

אשת היל

A Woman of Valor

translation in rhymed verse

Who can find a woman of valor,
precious as pearls and so much more,
whose husband can rely on her
to keep his treasures secure?

She brings benefits without incidents
her whole life through,
she seeks out wool and linens,
her hands are eager to do.

She is like a ship of a merchant
bringing bread from a distance,
she rises, prepares while night is extant
food for her family, portions for her maidens.

She considers a field, then purchases,
she plants vineyards with her wages,
she girds herself with governance
and flexes her arms courageous.

She finds her endeavors a boon,
the nightly flame never leaves her candle,
she put her hands to the loom,
her palms hold up the spindle.

Her palms are outstretched to the needy,
her hands reach out to the indigents,
when snow falls she fears not for her family
as all her family wear sturdy garments.

She makes herself a fine coverlet,
purple wool and linen are her raiment,
her husband in the councils is prominent
when he sits among the elders of the land.

She produces mantles for selling,
she delivers sashes to merchants,
power and splendor are her clothing,
her final days will be triumphant.

Her mouth opens wide with wisdom,
on her tongue are lessons of kindness,
she directs the running of her home,
she never eats the bread of idleness.

Her children arise to applaud her,
her husband her praises to exalt,
“Many women achieve valor,
but you’ve outdone them all.”

Charm is deceptive, beauty is worthless,
a God-fearing woman is to be acclaimed,
give her the fruits of her handiness,
let her deeds bring her widespread fame.