

Job 4:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It stood still, but I could not discern the form thereof: an image was before mine eyes, there was silence, and I heard a voice, saying,

Analysis

Eliphaz reports, 'It stood still, but I could not discern the form thereof: an image was before mine eyes, there was silence, and I heard a voice.' The inability to discern the form suggests either overwhelming glory or deliberate obscurity. The 'silence' (Hebrew 'demamah') before the voice parallels Elijah's experience (1 Kings 19:12), but where God's voice brought comfort to Elijah, this voice will deliver accusation. Form without content clarity marks false revelation.

Historical Context

Visionary experiences in ancient Near Eastern prophecy often included indistinct forms and voices. Eliphaz's description follows conventional patterns, making it difficult for his audience to challenge the vision's authenticity.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you evaluate spiritual experiences that seem impressive but deliver unbiblical messages?
2. What does the content of Eliphaz's vision reveal about its true source?

Interlinear Text

לֹא יָעַם דָּל
It stood still H3808 but I could not discern H5234 the form H4758 thereof an image H8544 H5048

עִינֵּי
was before mine eyes H5869 לֹמַת ה
there was silence H1827 אֵיךְ וְלֹ
a voice H6963 אָשְׁמָעָן: and I heard H8085

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 19:12 (Parallel theme): And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

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