**CHAPTER** **28**

*Lessons against revenge and quarrels. The evils of the tongue.*

**1** He that seeketh to revenge himself, shall find vengeance from the Lord, and he will surely keep his sins in remembrance.

**2** Forgive thy neighbour if he hath hurt thee: and then shall thy sins be forgiven to thee when thou prayest.

**3** Man to man reserveth anger, and doth he seek remedy of God?

**4** He hath no mercy on a man like himself, and doth he entreat for his own sins?

**5** He that is but flesh, nourisheth anger, and doth he ask forgiveness of God? who shall obtain pardon for his sins?

**6** Remember thy last things, and let enmity cease:

**7** For corruption and death hang over in his commandments.

**8** Remember the fear of God, and be not angry with thy neighbour.

**9** Remember the covenant of the most High, and overlook the ignorance of thy neighbour.

**10** Refrain from strife, and thou shalt diminish thy sins.

**11** For a passionate man kindleth strife, and a sinful man will trouble his friends, and bring in debate in the midst of them that are at peace.

**12** For as the wood of the forest is, so the fire burneth, and as a man’s strength is, so shall his anger be, and according to his riches he shall increase his anger.

**13** A hasty contention kindleth a fire: and a hasty quarrel sheddeth blood: and a tongue that beareth witness bringeth death.

**14** If thou blow the spark, it shall burn as a fire: and if thou spit upon it, it shall be quenched: both come out of the mouth.

**15** The whisperer and the double tongue is accursed: for he hath troubled many that were at peace.

**16** The tongue of a third person hath disquieted many, and scattered them from nation to nation.

**17** It hath destroyed the strong cities of the rich, and hath overthrown the houses of great men.

**18** It hath cut in pieces the forces of people, and undone strong nations.

**19** The tongue of a third person hath cast out valiant women, and deprived them of their labours.

**20** He that hearkeneth to it, shall never have rest, neither shall he have a friend in whom he may repose.

**21** The stroke of a whip maketh a blue mark: but the stroke of the tongue will break the bones.

**22** Many have fallen by the edge of the sword, but not so many as have perished by their own tongue.

**23** Blessed is he that is defended from a wicked tongue, that hath not passed into the wrath thereof, and that hath not drawn the yoke thereof, and hath not been bound in its bands.

**24** For its yoke is a yoke of iron: and its bands are bands of brass.

**25** The death thereof is a most evil death: and hell is preferable to it.

**26** Its continuance shall not be for a long time, but it shall possess the ways of the unjust: and the just shall not be burnt with its flame.

**27** They that forsake God shall fall into it, and it shall burn in them, and shall not be quenched, and it shall be sent upon them as a lion, and as a leopard it shall tear them.

**28** Hedge in thy ears with thorns, hear not a wicked tongue, and make doors and bars to thy mouth.

**29** Melt down thy gold and silver, and make a balance for thy words, and a just bridle for thy mouth:

**30** And take heed lest thou slip with thy tongue, and fall in the sight of thy enemies who lie in wait for thee, and thy fall be incurable unto death.