

¹كَيْفَ اَكْدَرَ الدَّهَبُ، تَغَيَّرَ الْإِبْرِيذُ الْجَدِيدُ. انْهَلَتْ جِوَارُهُ
 الْقُدْسُ فِي رَأْسِ كُلِّ شَارِعٍ.² بُنُو صِهْيُونَ الْكَرَمَاءُ
 الْمَوْرُوثُونَ بِالذَّهَبِ النَّعِيِّ، كَيْفَ حُسِبُوا أَتَارِقَ حَرْفِ
 عَمَلِ يَدَيِّ فَخَّارِي.³ بَتَاتُ أَوَى أَيْضاً أَخْرَجَتْ أَطْبَاءَهَا،
 أَرْصَعَتْ أَجْرَاءَهَا. أَمَّا بِنْتُ سَعْيِي فَجَافِيَةٌ كَالنَّعَامِ فِي
 الْبَرِّيَّةِ.⁴ لَصِقَ لِسَانُ الرَّاضِعِ بِحَنَكِهِ مِنَ الْعَطِشِ.
 الْأَطْفَالُ يَسْأَلُونَ خُبْزاً وَلَيْسَ مِنْ يَكْسِرُهُ لَهُمْ.⁵ الَّذِينَ
 كَانُوا يَأْكُلُونَ الْمَاكِلَ الْفَاجِرَةَ قَدْ هَلَكُوا فِي الشُّوَارِعِ.
 الَّذِينَ كَانُوا يَتَرَبَّوْنَ عَلَى الْقَرْمِزِ اخْتَصَنُوا الْمَرَابِلَ.⁶ وَقَدْ
 صَارَ عِقَابُ بِنْتِ سَعْيِي أَعْظَمَ مِنْ قِصَاصِ حَطِيئَةِ سَدُومَ
 الَّتِي انْقَلَبَتْ كَانَتْهُ فِي لَحْطَةٍ، وَلَمْ تُلَقَّ عَلَيْهَا آبَاءُ.⁷ كَانَ
 نُذْرُهَا أَنْعَى مِنَ التَّلَجِّ وَأَكْثَرَ بَيَاضاً مِنَ اللَّبَنِ، وَأَجْسَامُهُمْ
 أَشَدُّ حُمْرَةً مِنَ الْمَرْجَانِ. جَرَزُهُمْ كَالْيَاقُوتِ
 الْأَزْرَقِ.⁸ صَارَتْ صُورَتُهُمْ أَشَدَّ طَلَاماً مِنَ السَّوَادِ. لَمْ
 يُعْرِفُوا فِي الشُّوَارِعِ. لَصِقَ جِلْدُهُمْ بِعَطْمِهِمْ. صَارَ بَابِيساً
 كَالْحَسَبِ.⁹ كَانَتْ قَتْلَى السَّيْفِ خَيْراً مِنْ قَتْلَى الْجُوعِ.
 لِأَنَّ هَؤُلَاءِ يَذُوبُونَ مَطْعُونِينَ لِعَدَمِ أَنْعَامِ الْحَقْلِ.¹⁰ أَبَادِي
 النِّسَاءِ الْحَتَائِنِ طَبَحَتْ أَوْلَادَهُنَّ. صَارُوا طَعَاماً لَهُنَّ فِي
 سَحْقِ بِنْتِ سَعْيِي.¹¹ أَنْتَ الرَّبُّ غَبِطُهُ، سَكَبَ حُمُومَ غَضَبِهِ
 وَأَشْعَلَ تَاراً فِي صِهْيُونَ فَأَكَلَتْ أَسْنَهَا.¹² لَمْ تُصَدِّقْ
 مَلُوكَ الْأَرْضِ وَكُلَّ سُكَّانِ الْمَسْكُوتَةِ أَنَّ الْعَدُوَّ وَالْمُبْغِضَ
 يَدْخُلَانِ أَبْوَابَ أورشليمِ.¹³ مِنْ أَجْلِ حَطَايَا أَنْبِيَائِهَا وَأَنَامِ
 كَهَنَتِهَا السَّافِكِينَ فِي وَسْطِهَا دَمَ الصِّدِّيقِينَ،¹⁴ تَاهُوا
 كَعَمِي فِي الشُّوَارِعِ، وَتَلَطَّخُوا بِالْأَدَمِ حَتَّى لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ
 أَحَدٌ أَنْ يَمَسَّ مَلَاسِيَهُمْ.¹⁵ جِيدُوا. تَجَسَّنْ بُنَادُونَ إِلَيْهِمْ.
 جِيدُوا. جِيدُوا لَا تَمَسُّوْا. إِذْ هَرَبُوا تَاهُوا أَيْضاً. قَالُوا بَيْنَ
 الْأُمَّمِ إِنَّهُمْ لَا يَعُودُونَ يَسْكُنُونَ. وَجْهَ الرَّبِّ فَسَمَهُمْ. لَا
 يَعُودُ يَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهِمْ. لَمْ يَرْفَعُوا وُجُوهَ الْكَهَنَةِ، وَلَمْ يَتَرَأَفُوا
 عَلَى الشُّبُوحِ.¹⁷ أَمَّا تَحْنُ فَقَدْ كَلَّتْ أَعْيُنُنَا مِنَ النَّظَرِ إِلَى
 عَوْنِنَا الْبَاطِلِ. فِي بُرْجِنَا انْتَهَرْنَا أُمَّةً لَا تُحْلَسُ.¹⁸ انْصَبُوا
 فِخَاخاً لِحَطَوَاتِنَا حَتَّى لَا تَمُشِيَ فِي سَاحَاتِنَا. قَرَبَتْ
 نَهَائِنَا. كَمَلَتْ أَيَّامُنَا لِأَنَّ نَهَائِنَا قَدْ أَتَتْ.¹⁹ صَارَ طَارِدُونَ
 أَحْفَ مِنْ سُورِ السَّمَاءِ. عَلَى الْجِبَالِ جَدُّوا فِي أَنْبَتَا.
 فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ كَمُنُوا لَنَا.²⁰ نَفْسُ أُنُوفِنَا، مَسِيحُ الرَّبِّ، أَخَذَ
 فِي حَقْرِهِمْ، الَّذِي قُلْنَا عَنْهُ فِي طَلِهِ تَعِيشُ بَيْنَ
 الْأُمَّمِ. إِطْرَبِي وَإِفْرَجِي يَا بِنْتُ أَدُومَ يَا سَاكِنَةَ عُوصِ.
 عَلَيْكِ أَيْضاً تُمُرُ الْكَاسِ. تَسْكُرِينَ وَتَتَعَرَّبِينَ.²² قَدْ تَمَّ الْإِضْكَ
 يَا بِنْتُ صِهْيُونَ. لَا يَعُودُ بِسَبِيلِكِ. سَبُعَاقِبُ إِيْمَكِ يَا بِنْتُ

¹How is the gold become dim! how is the most fine gold changed! the stones of the sanctuary are poured out in the top of every street.²The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold, how are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, the work of the hands of the potter!³Even the sea monsters draw out the breast, they give suck to their young ones: the daughter of my people is become cruel, like the ostriches in the wilderness.⁴The tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst: the young children ask bread, and no man breaketh it unto them.⁵They that did feed delicately are desolate in the streets: they that were brought up in scarlet embrace dunghills.⁶For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her.⁷Her Nazarites were purer than snow, they were whiter than milk, they were more ruddy in body than rubies, their polishing was of sapphire.⁸Their visage is blacker than a coal; they are not known in the streets: their skin cleaveth to their bones; it is withered, it is become like a stick.⁹They that be slain with the sword are better than they that be slain with hunger: for these pine away, stricken through for the want of the fruits of the field.¹⁰The hands of the pitiful women have sodden their own children: they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people.¹¹The LORD hath accomplished his fury; he hath poured out his fierce anger, and hath kindled a fire in Zion, and

أُدْوَمَ وَيُعْلِنُ حَطَايَاكَ.

it hath devoured the foundations thereof.¹² The kings of the earth, and all the inhabitants of the world, would not have believed that the adversary and the enemy should have entered into the gates of Jerusalem.¹³ For the sins of her prophets, and the iniquities of her priests, that have shed the blood of the just in the midst of her,¹⁴ They have wandered as blind men in the streets, they have polluted themselves with blood, so that men could not touch their garments.¹⁵ They cried unto them, Depart ye; it is unclean; depart, depart, touch not: when they fled away and wandered, they said among the heathen, They shall no more sojourn there .¹⁶ The anger of the LORD hath divided them; he will no more regard them: they respected not the persons of the priests, they favoured not the elders.¹⁷ As for us, our eyes as yet failed for our vain help: in our watching we have watched for a nation that could not save us .¹⁸ They hunt our steps, that we cannot go in our streets: our end is near, our days are fulfilled; for our end is come.¹⁹ Our persecutors are swifter than the eagles of the heaven: they pursued us upon the mountains, they laid wait for us in the wilderness.²⁰ The breath of our nostrils, the anointed of the LORD, was taken in their pits, of whom we said, Under his shadow we shall live among the heathen.²¹ Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, that dwellest in the land of Uz; the cup also shall pass through unto thee: thou shalt be drunken, and shalt make thyself naked.²² The punishment of thine iniquity is accomplished, O daughter of Zion; he will no more carry thee away into

Lamentations 4

captivity: he will visit thine iniquity, O daughter of Edom; he will discover thy sins.