**Chiastic Structure of the Book of Job, Part 74**

**L.’ The Words of Job (29:1-31:40)**

**A. His Past Testimony (Job 29:1-25**)

**B. His Present Testing (Job 30:1-31)**

 **1. Now His Disgrace by the Lowly (vv. 1-8)**

 2. Now His Disrespect with Laughter (vv. 9-15)

 1.’ Now His Disgrace by the Lord (vv. 16-31)

**A.’ His Past Testimony (Job 31:1-40)**

**PREMISE: Job thought about and rejoiced in his personal history to encourage him in testing.  He was indeed a righteous man as the Lord averred. He helped the truly disadvantaged. *“Now”* he complained about the purposeful and irresponsible “low-lifes” who ridiculed him.**

**B. His Present Testing (Job 30:1-31)**

*We`attah* = *“But* (*And*) *Now*”! > vv. 1, 9, 16

**1. Now His Disgrace by the Lowly (vv. 1-8)**

***a. They were Insignificant (v. 1)***

1) They were Insignificant in Age (v. 1a) > *“derision”* > *sachaq* (36x) > joke, mock (Jdg. 15:25; Job 29:24; 41:21)

2) They were Insignificant in Ancestry (v. 1b) > *“disdain” > ma’as* (76x) > (Job 7:5; 19:18); their fathers were low-life! Dogs (*celeb* [32x]) were despised as scavengers; they were not pets!

***b. They were Ineffective (v. 2)***

 1) Their Fathers were Enfeebled (v.2a) > when they had strength they mis-used strength

2) Their Fathers were Employment-less (v. 2b) > the non-use of hands led to weakness in old age (*contra* Acts 20:34)

***c. They were Indolent (vv. 3-7)***

 1) Their Attitude (v. 3)

a) They were Slothful in Nature (v. 3a) > *“want*” (*cheser* [2x]) and *“famine”* (*chaphan* [2x]); content to live in poverty!

b) They were Solitary in Nature (v. 3b) > desolate: *galmud* (4x) > gaunt or emaciated!

(1) They were Shunned > *“fleeing”* > *`araq* (2x)

(2) They were Shamed > *“desolate”* (*sho’* [13x]) and *“waste”* (*mesho’ah* [3x])

 2) Their Actions (vv. 4-7)

a) In Diet (v.4) > *“mallows”* > *malluach* (1x) > plant in salt marshes (marshmallows)! and *“juniper roots” > rethem* (4x)

 b) In Destiny (v.5) > banished from society as *“thieves” gannab* (17x) > Job 4:12

c) In Dwelling (vv. 6-7) > *“clifts” `arutz* (1x), *“caves” chor* (7x) or hole in ground, *“rocks” ceph* (2x), *“bushes” siyach* (4x [see v. 4 and Gen. 21:15]), and *“nettles” charul* (3x [Prov. 24:31]) or weeds

 ***d. They were Intolerable (v. 8)***

1) Intolerable in Nurture (v. 8a) > *“fools” > nabal* (18x) > Ps. 14:1

2) Intolerable in Nature (v. 8b) > *“base men”* literally “without name” men!

3) Intolerable in Nastiness (v. 8c) > *“viler” > naca’* (1x) > Rom. 8:22!

**CONCLUSION: The purposeful ignoble of society ridiculed Job in his testing.**