

# Deuteronomy 14:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the owl, and the night hawk, and the cuckow, and the hawk after his kind,

## Analysis

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**The owl, and the night hawk, and the cuckow, and the hawk after his kind—** Nocturnal and predatory birds continue the list: bat hayya'anah (בַּת הַיְעָנָה, ostrich or owl), tahmas (תַּחַם, night hawk), shahaf (שָׁהָف, seagull or cuckoo), nets (נְצָר, hawk). Night hunters symbolized spiritual darkness and danger—realms of demons in ancient Near Eastern thought.

Israel must **have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness** (Ephesians 5:11). The prohibition against night creatures taught constant vigilance: **The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness** (Romans 13:12). Christians are **children of light** (1 Thessalonians 5:5), called to walk in daytime ethics even in a dark world.

## Historical Context

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Ancient cultures associated night birds with omens and demons (Lilith, the 'night demon,' connected with owls in Isaiah 34:14). By prohibiting their consumption, God distanced Israel from occult practices and superstitions surrounding nocturnal creatures.

## Related Passages

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

## Study Questions

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1. What 'works of darkness' (hidden sins, secret habits) must you 'cast off' to walk as a child of light?
2. How does the modern entertainment industry romanticize spiritual darkness (occult, horror, 'dark' themes)?
3. In what practical ways can you guard against 'nocturnal' spiritual activity (temptations strongest when alone or tired)?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּתַיִם וְאַתְּ  
H853 And the owl  
בְּתַיִם וְאַתְּ  
H3284  
בְּתַיִם וְאַתְּ  
H853  
בְּתַיִם סְנַמְּנָה  
H8464  
בְּתַיִם סְנַמְּנָה  
H853  
בְּשַׁׁׁקְׁנָה  
H7828  
and the night hawk  
and the cuckow

וְאַתְּ  
H853  
וְאַתְּ  
H5322  
בְּזַיִן  
H4327  
לְמִינְהָה  
and the hawk  
after his kind