

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 (עַל־יְמִין פִּרְחָח יָקוּמוּ)—The pirschach (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 (קוּם) 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 (בְּגָלִי שָׁלְחוּ)—They trip him, remove the ground from under him. **They raise up against me the ways of their destruction** (וַיִּסְלוּ עָלַי אֲדָמוֹת אֶרְצוֹת אֵיד)—The verb salal (סָלַל) means to cast up or build siege ramps; orchot (אֲדָמוֹת) 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	יְמִין	פְּרָחַי	יָקוּמוּ	בְּגָלַי	שָׁלַח
H5921	Upon my right	the youth	hand rise	my feet	they push away
	H3225	H6526	H6965	H7272	H7971
וַיִּסְּלוּ	עָלַי	אֶחָד	אֵיֶם:		
and they raise up	H5921	against me the ways	of their destruction		
H5549		H734	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.