

# 1 Samuel 14:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Saul said to Jonathan, Tell me what thou hast done. And Jonathan told him, and said, I did but taste a little honey with the end of the rod that was in mine hand, and, lo, I must die.

## Analysis

**Then Saul said to Jonathan, Tell me what thou hast done. And Jonathan told him, and said, I did but taste a little honey with the end of the rod that was in mine hand, and, lo, I must die.**

Saul's question 'Tell me what thou hast done' demands confession despite the lot's verdict already establishing guilt. Jonathan's response is remarkably restrained: 'I did but taste a little honey with the end of the rod that was in mine hand, and, lo, I must die.' The contrast between the trivial action ('a little honey') and the dire consequence ('I must die') exposes the injustice of Saul's oath. Jonathan neither defends himself nor condemns his father; he simply states facts that speak for themselves.

## Historical Context

Confession was required even after lot identification in ancient Israelite jurisprudence (Joshua 7:19-20). Jonathan's admission confirms the divine verdict while his description emphasizes the disproportion between act and penalty.

## Related Passages

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jonathan's measured response model dignity under unjust accusation?
2. What does the contrast between action and consequence reveal about Saul's oath?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה	לֵאמֹר	שָׁאול	אֶל	יְהוֹנָתָן	וְיִצְחָק	לֵאמֹר	מִן
him and said	Then Saul	H413	And Jonathan	Tell	H0	H4100		
H559	H7586		H3129	H5046				
עַש	יְהִי	לֵאמֹר	לֵאמֹר	וְיִצְחָק	וְיִצְחָק	לֵאמֹר	טַע	מִתְעִד
me what thou hast done	Tell	H0	And Jonathan	him and said	I did but			
H6213	H5046		H3129	H559	H2938			
טַע	מִתְעִד	וְיִצְחָק	וְיִצְחָק	לֵאמֹר	לֵאמֹר	בְּיַד	מִעַט	
I did but	with the end	of the rod	בְּקִץ הַמְּלֵט	אֲשֶׁר	that was in mine hand	בְּיַד		
H2938	H7097	H4294	H834	H3027		H3027	H4592	
הַנְּבָנָה	וְדַבֵּר	שְׁאַלְמָוֹת						
honey	H2005	I must die						
H1706		H4191						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 7:19** (Parallel theme): And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me.

**1 Samuel 14:27** (Parallel theme): But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath: wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that was in his

hand, and dipped it in an honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened.

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