

# Job 4:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If we assay to commune with thee, wilt thou be grieved? but who can withhold himself from speaking?

## Analysis

---

Eliphaz begins tentatively: 'If we assay to commune with thee, wilt thou be grieved?' The Hebrew 'nasa' (assay/venture) and 'la'ah' (be weary/grieved) suggest he fears Job might find speech burdensome. Yet this apparent courtesy masks the coming accusation. Eliphaz's politeness cannot conceal that he will ultimately blame Job for his suffering, demonstrating how even well-intentioned counsel can wound when it lacks divine wisdom (Proverbs 18:2).

## Historical Context

---

Ancient Near Eastern wisdom teachers valued rhetorical courtesy, especially when addressing someone of high social status. Eliphaz's diplomatic opening reflects this convention but also his uncertainty about Job's fragile state.

## Related Passages

---

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

## Study Questions

---

1. How do you balance honesty with sensitivity when counseling those who are suffering?
2. In what ways might polite speech mask faulty theology or accusation?

## Interlinear Text

---

וְעַזְתָּ	רֹ	תִּלְאָה	הַ	אַל	יְבַ	דְּבָרָה	בְּנֵת	הַ
If we assay	to withhold	wilt thou be grieved						
H5254	H6113	H3811						
וְעַכְלָה	בְּ	מִלְלָה	וְ	מִ	בְּ	מִלְלָה		
himself from speaking		but who can						
H4405	H4310	H3201						

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Acts 4:20** (Parallel theme): For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

**Jeremiah 6:11** (Parallel theme): Therefore I am full of the fury of the LORD; I am weary with holding in: I will pour it out upon the children abroad, and upon the assembly of young men together: for even the husband with the wife shall be taken, the aged with him that is full of days.