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PROVERBS 5: 1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom. Turn your ear to my understanding:

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Farther exhortations to acquire wisdom, Pro 5:1, Pro 5:2. The character of a loose woman, and the ruinous consequences of attachment to such, Pro 5:3-14. Exhortations to chastity and moderation, Pro 5:15-21. The miserable end of the wicked, Pro 5:22, Pro 5:23.

Verse 1

Attend unto my wisdom - Take the following lessons from my own experience.

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PROVERBS 5: 2 that you may maintain discretion, that your lips may preserve knowledge.

PROVERBS 5: 3 For the lips of an adulteress drip honey. Her mouth is smoother than oil,

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Verse 3

The lips of a strange woman - One that is not thy own, whether Jewess or heathen.

Drop as a honey-comb - She uses the most deceitful, flattering, and alluring speeches: as the droppings of the honey out of the comb are the sweetest of all.

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PROVERBS 5: 4 But in the end she is as bitter as wormwood, and as sharp as a two-edged sword.

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Verse 4

Bitter as wormwood - כלענה Kelanah, like the detestable herb wormwood, or something analogous to it: something as excessive in its bitterness, as honey is in its sweetness.

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PROVERBS 5: 5 Her feet go down to death. Her steps lead straight to Sheol.

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Verse 5

Her feet go down to death - She first, like a serpent, infuses her poison, by which the whole constitution of her paramour is infected, which soon or late brings on death.

Her steps take hold on hell - First, the death of the body; and then the damnation of the soul. These are the tendencies of connections with such women.

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PROVERBS 5: 6 She gives no thought to the way of life. Her ways are crooked, and she doesn't know it.

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Verse 6

Lest thou shouldst ponder - To prevent thee from reflecting on thy present conduct, and its consequences, her ways are moveable - she continually varies her allurements.

Thou canst not know them - It is impossible to conceive all her tricks and wiles: to learn these in all their varieties, is a part of the science first taught in that infernal trade.

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PROVERBS 5: 7 Now therefore, my sons, listen to me. Don't depart from the words of my mouth.

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Verse 7

Hear me - O ye children - בניִם banim, sons, young men in general: for these are the most likely to be deceived and led astray.

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PROVERBS 5: 8 Remove your way far from her. Don't come near the door of her house,

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Verse 8

Come not nigh the door of her house - Where there are generally such exhibitions as have a natural tendency to excite impure thoughts, and irregular passions.

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PROVERBS 5: 9 lest you give your honour to others, and your years to the cruel one;

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Verse 9

Lest thou give thine honor - The character of a debauchee is universally detested: by this, even those of noble blood lose their honor and respect.

Thy years unto the cruel - Though all the blandishments of love dwell on the tongue, and the excess of fondness appear in the whole demeanor of the harlot and the prostitute; yet cruelty has its throne in their hearts; and they will rob and murder (when it appears to answer their ends) those who give their strength, their wealth, and their years to them. The unfaithful wife has often murdered her own husband for the sake of her paramour, and has given him over to justice in order to save herself. Murders have often taken place in brothels, as well as robberies; for the vice of prostitution is one of the parents of cruelty.

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PROVERBS 5: 10 lest strangers feast on your wealth, and your labours enrich another man's house.

PROVERBS 5: 11 You will groan at your latter end, when your flesh and your body are consumed,

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## Verse 11

When thy flesh and thy body are consumed - The word שֶׂאֵר *shear*, which we render *body*, signifies properly the remains, residue, or remnant of a thing: and is applied here to denote the breathing carcass, putrid with the concomitant disease of debauchery: a public reproach which the justice of God entails on this species of iniquity. The mourning here spoken of is of the most excessive kind: the word נָהַם *naham* is often applied to the growling of a lion, and the hoarse incessant murmuring of the sea. In the line of my duty, I have been often called to attend the death-bed of such persons, where groans and shrieks were incessant through the jaculating pains in their bones and flesh. Whoever has witnessed a closing scene like this will at once perceive with what force and propriety the wise man speaks. And How have I hated instruction, and despised the voice of my teachers! is the unavailing cry in that terrific time. Reader, whosoever thou art, lay these things to heart. Do not enter into their sin: once entered, thy return is nearly hopeless.

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PROVERBS 5: 12 and say, "How I have hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;

PROVERBS 5: 13 neither have I obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor turned my ear to those who instructed me!

PROVERBS 5: 14 I have come to the brink of utter ruin, in the midst of the gathered assembly."

## Verse 14

I was almost in all evil - This vice, like a whirlpool, sweeps all others into its vortex.

In the midst of the congregation and assembly - In the mydel of the Curche and of the Synagoge - Old MS. Bible. Such persons, however sacred the place, carry about with them eyes full of adultery, which cannot cease from sin.

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PROVERBS 5: 15 Drink water out of your own cistern, running water out of your own well.

## Verse 15

Drink waters out of thine own cistern - Be satisfied with thy own wife; and let the wife see that she reverence her husband; and not tempt him by inattention or unkindness to seek elsewhere what he has a right to expect, but cannot find, at home.

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PROVERBS 5: 16 Should your springs overflow in the streets, streams of water in the public squares?

## Verse 16

Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad - Let thy children lawfully begotten be numerous.

PROVERBS 5: 17 Let them be for yourself alone, not for strangers with you.

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Verse 17

Let them be only thine own - The off-spring of a legitimate connection; a bastard brood, however numerous, is no credit to any man.

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PROVERBS 5: 18 Let your spring be blessed. Rejoice in the wife of your youth.

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Verse 18

Let thy fountain be blessed - יהי מקורך ברוך yehi mekorecha baruch. Sit vena tua benedicta. Thy vein; that which carries off streams from the fountain of animal life, in order to disperse them abroad, and through the streets. How delicate and correct is the allusion here! But anatomical allusions must not be pressed into detail in a commentary on Scripture.

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PROVERBS 5: 19 A loving doe and a graceful deer— let her breasts satisfy you at all times. Be captivated always with her love.

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Verse 19

The loving hind and pleasant roe - By אילת aiyeleth, the deer; by יעלה yaalah, the ibex or mountain goat, may be meant.

Let her breasts satisfy thee - As the infant is satisfied with the breasts of its mother; so shouldst thou be with the wife of thy youth.

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PROVERBS 5: 20 For why should you, my son, be captivated with an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another?

PROVERBS 5: 21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD. He examines all his paths.

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Verse 21

For the ways of a man - Whether they are public or private, God sees all the steps thou takest in life.

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PROVERBS 5: 22 The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare him. The cords of his sin hold him firmly.

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Verse 22

He shall be holden with the cords of his sins - Most people who follow unlawful pleasures, think they can give them up whenever they please; but sin repeated becomes customary; custom soon engenders habit; and habit in the end assumes the form of necessity; the man becomes bound with his own cords, and so is led captive by the devil at his will.

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PROVERBS 5: 23 He will die for lack of instruction. In the greatness of his folly, he will go astray.

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Verse 23

He shall die without instruction - This is most likely, and it is a general case; but even these may repent and live.