

Job 9:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If I say, I will forget my complaint, I will leave off my heaviness, and comfort myself:

Analysis

If I say, I will forget my complaint (אֶמְרֵתִי אֶשְׁכַּח שִׁיחִי, im-amarti eshk'chah sichi)—Job considers attempting to suppress his lament. The verb 'forget' (shakach, שָׁכַח) means to cease remembering or ignore deliberately. 'Complaint' (siach, שִׁיחַ) means meditation, complaint, or concern—the word describes deep, consuming thought. Job wonders if he should stop nursing his grievance.

I will leave off my heaviness, and comfort myself proposes emotional self-management. 'Leave off' (azav, אָזַב) means to abandon or forsake. 'Heaviness' (panim, פָּנִים, literally 'face') refers to his downcast countenance or gloomy expression. 'Comfort myself' (balag, בָּלַג) means to brighten up or look cheerful. But verse 28 reveals this strategy's futility—Job knows God won't acquit him. This psychological realism anticipates modern understanding that suppressing grief without resolution brings no healing. True comfort requires addressing root causes, not merely managing symptoms.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom literature often counseled emotional restraint and acceptance of divine providence. Job's contemplation of this strategy—then its rejection—marks the book's radical honesty about suffering's intractability. Unlike his friends who counsel acceptance, Job insists on honest expression before God. This models biblical lament as superior to stoic suppression (Psalm 13, Lamentations).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. When have you tried to 'forget your complaint' and suppress legitimate grief, and what resulted?
2. How does Job's honesty about his inability to simply 'cheer up' validate the Christian practice of lament?

Interlinear Text

אִם	אֶמְרִי	אֶשְׁכַּח הַ	שִׁיחִי י	אֶעֱזֹב הַ	כָּנִי י
H518	If I say	I will forget	my complaint	I will leave off	my heaviness
	H559	H7911	H7879	H5800	H6440

וְאֶבְלִיגָה:

and comfort

H1082

Additional Cross-References

Job 7:13 (Parallel theme): When I say, My bed shall comfort me, my couch shall ease my complaint;