**CHAPTER** **7**

*Religious and moral duties.*

**1** Do no evils, and no evils shall lay hold of thee.

**2** Depart from the unjust, and evils shall depart from thee.

**3** My son, sow not evils in the furrows of injustice, and thou shalt not reap them sevenfold.

**4** Seek not of the Lord a pre-eminence, nor of the king the seat of honour.

**5** Justify not thyself before God, for he knoweth the heart: and desire not to appear wise before the king.

**6** Seek not to be made a judge, unless thou have strength enough to extirpate iniquities: lest thou fear the person of the powerful, and lay a stumblingblock for thy integrity.

**7** Offend not against the multitude of a city, neither cast thyself in upon the people,

**8** Nor bind sin to sin: for even in one thou shalt not be unpunished.

**9** Be not fainthearted in thy mind:

**10** Neglect not to pray, and to give alms.

**11** Say not: God will have respect to the multitude of my gifts, and when I offer to the most high God, he will accept my offerings.

**12** Laugh no man to scorn in the bitterness of his soul: for there is one that humbleth and exalteth, God who seeth all.

**13** Devise not a lie against thy brother: neither do the like against thy friend.

**14** Be not willing to make any manner of lie: for the custom thereof is not good.

**15** Be not full of words in a multitude of ancients, and repeat not the word in thy prayer.

**16** Hate not laborious works, nor husbandry ordained by the most High.

**17** Number not thyself among the multitude of the disorderly.

**18** Remember wrath, for it will not tarry long.

**19** Humble thy spirit very much: for the vengeance on the flesh of the ungodly is fire and worms.

**20** Do not transgress against thy friend deferring money, nor despise thy dear brother for the sake of gold.

**21** Depart not from a wise and good wife, whom thou hast gotten in the fear of the Lord: for the grace of her modesty is above gold.

**22** Hurt not the servant that worketh faithfully, nor the hired man that giveth thee his life.

**23** Let a wise servant be dear to thee as thy own soul, defraud him not of liberty, nor leave him needy.

**24** Hast thou cattle? have an eye to them: and if they be for thy profit, keep them with thee.

**25** Hast thou children? instruct them, and bow down their neck from their childhood.

**26** Hast thou daughters? have a care of their body, and shew not thy countenance gay towards them.

**27** Marry thy daughter well, and thou shalt do a great work, and give her to a wise man.

**28** If thou hast a wife according to thy soul, cast her not off: and to her that is hateful, trust not thyself. With thy whole heart,

**29** Honour thy father, and forget not the groanings of thy mother:

**30** Remember that thou hadst not been born but through them: and make a return to them as they have done for thee.

**31** With all thy soul fear the Lord, and reverence his priests.

**32** With all thy strength love him that made thee: and forsake not his ministers.

**33** Honour God with all thy soul, and give honour to the priests, and purify thyself with thy arms.

**34** Give them their portion, as it is commanded thee, of the firstfruits and of purifications: and for thy negligences purify thyself with a few.

**35** Offer to the Lord the gift of thy shoulders, and the sacrifice of sanctification, and the firstfruits of the holy things:

**36** And stretch out thy hand to the poor, that thy expiation and thy blessing may be perfected.

**37** A gift hath grace in the sight of all the living, and restrain not grace from the dead.

**38** Be not wanting in comforting them that weep, and walk with them that mourn.

**39** Be not slow to visit the sick: for by these things thou shalt be confirmed in love.

**40** In all thy works remember thy last end, and thou shalt never sin.