

Job 15:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thine own mouth condemneth thee, and not I: yea, thine own lips testify against thee.

Analysis

Thine own mouth condemneth thee, and not I: yea, thine own lips testify against thee—Eliphaz claims neutrality: 'I'm not condemning you—you're condemning yourself.' The Hebrew legal terminology yarshi'echa (ירשיך) 'condemns you') and ya'anu (יעונת, 'testify') creates a courtroom scene where Job is both defendant and prosecution witness. Eliphaz positions himself as mere observer of Job's self-incrimination.

This is sophisticated blame-shifting: Eliphaz delivers harsh judgment while claiming he's simply agreeing with Job's own words. It's a rhetorical strategy that allows maximum condemnation with minimum responsibility. Yet God's verdict in 42:7 reverses everything—Eliphaz's 'neutral observation' was in fact false testimony, while Job's passionate protests were truthful speech.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern legal proceedings relied heavily on witness testimony and self-incriminating statements. Eliphaz manipulates this framework to make Job appear guilty by his own admission—a tactic still used in coercive interrogations today.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. When have you seen someone use 'just asking questions' or 'just observing' to mask harsh judgment?
2. How do you distinguish between genuinely letting scripture speak and weaponizing someone's words against them?
3. What does this verse teach about the responsibility we bear for interpretations we claim are 'neutral'?

Interlinear Text

וְרִשְׁיאָתְךָ פִּיךְ אַנְתָּא לֹא תְּשִׁפְתֵּחׁ יְרִשְׁיאָתְךָ
condemneth Thine own mouth thee and not I yea thine own lips

H7561 H6310 H3808 H589 H8193

בָּרָא יְמִינָה
testify H0
H6030

Additional Cross-References

Luke 19:22 (Parallel theme): And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:

Matthew 12:37 (Parallel theme): For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Job 9:20 (Parallel theme): If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: if I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.