

「あなたの目が澄んでいるならば・・・」

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ABSTRACT Akio ITO, “If your eye is transparent, . . .” Although an eye is an organ to see, it can convey an impetus to incite desires in one’s heart. Matt. 6:22–23 is primarily concerned with one’s eye, but not as an organ to see. Since the eye seems to refer to desires induced by one’s sight in this passage, the passage seems to be relevant to the last commandment not to desire one’s neighbor’s household. When Jesus says, “The eye is the lamp of the body,” the emission theory of eyesight seemed to be assumed since “the light in you” is mentioned in passing. The emission theory of eyesight understands that emission of light from one’s eye enables eyesight. The Greek adjective ‘ἀπλοῦς’ employed in connection with the eye originally signifies singleness. It makes little sense to state that one’s eye is single unless a certain creature has a single eye. However, when Jesus says that your eye is “single,” he seems to refer to one’s state of mind instead of the singleness of one’s eye. The eye was understood to reflect one’s state of mind. We find it difficult to connect the adjective which signifies the state of mind with the eye. Since the eye is related to the brightness or darkness of one’s body, it is proposed that the passage is paraphrased as, “If your eye is transparent, your whole body will be full of light.” The state of being “full of light” also signifies one’s state of mind rather than one’s physical conditions.