

SARAH ROEBUCK

The Wife of Job

Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in
your integrity? Curse God, and die." — Job 2:9

Who speaks of the suffering of the wife of Job?
Job was a rich man, but above all,
A righteous and God-fearing man.
The wife of Job was, above all,
A woman of taste, and took great joy
In things and comforts
And possessions and luxuries.

In an experiment of divine justice,
She was dismantled
Of all that she loved
By a fire that fell from heaven.
Her husband repented.
She raged.
She discerned the spite of God.

While Job—blistered, festering, and God-blinded—
Worshipped in sackcloth.
She sat alone on heaps of soot she had hoarded.
Amidst the chaos of her deprivation,
She itemized the absolute sum of her loss.
She called upon God to argue with her,
And she had much to say to Him, crying out:

“In whom can I have faith and what can I trust on this earth
When the Giver takes that which is given?
And when the love
Of that which is loved, and given, and taken,
Is recreated in me by the Lover and the Giver and the Taker?
And when that which is taken is of absolutely no use to,
And cannot be enjoyed by, the Taker?

Now, I live for nothing.
I long for death, but it does not come.
And yet You have ensured I survived to tell You this.”