

# Testament of Job

the blameless, the sacrifice, the conqueror in many contests.

Book of Job, called Jobab, his life and the transcript of his Testament.

Translated by M. R. James

*-Revised English by Jeremy Kapp-*

## Chapter 1

**1** On the day he became sick and (he) knew that he would have to leave his bodily abode, he called his seven sons and his three daughters together and spoke to them as follows:

**2** “Form a circle around me, children, and hear, and I shall relate to you what the Lord did for me and all that happened to me. **3** For I am Job your father. **4** Know then my children, that you are the generation of a chosen one and take heed of your noble birth.

**5** For I am of the sons of Esau. My brother is Nahor, and your mother is Dinah. By her have I become your father. **6** For my first wife died with my other ten children in bitter death. **7** Hear now, children, and I will reveal to you what happened to me.

**8** I was a very rich man living in the East in the land Ausitis, (Utz) and before the Lord had named me Job, I was called Jobab.

**9** The beginning of my trial was like this. Near my house there was the idol of one worshipped by the people; and I saw constantly burnt offerings brought to him as a god.

**10** Then I pondered and said to myself: “Is this he who made heaven and earth, the sea and us all? How will I know the truth?”

**11** And in that night as I lay asleep, a voice came and called: “Jobab! Jobab! rise up, and I will tell you who is the one whom you wish to know. **12** This, however, to whom the people bring burnt offerings and libations, is not God, but this is the power and work of the Seducer (Satan) by which he beguiles the people.”

**13** And when I heard this, I fell upon the earth and I prostrated myself saying: **14** “O my Lord, who speaks for the salvation of my soul. I pray you, if this is the idol of Satan, I pray you, let me go from this place and destroy it and purify this spot. **15** For there is none that can forbid me doing this, as I am the king of this land, so that those that live in it will no longer be led astray.”

16 And the voice that spoke out of the flame answered to me: “You can purify this spot,  
17 But I announce to you what the Lord ordered me to tell you, For I am the archangel of  
God.” 18 And I said: “Whatever shall be told to his servant, I shall hear.” 19. And the  
archangel, said to me: “In this manner speaks the Lord: If you undertake to destroy and  
take away the image of Satan, he will set himself with wrath to wage war against you,  
and he will display against you all his malice. 21 He will bring upon you many severe  
plagues, and take from you all that you have. He will take away your children, and will  
inflict many evils upon you. 22 Then you must wrestle like an athlete and resist pain,  
sure of your reward, overcome trials and afflictions.

23 But when you endure, I shall make your name renowned throughout all generations  
of the earth until to the end of the world. 24 And I shall restore you to all that you had,  
and the double part of what you will lose will be given to you in order that you may know  
that God does not consider the person but gives to each who deserves the good. 25 And  
also to you shall it be given, and you will put on a crown of tassel flowers. 26 And at the  
resurrection you will awaken for eternal life. Then you will know that the Lord is just,  
and true and mighty.”

27 After that, my children, I replied: “From the love of God I shall endure until death all  
that will come upon me, and I shall not shrink back.” 28 Then the angel put his seal  
upon me and left me.

## Chapter 2

1 After this I rose up in the night and took fifty slaves and went to the temple of the idol  
and destroyed it to the ground. 2. And so I went back to my house and gave orders that  
the door should be firmly locked; saying to my doorkeepers: 3 “If somebody shall ask for  
me, bring no report to me, but tell him: He investigates urgent affairs. He is inside.”

4 Then Satan disguised himself as a beggar and knocked heavily at the door, saying to  
the door-keeper:

5 “Report to Job and say that I desire to meet him,”

6 And the door-keeper came in and told me that, but heard from me that I was studying.

7 The Evil One, having failed in this, went away and took upon his shoulder an old, torn  
basket and went in and spoke to the doorkeeper saying: “Tell Job: Give me bread from  
your hands that I may eat.” 8 And when I heard this, I gave her burnt bread to give it to  
him, and I made known to him: “Expect not to eat of my bread, for it is forbidden to  
you.” 9 But the door-keeper, being ashamed to hand him the burnt and ashy bread, as  
she did not know that it was Satan, took of her own fine bread and gave it to him. 10 But  
he took it and, knowing what occurred, said to the maiden: “Go from here, bad servant,  
and bring me the bread that was given you to hand to me.” 11 And the servant cried and  
spoke in grief: “You speak the truth, saying that I am a bad servant. because I have not  
done as I was instructed by my master.” 12 And he turned back and brought him the  
burnt bread and said to him: “In this way says my lord: You will not eat of my bread

anymore, for it is forbidden to you. **13** And this he gave me [saying: This I give] in order that the charge may not be brought against me that I did not give to the enemy who asked.”) **14** And when Satan heard this, he sent back the servant to me, saying: “As you see this bread all burnt, so shall I soon burn your body to make it like this.” **15** And I replied: “Do what you desire to do and accomplish whatever you plot. For I am ready to endure whatever you bring upon me.” **16** And when the devil heard this, he left me, and walking up to under the [highest] heaven, he took from the Lord the oath that he might have power, over all my possessions. **17** And after having taken the power he went and instantly took away all my wealth.

### Chapter 3

**1** For I had one hundred and thirty thousand sheep, and of these I separated seven thousand for the clothing of orphans and widows and of needy and sick ones. **2** I had a herd of eight hundred dogs who watched my sheep and besides these two hundred to watch my house. **3** And I had nine mills working for the whole city and ships to carry goods, and I seat them into every city and into the villages to the feeble and sick and to those that were unfortunate. **4** And I had three hundred and forty thousand nomadic asses, and of these I set aside five hundred, and the offspring of these I order to be sold and the proceeds to be given to the poor and the needy. **5** For from all the lands the poor came to meet me.

**6** For the four doors of my house were opened, each, being in charge of a watchman who had to see whether there were any people coming asking alms, and whether they would see me sitting at one of the door's so that they could leave through the other and take whatever they needed.

**7** I also had thirty immovable tables set at all hours for the strangers alone, and I also had twelve tables spread for the widows. **8** And if any one came asking for alms, he found food on my table to take all he needed, and I turned nobody away to leave my door with an empty stomach.

**9** I also had three thousand five hundred yokes of oxen, and I selected of these five hundred and had them tend to the plowing. **10** And with these I had done all the work in each field by those who would, take it in charge and the income of their crops I laid aside for the poor on their table. **11** I also had fifty bakeries from which I sent [the bread] to the table for the poor. **12** And I had slaves selected for their service. **13** There were also some strangers who saw my good will; they wished to serve as waiters themselves. **14** Others, being in distress and unable to obtain a living, came with the request saying: **15** “We pray you, since we also can fill this office of waiters (deacons) and have no possession, have pity upon us and advance money to us in order that we may go into the great cities and sell merchandise. **16** And the surplus of our profit we may give as help to the poor, and then shall we return to you your own (money). **17** And when I heard this, I was glad that they should take this altogether from me for the husbandry of charity for the poor. **18** And with a willing heart I gave them what they wanted, and I accepted their written bond, but would not take any other security from them except the written document. **19** And they went abroad and gave to time poor as far as they were

successful. **20** Frequently, however, some of their goods were lost on the road or on the sea, or they would be robbed of them. **21** Then they would come and say: “We pray you, act generously towards us in order that we may see how we can restore to you your own.” **22** And when I heard this, I had sympathy with them, and handed to them their bond, and often having read it before them tore it up and released them of their debt. saying to them: **23** “What I have consecrated for the benefit of the poor, I shall not take from you”. **24** And so I accepted nothing from my debtor. **25** And when a man with cheerful heart came to me saying: I am not in need to be compelled to be a paid worker for the poor. **26** But I wish to serve the needy at your table,” and he consented to work, and he ate his share. **27** So I gave him his wages nevertheless, and I went home rejoicing. **28** And when he did not wish to take it, I forced him to do so, saying: “I know that you are a laboring man who looks for and waits for his wages, and you must take it.”

**29** Never did I defer paying the wages of the hireling or any other, nor keep back in my house for a single evening his hire that was due to him. **30** Those that milked the cows and the ewes signaled to the passersby that they should take their share. **31** For the milk flowed in such plenty that it curdled into butter on the hills and by the road side; and by the rocks and the hills the cattle lay which had given birth to their offspring. **32** For my servants grew weary keeping the meat of the widows and the poor and dividing it into small pieces. **33** For they would curse and say: “Oh that we had of his flesh that we could be satisfied,” although I was very kind to them,

**34** I also had six harps [and six slaves to play the harps] and also a cithara, a ten-string harp, and I struck it during the day. **35** And I took the cithara, and the widows responded after their meals. **36** And with the musical instrument I reminded them of God that they should give praise to the Lord. **37** And when my female slaves would murmur, then I took the musical instruments and played as much as they would have done for their wages, and gave them respite from their labor and sighs.

## Chapter 4

**1** And my children, after having taken charge of the service, took their meals each day along with their three sisters beginning with the older brother, and made a feast.

**2** And I rose in the morning and offered as sin-offering for them fifty rams and nineteen sheep, and what remained as a residue was consecrated to the poor. **3** And I said to them: “Take these as residue and pray for my children. **4** Perchance my sons have sinned before the Lord, speaking in haughtiness of spirit: We are children of this rich man. Ours are all these goods; why should we be servants of the poor?” **5** And speaking like this in a haughty spirit they may have provoked the anger of God, for overbearing pride is an abomination before the Lord.” **6** So I brought oxen as offerings to the priest at the altar saying: “May my children never think evil towards God in their hearts.”

**7** While I lived in this manner, the Seducer could not bear to see the good [I did], and he demanded the warfare of God against me. **8** And he came upon me cruelly. **9** First he burnt up the large number of sheep, then the camels, then he burnt up the cattle and all my herds; or they were captured not only by enemies but also by such as had received

benefits from me. **10** And the shepherds came and announced that to me. **11** But when I heard it, I gave praise to God and did not blaspheme.

**12** And when the Seducer learned of my fortitude, he plotted new things against me. **13** He disguised himself as King of Persia and besieged my city, and after he had led off all that were therein, he spoke to them in malice, saying in boastful language: **14** “This man Job who has obtained all the goods of the earth and left nothing for others, he has destroyed and torn down the temple of god. **15** Therefore shall I repay to him what he has done to the house of the great god.

**16** Now come with me and we shall pillage all that is left in his house.” **17** And they answered and said to him: “He has seven sons and three daughters. **18** Take heed for fear that they flee into other lands and they may become our tyrants and then come over us with force and kill us.” **19** And he said: Be not at all afraid. His flocks and his wealth have I destroyed by fire, and the rest have I captured, and his children shall I kill.” **20** And having spoken in this manner, he went and threw the house upon my children and killed them. **21** And my fellow-citizens, seeing that what was said by him had become true, came and pursued me, and robbed me of all that was in my house. **22** And I saw with mine own eyes the pillage of my house, and men without culture and without honor sat at my table and on my couches, and I could not remonstrate against them. **23** For I was exhausted like a woman with her loins let loose from multitude of pains, remembering chiefly that this warfare had been predicted to me by the Lord through His angel. **24** And I became like one who, when seeing the rough sea and the adverse winds, while the lading of the vessel in mid-ocean is too heavy, casts the burden into the sea, saying: **25** “I wish to destroy all this only in order to come safely into the city so that I may take as profit the rescued ship and the best of my things.” **26** In this manner I managed my own affairs.

**27** But there came another messenger and announced to me the ruin of my own children, and I was shaken with terror. **28** And I tore my clothes and said: The Lord has given, the Lord has taken. As it has deemed best to the Lord, in this way it has come to be. May the name of the Lord be blessed.”

## Chapter 5

**1** And when Satan saw that he could riot put me to despair, he went and asked my body of the Lord in order to inflict plague on me, for the Evil one could not bear my patience. **2** Then the Lord delivered me into his hands to use my body as he wanted, but he gave him no power over my soul. **3** And he came to me as I was sitting on my throne still mourning over my children. **4** And he resembled a great hurricane and turned over my throne and threw me upon the ground. **5** And I continued lying on the floor for three hours. and he smote me with a hard plague from the top of my head to the toes of my feet. **6** And I left the city in great terror and woe and sat down upon a dunghill my body being worm-eaten. **7** And I wet the earth with the moistness of my sore body, for matter flowed off my body, and many worms covered it. **8** And when a single worm crept off my body, I put it back saying: “Remain on the spot where you have been placed until He who has sent you will order you elsewhere.” **9** In this way I endured for sever years,

sitting on a dung-hill outside of the city while being plague-stricken. **10** And I saw with mine own eyes longed-for children [carried by angels to heaven?] **11** And my humbled wife who had been brought to her bridal chamber in such great luxuriousness and with spearmen as body-guards. I saw her do a water-carrier's work like a slave in the house of a common man in order to win some bread and bring it to me. **12** And in my sore affliction I said: "Oh that these braggart city rulers whom I soul not have thought to be equal with my shepherd dogs should now employ my wife as servant!" **13** And after this I took courage again. **14** Yet afterwards they withheld even the bread that it should only have her own nourishment. **15** But she took it and divided it between herself and me, saying woefully: "Woe to me! Forthwith he may no longer feed on bread, and he cannot go to the market to ask bread of the bread-sellers in order to bring it to me that he may eat?" **16** And when Satan learned this, he took the guise of a bread-seller, and it was as if by chance that my wife met him and asked him for bread thinking that it was that sort of man. **17** But Satan said to her: "Give me the value, and then take what you wish." **18** After that, she answered saying: Where shall I get money? Do you not know what misfortune happened to me. If you have pity, show it to me; if not, you will see." **19** And he replied saying: "If you did not deserve this misfortune, you would not have suffered all this. **20** Now, if there is no silver piece in your hand, give me the hair of your head and take three loaves of bread for it, so that you may live on there for three days. **21** Then she said to herself: "What is the hair of my head in comparison with my starving husband?" **22** And so after having pondered over the matter, she said to him: "Rise and cut off my hair." **3** Then he took a pair of scissors and took off the hair of her head in the presence of all, and gave her three loaves of bread. **24** Then she took them and brought them to me. And Satan went behind her on the road, hiding himself as he walked and troubling her heart greatly.

## Chapter 6

**1** And immediately my wife came near me and crying aloud and weeping she said: "Job! Job! How long wilt you sit upon the dung-hill outside of the city, pondering yet for a while and expecting to obtain your hoped-for salvation!" **2** And I have been wandering from place to place, roaming about as a hired servant; the memory has already died away from earth. **3** And my sons and the daughters that I carried on my bosom and the labors and pains that I sustained have been for nothing? **4** And you sit in the malodorous state of soreness and worms, passing the nights in the cold air. **5** And I have undergone all trials, troubles, and pains, day and night until I succeeded in bringing bread to you. **6** For your surplus of bread is no longer allowed to me; and as I can scarcely take my own food and divide it between us, I pondered in my heart that it was not right that you should be in pain and hunger for bread. **7** And so I ventured to go to the market without bashfulness. and when the bread-seller told me: "Give me money. and you will have bread." I disclosed to him our state of distress. **8** Then I heard him say: "If you have no money, hand me the hair of your head, and take three loaves of bread in order that you may live on these for three days." **9** And I yielded to the wrong and said to him "Rise and cut off my hair!" and he rose and in disgrace cut off with the scissors the hair of my head on the market place while the crowd stood by and wondered. **10** Who would then not be astonished saying: "Is this Sitis, the wife of Job, who had fourteen curtains to cover her inner sitting room, and doors within doors so

that he was greatly honored who would be brought near her, and now she barter off her hair for bread!

**11** Who had camels laden with goods. and they were brought into remote lands to the poor, and now she sells her hair for bread!

**12** Observe her who had seven tables immovably set in her house at which each poor man and each stranger ate, and now she sells her hair for bread!

**13** Observe her who had the basin wherewith to wash her feet made of gold and silver, and now she walks upon the ground and [sells her hair for bread!]

**14** Observe her who had her garments made of fine-textured linen interwoven with gold, and now she exchanges her hair for bread!

**15** Observe her who had couches of gold and of silver, and now she sells her hair for bread!”

**16** In short then, Job, after the many things that have been said to me, I now say in one word to you: **17** “Since the feebleness of my heart has crushed my bones, rise then and take these loaves of bread and enjoy them, and then speak some word against the Lord and die!

**18** For I too, would exchange the torpor of death for the sustenance of my body.”

**19** But I replied to her “I have been for these seven years plague-stricken, and I have stood the worms of my body, and I was not weighed down in my soul by all these pains.

**20** And as to the word which you said: ‘Speak some word against God and die!’, together with you I will sustain the evil which you see. and let us endure the ruin of all that we have. **21** Yet you desire that we should say some word against God and that He should be exchanged for the great Pluto [the god of the nether world.] **22** Why do you not remember those great goods which we possessed? If these goods come from the lands of the Lord, should not we also endure evils and be high-minded in everything until the Lord will have mercy again and show pity to us? **23** Do you not see the Seducer stands behind you and confounds your thoughts in order that you should beguile me **24** And he turned to Satan and said: “Why do you not come openly to me? Stop hiding yourself you wretched one, **25** Does the lion show his strength in the weasel cage? Or does the bird fly in the basket? I now tell you: Go away and wage your war against me.”

**26** Then he went of from behind my wife and placed himself before me crying and he said: Job, I yield and give way to you who are but flesh while I am a spirit. **27** You are plague-stricken, but I am in great trouble. **28** For I am like a wrestler contesting with a wrestler who has, in a single-handed combat, torn down his antagonist and covered him with dust and broken every limb of his, whereas the other one who lies beneath, having displayed his bravery, gives forth sounds of triumph testifying to his own superior excellence. **29** In this way you, O Job, are beneath and stricken with plague and pain, and yet you have carried the victory in the wrestling-match with me, and I yield to you.”

30. Then he left me abashed. 31 Now my children, do you also show a firm heart in all the evil that happens to you, for greater than all things is firmness of heart.

## Chapter 7

1 At this time the kings heard what had happened to me and they rose and came to me. each from his land to visit me and to comfort me. 2. And when they came near me, they cried with a loud voice and each tore his clothes. 3 And after they had prostrated themselves, touching the earth with their heads, they sat down next to me for seven days and seven nights, and none spoke a word. 4 They were four in numbers: Eliplaz, the king of Teman, and Balad, and Sophar, and Elilhu. 5 And when they had taken their seat, they conversed about what had happened to me. 6 Now when for time first time they had come to me and I had shown them my precious stones, they were astonished and said: 7 “If of us three kings all our possessions would be brought together into one, it would not come up to the precious stones of Jobab’s kingdom (crown?). For you are of greater nobility than all the people of the East. 8 And when, therefore, they now came to the land of Ausitis “Uz” to visit me, they asked in the city: “Where is Jobab, the ruler of this whole land?” 9 And they told them concerning me: “He sits upon the dung-hill outside of the city for he has not entered the city’ for seven years.” 10 And then again they- inquired concerning my possessions, and there was revealed to them all that happened to me. 11 And when they had learned this, they went out of the city with the inhabitants, and my fellow-citizens pointed me out to them. 12 But these remonstrated and said: “Surely, this is not Jobab.” 13 And while they hesitated, there said Eliphaz. the King of Teman: “Come let us step near and see.” 14 And when they came near I remembered them, and I wept very much when I learned the purpose of their journey. 15 And I threw earth upon my head, and while shaking my head I revealed to them that I was [Job]. 16 And when they saw me shake my head they threw themselves down upon the ground, all overcome with emotion 17 And while their hosts were standing around, I saw the three kings lie upon the ground for three hours like dead. 18 Then they rose and said to each other: We cannot believe that this is Jobab.” 19 And finally, after they had for seven day’s inquired after everything concerning me and searched for my flocks and other possessions, they said: 20 “Do we not know how many goods were sent by him to the cities and the villages round about to be given to the poor, aside from all that was given away by him within his own house? How then could he have fallen into such a state of perdition and misery!” 21 And after the seven days Elihu said to the kings: “Come let us step near and examine him accurately, whether he truly is Jobab or not?” 22 And they, being not half a mile (*stadium*) distant from his malodorous body, they rose and stepped near, carrying perfume in their hands, while their soldiers went with them and threw fragrant incense round about them so that they could come near me. 23 And after they had passed like this three hours, covering the way with aroma, they drew nigh. 24 And Eliphaz began and said: “Are you, indeed, Job, our fellow-king? Are you the one who owned the great glory? 25 Are you he who once shone like the sun of day upon the whole earth? Are you he who once resembled the moon and the stars effulgent throughout the night?” 26 And I answered him and said: “I am,” and upon that, all wept and lamented, and they sang a royal song of lamentation, their whole army joining them in a chorus.

**27** And again Eliphaz said to me: “Are you he who had ordered seven thousand sheep to be given for the clothing of the poor? Where, then has gone the glory of your throne?”

**28** Are you he who had ordered three thousand cattle to do the plowing of the field for the poor? Wither, then has your glory gone!

**29** Are you he who had golden couches, and now you sit upon a dung hill? [“Where then has your glory gone!”]

**30** Are you he who had sixty tables set for the poor? Are you he who had censers for the fine perfume made of precious stones, and now you are in a malodorous state? Where then has your glory gone!

**31** Are you he who had golden candelabras set upon silver stands; and now must you long for the natural gleam of the moon? [“Where then has your glory gone!”]

**32** Are you the one who had ointment made of the spices of frankincense, and now you are in a state of repulsiveness! [Where then has your glory gone!]

**33** Are you he who laughed the wrong doers and sinners to scorn and now you have become a laughingstock to all!” [Where then has your glory gone]

**34** And when Eliphaz had for a long time cried and lamented, while all the others joined him, so that the commotion was very great, I said to them: **35** Be silent and I will show you my throne, and the glory of its splendor: My glory will be everlasting. **36** The whole world shall perish, and its glory shall vanish, and all those who hold fast to it, will remain beneath, but my throne is in the upper world and its glory and splendor will be to the right of the Savior in the heavens. **37** My throne exists in the life of the “holy ones” and its glory in the imperishable world. **38** For rivers will be dried up and their arrogance shall go down to the depth of the abyss, but the streams of my land in which my throne is erected, shall not dry up, but shall remain unbroken in strength.

**39** The kings perish and the rulers vanish, and their glory and pride is as the shadow in a looking glass, but my Kingdom lasts forever and ever, and its glory and beauty is in the chariot of my Father).

## Chapter 8

I When I spoke this way to them, Ehiphaz became angry and said to the other friends “For what purpose is it that we have come here with our hosts to comfort him? **9** He upbraids us. Therefore let us return to our countries.

**2** This man sits here in misery worm-eaten amidst an unbearable state of putrefaction, and yet he challenges its saving: ‘Kingdoms shall perish and their rulers, but my Kingdom, says he, shall last forever’. **3** Eliphaz, then, rose in great commotion, and, turning away from them in great fury, said: “I go from here. We have indeed come to comfort him, but he declares war to us in view of our armies.” **4** But then Baldad seized

him by the hand and said: “Not in this manner ought one to speak to an afflicted man, and especially to one stricken down with so many plagues. **5** We, being in good health, dared not approach him on account of the offensive odor, except with the help of plenty of fragrant aroma. But you, Eliphaz, are forgetful of all this. **6** Let me speak plainly. Let us be magnanimous and learn what is the cause? Must he in remembering his former days of happiness not become mad in his mind? **7** Who should not be altogether perplexed seeing himself in this way lapse into misfortune and plagues? But let me step near him that I may find by what cause is he like this?” **9** And Baldad rose and approached me saying: “Are you Job?” and he said: “Is your heart still in good keeping?” **9** And I said: “I did not hold fast to the earthly things, since the earth with all that inhabit it is unstable. But my heart holds fast to the heaven, because there is no trouble in heaven.” **10** Then Baldad rejoined and said: “We know that the earth is unstable, for it changes according to season. At times it is in a state of peace, and at times it is in a state of war. But of the heaven we hear that it is perfectly steady. **11** But are you truly in a state of calmness? Therefore let me ask and speak, and when you answer me to my first word, I shall have a second question to ask, and if again you answer in well-set words, it will be manifest that your heart has not been unbalanced.” **12** And I said: “Upon what do you set your hope?” And I said: “Upon the living God.” **13**. And he said to me: “Who deprived you of all you possessed? And who inflicted you with these plagues **9**” And I said: “God.” **14** And he said: “If you still place your hope upon God, how can He do wrong in judgment, having brought upon you these plagues and misfortunes, and having taken from you all your possessions? **15** And since He has taken these, it is clear that He has given you nothing. No king will disgrace his soldier who has served him well as body-guard?” **16** [And I answered saying]: “Who understands the depths of the Lord and of His wisdom to be able to accuse God of injustice?” **17** [And Baldad said]: “Answer me, o Job, to this. Again I say to you: ‘If you are in a state of calm reason, teach me if you have wisdom: **18** Why do we see the sun rise in the East and set in the West? And again when rising in the morning we find him rise in the East? Tell me your thought about this?’” **19** Then said I: “Why shall I betray (babble forth) the mighty mysteries of God? And should my mouth stumble in revealing things belonging to the Master? Never! **20** Who are we that we should pry into matters concerning the upper world while we are only of flesh, nay, earth and ashes! **21** In order that you know that my heart is sound, hear what I ask you: **22** Through the stomach comes food, and water you drink through the mouth, and then it flows through the same throat, and when the two go down to become excrement, they again part; who effects this separation.” **23** And Baldad said: “I do not know.” And I rejoined and said to him: “If you do not understand even the exits of the body, how can you understand the celestial circuits?”

**24** Then Sophar rejoined and said: “We do not inquire after our own affairs, but we desire to know whether you are in a sound state, and we see that your reason has not been shaken. **25**. What now do you wish that we should do for you? We have come here and brought the physicians of three kings, and if you wish, you may be cured by them.” **26** But I answered and said: “My cure and my restoration comes from God, the Maker of physicians.”

## Chapter 9

**1** And when I spoke in this way to them, there my wife Sitis came running, dressed in rags. from the service of the master by whom she was employed as slave though she had been forbidden to leave, for fear that the kings, on seeing her, might take her as captive.

**2** And when she came, she threw herself prostrate to their feet, crying and saying: “Remember’. Eliphaz and you other friends, what I was once with you, and how I have changed, how I am now dressed to meet you” **3** Then the kings broke forth in great weeping and, being in double perplexity, they kept silent. But Eliphaz took his purple mantle and cast it about her to wrap herself up with it. **4** But she asked him saying: “I ask as favor of you, my Lords, that you order your soldiers that they should dig among the ruins of our house which fell upon my children, so that their bones could be brought in a perfect state to the tombs. **5** For as we have, owing to our misfortune, no power at all, and so we may at least see their bones. **6** For have I like a brute the motherly feeling of wild beasts that my ten children should have perished on one day and not to one of them could I give a decent burial?” **7** And the kings gave order that the ruins of my house should be dug up. But I prohibited it, saying **8** “Do not go to the trouble in vain; for my children will not be found, for they are in the keeping of their Maker and Ruler.”

**9** And the kings answered and said: “Who will gainsay that he is out of his mind and raves? **10** For while we desire to bring the bones of his children back, he forbids us to do so saying: ‘They have been taken and placed the keeping of their Maker’. Therefore prove to us the truth.” **11** But I said to them: “Raise me that I may stand up, and they lifted me, holding up my arms from both sides. **12** And I stood upright, and pronounced first the praise of God and after the prayer I said to them: “Look with your eyes to the East.” **13** And they looked and saw my children with crowns near the glory of the King, the Ruler of heaven.

**14** And when my wife Sitis saw this, she fell to the ground and prostrated [herself] before God, saying: “Now I know that my memory remains with the Lord.” **15** And after she had spoken this, and the evening came, she went to the city, back to the master whom she served as slave, and lay herself down at the manger of the cattle and died there from exhaustion. **16** And when her despotic master searched for her and did not find her, he came to the fold of his herds, and there he saw her stretched out upon the manger dead, while all the animals around were crying about her. **17** And all who saw her wept and lamented, and the cry extended throughout the whole city. **18** And the people brought her down and wrapped her up and buried her by the house which had fallen upon her children. **19** And the poor of the city made a great mourning for her and said: “This Sitis, whose like in nobility and in glory is not found in any woman. Alas! she was not found worthy of a proper tomb!” **20** The dirge for her you will find in the record.

## Chapter 10

But Eliphaz and those that were with him were astonished at these things, and they sat down with me and replying to me, spoke in boastful words concerning me for twenty seven days. **2** They repeated it again and again that I suffered deservedly in this way for having committed many sins, and that there was no hope left for me, but I retorted to

these men in zest of contention myself. **3** And they rose in anger, ready to part in wrathful spirit. But Elihu conjured them to stay yet a little while until he would have shown them what it was. **4** “For,” said he, “so many days did you pass, allowing Job to boast that he is just. But I shall no longer suffer it. **5** For from the beginning did I continue crying over him, remembering his former happiness. But now he speaks boastfully and in overbearing pride he says that he has his throne in the heavens. **6** Therefore, hear me, and I will tell you what is the cause of his destiny. **7** Then, imbued with the spirit of Satan. Elihu spoke hard words which are written down in the records left of Elihu. **8** And after he had ended, God appeared to me in a storm and in clouds, and spoke. blaming Elihu and showing me that he who had spoken was not a man, but a wild beast.

**9** And when God had finished speaking to me, the Lord spoke to Eliphaz: “You and your friends have sinned in that you have not spoken the truth concerning my servant Job. **10** Therefore rise up and make him bring a sin-offering for you in order that your sins may be forgiven; for were it not for him, I would have destroyed you.” **11** And so they brought to me all that belonged to a sacrifice, and I took it and brought for them a sin-offering, and the Lord received it favorably and forgave them their wrong. **12** Then when Eliphaz, Baldad and Sophar saw that God had graciously pardoned their sin through His servant Job, but that He did not deign to pardon Elihu, then did Eliphaz begin to sing a hymn, while the others responded, their soldiers also joining while standing by the altar. **13** And Eliphaz spoke in this manner. “Taken off is the sin and our injustice gone;

**14** But Elihu, the evil one, shall have no remembrance among the living; his luminary is extinguished and has lost its light.

**15** The glory of his lamp will announce itself for him, for he is the son of darkness. and not of light.

**16** The doorkeepers of the place of darkness shall give him their glory and beauty as share; His Kingdom has vanished, his throne has moldered, and the honor of his stature is in (Sheol) Hades.

**17** For he has loved the beauty of the serpent and the scales (*skins*) of the dragon, his gall and his venom belongs to the Northern One (Zphuni = Adder).

**18** For he did not own himself to the Lord nor did he fear him, but he hated those whom He has chosen (known).

**19** In this manner God forgot him, and “the holy ones” abandoned him, his wrath and anger shall be to him desolation and he will have no mercy in his heart, nor peace, because he, had the venom of an adder on his tongue.

**20** Righteous is the Lord, and His judgments are true, With him there is no preference of person, for He judges all alike.

**21** The Lord comes! The “holy ones” have been prepared: The crowns and the prizes of the victors precede them!

**22** Let the saints rejoice, and let their hearts exult in gladness; for they shall receive the glory which is in store for them.

Chorus.

**23** Our sins are forgiven, our injustice has been cleansed, but Elihu has no remembrance among the living.”

**24** After Eliphaz had finished the hymn, we rose and went back to the city, each to the house where they lived.

**25** And the people made a feast for me in gratitude and delight of God, and all my friends came back to me.

**26** And all those who had seen me in my former state of happiness, asked me saying: “What are those three things here among us?”

## Chapter 11

**1** But I being desirous to take up again my work of benevolence for the poor, asked them saying: **2** “Give me each a lamb for the clothing of the poor in their state of nakedness, and four drachmas (coins) of silver or gold” **3** Then the Lord blessed all that was left to me, and after a few days I became rich again in merchandise, in flocks and all things which I had lost, and I received all in double number again. **4** Then I also took as wife your mother and became the father of you ten in place of the ten children that had died.

**5** And now, my children, let me admonish you: “After I die. You will take my place.

**6** Only do not abandon the Lord. Be charitable towards the poor; Do not disregard the feeble. Take not for yourselves wives from strangers.

**7** My children, I shall divide among you what I possess, so that each may have control over his own and have full power to do good with his share.” **8** And after he had spoken like this, he brought all his goods and divided them among his seven sons, but he gave nothing of his goods to his daughters.

**9** Then they said to their father: “Our lord and father! Are we not also your children? Why, then, do you not also give us a share of your possessions?” **10** Then said Job to his daughters: “Do not become angry my daughters. I have not forgotten you. I have preserved for you a possession better than that which your brothers have taken.” **11** And he called his daughter whose name was Day (Yemima) and said to her: “Take this double ring used as a key and go to the treasure-house and bring me the golden casket, that I may give you your possession.” **12** And she went and brought it to him, and he opened it and took out three-stringed girdles about the appearance of which no man can speak. **13**

For they were not earthly work, but celestial sparks of light flashed through them like the rays of the sun. **14** And he gave one string to each of His daughters and said: “Put these as girdles around you in order that all the days of your life they may encircle you and endow you with everything good.”

**15** And the other daughter whose name was Kassiah said: “Is this the possession of which you say it is better than that of our brothers? What now? Can we live on this?” **16** And their father said to them: “Not only have you here sufficient to live on, but these bring you into a better world to live in, in the heavens. **17** Or do you not know my children, the value of these things here? Hear then! When the Lord had deemed me worthy to have compassion on me and to take off my body the plagues and the worms, He called me and handed to me these three strings. **15** And He said to me: ‘Rise and gird up your loins like a man I will demand of you and declare you to me’. **19** And I took them and girt them around my loins, and immediately did the worms leave my body, and likewise did the plagues, and my whole body took new strength through the Lord, and in this manner I passed on, as though I had never suffered. **20** But also in my heart I forgot the pains. Then, the Lord spoke to me in His great power and showed me all that was and will be.

**21** Now then, my children, in keeping these, you will not have the enemy plotting against you nor [evil] intentions in your mind because this is a charm (Phylacterion) from the Lord. **22** Rise then and gird these around you before I die in order that you may see the angels come at my parting so that you may see with wonder the powers of God.” **23** Then rose the one whose name was Day (Yemima) and girt herself; and immediately she departed her body, as her father had said, and she put on another heart, as if she never cared for earthly things. **24** And she sang angelic hymns in the voice of angels, and she chanted forth the angelic praise of God while dancing.

**25** Then the other daughter, Kassia by name, put on the girdle, and her heart was transformed, so that she no longer wished for worldly things. **26** And her mouth assumed the dialect of the heavenly rulers (Archonts) and she sang the donology of the work of the High Place and if any one wishes to know the work of the heavens he may take an insight into the hymns of Kassia.

**27** Then did the other daughter by the name of Amalthea’s Horn (Keren Happukh) gird herself and her mouth spoke in the language of those on high; for her heart was transformed, being lifted above the worldly things. **28** She spoke in the dialect of the Cherubim, singing the praise of the Ruler of the cosmic powers (virtues) and extolling their (His?) glory.

**29** And he who desires to follow the vestiges of the “Glory of the Father” will find them written down in the Prayers of Amalthea’s Horn.

## Chapter 12

**1** After these three had finished singing hymns. did I Nahor (Neros) brother of Job sit down next to him, as he lay down. **2** And I heard the marvelous (great) things of the

three daughters of my brother, one always succeeding the other amidst awful silence. **3** And I wrote down this book containing the hymns except the hymns and signs of the [holy] Word, for these were the great things of God. **4** And Job lay down from sickness on his couch, yet without pain and suffering, because his pain did not take strong hold of him on account of, the charm of the girdle which he had wound around himself. **5** But after three days Job saw the holy angels come for his soul, and instantly he rose and took the cithara and gave it to his daughter, Day (Yemima). **6** And to Kassia he gave a container (with perfume) and to Amalthea he gave a tambourine in order that they might bless the holy angels who came for his soul.

**7** And they took these, and sang, and played on the psaltery and praised and glorified God in the holy dialect.

**8** And after this he came He who sits upon the great chariot and kissed Job, while his three daughters looked on, but the others saw it not. **9** And He took the soul of Job and He soared upward, taking her (the soul) by the arm and carrying her upon the chariot, and He went towards the East. **10** His body, however, was brought to the grave while the three daughters marched ahead, having put on their girdles and singing hymns in praise of God.

**11** Then held Nahor (Nereos) his brother and his seven sons, with the rest of the people and the poor, the orphans and the feeble ones, a great mourning over him, saying:

**12** “Woe to us, for today has been taken from us the strength of the feeble, the light of the blind, the father of the orphans;

**13** The receiver of strangers has been taken off the leader of the erring, the cover of the naked, the shield of the widows. Who would not mourn for the man of God! **14** And as they were mourning in this and in that form, they would not suffer him to be put into the grave. **15** After three days, however, he was finally put into the grave, like one in sweet slumber, and he received the name of the good (beautiful) who will remain renowned throughout all generations of the world.

**16** He left seven sons and three daughters, and there were no daughters found on earth as fair as the daughters of Job. **17** The name of Job was formerly Jobab, and he was called Job by the Lord. **18** He had lived before his plague eighty five years, and after the plague he took the double share of all; for this reason also his year’s he doubled, which is 170 years. In this way he lived altogether 255 years. **19** And, he saw sons of his sons to the fourth generation. It is written that he will rise up with those whom the Lord will reawaken. To our Lord by glory. Amen.