JPS [Online]

Job's Plea to God

- ¹My soul is weary of my life; I will give free course to my complaint; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.
- ²I will say unto God: Do not condemn me; Make me know wherefore Thou contendest with me.
- ³Is it good unto Thee that Thou shouldest oppress, That Thou shouldest despise the work of Thy hands, And shine upon the counsel of the wicked?
- 4Hast Thou eyes of flesh? Or seest Thou as man seeth?
- 5Are Thy days as the days of man, Or Thy years as a man's days,
- ⁶That Thou inquirest after mine iniquity, And searchest after my sin,
- Although Thou knowest that I shall not be condemned; And there is none that can deliver out of Thy hand?
- 8Thy hands have framed me and fashioned me Together round about; yet Thou dost destroy me!
- 9Remember, I beseech Thee, that Thou hast fashioned me as clay; And wilt Thou bring me into dust again?
- ¹⁰Hast Thou not poured me out as milk, And curdled me like cheese?

- 11 Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, And knit me together with bones and sinews.
- 12Thou hast granted me life and favour, And Thy providence hath preserved my spirit.
- 13Yet these things Thou didst hide in Thy heart; I know that this is with Thee;
- 14If I sin, then Thou markest me, And Thou wilt not acquit me from mine iniquity.
- ¹⁵If I be wicked, woe unto me; And if I be righteous, yet shall I not lift up my head—Being filled with ignominy And looking upon mine affliction.
- ¹⁶And if it exalt itself, Thou huntest me as a lion; And again Thou showest Thyself marvellous upon me.
- 17Thou renewest Thy witnesses against me, And increasest Thine indignation upon me; Host succeeding host against me.
- 18Wherefore then hast Thou brought me forth out of the womb? Would that I had perished, and no eye had seen me!
- ¹⁹I should have been as though I had not been; I should have been carried from the womb to the grave.
- ²⁰Are not my days few? Cease then, And let me alone, that I may take comfort a little,
- ²¹Before I go whence I shall not return, Even to the land of darkness and of the shadow of death;
- ²²A land of thick darkness, as darkness itself; A land of the shadow of death, without any order, And where the light is as darkness.