction from God was a terror to me, and by reason of his highness I could not endure.²⁴ If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, Thou art my confidence;²⁵ If I rejoiced because my wealth was great, and because mine hand had gotten much;²⁶ If I beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking in brightness;²⁷ And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand:²⁸ This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge: for I should have denied the God that is above.²⁹ If I rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me, or lifted up myself when evil found him:³⁰ Neither have I suffered my mouth to sin by wishing a curse to his soul.³¹ If the men of my tabernacle said not, Oh that we had of his flesh! we cannot be satisfied.³² The stranger did not lodge in the street: but I opened my doors to the traveller.³³ If I covered my transgressions as Adam, by hiding mine iniquity in my bosom:³⁴ Did I fear a great multitude, or did the contempt of families terrify me, that I kept silence, and went not out of the door?³⁵ Oh that one would hear me! behold, my desire is, that the Almighty would answer me, and that mine adversary had

written a book.³⁶ Surely I would take it upon my shoulder, and bind it as a crown to me.³⁷ I would declare unto him the number of my steps; as a prince would I go near unto him.³⁸ If my land cry against me, or that the furrows likewise thereof complain;³⁹ If I have eaten the fruits thereof without money, or have caused the owners thereof to lose their life:⁴⁰ Let thistles grow instead of wheat, and cockle instead of barley. The words of Job are ended.