

16:17-22 I am innocent, and so I demand justice from Gd

1. Rashi to 16:17

לא קיללתי חבירי ולא פיללתי לו רעה:

I did not curse my friend, and I did not pray for him to be harmed.

2. Heaven and Earth as witnesses Devarim 30:19, Devarim 31:28

3. Rashi to Devarim 30:19

שהם קיימים לעולם, וכאשר תקרה אתכם הרעה יהיו עדים שאני התרתי בכם בכל זאת. דבר אחר... אמר להם הקב"ה לישראל, הסתכלו בשמים שבראתי לשמש אתכם, שמא שנו את מדתם, שמא לא עלה גלגל חמה מן המזרח והאיר לכל העולם...

They endure forever, and when bad things happen to you they will be My witnesses that I warned you of this. Or... Gd told Israel: Look at the heavens I created to serve you, have they changed their ways? Has the Sun ever failed to rise in the east, illuminating the world...

4. Covering the spilled blood Bereishit 4:10; Bamidbar 35:33; Devarim 19:10; Isaiah 26:21

5. Carol Newsom, *The Book of Job: A Contest of Moral Imaginations*, pg. 156

Job's descriptions of graphic divine violence in chapter 16 initially allude to the place of such language in prayers of supplication. Whereas in psalms of supplication this imagery establishes both the righteous power of Gd and the neediness of the faithful yet guilty petitioner, Job disrupts the traditional transaction effected by such language by juxtaposing it to legal discourse, as he seeks to preserve his blood and his cry as testimony to a murder, a charge to be argued by his heavenly witness (16:18-19).

6. Carol Newsom, *The Book of Job: A Contest of Moral Imaginations*, pg. 157

The necessity of giving witness becomes so strong that when he thinks of death as preventing him from bringing his accusation or defending himself, Job's imagination supplies surrogates who will speak for him (the earth, 16:18; a heavenly witness, 16:19; an inscribed text, 19:23-24; a *goel*, 19:25).

7. Rashi to 16:21

והלואי יעשה לי זאת שיתן לי מקום להתוכח גבר עם אלוק, להשוות שני הריבים - ריב גבר עם קונו וריב בין אדם לרעהו.

I wish He would do this to me, giving me room to be a man quarrelling with Gd, equating two quarrels: The man with his Creator, and one man with another.

17:1-10 Gd has robbed me of all support; all I have is my suit

8. Metzudat David to 17:3

חזר פניו כלפי המקום ואמר "שים עתה לבך אלי לתת לי ערב במקומך, להיות בטוח בו שתשלם ההתווכחות בינינו לבוא על האמת. ומי הוא אשר יתקע ידו לתוך ידי לקבל על עצמו בקיום גמור להשלים את ההתווכחות?"

He then turned his face back to Gd and he said, "Turn Your heart to me, to give me a guarantor in your place, so that I might be confident that You will complete the litigation between us, to come to truth. Who will put his hand in mine, to accept upon himself full responsibility to complete the litigation?"

9. Metzudat David to 17:4

אין לי חפץ ברעי אלה, כי לבם הסתרת משכל ולא בחכמה ידברו. על כן לא תרומם על ידם, כי אין בידם מענה להצדיק אותם ולרומם תפארתך.

I have no desire for these friends of mine; You have blocked their hearts from insight, and they will not speak with wisdom. Therefore You will not be elevated by them, for they lack a response that will justify them, and exalt Your glory.

17:11-16 The severity and hopelessness of my suffering

10. Metzudat David to 17:12

לילה ליום ישימו - רוב המכאוב יבלבלו מחשבותי וישימו עתה לי חשוכים ונעלמים כחשכת הלילה את הדברים המבוארים ונגלים כאור היום:

אור קרוב - הארת החכמה שהיתה מאז קרובה לי הלכה לה מפני חשכת הצרות:

"They turn day into night" – The magnitude of the pain confuses my thoughts, darkening and hiding like the darkness of night that which had been clear and revealed like the light of day.

"Light is near" – The illumination of wisdom which was once close to me has gone due to the darkness of trouble.

Eliphaz's First Speech (4-5)	Job's Reply (6-7)
	I never asked for your help
People deserve their suffering	Gd has smashed me, or allowed me to be smashed
Outrage is foolish	Gd has forced my outrage
Turn to Gd for help	There is no hopeful narrative; I turn to Gd in defiance

Eliphaz's Second Speech (15)	Job's Reply (16-17)
Job, you wickedly deny the value of goodness!	Stop judging me!
Job, you are arrogant!	
The wicked suffer psychologically and lack a future	-
	Gd has become my enemy; I suffer greatly; I demand justice from Gd