**CHAPTER** **23**

**1** When thou shalt sit to eat with a prince, consider diligently what is set before thy face:

**2** And put a knife to thy throat, if it be so that thou have thy soul in thy own power.

**3** Be not desirous of his meats, in which is the bread of deceit.

**4** Labour not to be rich: but set bounds to thy prudence.

**5** Lift not up thy eyes to riches which thou canst not have: because they shall make themselves wings like those of an eagle, and shall fly towards heaven.

**6** Eat not with an envious man, and desire not his meats:

**7** Because like a soothsayer, and diviner, he thinketh that which he knoweth not. Eat and drink, will he say to thee: and his mind is not with thee.

**8** The meats which thou hadst eaten, thou shalt vomit up: and shalt loose thy beautiful words.

**9** Speak not in the ears of fools: because they will despise the instruction of thy speech.

**10** Touch not the bounds of little ones: and enter not into the field of the fatherless:

**11** For their near kinsman is strong: and he will judge their cause against thee.

**12** Let thy heart apply itself to instruction: and thy ears to words of knowledge.

**13** Withhold not correction from a child: for if thou strike him with the rod, he shall not die.

**14** Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and deliver his soul from hell.

**15** My son, if thy mind be wise, my heart shall rejoice with thee:

**16** And my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips shall speak what is right.

**17** Let not thy heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long:

**18** Because thou shalt have hope in the latter end, and thy expectation shall not be taken away.

**19** Hear thou, my son, and be wise: and guide thy mind in the way.

**20** Be not in the feasts of great drinkers, nor in their revellings, who contribute flesh to eat:

**21** Because they that give themselves to drinking, and that club together shall be consumed; and drowsiness shall be clothed with rags.

**22** Hearken to thy father, that begot thee: and despise not thy mother when she is old.

**23** Buy truth, and do not sell wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

**24** The father of the just rejoiceth greatly: he that hath begotten a wise son, shall have joy in him.

**25** Let thy father, and thy mother be joyful, and let her rejoice that bore thee.

**26** My son, give me thy heart: and let thy eyes keep my ways.

**27** For a harlot is a deep ditch: and a strange woman is a narrow pit.

**28** She lieth in wait in the way as a robber, and him whom she shall see unwary, she will kill.

**29** Who hath woe? whose father hath woe? who hath contentions? who falls into pits? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

**30** Surely they that pass their time in wine, and study to drink off their cups.

**31** Look not upon the wine when it is yellow, when the colour thereof shineth in the glass: it goeth in pleasantly,

**32** But in the end, it will bite like a snake, and will spread abroad poison like a basilisk.

**33** Thy eyes shall behold strange women, and thy heart shall utter perverse things.

**34** And thou shalt be as one sleeping in the midst of the sea, and as a pilot fast asleep, when the stern is lost.

**35** And thou shalt say: They have beaten me, but I was not sensible of pain: they drew me, and I felt not: when shall I awake, and find wine again?