

# Job 15:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?

## Analysis

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Eliphaz concludes his rhetorical question: 'How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?' The escalation from 'not clean' (v.15) to 'abominable and filthy' intensifies the accusation. The vivid image of drinking iniquity like water suggests sin is so natural to humans that we consume it as readily as water. While Pauline theology affirms human depravity, Eliphaz weaponizes this truth to assume Job's guilt without evidence.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern texts often used drink metaphors for moral consumption (Proverbs 4:17). Eliphaz's extreme language—'abominable,' 'filthy'—reflects disgust, suggesting he views Job not just as wrong but as morally repulsive.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does Reformed understanding of total depravity differ from viewing humans as worthless or disgusting?

2. What prevents doctrine of sin from becoming dehumanizing rather than humbling?
3. How does God's love for sinners balance the truth of our moral corruption?

## Interlinear Text

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שָׁתַּחַת	הַ	אִישׁ	וְתַאֲלֵחַ	נִתְעַזֵּב	בָּ	כַּתְעַזֵּב	בָּ	כַּעֲלָהִים	כַּעֲלָהִים
H637	H3588	How much more abominable	H8581	and filthy	H444	is man	H376	which drinketh	H8354

  

כַּעֲלָהִים	כַּעֲלָהִים
like water	iniquity
H4325	H5766

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 34:7** (Parallel theme): What man is like Job, who drinketh up scorning like water?

**Proverbs 19:28** (Sin): An ungodly witness scorneth judgment: and the mouth of the wicked devoureth iniquity.

**Titus 3:3** (Parallel theme): For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.