

# Job 19:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But ye should say, Why persecute we him, seeing the root of the matter is found in me?

## Analysis

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'But ye should say, Why persecute we him, seeing the root of the matter is found in me?' Job tells friends what they should say: 'Why persecute him?' (מַה־נִּדּוֹף, mah-nirdof), since 'the root of the matter' (שֹׁרֶשׁ דָּבָר, shoresh davar) is in him (Job). This is controversial translation—some render 'in him' as 'in me.' Either way, Job calls for self-examination. If 'in him,' he claims integrity as the root/core reality. If 'in me,' he asks why they persecute when the real issue is their own judgment. Either reading condemns the friends' persecution. The Reformed emphasis on self-examination before judging others (Matthew 7:3-5, Galatians 6:1) validates Job's point. Persecution requires certainty the friends lack.

## Historical Context

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The root metaphor suggests core reality or fundamental issue. Job either claims his integrity is the fundamental reality, or questions why they attack him when the matter really concerns their own hearts.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does self-examination prevent us from persecuting others?
2. What certainty is required before we can righteously confront someone?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי	תֵּן אִמְרוֹ	מֶה	נִרְדֹּף	לִי	וְשֶׁרֶשׁ
H3588	<b>But ye should say</b> H559	H4100	<b>Why persecute</b> H7291	H0	<b>we him seeing the root</b> H8328
דֵּבַר	נִמְצָא	כִּי:			
<b>of the matter</b> H1697	<b>is found</b> H4672	H0			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 19:22** (Parallel theme): Why do ye persecute me as God, and are not satisfied with my flesh?