

¹Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth? are not his days also like the days of an hireling?²As a servant earnestly desireth the shadow, and as an hireling looketh for the reward of his work:³So am I made to possess months of vanity, and wearisome nights are appointed to me.⁴When I lie down, I say, When shall I arise, and the night be gone? and I am full of tossings to and fro unto the dawning of the day.⁵My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin is broken, and become loathsome.⁶My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope.⁷O remember that my life is wind: mine eye shall no more see good.⁸The eye of him that hath seen me shall see me no more: thine eyes are upon me, and I am not.⁹As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more.¹⁰He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.¹¹Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.¹²Am I a sea, or a whale, that thou settest a watch over me?¹³When I say, My bed shall comfort me, my couch shall ease my complaint;¹⁴Then thou scarest me with dreams, and terrifiest me through visions:¹⁵So that my soul chooseth strangling, and death rather than my life.¹⁶I loathe it; I would not live alway: let me alone; for my days are vanity.¹⁷What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?¹⁸And that thou shouldest visit

¹أَلَيْسَتْ حَيَاتُهُ الْإِنْسَانِ جِهَادًا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ، وَكَأَيَّامِ الْأَجِيرِ أَيَّامُهُ.²كَمَا يَتَسَوَّقُ الْعَبْدُ إِلَى الظِّلِّ، وَكَمَا يَتَرَجَّى الْأَجِيرُ أَجْرَهُ، هَكَذَا تَعَيَّنَ لِي أَشْهُرُ سُوءٍ، وَلَيَالِي سَقَاءٍ قُسِمَتْ لِي. إِذَا اضْطَجَعْتُ أَقُولُ مَتَى أَقُومُ. اللَّيْلُ يَطُولُ وَأَشْبَعُ قَلْقًا حَتَّى الصُّبْحِ. ⁵لَيْسَ لِحِمِي الدُّودُ مَعَ الطِّينِ. جِلْدِي تَشَقَّقُ وَتَقْيَحُ. ⁶أَيَّامِي أَشْرَعُ مِنَ الْمَكُوكِ، وَتَنْتَهِي بِغَيْرِ رَجَاءٍ. ⁷أَذْكُرُ أَنَّ حَيَاتِي إِنَّمَا هِيَ رِيحٌ وَعَيْنِي لَا تَعُودُ تَرَى خَيْرًا. ⁸لَا تَرَانِي عَيْنُ نَاطِرِي. عَيْنَاكَ عَلَيَّ وَلَسْتُ أَنَا. ⁹السَّحَابُ يَصْمَجِلُ وَيَزُولُ. هَكَذَا الَّذِي يَنْزِلُ إِلَى الْهَوَايَةِ لَا يَصْعَدُ. ¹⁰لَا يَرْجِعُ بَعْدُ إِلَى بَيْتِهِ وَلَا يَعْرِفُهُ مَكَانُهُ بَعْدُ. ¹¹أَنَا أَيْضًا لَا أَمْنَعُ قِيَمِي. أَتَكَلِّمُ بِضِيْقِ رُوحِي. أَشْكُو بِمَرَارَةِ نَفْسِي. ¹²أَبْخُرُ أَنَا أَمْ يَتَّبِعُنِي حَتَّى جَعَلْتَ عَلَيَّ حَارِسًا. ¹³إِنْ قُلْتُ، فَرَاشِي يُعْزِيْنِي، مَصْجَعِي يَنْزِعُ كُرْسِيَّ تُرْبِعُنِي بِالْأَخْلَامِ وَتُرْهِبُنِي بِرُؤْيٍ. ¹⁵فَاخْتَارْتُ نَفْسِي الْحَقِّقَ وَالْمَوْتَ عَلَى عِطَافِي هَذِهِ. ¹⁶قَدْ دُبْتُ. لَا إِلَى الْأَبَدِ أَحْيَا. كُفَّ عَنِّي لِأَنَّ أَيَّامِي تَفَحُّهُ. ¹⁷مَا هُوَ الْإِنْسَانُ حَتَّى تَعْتَبِرَهُ وَحَتَّى تَصْعَ عَلَيْهِ قَلْبُكَ، ¹⁸وَتَنْتَهَدَهُ كُلَّ صَبَاحٍ، وَكُلَّ لَحْظَةٍ تَمْتَحِنُهُ. ¹⁹حَتَّى هَمَّتِي لَا تَلْتَفِتُ عَنِّي وَلَا تُزْجِيْنِي رَبَّنَا أَبْلَغُ رَيْفِي. ²⁰أَأَخْطَاْتُ. مَاذَا أَفْعَلُ لَكَ يَا رَقِيبَ النَّاسِ. لِمَاذَا جَعَلْتَنِي هَدَفًا لَكَ حَتَّى أَكُونَ عَلَى نَفْسِي جَمَلًا. ²¹وَلِمَاذَا لَا تَغْفِرُ ذَنْبِي وَلَا تُزِيلُ إِنْمِي لَائِي الْآنَ اضْطَجِعْ فِي التُّرَابِ. تَطْلُبْنِي فَلَا أَكُونُ..

him every morning, and try him every moment?¹⁹ How long wilt thou not depart from me, nor let me alone till I swallow down my spittle?²⁰ I have sinned; what shall I do unto thee, O thou preserver of men? why hast thou set me as a mark against thee, so that I am a burden to myself?²¹ And why dost thou not pardon my transgression, and take away mine iniquity? for now shall I sleep in the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I shall not be .