

# Job 40:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly.

## Analysis

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"Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly." God describes Behemoth's massive strength concentrated in its core—motsnyav (מֹתְסְנַיָּב, "loins") and shorerey vitno (שְׁרֵרֵי בִטְנוֹ, "muscles of its belly"). Scholars debate whether Behemoth represents hippopotamus, elephant, or symbolic creature. Regardless, it demonstrates God's power to create what humans cannot control. The detailed description invites Job to consider that if this creature's design surpasses human comprehension, how much more does divine providence surpass understanding?

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern texts occasionally referenced large creatures like hippopotami and crocodiles as symbols of chaos that only gods could control. Unlike pagan myths where gods struggled against such creatures, Yahweh presents Behemoth as His peaceful creation, demonstrating effortless sovereignty over the most powerful created beings.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's creation of creatures beyond human control humble your pretensions to comprehensive understanding?
2. What "behemoths" in your life—overwhelming situations—must you remember are still under God's sovereign design?

## Interlinear Text

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הִנֵּה	נָ א	כַּח ו	בְּמִתְנֵי יו	אֹנ ו	בְּשִׁרְיָ י
H2009	H4994	<b>Lo now his strength</b>	<b>is in his loins</b>	<b>and his force</b>	<b>is in the navel</b>
		H3581	H4975	H202	H8306
בֶּטְנוֹ:					
<b>of his belly</b>					
H990					

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