

# Proverbs 30:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.

## Analysis

**Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter** (כִּי מִיץ חֲלָב יוֹצִיא חֶמְאָה, ki mitz chalav yotzi chem'ah)—מִיץ (mitz, 'pressing, churning, squeezing') of חֲלָב (chalav, 'milk') produces יוֹצֵא (yotza) חֶמְאָה (chem'ah, 'butter, curds'). Natural process: consistent pressure produces desired result.

**And the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood** (וּמִיץ־אֶף יוֹצִיא דָּם, umitz-af yotzi dam)—מִיץ (mitz, 'pressing, squeezing') of אֶף (af, 'nose, nostril') brings דָּם (dam, 'blood'). Violent pressure produces violent result.

**So the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife** (וּמִיץ אַפַּיִם יוֹצִיא רִיב, umitz appayim yotzi riv)—similarly, מִיץ אַפַּיִם (mitz appayim, 'pressing/forcing of anger') produces רִיב (riv, 'strife, contention, lawsuit'). Note: אֶף means both 'nose' and 'anger' (anger 'flares the nostrils'). Nurturing anger, dwelling on grievances, pressing resentment inevitably produces conflict. The lesson: what you press/cultivate determines what emerges. Press milk, get butter; press anger, get strife. Ephesians 4:26-27: 'Let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.'

## Historical Context

Ancient dairy production involved churning milk in skins or pottery to separate butter. The physical analogy would be immediately clear to agrarian audiences. The wordplay on אֶף ('nose' and 'anger') is lost in English but powerful in Hebrew.

Agur's agricultural wisdom applies to emotional and spiritual life: cultivation determines harvest.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

## Study Questions

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1. What are you 'churning' in your heart—and what will it inevitably produce?
2. Where are you 'forcing wrath' by nurturing grievances rather than releasing them to God?
3. How can you cultivate peace and grace with the same intentionality that produces butter from milk?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי	וּמִיץ	חֶלֶב	יֹצִיא	חֲמֶצֶה	וּמִיץ
H3588	<b>Surely the churning</b>	<b>of milk</b>	<b>bringeth forth</b>	<b>butter</b>	<b>Surely the churning</b>
	H4330	H2461	H3318	H2529	H4330

אֶפְרוֹת	יֹצִיא	דָּם	וּמִיץ	אֶפְרוֹת	יֹצִיא
<b>of the nose</b>	<b>bringeth forth</b>	<b>blood</b>	<b>Surely the churning</b>	<b>of the nose</b>	<b>bringeth forth</b>
H639	H3318	H1818	H4330	H639	H3318

רִיב:

**strife**

H7379

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 29:22** (Parallel theme): An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

**Proverbs 17:14** (Parallel theme): The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.

**Proverbs 28:25** (Parallel theme): He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.

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