

# Job 33:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Surely thou hast spoken in mine hearing, and I have heard the voice of thy words, saying,

## Analysis

**Surely thou hast spoken in mine hearing** (אַךְ אָמַרְתָּ בְּאָזְנֵי, ak amarta be-oznai)—Elihu quotes Job's own words, demonstrating he has listened carefully. **אַךְ** (ak, 'surely') introduces certainty; **בְּאָזְנֵי** (be-oznai, 'in mine ears') emphasizes direct auditory witness. Unlike the three friends who misrepresented Job, Elihu will cite actual statements. This verse begins Elihu's careful summary of Job's position (verses 8-11) before refuting it—a model of fair argument.

**I have heard the voice of thy words** (וְקֹל מַלְיָא אֲשָׁמָה, ve-qol millin eshma')—the repetition emphasizes attentiveness. **קֹל** (qol, 'voice') and **מַלְיָא** (millin, 'words') together stress both the manner and content of Job's speech. Elihu hasn't merely overheard fragments but has given Job's arguments full attention. This careful listening before responding models biblical conflict resolution (Proverbs 18:13, James 1:19). The phrase 'saying' (לֹאמֶר, lemor) introduces Job's claims that Elihu will now quote.

## Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern legal and wisdom traditions valued accurate representation of opponents' positions. Job's friends often attacked straw men rather than his actual arguments. Elihu's method—quoting before refuting—demonstrates intellectual honesty and respects Job's dignity. This approach anticipates Paul's careful engagement with opponents' actual positions (Acts 17:22-31, Romans 9-11).

## Related Passages

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

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How often do we misrepresent others' positions in arguments—intentionally or carelessly?
2. What does careful listening before speaking reveal about humility and respect?
3. How can we cultivate the discipline of accurately understanding before critiquing?

## Interlinear Text

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מִלְּוָאָמָרְתָּ אָמָרְתָּ בְּאָזְנֵי לִלְלָא מִלְּוָאָמָרְתָּ  
H389      Surely thou hast spoken      in mine hearing      the voice      of thy words  
H559      H241      H6963      H4405

אָשְׁמָעָנִי:  
and I have heard  
H8085

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