

# Deuteronomy 28:56

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter,

## Analysis

**The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground**—the Hebrew ha‘änuggāh wəharakkāh (הָעִנְגָּה וְהָרַקְקָה) describes an aristocratic lady so refined she never walked barefoot, perhaps carried in a litter. Yet **her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter**—she too becomes a grudging cannibal.

This verse is the female parallel to verses 54-55, showing that wealth, gender, and privilege offer no protection from sin's degradation. The most pampered woman, symbol of motherly nurture, will violate the deepest maternal instinct. The phrase 'husband of her bosom' (iš hēqāh, אִישׁ חֶקֶת) emphasizes intimate marital love—now replaced by cannibalistic greed.

## Historical Context

Josephus's account of Mary of Bethezuba (Wars 6.3.4) fulfills this precisely—a wealthy woman who ate her nursing infant during the Roman siege. Her story is so horrifying that it became legendary, demonstrating that these curses were not hyperbole but literal prophecy.

## Related Passages

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does this passage destroy any notion of inherent human goodness apart from God's grace?
2. What does the equal treatment of male and female in judgment teach about accountability before God?
3. How does the image of a mother devouring her child contrast with God's maternal care (Isaiah 49:15)?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא אֲשֶׁר וְקָרְבָּה הַבָּבָרֶכֶת  
The tender and delicate  
H7390 H0 H6028 H834 H3808

עַל פְּנֵי גַּבְּלָה נִטְּתָה  
woman among you which would not adventure the sole of her foot to set  
H5921 H3709 H7272 H3322 H5254

עִינָה תִּתְבֹּשׁ וּמְרַגְּלָה מִמְּתֻעָה גַּם  
upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness her eye  
H5869 H7489 H7391 H6026 H776

וּבְבָנָה וּבְבָנָה כִּיּוֹת הַבָּבָרֶכֶת  
and toward her son and toward her daughter toward the husband of her bosom  
H1323 H1121 H2436 H376

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 28:54** (Evil): So that the man that is tender among you, and very delicate, his eye shall be evil toward his brother, and toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the remnant of his children which he shall leave:

**Isaiah 3:16** (Parallel theme): Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet:

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