

Chapter 23

Vhen thou shalt fitte to eate with a prince, attend diligently what thinges are fet before thy face: ² and fet a knife in thy throte, if notwithstanding thou haue thy foule in thine owne power. ³ Desire not his meates, in which is the bread of lying.

⁴ Labour not to be rich: but fet a meane to thy prudence.

⁵ Lift not vp thine eies to the riches, which thou canst not haue: because they shal make to themfelues wings as of an eagle, and shal flie into heauen.

⁶ Eate not with an enuious man, and desire not his meates.

⁷ Because after the fimilitude of a fouthfayer, and diuiner, he esteemeth that which he knoweth not. Eate and drinke, wil he say to thee: and his minde is not with thee.

⁸ The meates which thou hadst eaten thou shalt vomite vp: and shalt lose thy beautiful wordes.

⁹ Speake not in the eares of the vnwife: because they wil despise the doctrine of thy speech.

¹⁰ Touch not the boundes of litle ones: and into the filde of pupils enter not.

¹¹ For their nerekinsman is strong: and he wil iudge their cause against thee.

¹² Let thy hart enter into doctrin: and thyne eares to wordes of knowlege.

¹³ Withdraw not discipline from a childe: for if thou shalt strike him with the rod, he shal not die.

¹⁴ Thou shalt strike him with the rod: and deliuer his foule from hel.

¹⁵ My sonne, if thy minde shal be wife, my hart shal be glad with thee: ¹⁶ And my reines shal reioyce, when thy lippes shal speake right thinges.

¹⁷ Let not thy hart enueie finners: but in the feare of our Lord be thou al the day: ¹⁸ because thou shalt haue hope in the later end, and thyn exaltation shal not be taken away.

Modestie and discretion at the table of great persons.

Mediocrity of riches, and contentment with meane estate.

Eate not with a niggard, lest he be secretly greued, outwardly diffembling, and thyself repent it.

Advise not the vncapable.

Hurt not orphans: for they are deare to God.

Diligent studie of wisdom.

Moderate chastisement profiteth youth.

Vertues of children are ioyful to the parentes.

Contentment with Gods wil. Hope of reward.

19 Heare my fonne, & be wife: & direct thy minde in the way.	Lerne and practife vvifdom. Sobrietie and Temperance.
20 Be not in the feaftes of great drinkers, nor in their comeffations, which contribute flesh together to eate: 21 becaufe they that are geuen to drinking, and that pay shottes, shal be confumed, and droufines shal be clothed with ragges.	
22 Heare thy father, that begot thee: and contemne not thy mother when she is old.	Honour of parents.
23 Bye truth, and fel not wifedom, and doctrine, and intelligence.	VVifdom moft precious.
24 The father of the iuft reioyceth with gladnes: he that hath begotten a wifeman, shal reioyce in him.	See <i>v. 15 and 16.</i>
25 Let thy father be glad, and thy mother, and let her reioyce that bare thee.	
26 My fonne geue me thy hart: & let thyne eies kepe my wayes.	Bodelie and fpiritual puritie.
27 For an harlot is a deepe dich: & a ftrange woman a narrow pitte.	
28 She lyeth in wayt in the way as a robber, and whom she shal fee not circumfpect, she wil kil.	
29 To whom is woe? to whose father woe? to whom brawles? to whom diches? to whom woundes without caufe? to whom bloud sheeding eies? 30 Is it not to them that paffe their time in wine, and ftudie to drinke out their cuppes?	Sobrietie alwayes neceffarie. Detest drunkennes.
31 Behold not wine when it waxeth yellow, when the colour therof shal shine in the glaffe: it goeth in pleafantly, 32 but in the end, it wil bite like a fnake, and as a bafiliske it wil powre abroad poyfones.	Drunkennes is deceitful, dangerous,
33 Thine eies shal fee ftrange women, and thy hart shal fpeake peruerfe thinges.	beaftlie,
34 And thou shalt be as one fleeping in the middes of the fea, and as the gouernour faft afleepe, the fterne being loft.	hurtful to others,
35 And thou shalt fay: They haue beaten me, but I was not greeued: they drew me, and I felt not: When shal I awake, and finde wines againe?	fenfeleffe and vnfatiable.