

# Job 6:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For now ye are nothing; ye see my casting down, and are afraid.

## Analysis

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Job applies the metaphor: 'For now ye are nothing; ye see my casting down, and are afraid.' The friends are 'nothing' (Hebrew 'lo'—not/nothing), just like the dried-up stream. They see Job's calamity and fear it could happen to them, so they distance themselves by blaming Job. The Hebrew 'yare'' (afraid) reveals self-protective motive—if Job's suffering results from his sin, then their own prosperity proves their righteousness and safety. This exposes how fear drives false theology.

## Historical Context

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In retribution theology, others' suffering threatened one's own sense of security unless the sufferer could be shown to deserve their fate. Job identifies his friends' fear as motivating their accusations.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does fear motivate you to explain away others' suffering as deserved?
2. What does Job's diagnosis of his friends' fear teach us about the psychological roots of bad theology?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי	עַתָּה	הֵי יָתֵם	לֹא	תִּרְאוּ	וְתַתְּ
H3588	H6258	H1961	H3808	<b>For now ye are nothing ye see</b>	<b>my casting down</b>
				H7200	H2866

וְתִירְאוּ  
**and are afraid**  
H3372

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 38:11** (Parallel theme): My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore; and my kinsmen stand afar off.