

Job 15:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thy mouth uttereth thine iniquity, and thou choosest the tongue of the crafty.

Analysis

For thy mouth uttereth thine iniquity, and thou choosest the tongue of the crafty—Eliphaz escalates from criticizing Job's words to diagnosing their source: 'avonecha (אֲוֹנְךָ, 'your iniquity'). He claims Job's mouth betrays hidden sin, and that Job deliberately chooses leshon arumim (לְשׁוֹן אֲרוּמִים, 'tongue of the crafty/shrewd'). The word arum describes the serpent in Genesis 3:1—Eliphaz effectively calls Job satanic.

This accusation follows a dangerous logic: if you defend yourself against charges of sin, your defense proves your guilt. Job is trapped in a hermeneutical circle where any protest confirms the accusation. This is the psychology of spiritual abuse—making the victim's self-defense evidence of their guilt. The book condemns this reasoning absolutely.

Historical Context

In ancient Hebrew thought, the mouth revealed the heart (Proverbs 23:7). Eliphaz applies this principle backwards: since Job defends himself, his heart must be wicked. This represents a perversion of wisdom tradition into a weapon for condemning the suffering.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Have you ever experienced or witnessed someone being told their protest of innocence proves their guilt?
2. How does Eliphaz's logic resemble modern 'gaslighting' in spiritual contexts?
3. When does appropriate discernment of someone's words cross into spiritual abuse?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	יֹאמַר	עֲוֹנֶךָ	פִּי	וְתִבְחַר	לְשׁוֹן
H3588	uttereth	thine iniquity	For thy mouth	and thou choosest	the tongue
	H502	H5771	H6310	H977	H3956

עֲרוּמִים:

of the crafty

H6175

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 9:8 (Parallel theme): Their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait.

Psalms 64:3 (Parallel theme): Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words:

Job 5:13 (Parallel theme): He taketh the wise in their own craftiness: and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong.

Luke 6:45 (Parallel theme): A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

James 1:26 (Parallel theme): If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org