

Job 30:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Upon my right hand rise the youth; they push away my feet,
and they raise up against me the ways of their destruction.

Analysis

Upon my right hand rise the youth (על ימִינִי פִּרְחָח יְקֻמִּי)—The pirchach (פִּרְחָח) are young shoots, immature men, mere boys. The right hand was the place of honor and authority (Psalm 110:1)—but these upstarts dare rise against Job's authority. The verb qum (עִמּוּד) means to stand up, rise in opposition, or make legal accusation. Youth who should defer to Job's wisdom instead assault his dignity.

They push away my feet (נִגְלַי שָׁלַחְוּ)—They trip him, remove the ground from under him. **They raise up against me the ways of their destruction** (עַל עַל אֶרְחֹות אֵידָם)—The verb salal (עַלָּל) means to cast up or build siege ramps; orchot (אֶרְחֹות) means paths or roads; eid (אֵיד) means calamity or destruction. Military imagery: they build siege works against Job as if he's a city to be conquered. Those who should respect him instead engineer his ruin.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern culture demanded younger generation's deference to elders (Leviticus 19:32). That 'youth'—mere boys—dare assault Job demonstrates complete social inversion. The siege imagery reflects ancient warfare where attackers built earthen ramps to scale city walls. Job experiences social assault using military metaphors—he's under siege from all sides. Wisdom literature consistently condemns youthful arrogance and commands respect for age (Proverbs 20:29), making this violation particularly egregious.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does loss of respect and authority compound physical or emotional suffering?
2. What does Scripture teach about honoring those who suffer, even when we don't understand their trials?
3. How should we respond when we feel 'under siege' from multiple directions simultaneously?

Interlinear Text

עַל־צָדָקָה בְּגָלְלֵי־צָדָקָה יְמִינֵי־צָדָקָה שְׁלֵל־צָדָקָה
H5921 Upon my right H3225 the youth H6526 hand rise H6965 my feet H7272 they push away H7971

וְאֶל־אֶת־עַל־צָדָקָה אֶת־עַל־צָדָקָה אֶת־עַל־צָדָקָה
and they raise up H5549 against me the ways H5921 of their destruction H343

Additional Cross-References

Job 19:12 (Resurrection): His troops come together, and raise up their way against me, and encamp round about my tabernacle.