

Translations of Job 19:25-27

1) Rabbi Moshe Eisemann, *Iyov / Job*

But, I know that my Redeemer lives, as the very last one He will remain, beyond the dwellers on earth. But—they cut away at my skin. From out of my flesh I must behold God. It is I who beholds. My eyes—not those of a stranger—see. My kidneys, within me, are no more.

2) Edwin M. Good, *In Turns of Tempest*

As for me, I know that my avenger lives;

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Comment of Edwin M. Good: This passage gives everyone fits, both of furious activity and of blank despair. In 35 years of trying to perceive sense in these verses, I have found it only in the first line. I can read each of the words. Except for v. 25a, I cannot with an acceptable degree of confidence construe the words in sensible sentences.... Here, however, I present the best sense I can make out of these lines, with the proviso that I find them much less meaningful in Hebrew than they may seem:

As for me, I know that my avenger lives,
and afterward he rises upon dust.
And after they have flayed my skin, this—
and from my flesh I perceive Eloah,
whom I perceive to me,
and my eyes saw, and not a foreigner.
My kidneys are ended in my bosom.

3) Robert Gordis, *The Book of Job*

For I know that my Redeemer lives,
though He may be the last to arise upon earth!
Deep in my skin this has been marked,
and in my flesh do I see God.
I myself behold Him,
with my own eyes I see Him, not with another's—
my heart is consumed with longing within me!

4) Jewish Publication Society, *The Writings / Job*

But I know that my Vindicator lives;
In the end He will testify on earth—
This, after my skin will have been peeled off.
But I would behold God while still in my flesh,
I myself, not another, would behold Him;
Would see with my own eyes:
My heart pines within me.

5) Jerome, Latin Vulgate, *Job*

scio enim quod redemptor meus vivat et in novissimo de terra surrecturus sim
et rursum circumdabor pelle mea et in carne mea videbo Deum
quem visurus sum ego ipse et oculi mei conspecturi sunt et non alius reposita est haec spes mea
in sinu meo

6) King James Bible, *Job*

For I know [that] my redeemer liveth, and [that] he shall stand at the latter [day] upon the earth:
And [though] after my skin [worms] destroy this [body], yet in my flesh shall I see God:
Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; [though] my reins be
consumed within me.

7) Martin Luther, German Bible, *Hiob*

Aber ich weiß, daß mein Erlöser* lebt, und als der letzte wird er über dem Staub sich erheben.
Und ist meine Haut noch so zerschlagen und mein Fleisch dahingeschwunden, so werde ich doch
Gott sehen.
Ich selbst werde ihn sehen, meine Augen werden ihn schauen und kein Fremder. Danach sehnt
sich mein Herz in meiner Brust.

8) Stephen Mitchell, *The Book of Job*

Someday my witness would come;
 my avenger would read those words.
He would plead for me in god's court;
 he would stand up and vindicate my name.

Comment of Stephen Mitchell: These famous verses are so filled with obscurities and corruptions that they are “impossible of textual solution on any theory” (Orlinsky, HUCA xxxii, 248). I have had to omit them and improvise drastically.

9) New English Bible, *Job*

But in my heart I know that my vindicator lives
and that he will rise last to speak in court;
and I shall discern my witness standing at my side [footnote: Hebrew unintelligible]
and see my defending counsel, even God himself,
whom I shall see with my own eyes,
I myself and no other.

10) Raymond P. Scheindlin, *The Book of Job*

For I know that my avenger lives somewhere,
and he must someday come forward on earth,
though this may be only after
my skin has been hacked away.
But that I should see the god in my flesh,
see with my own eyes, no other's—
my whole being melts at the thought!

11) Louis Segond, French Bible, *Job*

Mais je sais que mon Rédempteur est vivant, Et qu'il se lèvera le dernier sur la terre.
Quand ma peau sera détruite, il se lèvera; Quand je n'aurai plus de chair, je verrai Dieu.
Je le verrai, et il me sera favorable; Mes yeux le verront, et non ceux d'un autre; Mon âme languit
d'attente au dedans de moi.

12) David Wolfers, *Deep Things out of Darkness*

And me, that I might know my Redeemer alive,
And that in the end He will arise upon the dust,
And that after my body, this might be restored,
And in my flesh I should see God,
Whom I myself should see for myself
And my eyes behold, and no stranger.
(For this) do my reins perish in my bosom.