

詩篇49篇15節の構造とその翻訳

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ABSTRACT D. T. TSUMURA, “Psalm 49:15 - its Poetic Structure and Translation”.

It is obvious both formally and theologically that v.15 occupies the important place in Psalm 49. Though various ways of poetic scansion have been suggested, the verse seems to be constituted of five short cola, which might be analyzed as a <bicolon-monocolon-bicolon>. In this poetic structure, which keeps the Masoretic cantillation intact, the two bicola have the same metric pattern, 3+2, which is known as a “qinah” pattern. The third line, a monocolon, which includes the sole instance of <wa+yqtl> (“narrative tense”) in this Psalm, exhibits sharp contrast with the preceding and following bicola and functions as the X in what I call “AXB pattern”.

שָׁתָּהּ is an example of “brachlogy”, lacking its object “face”; hence this verb (“to set”) means “head for” (JPS, REB), not “are appointed” (BDB) or “(be) shipped” (Craigie). The second line has nothing to do with the activity of the god Death as Dahood suggested. Rather the poet uses the image of a shepherd to describe the reality of death. In this metaphor death is “personified” but not “deified”. Taking שָׁאוֹל as a subjective genitive of the inf. cstr. בָּלֹת, which is a substitute for a “non-perfective” finite verb (e.g. Isa 38:20, Jer 51:49), I would translate the forth line: “as for their forms, Sheol will destroy (them).” The final line, מְזֻבֵּל לוֹ, may be translated as “(their) abode belongs to it (= Sheol)”, since שָׁאוֹל is sometimes masculine (Job 26:6).