

Allegory

Meaning

1. "Keepers of the house tremble" (3a).
 2. "Strong men are bent" (3b).
 3. "Grinders cease, for they are few" (3c).
 4. "Those looking out through the windows are dimmed" (3d).
 5. "Doors are shut in the street" (4a).
 6. "Sound of grinding is low" (4b).
 7. "One rises up at the voice of a bird" (4c).
 8. "All the daughters of music are brought low" (4b).
1. The arms and hands tremble in old age with palsy or feebleness.
 2. The legs are bent in feebleness, and the knees totter.
 3. The teeth lose their ability to masticate food.
 4. The eyes begin to lose their sight, and the pupils become less dilated and more contracted.
 5. The lips (swinging or folding doors, as the jaws of leviathan are called the "doors of his face" in Job 41:14) fall into the mouth for lack of teeth. (A street is a cleft between two rows of houses.)
 6. In toothless old age, only soft foods may be eaten. Thus no noise is made, for no hard bread or parched corn is being chewed.
 7. The least amount of morning noise terminates his sleep.
 8. The qualities (daughters) that make up the power to make and enjoy music and song are eluding him in his old age.

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9. "They are afraid of what is high and terror shall be in the way" (5a-b).
 10. "Almond tree blossoms" (5c).
 11. "Grasshopper drags itself along" (5d).
 12. "The caper berry fails to bear fruit" (5e).
 13. "Man goes to his eternal home while his mourners go about in the streets" (5f-g).
 14. "The silver cord is snapped" (6a).
 15. "The golden bowl is broken" (6b).
 16. "The pitcher is broken at the fountain" (6c).
 17. "The wheel is broken at the cistern" (6d).
9. He has developed a fear of heights and of stumbling along paths once familiar.
 10. His hair has turned white with age.
 11. Describes the halting gait of the elderly as they walk along on their canes.
 12. All sexual power and desire is lost.
 13. This phrase can be understood literally.
 14. The spinal marrow connecting the brain and nerves is pale and silverlike.
 15. This may be a reference to the brain because of its shape and color.
 16. The failing heart, a pitcherlike receptacle, is pierced or broken, and all the life-supporting blood flows out.
 17. The system of veins and arteries that carries the blood around continually like a waterwheel breaks down when the heart breaks.

Then it is, after this slow dissolution has worked its evil, that the body made of earth returns to the earth (11:10). But