

# Job 3:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let them curse it that curse the day, who are ready to raise up their mourning.

## Analysis

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Job invokes those who curse days and are ready to 'raise up mourning' (or 'rouse leviathan'—Hebrew 'livyatan'). This may refer to professional cursers/magicians believed able to invoke chaos against days, or to mythological imagery of sea monsters representing cosmic disorder. Job's rhetoric reaches for the most powerful forces of curse and chaos to express his wish for non-existence, yet remains within poetic bounds rather than actual invocation of pagan magic.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern cultures included professional cursers and magicians. Leviathan appears in Canaanite mythology as a chaos monster, though Scripture later uses this imagery to demonstrate YHWH's sovereignty over all supposed rival powers (Job 41; Psalm 74:14).

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Job's use of mythological imagery help him express the inexpressible?
2. What boundaries exist between using cultural metaphors and actually engaging in pagan practices?

## Interlinear Text

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יִקְרָה הוּ	אֲרִי	י וּם	הַ, עֲתִידִים	עֲרֵר	לִנְתֵן:
Let them curse	it that curse	the day	who are ready	to raise up	their mourning
H5344	H779	H3117	H6264	H5782	H3882

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 41:1** (Parallel theme): Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook? or his tongue with a cord which thou lettest down?

**Job 41:10** (Parallel theme): None is so fierce that dare stir him up: who then is able to stand before me?