

# 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

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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

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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

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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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

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וַיַּעַמְדֵּן	וְלֹא	אֶכְיָר	מִרְאֵהוּ	בְּתִמוּנָהּ	לִנְגֹד
<b>It stood still</b>	<b>but I could not discern</b>	<b>the form</b>	<b>thereof an image</b>		
H5975	H3808	H5234	H4758	H8544	H5048
עֵינַי	דָּמָמָה	וּקוֹל	אֶשְׁמָע:		
<b>was before mine eyes</b>	<b>there was silence</b>	<b>a voice</b>	<b>and I heard</b>		
H5869	H1827	H6963	H8085		

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.