

# 1 Samuel 26:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go.

## Analysis

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David's command to take Saul's spear and water cruse rather than his life demonstrates both restraint and strategic thinking. The spear represented royal authority and military power; the water cruse symbolized sustenance and life itself. Taking these items without harming Saul would prove David's proximity and power while demonstrating his mercy. The phrase 'the LORD forbid' (Hebrew: 'chalilah li') expresses horror at the very thought of harming God's anointed, revealing David's internalized conviction.

## Historical Context

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The spear of a king was more than a weapon; it served as a scepter and symbol of royal power. Saul is frequently depicted with his spear throughout 1 Samuel. The water cruse (a clay water jar) was essential in the arid wilderness and would have been kept near the king for his personal use.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## 1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

## 1 John 4:8 — God is love

### Study Questions

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1. How can you demonstrate power through restraint rather than through force?
2. What symbolic actions might communicate your intentions more effectively than direct confrontation?

### Interlinear Text

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סָלַ יִלֶּה	לִי	יְהוָה ה	מִשָּׁלִי	יָדִי	בְּמִשְׁי יָח
forbid	H0	The LORD	that I should stretch forth	mine hand	anointed
H2486		H3068	H7971	H3027	H4899
יְהוָה ה	אֶתְּהָ	קַח	אֶתְּ	הַחֲנִי יָת	אֶשֶׁר
The LORD	H6258	but I pray thee take	H4994	H853	H834
H3068		H3947		H2595	
מִבֶּרֶשֶׁתִּי	וְאֶתְּ	צִפְּ חַת	הַמַּיִם	וְנִלְכָּה	לָנוּ:
that is at his bolster	H853	and the cruse	of water	H1980	H0
H4763		H6835	H4325		

### Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 24:6** (References Lord): And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.

**1 Samuel 24:12** (References Lord): The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.