

¹A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.²It 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.³Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.⁴The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.⁵It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.⁶For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool: this also is vanity.⁷Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad; and a gift destroyeth the heart.⁸Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.⁹Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.¹⁰Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this.¹¹Wisdom is good with an inheritance: and by it there is profit to them that see the sun.¹²For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.¹³Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?¹⁴In 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.¹⁵All things have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just man that perisheth in his

¹الصَّبِيثُ خَيْرٌ مِنَ الدُّهْنِ الطَّيِّبِ، وَيَوْمُ الْمَمَاتِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْوِلَادَةِ.²الدَّهَابُ إِلَى بَيْتِ التَّوْحِ خَيْرٌ مِنَ الدَّهَابِ إِلَى بَيْتِ الْوَلِيمَةِ، لِأَنَّ ذَاكَ نِهَائُهُ كُلِّ إِنْسَانٍ، وَالْحَيُّ يَضَعُهُ فِي قَلْبِهِ.³الْحُزْنُ خَيْرٌ مِنَ الصَّحِكِ، لِأَنَّهُ يَكَابِتُهُ الْوَجْهَ يُصْلِحُ الْقَلْبَ.⁴قَلْبُ الْحُكَمَاءِ فِي بَيْتِ التَّوْحِ، وَقَلْبُ الْجُهَالِ فِي بَيْتِ الْفَرَحِ.⁵سَمِعُ الْإِنْتِهَارِ مِنَ الْحَكِيمِ خَيْرٌ لِلْإِنْسَانِ مِنْ سَمْعِ غِنَاءِ الْجُهَالِ، لِأَنَّهُ كَصَوْتِ السَّوْكِ تَحْتَ الْإِفْدْرِ هَكَذَا صُخْكُ الْجُهَالِ. هَذَا أَيْضًا بَاطِلٌ.⁷لَأَنَّ الظِّلْمَ يَحْمَقُ الْحَكِيمَ، وَالْعَطِيَّةُ تُفْسِدُ الْقَلْبَ.⁸نِهَائُهُ أَمْرٌ خَيْرٌ مِنْ بَدَائَتِهِ. طُولُ الرُّوحِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ تَكْبِيرِ الرُّوحِ.⁹لَا تُسْرِعْ بِرُوجِكَ إِلَى الْعَصَبِ، لِأَنَّ الْعَصَبَ يَسْتَقِرُّ فِي حِصْنِ الْجُهَالِ.¹⁰لَا تَقُلْ، لِمَاذَا كَانَتِ الْيָامُ الْأُولَى خَيْرًا مِنْ هَذِهِ. لِأَنَّهُ لَيْسَ عَنْ حِكْمَةٍ تَسْأَلُ عَنْ هَذَا.¹¹الْحِكْمَةُ صَالِحَةٌ مِثْلُ الْمِيرَاتِ، بَلْ أَفْضَلُ لِتَاطِرِي الشَّمْسِ. لِأَنَّ الذِّهْنَ فِي ظِلِّ الْحِكْمَةِ هُوَ فِي ظِلِّ الْفِصَّةِ، وَقَفْضُ الْمَعْرِفَةِ هُوَ أَنَّ الْحِكْمَةَ تُخَيِّبُ أَصْحَابَهَا.¹³أَنْظُرْ عَمَلَ اللَّهِ، لِأَنَّهُ مَنْ يَقْدِرُ عَلَى تَقْوِيمِ مَا قَدْ عَوَّجَهُ.¹⁴فِي يَوْمِ الْخَيْرِ كُنْ بِخَيْرٍ، وَفِي يَوْمِ الشَّرِّ اعْتَبِرْ. إِنَّ اللَّهَ جَعَلَ هَذَا مَعَ ذَاكَ لِكَيْلَا يَجِدَ الْإِنْسَانُ سَبِيلاً بَعْدَهُ.¹⁵قَدْ رَأَيْتُ الْكُلَّ فِي أَيَّامِ طُلُوعِي. قَدْ يَكُونُ ثَأْرٌ يَبِيدُ فِي بَرِّهِ، وَقَدْ يَكُونُ شَرٌّ يَطُولُ فِي شَرِّهِ.¹⁶لَا تَكُنْ بَارًّا كَثِيرًا وَلَا تَكُنْ حَكِيمًا بِزِيَادَةٍ. لِمَاذَا تَحْرُبُ نَفْسُكَ.¹⁷لَا تَكُنْ شَرِّيرًا كَثِيرًا وَلَا تَكُنْ جَاهِلًا. لِمَاذَا تَمُوتُ فِي غَيْرِ وَفَيْكَ.¹⁸حَسَنٌ أَنْ تَتَمَسَّكَ بِهَذَا وَأَيْضًا أَنْ لَا تَرْجَحَ بَدَكَ عَنْ ذَاكَ، لِأَنَّ مُتَعَيَّيَ اللَّهِ يَخْرُجُ مِنْهُمَا كِلَيْهِمَا.¹⁹الْحِكْمَةُ تُقَوِّي الْحَكِيمَ أَكْثَرَ مِنْ عَشْرَةِ مُسَلِّطِينَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ.²⁰لِأَنَّهُ لَا إِنْسَانٌ صَدِيقٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَعْمَلُ صِلَاحًا وَلَا يُحْطِي.²¹أَيْضًا لَا تَضَعْ قَلْبَكَ عَلَى كُلِّ الْكَلَامِ الَّذِي يُقَالُ، لِئَلَّا تَسْمَعَ عَبْدَكَ يَسِبُكَ.²²لِأَنَّ قَلْبَكَ أَيْضًا يَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ أَنْتَ كَذَلِكَ مِرَارًا كَثِيرَةً سَبَبْتَ آخَرِينَ.²³كُلُّ هَذَا امْتَحَنُهُ بِالْحِكْمَةِ. قُلْتُ، أَكُونُ حَكِيمًا. أَمَّا هِيَ فَبَعِيدَةٌ عَنِّي.²⁴بَعِيدٌ مَا كَانَ بَعِيدًا، وَالْعَمِيقُ الْعَمِيقُ مَنْ يَجِدُهُ.²⁵ذُرْتُ أَنَا وَقَلْبِي لِأَعْلَمَ وَلَا يَبْتَخُ وَلَا طَلَبْتُ حِكْمَةً وَعَقْلًا، وَلَا عَرِفْتُ الشَّرَّ أَنَّهُ جَهَالَةٌ، وَالْحَقَاقَةُ أَنَّهَا جُنُونٌ.²⁶فَوَجَدْتُ أَمْرًا مِنَ الْمَوْتِ، الْمَرْأَةُ الَّتِي هِيَ شِبْثُكَ، وَقَلْبُهَا أَشْرَاكَ، وَبَدَاهَا فُيُودٌ. الصَّالِحُ قُدَّامَ اللَّهِ يَنْجُو مِنْهَا. أَمَّا الْخَاطِئُ فَيُؤَخَذُ بِهَا.²⁷أَنْظُرْ. هَذَا وَجَدْتُهُ قَالَ الْجَامِعَةُ، وَاجِدَةٌ فَوَاجِدَةٌ لِأَجْدِ النَّيْجَةِ²⁸الَّتِي لَمْ تَزَلْ نَفْسِي تَطْلُبُهَا فَلَمْ أَجِدْهَا.

righteousness, and there is a wicked man that prolongeth his life in his wickedness.¹⁶ Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself?¹⁷ Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?¹⁸ It is good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all.¹⁹ Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city.²⁰ For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.²¹ Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee:²² For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others.²³ All this have I proved by wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it was far from me.²⁴ That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out?²⁵ 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:²⁶ 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.²⁷ Behold, this have I found, saith the preacher, counting one by one, to find out the account:²⁸ 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.²⁹ Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

رَجُلًا وَاحِدًا بَيْنَ أَلْفٍ وَجَدْتُ. أَمَّا امْرَأَةٌ، فَبَيْنَ كُلِّ أَوَّلِيكَ
لَمْ أَجِدْ. ²⁹أُنْظُرْ. هَذَا وَجَدْتُ فَقَطُّ، أَنَّ اللَّهَ صَنَعَ الْإِنْسَانَ
مُسْتَقِيمًا، أَمَّا هُمْ فَطَلَبُوا اخْتِرَاعَاتٍ كَثِيرَةً.