

# Isaiah 44:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The smith with the tongs both worketh in the coals, and fashioneth it with hammers, and worketh it with the strength of his arms: yea, he is hungry, and his strength faileth: he drinketh no water, and is faint.

## Analysis

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The satire becomes vivid: the smith works with tongs in coals, fashions iron with hammers, works with his strong arm, then grows hungry and weak. The irony is devastating - the god-maker exhausts himself creating a 'god' that cannot give him strength. His thirst and faintness contrast with God who never faints or grows weary (40:28).

## Historical Context

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This detailed description of metalworking mocks the labor-intensive idol production in Babylon, where professional smiths created religious images. Their human weakness exposes their products' impotence.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does the idol-maker's exhaustion creating his 'god' contrast with God who strengthens the weary?
2. What does it reveal when we exhaust ourselves serving things that cannot give life?

## Interlinear Text

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חֲבָשׁ H2796	בַּרְזֵל H1270	מִמָּעַץ דָּ H4621	וּפָעַל הוּ H6466	בְּפֶתַח ם H6352	וַיִּמָּקֶב וֹת H4717	
	The smith	with the tongs	and worketh	in the coals	it with hammers	
וַיִּצָּרֶה הוּ H3335	וּפָעַל הוּ H6466	בְּזֶרַע וֵע H2220	כֹּחַ H3581	גַּם H1571	כָּעִיב H7456	וְאֵין H369
and fashioneth	and worketh	of his arms	and his strength			faileth
כֹּחַ H3581	לֹא H3808	שָׁתָה H8354	מִיָּם H4325	וַיִּשְׁפָּר: H3286		
and his strength		he drinketh	no water	and is faint		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 40:19** (Parallel theme): The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains.