

Proverbs 30 - A Chiasm

1. The words of Agur, the son of Jakeh, the burden,
an utterance of the mighty man to Ithiel, to Ithiel and Ucal.

2. Surely I (am) more stupid than a man,
and the understanding of a human (is) not for me.

3. And I have not learned wisdom,
and knowledge of the holy ones I do (not) know.

Intro

4. Who has ascended into the heavens and descended?

Who has gathered the wind in his fists?

Who has bound the waters in a garment?

Who has fixed all the ends of the earth?

What is his name, and what is the name of his son,
if you know?

5. Every saying of God is refined.

He is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

A

6. You shall not add to his words,
lest he rebuke you and you be proved a liar.

7. Two things I ask from you.

Do not withhold (them) from me before I die.

8. Vanity and the word of falsehood cause to be far from me.

Give me neither poverty nor wealth.

B

Feed me with the bread of my allotment,

9. lest I be satisfied and deny

and say, Who is Yahweh?

and lest I be dispossessed and steal,

and take the name of my God in vain.

10. You shall not slander a servant to his master,
lest he curse you and you be guilty.

11. (There is) a generation - it will curse its father,
and its mother it will not bless.

12. (There is) a generation - it is pure in its own eyes,
and from its excrement is not washed.

C

13. (There is) a generation - how high are their eyes,
and their eyelids are lifted up!

14. (There is) a generation - their teeth are swords,
and their fangs (are) knives,

to eat the afflicted ones from the earth

and the needy from humanity.

15. The leech has two daughters: Provide, Provide.

Three things will not be satisfied.

Four things do not say, enough:

16. Sheol,

and barrenness of womb.

D

The earth is not satisfied with water,
and the fire does not say, 'Enough.'

17. The eye that scoffs at father
and despises obedience to mother –
the ravens of the valley will peck it out,
and the sons of the vulture will eat it.

18. Three things - they are too wonderful for me,
and four – I do not know them:

19. The way of a vulture in the heavens,
the way of a serpent on a rock,
the way of a ship in the heart of the sea,
and the way of a man with a virgin.

E

20. This (is) the way of a woman committing adultery –
she eats and wipes her mouth
and says, I have not done iniquity.

21. For three things earth is perturbed,
and for four it is not able to bear up:

D'

22. For a servant when he reigns,
and a fool when he is satisfied with bread,

23. For a hater when she is married,
and a maid servant when she dispossesses her mistress.

24. Four things are little on earth,
and they are wiser than those who are wise.

25. The ants are a people not strong,
and they prepare in summer their food.

C'

26. The rock badgers are a people not strong,
and they make their houses in cliffs.

27. There is not a king for the locusts,
and they go forth in ranks, all of them.

28. The spider takes hold with its hands
and it (is) in the palaces of kings.

29. Three things that are good in pace,
and four that are good in walking:

30. The lion (is) mighty among beasts
and will not turn away from the face of any:

B'

31. a greyhound,
also a male goat,
and a king whose troops are with him.

32. If you have been foolish in lifting up yourself,
and if you have schemed, (put) your hand to your mouth.

A'

33. For the churning of milk produces butter,
and the churning of the nose produces blood,
and the churning of anger produces strife.