### Proverbs

## Chapter 23

1If you’re invited to dine with a ruler,  
 Pay attention to all that’s around you.  
 2Especially pay attention to your hands…  
 Have them prepared at such [times].  
 And although you may be very hungry,  
 3Don’t be too fond of his meal,  
 For that won’t save your life.  
  
4And should you find yourself in great need,  
 Don’t reach out to the wealthy…  
 Use insight and stay at a distance.  
 5For, although you keep watch, they won’t appear,  
 Since they have the wings of an eagle,  
 Or they can stay in their homes.  
  
6Don’t dine with a man prone to envy,  
 Nor should you desire his food…  
 7Eat and drink like you’re swallowing hair.  
 And don’t bring him into your house for a meal;  
 8For, he will just vomit it out  
 And lay waste to the things you’ve prepared.  
  
9Don’t speak into the ears of a fool,  
 So he doesn’t sneer at your wisdom.  
  
10Don’t move the markers of the ages,  
 And never take an orphan’s possessions,  
 Since their ransom is paid by Jehovah…  
 11He’s mighty and He’ll argue their case.  
  
12Open your hearts to great learning,  
 And prepare your ears for sensible words!  
  
13Don’t avoid correcting the young…  
 For, if you spank him, no way will he die.  
 14And if you give him a spanking;  
 From death, you may rescue his soul.  
  
15Son,  
  
If you teach yourself to be wise,  
 You’ll bring much joy to my heart.  
 16And if [what you say] should prove to be straight,  
 We’ll spend time sharing the words from our lips.  
  
17Don’t let your heart be jealous of sinners…  
 Fear Jehovah all day!  
 18For, if you choose to take this advice,  
 You’ll have many descendants,  
 And you’ll get all that you’ve hoped for.  
  
19Hear me O son and be wise…  
 Straighten the thoughts in your heart!  
 20Don’t be a person who drinks too much wine,  
 Or reclines with the meat in the markets!  
 21For, whoremongers and drunks will be poor…  
 The nightgowns they wear will be ragged and torn.  
  
22O son, pay attention to your father,  
 And don’t disrespect your old mother.  
 23With all you have, [search for] the truth…  
 And don’t reject wisdom, instruction, or knowledge!  
  
24A righteous father is one who provides,  
 And a son who’s wise brings joy to his soul.  
 25So, please bring joy to your father and mother…  
 May the one who bore you, rejoice!  
  
26Lend me your heart and your eyes…  
 O son, pay attention to my words!  
 27The house of a [whore] is a keg with a hole…  
 It’s a well that’s narrow and strange,  
 28And all [who enter] will perish!  
 For, those who break laws are destroyed.  
  
29Who is the one who has problems and woes…  
 For whom are there many disputes…  
 For whom is there intrigue and rancor…  
 Who is destroyed for no reason…  
 And who’s the one with dark eyes?  
 30It’s those who linger with wine,  
 And those who go looking for parties!  
 So, don’t be a man who drinks too much wine,  
 Or hangs out with [the unrighteous]…  
 Don’t go around [with those who are bad]!  
 31For, if you search for [the contents of] cups,  
 You’ll end up as bare as a pestle…  
 32Stretched out like one who’s been struck by a snake,  
 Or one poisoned by the bite of horned vipers.  
  
33When your eyes behold a strange woman,  
 And your mouth starts to speak perverse things;  
 34For if you lie with her, you’ll then be  
 Like one who’s fallen in the depths of the sea…  
 As a sailor who’s been covered by waves!  
  
35You’ll say:  
  
 ‘They beat me, but I felt no pain;  
 They mocked me, but I didn’t know it.  
 How long will it be ‘til it’s dawn  
 So I can go back and do it again?’