

Job 16:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Though I speak, my grief is not asswaged: and though I forbear, what am I eased?

Analysis

Though I speak, my grief is not asswaged (אִם־אֶדְבָּרָה לֹא־יִחַשֵׁךְ כְּעָבִי, im-adabberah lo-yechasekh ke'evi)—The verb חָשַׁךְ (chasakh) means 'to withhold, restrain, hold back.' Job's כְּעָבִי (ke'ev, pain/grief) remains uncontainable regardless of speech.

And though I forbear, what am I eased? (וְאֶחְדְּלָה מִהִמָּנִי יְהִלֵּךְ, ve'achdela mah-mimmenni yahalokh)—Whether Job speaks or remains silent, his suffering continues unabated. The verb הָלַךְ (halakh, 'to go, depart') governs his pain—it won't 'leave.' This captures the inescapable totality of extreme suffering: neither expression nor suppression provides relief. Job's friends assume speech itself causes his problem; Job knows the problem transcends language.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern lament literature often explored whether voicing grief helped or hindered healing. The Mesopotamian 'Ludlul Bel Nemeqi' ('I Will Praise the Lord of Wisdom') similarly depicts a sufferer whose complaints bring no relief. Job adds the opposite: silence helps no more than speech.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Have you experienced suffering so total that neither expressing it nor suppressing it brought relief?
2. How does Job's experience challenge the modern therapeutic assumption that 'talking about it' always helps?
3. What does it mean to faithfully endure when neither action nor inaction alleviates pain?

Interlinear Text

אֲנִי	אֶדְבָּרָה	לֹא	יִשְׁׁוּׁי	כְּאַבִּי	אֶחְדָּל הַ	מֵה
H518	Though I speak	H3808	is not asswaged	my grief	and though I forbear	H4100
	H1696		H2820	H3511	H2308	
מִן־	יְהִלָּהּ:					
H4480	what am I eased					
	H1980					

Additional Cross-References

Job 10:1 (Parallel theme): My soul is weary of my life; I will leave my complaint upon myself; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.