Job 41:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> None is so fierce that dare stir him up: who then is able to stand before me?

Analysis

God declares: 'None is so fierce that dare stir him up: who then is able to stand before me?' The adjective akzar (אַכְזָר, fierce) means cruel or fierce. The verb ur (עור, stir up) means to rouse or awaken. If no human dares provoke Leviathan (likely a crocodile or mythological chaos beast), how much less can anyone stand before God who created Leviathan? The rhetorical question mi efo lefanay yityatsav (מִי אֵפוֹא לְפָנַי יִתְיַצָּב, who then is able to stand before me) demands the answer: no one. God's argument moves from creature to Creator—if the created monster is unapproachable, the Creator is infinitely more so.

Historical Context

Leviathan appears in ancient Near Eastern mythology as a chaos monster (cf. Ugaritic Lotan). God's description demonstrates sovereignty over chaos itself— what pagans feared as divine opponent, Yahweh created as mere creature. The theological point addresses Job's demand for legal confrontation with God: if Job cannot face Leviathan, how can he confront Leviathan's Creator? The passage emphasizes divine transcendence while answering Job's longing for encounter— God appears but establishes appropriate Creator-creature relationship.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty over chaos monsters like Leviathan address our fears and anxieties?
2. What does the impossibility of standing before God teach about appropriate reverence and humility?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	אַכְזָר	כִּי	יְעוּרֶ נּוּ	וּמִי הוּא הָ לְפָנַ י
H3808	**None is so fierce**	H3588	**that dare stir him up**	H4310 H1931 **before**
	H393		H5782	H6440

יִתְיַצָּֽב׃
who then is able to stand
H3320

Additional Cross-References

Job 9:4 (Parallel theme): He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?