2 1 My son, if you will accept my sayings and keep my precepts close to you,
2 to listen attentively to wisdom and bend your heart toward discernment;
3 indeed, if you will summon understanding and give your voice over to
4 discernment, if you will seek it like silver and search for it like buried
5 treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and achieve
6 knowledge of God. For the LORD grants wisdom; from His mouth come
7 knowledge and comprehension. He preserves guidance for the upright
8 and shields those who walk in perfectness, so as to protect the paths of
9 justice and guard the way of His righteous ones. Then you will understand
10 righteousness, justice, and rectitude – every good pathway. When wisdom
11 and knowledge enter your heart, your soul will be pleased. Forethought
12 will watch over you; comprehension will protect you to rescue you
13 from an evil way, from men who speak perversions, who desert paths
14 of rectitude to follow roads of darkness; who are happy to perform evil
15 and rejoice in wicked perversions – their ways are crooked, and they are
16 misguided in their pathways – to save you from the strange woman,[5] from
17 the exotic woman who polishes her words, who abandons the companion
18 of her youth and forgets the covenant with her God – she inclines toward
19 death, her home; her footsteps lead to ghostly spirits; those who approach
20 her shall not return and will never regain the paths of life – so that you
will follow the way of good people and keep to the paths of the righteous.
21 For the upright will dwell in the land, and perfect ones will remain there,
22 but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be
excised from it.

3 1 My son, do not forget my teaching, and let your heart guard my precepts.
2 3 For they will add longevity, years of vitality, and bring peace to you. May
loving-kindness and truth never leave you; tie them around your neck;
4 inscribe them upon the tablet of your heart. Find favor and approval in
the eyes of God and humans.
5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not rely upon your own
6 understanding. In all matters acknowledge Him, and He will make your
7 paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; rather, fear the LORD and
8 avoid evil. That will be a cure for your flesh and a healing potion for your
9 bones. Honor the LORD more than your wealth and more than the best
10 of all your produce. Then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your
vats will burst with new wine.
11 My son, do not scorn the LORD's discipline, and do not despise His
12 rebuke. For the LORD rebukes whom He loves, as a father does a son he
13 likes. Fortunate is the person who has attained wisdom; so is the person
14 who has attained comprehension. For its worth is better than the worth
15 of silver, and greater than gold is its value. It is more precious than pearls,

5 | Hebrew *zara*, a foreigner or outsider.

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ב א בְּנִי אִם־תִּקַּח אֲמָרַי וּמִצְוֹתַי תִּצְפֹּן אִתָּךְ: ב לְהַקְשִׁיב לַחָכְמָה אָזְנֶךָ
ג תַּטֵּה לִבְּךָ לַתְּבוּנָה: כִּי אִם לַבִּינָה תִקְרָא לַתְּבוּנָה תִּתֵּן קוֹלֶךָ: אִם־ ד
ה תְּבַקְשֶׁנָּה כַּכֶּסֶף וְכַמְּטֻמֹנִים תַּחְפְּשֶׂנָּה: אָז תָּבִין יִרְאַת יְהוָה וְדַעַת
ו אֱלֹהִים תִּמְצָא: כִּי־יְהוָה יִתֵּן חָכְמָה מִפִּיו דַּעַת וּתְבוּנָה: וצפן יִצְפֹּן לַיְשָׁרִים
ח תּוּשִׁיָּה מָגֵן לְהֹלְכֵי תֹם: לִנְצֹר אָרְחוֹת מִשְׁפָּט וְדֶרֶךְ חֲסִידָו יִשְׁמֹר:
ט אָז תָּבִין צֶדֶק וּמִשְׁפָּט וּמֵישָׁרִים כָּל־מַעְגַל־טוֹב: כִּי־תָבוֹא חָכְמָה
יא בְלִבֶּךָ וְדַעַת לְנַפְשְׁךָ יִנְעָם: מְזִמָּה תִּשְׁמֹר עָלֶיךָ תְּבוּנָה תִנְצְרֶכָּה:
יג לְהַצִּילְךָ מִדֶּרֶךְ רָע מֵאִישׁ מְדַבֵּר תַּהְפֻּכוֹת: הַעֹזְבִים אָרְחוֹת יֹשֶׁר
יד לָלֶכֶת בְּדַרְכֵי־חֹשֶׁךְ: הַשְּׂמֵחִים לַעֲשׂוֹת רָע יָגִילוּ בְּתַהְפֻּכוֹת רָע:
טז אֲשֶׁר אָרְחֹתֵיהֶם עִקְּשִׁים וְנִלְוִזִים בְּמַעְגְּלוֹתָם: לְהַצִּילְךָ מֵאִשָּׁה זָרָה
יז מִנָּכְרִיָּה אֲמָרֶיהָ הֶחֱלִיקָה: הַעֹזֶבֶת אַלּוּף נְעוּרֶיהָ וְאֶת־בְּרִית אֱלֹהֶיהָ
יט שָׁכֵחָה: כִּי שָׁחָה אֶל־מָוֶת בֵּיתָהּ וְאֶל־רְפָאִים מַעְגְּלֹתֶיהָ: כָּל־בָּאֶיהָ
כ לֹא יְשׁוּבוּן וְלֹא־יַשִּׂיגוּ אָרְחוֹת חַיִּים: לְמַעַן תֵּלֵךְ בְּדֶרֶךְ טוֹבִים
כא וְאָרְחוֹת צַדִּיקִים תִּשְׁמֹר: כִּי־יְשָׁרִים יִשְׁכְּנוּ־אָרֶץ וּתְמִימִים יִוָּתְרוּ
כב בָהּ: וּרְשָׁעִים מֵאֶרֶץ יִכָּרֵתוּ וּבוֹגְדִים יִסָּחُו מִמֶּנָּה:
ג א בְּנִי תּוֹרָתִי אַל־תִּשְׁכָּח וּמִצְוֹתַי יִצֹּר לִבֶּךָ: ב כִּי אֹרֶךְ יָמִים וּשְׁנוֹת חַיִּים
ג וְשָׁלוֹם יוֹסִיפוּ לָךְ: חֶסֶד וֶאֱמֶת אַל־יַעַזְבֻךָ קְשָׁרֵם עַל־גַּרְגְּרוֹתֶיךָ כָּתְבֵם
ד עַל־לוּחַ לִבֶּךָ: וּמְצָא־חֵן וְשֵׂכֶל־טוֹב בְּעֵינֵי אֱלֹהִים וְאָדָם:
ה בְּטַח אֶל־יְהוָה בְּכָל־לִבֶּךָ וְאֶל־בִּינָתְךָ אַל־תִּשָּׁעֵן: בְּכָל־דְּרָכֶיךָ
ז דָּעֵהוּ וְהוּא יְיַשֵּׁר אֹרְחֹתֶיךָ: אַל־תְּהִי חָכָם בְּעֵינֶיךָ יְרָא אֶת־יְהוָה
ח וְסוּר מֵרָע: רִפְאוּת תְּהִי לְשָׁרֶּךָ וְשִׁקּוּי לְעַצְמוֹתֶיךָ: כַּבֵּד אֶת־יְהוָה
י מֵהוֹנֶךָ וּמֵרֵאשִׁית כָּל־תְּבוּאָתֶךָ: וְיִמָּלְאוּ אֲסָמֶיךָ שָׂבָע וְתִירוֹשׁ
יקָבֶיךָ יִפְרָצוּ:
יא מוּסַר יְהוָה בְּנִי אַל־תִּמְאָס וְאַל־תָּקֹץ בְּתוֹכַחְתּוֹ: כִּי אֶת אֲשֶׁר יֶאֱהַב
יג יְהוָה יוֹכִיחַ וּכְאָב אֶת־בֵּן יִרְצֶה: אַשְׁרֵי אָדָם מָצָא חָכְמָה וְאָדָם יָפִיק
יד תְּבוּנָה: כִּי טוֹב סַחְרָהּ מִסְּחַר־כֶּסֶף וּמֵחָרוּץ תְּבוּאָתָהּ: יְקָרָה הִיא

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16 and all your possessions cannot equal it. Long life is in its right hand; in
17 its left hand is wealth and honor. Its ways are the ways of pleasantness,
18 and all of its paths are peaceful. It is a tree of life for those who grasp it;
those who hold fast to it are fortunate.
19 The LORD founded the earth with wisdom. He established the heavens
20 with discernment. With His knowledge were the depths carved out, and
21 the sky dropped dew. My son, do not allow them to elude your eyes.
22 Adhere to guidance and forethought. They will be a source of life for
23 your soul, a charming decoration around your neck. Then you will walk
24 securely on your way, and your foot will not stumble. If you lie down, you
25 will not fear; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet for you. Fear
26 neither sudden fright nor the suffering of the wicked when it comes. For
the LORD will be your hope, and He will protect your foot from the snare.
27 Do not withhold benefit from its owner when it is in your power to act.
28 Do not say to your fellow, "Go, then come back, and tomorrow I will give
29 it to you," when you have it with you. Do not plot evil against your fellow
30 when he dwells trustingly with you. Do not quarrel with a person without
31 cause unless he has done you harm. Do not envy the criminal, and do
32 not adopt any of his ways. For the crooked are loathed by the LORD, but
33 with the upright He is intimate. The LORD's curse is in the house of the
34 wicked, but He blesses the abode of the righteous. At scoffers He scoffs,
35 but upon the humble He bestows grace. The wise inherit honor, whereas
fools receive disgrace.
4 1 Hear, sons, a father's instruction. Listen well and become familiar with
2 understanding, for I give you a valuable lesson. Do not abandon my
3 teachings. I was a son to my father, delicate and favored by my mother.
4 He taught me and said to me: "Let your heart uphold my words; guard
5 my precepts and thrive. Acquire wisdom, acquire understanding; do not
6 forget, and do not veer from the words of my mouth. Do not abandon
7 her, and she will watch over you. Love her, and she will protect you. The
beginning of wisdom: acquire wisdom, and, with all your acquisitions,
8 acquire understanding. Caress her and she will exalt you; she will honor
9 you when you embrace her. She will place upon your head a charming
10 ornament and reward you with a crown of glory." Hear, my son, and
11 accept my words; they will make many the years of life. I taught you
12 wisdom's way; I guided you along pathways of rectitude. When you walk,
your footsteps will not be constrained, and should you run, you will not
13 stumble. Hold fast to instruction; do not let go. Guard her, for she is your
14 life. Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not tread in the way of evil
15 ones. Avoid it; do not traverse it; swerve and pass by. For they are unable
16 to sleep if they have not done harm; sleep is stolen from them if they
17 have not misled others. For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink
18 the wine of lawlessness. The path of the righteous is like a shining light;

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ז מפניים וְכָל־חֲפָצֶיךָ לֹא יִשְׁווּ־בָהּ׃ אֹרֶךְ יָמִים בִּימִינָהּ בִּשְׂמֹאולָהּ מִפְּנִינִים
יח עֹשֶׁר וְכָבוֹד׃ דְּרָכֶיהָ דַרְכֵי־נֹעַם וְכָל־נְתִיבֹתֶיהָ שָׁלוֹם׃ עֵץ־חַיִּים הִיא
לַמַּחֲזִיקִים בָּהּ וְתֹמְכֶיהָ מְאֻשָּׁר׃
יט יְהוָה בְּחָכְמָה יָסַד־אָרֶץ כּוֹנֵן שָׁמַיִם בִּתְבוּנָה׃ בְּדַעְתּוֹ תְּהוֹמוֹת נִבְקָעוּ
כ וְשְׁחָקִים יִרְעֲפוּ־טָל׃ בְּנִי אַל־יַלְזוּ מֵעֵינֶיךָ נְצֹר תּוּשִׁיָּה וּמְזִמָּה׃ וְיִהְיוּ
כא חַיִּים לְנַפְשֶׁךָ וְחֵן לְגַרְגְּרֹתֶיךָ׃ אָז תֵּלֵךְ לָבֶטַח דַּרְכֶּךָ וְרַגְלְךָ לֹא תִגּוֹף׃
כב אִם־תִּשְׁכַּב לֹא־תִפְחָד וְשָׁכַבְתָּ וְעָרְבָה שְׁנָתֶךָ׃ אַל־תִּירָא מִפַּחַד
כג פִּתְאֹם וּמִשֹּׁאַת רְשָׁעִים כִּי תָבֹא׃ כִּי־יְהוָה יִהְיֶה בְכִסְלֶךָ וְשָׁמַר רַגְלְךָ
כד מִלָּכֶד׃ אַל־תִּמְנַע־טוֹב מִבְּעָלָיו בִּהְיוֹת לְאֵל יָדְךָ לַעֲשׂוֹת׃ אַל־ יָדֶךָ
כה תֹּאמַר לְרֵעֶיךָ ׀ לֵךְ וָשׁוּב וּמָחָר אֶתֵּן וְיֵשׁ אִתָּךְ׃ אַל־תַּחְרֹשׁ עַל־רֵעֲךָ לְרֵעֲךָ
כו רָעָה וְהוּא־יוֹשֵׁב לָבֶטַח אִתָּךְ׃ אַל־תָּרוֹב עִם־אָדָם חִנָּם אִם־לֹא גָמָלְךָ תָּרִיב
כז רָעָה׃ אַל־תְּקַנֵּא בְּאִישׁ חָמָס וְאַל־תִּבְחַר בְּכָל־דְּרָכָיו׃ כִּי תוֹעֲבַת
כח יְהוָה נָלוֹז וְאֶת־יְשָׁרִים סודוֹ׃ מְאֵרַת יְהוָה בְּבֵית רָשָׁע וּנְוֵה צַדִּיקִים
כט יְבָרֵךְ׃ אִם־לַלֵּצִים הוּא־יָלִיץ וְלַעֲנִיִּים יִתֶּן־חֵן׃ כָּבוֹד חֲכָמִים יְנְחָלוּ וְלַעֲנָוִים
ל כְּסִילִים מֵרִים קָלוֹן׃
ד א שִׁמְעוּ בָנִים מוּסַר אָב וְהַקְשִׁיבוּ לָדַעַת בִּינָה׃ כִּי לֶקַח טוֹב נָתַתִּי
ג לָכֶם תּוֹרָתִי אַל־תַּעֲזֹבוּ׃ כִּי־בֵן הָיִיתִי לְאָבִי רַךְ וְיָחִיד לִפְנֵי אִמִּי׃
ד ה וַיֹּרֵנִי וַיֹּאמֶר לִי יִתְמָךְ־דְּבָרַי לִבֶּךָ שְׁמֹר מִצְוֹתַי וְחְיֵה׃ קְנֵה חָכְמָה
ו קְנֵה בִינָה אַל־תִּשְׁכַּח וְאַל־תֵּט מֵאִמְרֵי־פִי׃ אַל־תַּעַזְבֶהָ וְתִשְׁמְרֶךָ
ז אֶהֱבֶהָ וְתִצְּרֶךָּ׃ רֵאשִׁית חָכְמָה קְנֵה חָכְמָה וּבְכָל־קִנְיָנְךָ קְנֵה בִינָה׃
ח סַלְסְלֶהָ וּתְרוֹמְמֶךָּ תְּכַבְּדֶךָּ כִּי תְחַבְּקֶנָּה׃ תִּתֵּן לְרֹאשְׁךָ לִוְיַת־חֵן
י עֲטֶרֶת תִּפְאֶרֶת תְּמַגְּנֶךָּ׃ שְׁמַע בְּנִי וְקַח אִמָרָי וְיִרְבּוּ לְךָ שְׁנוֹת
יא חַיִּים׃ בְּדֶרֶךְ חָכְמָה הוֹרִיתִיךָ הִדְרַכְתִּיךָ בְּמַעְגְּלֵי־יֹשֶׁר׃ בְּלֶכְתְּךָ
יב לֹא־יֵצַר צַעֲדֶךָ וְאִם־תָּרוּץ לֹא תִכָּשֵׁל׃ הַחֲזֵק בַּמּוּסָר אַל־תֶּרֶף
יג נְצָרֶהָ כִּי־הִיא חַיֶּיךָ׃ בְּאֹרַח רְשָׁעִים אַל־תָּבֹא וְאַל־תְּאַשֵּׁר בְּדֶרֶךְ
יד רָעִים׃ פְּרָעֵהוּ אַל־תַּעֲבָר־בּוֹ שְׁטֵה מֵעָלָיו וַעֲבֹר׃ כִּי לֹא יִשְׁנוּ אִם־
טו לֹא יָרֵעוּ וְנִגְזְלָה שְׁנָתָם אִם־לֹא יַכְשִׁילוּ׃ כִּי לָחְמוּ לֶחֶם רֶשַׁע וְיֵין יַכְשִׁילוּ
טז חֲמָסִים יִשְׁתּוּ׃ וְאֹרַח צַדִּיקִים כְּאוֹר נֹגַהּ הוֹלֵךְ וָאוֹר עַד־נְכוֹן הַיּוֹם׃

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