

¹وَقَالَتْ لَهَا نُعْمِي حَمَاتُهَا، يَا ابْنَتِي أَلَا أَلْتَمِسُ لَكَ رَاحَةً لِيَكُونَ لَكَ خَيْرٌ.² قَالَانَ أَلَيْسَ بُوعَزُ ذَا قَرَاتِي لَنَا، الَّذِي كُنْتُ مَعَ قَتَاتِيهِ. هَا هُوَ بُدَّرِي يَنْدَرُ الشَّعِيرِ اللَّيْلَةَ.³ فَأَعْتَسِلِي وَتَدَهْنِي وَالتَّبْسِي ثِيَابَكَ وَأَنْزِلِي إِلَى الْبَيْدَرِ، وَلَكِنْ لَا تُعْرِفِي عِنْدَ الرَّجُلِ حَتَّى يَفْرَغَ مِنَ الْأَكْلِ وَالشُّرْبِ.⁴ وَمَتَى اضْطَجَعَ فَأَعْلِمِي الْمَكَانَ الَّذِي يَضْطَجِعُ فِيهِ وَادْخُلِي وَاكْشِفِي تَاجِيَةَ رِجْلَيْهِ وَاضْطَجِعِي، وَهُوَ يُخَبِّرُكَ بِمَا تَعْمَلِينَ.⁵ فَقَالَتْ لَهَا، كُلِّ مَا فُلْتُ أَصْنَعُ.⁶ فَتَرَلْتُ إِلَى الْبَيْدَرِ وَعَمَلْتُ حَسَبَ كُلِّ مَا أَمَرَتْهَا بِهِ حَمَاتُهَا.⁷ فَأَكَلَ بُوعَزُ وَشَرِبَ وَطَابَ قَلْبُهُ وَدَخَلَ لِيَضْطَجَعَ فِي طَرْفِ الْعَرْمَةِ. فَذَخَلْتُ سِرًّا وَكَشَفْتُ تَاجِيَةَ رِجْلَيْهِ وَاضْطَجَعْتُ.⁸ وَكَانَ عِنْدَ انْتِصَافِ اللَّيْلِ أَنَّ الرَّجُلَ اضْطَرَبَ، وَالتَّقَتْ وَإِذَا بِأَمْرَأَةٍ مُضْطَجِعَةٍ عِنْدَ رِجْلَيْهِ.⁹ فَقَالَ، مَنْ أَنْتِ. فَقَالَتْ، أَنَا رَاعُوثُ أَمْتُكَ. فَأَنْسَطُ دَبْلَ تَوْبِكَ عَلَى أَمْتِكَ لِأَنَّكَ وَلِيٌّ.¹⁰ فَقَالَ، إِنَّكَ مُبَارَكَةٌ مِنَ الرَّبِّ يَا ابْنَتِي لِأَنَّكَ قَدْ أَحْسَسْتَ مَعْرُوفَكَ فِي الْآخِرِ أَكْثَرَ مِنَ الْأَوَّلِ، إِذْ لَمْ تَسْعِي وَرَاءَ الشُّبَّانِ، فَقَرَاءَ كَانُوا أَوْ أَعْيَاءَ.¹¹ وَالْآنَ يَا ابْنَتِي لَا تَخَافِي. كُلِّ مَا تَقُولِينَ أَفْعَلُ لَكَ، لِأَنَّ جَمِيعَ أَبْوَابِ سَعْيِي تَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ أَمْرَأَةٌ فَاصِلَةٌ.¹² وَالْآنَ صَحِيحٌ أَنِّي وَلِيٌّ، وَلَكِنْ بُوْعَدُ وَلِيٌّ أَقْرَبُ مِنِّي.¹³ يَبْتِي اللَّيْلَةُ، وَبَكُونُ فِي الصَّبَاحِ أَهْ إِنْ قَصَى لَكَ حَقَّ الْوَلِيِّ فَحَسَنًا. لِيَقْضِ. وَإِنْ لَمْ يَسَأْ أَنْ يَقْضِيَ لَكَ حَقَّ الْوَلِيِّ، فَأَنَا أَقْضِي لَكَ. حَيٌّ هُوَ الرَّبُّ. إِضْطَجِعِي إِلَى الصَّبَاحِ. فَاضْطَجَعْتُ عِنْدَ رِجْلَيْهِ إِلَى الصَّبَاحِ. ثُمَّ قَامَتْ قَبْلَ أَنْ يَفْدِرَ الْوَاحِدُ عَلَى مَعْرِفَةِ صَاحِبِهِ. وَقَالَ، لَا يُعْلَمُ أَنَّ الْمَرْأَةَ جَاءَتْ إِلَى الْبَيْدَرِ. ثُمَّ قَالَ، هَاتِي الرِّدَاءَ الَّذِي عَلَيْكَ وَأَمْسِكِيهِ. فَأَمْسَكْتُهُ، فَكَتَلْتُ سِنَّةً مِنَ الشَّعِيرِ وَوَضَعْتُهَا عَلَيْهَا. ثُمَّ دَخَلَ الْمَدِينَةَ. فَجَاءَتْ إِلَى حَمَاتِهَا فَقَالَتْ، مَنْ أَنْتِ يَا ابْنَتِي. فَأَخْبَرْتُهَا بِكُلِّ مَا فَعَلَ لَهَا الرَّجُلُ.¹⁷ وَقَالَتْ، هَذِهِ السَّيِّئَةُ مِنَ الشَّعِيرِ أَعْطَانِي، لِأَنَّهُ قَالَ، لَا تَحِينِي فَارَعَةً إِلَى حَمَاتِكَ.¹⁸ فَقَالَتْ، اخْلِسِي يَا ابْنَتِي حَتَّى تَعْلَمِي كَيْفَ يَغُفُّ الْأَمْرُ، لِأَنَّ الرَّجُلَ لَا يَهْدَأُ حَتَّى يَتِمَّ الْأَمْرُ الْيَوْمَ.

¹Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?² And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor.³ Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking.⁴ And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do.⁵ And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do.⁶ And she went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother in law bade her.⁷ And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down.⁸ And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet.⁹ And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.¹⁰ And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich.¹¹ And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.¹² And now it is

true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I.¹³ Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the LORD liveth: lie down until the morning.¹⁴ And she lay at his feet until the morning: and she rose up before one could know another. And he said, Let it not be known that a woman came into the floor.¹⁵ Also he said, Bring the vail that thou hast upon thee, and hold it. And when she held it, he measured six measures of barley, and laid it on her: and she went into the city.¹⁶ And when she came to her mother in law, she said, Who art thou, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done to her.¹⁷ And she said, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said to me, Go not empty unto thy mother in law.¹⁸ Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.