

# Job 4:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said,

## Analysis

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Eliphaz begins as the eldest and most sympathetic of Job's friends, yet his theology of retribution will prove inadequate. The dialogues reveal how even well-meaning comfort can wound when it prioritizes theological systems over compassionate presence. True comfort acknowledges mystery rather than offering premature answers.

## Historical Context

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Eliphaz represents the wisdom tradition's conventional teaching that suffering results from sin. His speeches, while containing truth, fail to account for innocent suffering - the book's central problem.

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. When have you offered theological explanations when someone needed compassionate silence?
2. How can truth become harmful when spoken at the wrong time?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיַּעַן	אֶלִּיפַז	הַתֵּימָנִי	וַיֹּאמֶר:
<b>answered</b>	<b>Then Eliphaz</b>	<b>the Temanite</b>	<b>and said</b>
H6030	H464	H8489	H559

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