

1

אִשָּׁה כִּדְלֵי מִי יִמְצָא

Whoever finds a valorous wife—

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים בְּבֵרָהּ:

far greater than that of pearls is her value.

2

כִּסְחָה בָּהּ לֵב בַּעֲלָהּ

The heart of her husband trusts in her,

וְשָׁלָל לֹא יִחְסֹר:

and he lacks no gain.¹

3

וְשָׁלָחָהּ טוֹב וְלֹא יָרֵעַ

She repays him good and not evil

כָּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיהָ:

all the days of her life.²

4

וְדָרְשָׁה צֹמֶר וּבָשָׂמִים

She seeks wool and linen,³

וְתַעֲשֶׂה בְּתַפְזִין בְּפִיהָ:

and works them willingly with her hands.

5

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים סוֹחֵר

She is like the merchant ships;

מִכְּרֹחֶק תָּבִיא לֶחֶמָה:

from afar, she brings her food.⁴

6

וְתִקְוָהּ בַּעֲדֵי לַיְלָה

She rises while it is still night

וְתִתֵּן טֶרֶף לְבֵיתָהּ

and gives food to her household,

וְהָיָה לְצִדְקָתָהּ:

and tasks to her maids.

7

וְהָיָה שָׂדֶה וּתְקַחְהוּ

She considers a field and buys it;

מִפְּרִי כִפְזָהּ

from the fruit of her hand,

וְתַעֲשֶׂה כָרְם:

she plants a vineyard.

8

וְהָיָה בָעֵץ מְחַיֵּי

She girds herself with might

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

and smilingly [she awaits her] last day.¹²

9

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

She anticipates the ways of her household,

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

and the bread of idleness, she does not eat.

10

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

Her children rise¹⁴ and make her fortunate;¹⁵

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

her husband—and he praises her:

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

Many daughters have attained valor

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

but you surpassed them all.

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

Favor is deceptive and beauty is vain;

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

a God-fearing woman—

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

—she should be praised.

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

Give her the fruit of her hand,¹⁶

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

and let her decide praise her in the gates.¹⁶

11

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

and strengthens her arms.⁹

12

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

She senses that her business is good,

13

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

[so] her lamp is not extinguished at night.

14

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

She puts her hand to the spindle,

15

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

and her palms support the distaff.¹⁰

16

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

Her palm she spreads out to the poor

17

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

and her hands she extends to the needy.¹¹

18

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

She has no fear for her household

19

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

because of snow,

20

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

for her entire household

21

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

is clothed with scarlet [wool].

22

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

Bedspreads, she makes herself

23

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

fine linen and purple [wool] are her clothing.¹³

24

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

Well-known at the gates¹⁴ is her husband

25

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

as he sits among the elders of the land.

26

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

Garments she makes and sells them,

27

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

and belts,¹⁵ she provides for the merchants.

28

וְהָיָה כְּמִנְיָנִים

Strength and splendor are her clothing,¹⁶

15-16 : 1-31

Proverbs 31: 1-31