

<sup>1</sup>The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.<sup>2</sup>What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows?<sup>3</sup>Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.<sup>4</sup>It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:<sup>5</sup>Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.<sup>6</sup>Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.<sup>7</sup>Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.<sup>8</sup>Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.<sup>9</sup>Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.<sup>10</sup>Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.<sup>11</sup>The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.<sup>12</sup>She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.<sup>13</sup>She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.<sup>14</sup>She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.<sup>15</sup>She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.<sup>16</sup>She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.<sup>17</sup>She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.<sup>18</sup>She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.<sup>19</sup>She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the

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distaff.<sup>20</sup> She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.<sup>21</sup> She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.<sup>22</sup> She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.<sup>23</sup> Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.<sup>24</sup> She maketh fine linen, and selleth it ; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.<sup>25</sup> Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.<sup>26</sup> She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.<sup>27</sup> She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.<sup>28</sup> Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also , and he praiseth her.<sup>29</sup> Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.<sup>30</sup> Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.<sup>31</sup> Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

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