

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

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

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------|
| וַיֹּאמֶר | שָׁאוּל | אֶל | יֹנָתָן | וַיֹּאמֶר | לִי | מָה |
| him and said | Then Saul | H413 | And Jonathan | Tell | H0 | H4100 |
| H559 | H7586 | | H3129 | H5046 | | |
| עַשְׂתָּ יְתֵהּ | וַיֹּאמֶר | לִי | יֹנָתָן | וַיֹּאמֶר | מִמֶּנִּי | טַעַם |
| me what thou hast done | Tell | H0 | And Jonathan | him and said | I did but | |
| H6213 | H5046 | | H3129 | H559 | H2938 | |
| טַעַם מִמֶּנִּי | בְּקֶצֶה | הַמֶּטֶה | אֲשֶׁר | בְּיָדִי | מְעַט | |
| I did but | with the end | of the rod | H834 | that was in mine hand | a little | |
| H2938 | H7097 | H4294 | | H3027 | H4592 | |
| שֶׁחֵבֵי | הֲנִי יֹאמֵר | אֶמּוֹת: | | | | |
| honey | H2005 | I must die | | | | |
| H1706 | | H4191 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

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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