

Job 13:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O that ye would altogether hold your peace! and it should be your wisdom.

Analysis

Job's exasperated wish: 'O that ye would altogether hold your peace! and it should be your wisdom.' This stunning rebuke suggests silence would demonstrate more wisdom than the friends' speeches. Sometimes the wisest response to suffering is compassionate presence without explanation.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom literature valued speech, but Job inverts this by elevating silence. His rebuke anticipates James 1:19 ('swift to hear, slow to speak') and the ministry of presence over answers.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. When should you choose silence over theological explanation?
2. How can silence be more compassionate than words?

Interlinear Text

מִי ! יֵתֵן תְּחַרֵּשׁ וְ תְּחַרֵּשׁ וְ וְתָהּ י לָךְ ם
H4310 O that hold your peace hold your peace H1961 H0
H5414 H2790 H2790

לְחָכְמָה:

and it should be your wisdom
H2451

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 17:28 (Peace): Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.

Job 13:13 (Peace): Hold your peace, let me alone, that I may speak, and let come on me what will.

Ecclesiastes 5:3 (Parallel theme): For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.

James 1:19 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: