

Job 34:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Should I lie against my right? my wound is incurable without transgression.

Analysis

Should I lie against my right? my wound is incurable without transgression. Elihu here articulates Job's dilemma with precision. The phrase "lie against my right" (akazzev al-mishpati, אָכַזֵּב עַל-מִשְׁפָּטִי) means to deny or betray one's own righteous cause. Job feels trapped: maintaining his innocence appears to accuse God of injustice, yet confessing false guilt would violate truth. The Hebrew mishpat (מִשְׁפָּט) means both "right" and "justice," emphasizing Job's consciousness of moral rectitude.

My wound is incurable without transgression uses chets (צַדְקָה) for "wound" (literally "arrow"), evoking divine warfare imagery—Job feels targeted by God. The phrase "without transgression" (beli-pesha, בְּלִי-פְּשָׁע) asserts innocence from willful rebellion. Elihu grasps Job's theological crisis: suffering of this magnitude seems to require corresponding sin, yet Job knows he hasn't committed such transgression. This anticipates Christ, the only truly innocent sufferer, whose "wound was without transgression" yet bore our sins (Isaiah 53:5, 1 Peter 2:22-24). The verse exposes the limitations of retribution theology—righteous suffering exists and demands explanation beyond simple cause-and-effect moralism.

Historical Context

Elihu speaks as a younger observer (32:6-7) after Job's three friends have exhausted their arguments. His speech (chapters 32-37) bridges the dialogue and divine speeches, introducing themes God will develop. Written during the

patriarchal period, this reflects ancient Near Eastern wisdom tradition where counselors analyzed suffering through retribution theology. Elihu's analysis, though more sophisticated than the three friends', still fails to grasp the cosmic dimensions revealed in chapters 1-2.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Have you ever felt caught between maintaining your integrity and appearing to question God's justice?
2. How does Christ's innocent suffering illuminate the mystery of undeserved pain in ways Job couldn't yet understand?
3. What does this verse teach about the inadequacy of simplistic cause-and-effect theology in explaining suffering?

Interlinear Text

בְּלִי נָאָתִי אֲנִי שְׁאַלְמָנָה אֲכַזְבָּן מִשְׁפָטִי עַל
H5921 **against my right** H4941
Should I lie H3576
is incurable H605
my wound H2671 H1097

פְּשָׁע: without transgression H6588

Additional Cross-References

Job 6:4 (Parallel theme): For the arrows of the Almighty are within me, the poison whereof drinketh up my spirit: the terrors of God do set themselves in array against me.

