

[Spidey + butterfly] hideous monstrosity

Balaam strange mixture

{ His greatness temptations fall }

Euphrates -

Biftel - famous - poet - prophet - diviner - genuine convictions -
Knew God - man of prayer - eager for guidance - pious -
Hiring prophet - chooses path of self-will - avarice -
perverted his gifts -

Steps in Balaam's fall - Devil gets victory -

1. Initial failure in dealing with Delegation -
Parley - all night - { God charges him not to go -
"Lord won't let me go" - "They are blessed" - Curse -
leaves door open -

{ Knew Jehova
 " Law -
 " Red Sea
 future stat }

2. Slips further on second Delegation's visit - double money
"Let nothing stop you" - "I will ask the Lord again" -
Begs God for an indulgence - Has blinded himself -
Deceives himself - Seemed to resist but yielded -
Went to God a 2nd time with a matter already settled -

3. A sorry picture on the way to Moab - (400 mi)
Tries to force God's hand - Permission - [Dubious consent
Afraid of God - Knew God opposed him - B. irritable -
loses his temper -

Best friends would stop our progress in sin - [Fit of temper]
Crushed foot makes him angry -
Way never smooth for one who has extorted permission
B. found himself foiled - caught - a "fool" - Embarrassed
wanted to go back - Must go on to Moab -
Journey was of his own choosing - must finish it -

4. Critical hour with Balak - meets God early in morning
7 altars - 7 rams - 7 bullocks -
absurd - silly - seeking to get around God's demands -

5. Final defeat - utter collapse - charred + blackened ruin -
"wages of sin is death" -
"Let me die the death of the R." - a wish never fulfilled -
Willing to die the death but not live the life of R -
Tried to overpower voice of conscience with fumes of sacrif
Tragic figure - Sad picture -

BALAAAM -

(B)^x Numbers 23:10

Dr. Watkins - scientific creation - graft insects (Spider + butterfly)
hideous monstrosity -

Balaam - strange mixture - magnificent - admiration - vile - should

Angelic side.

1. Brilliant man - poet - gifted - genius -
2. Lofty conception of righteousness -
3. Man of genuine convictions -- ideas of duty -
4. Amazing knowledge of God - Know how to pray -
God heard his prayers - revealed His secrets -
5. Eager for divine guidance -

Sharply denounced by Peter - John - Jude - Bitter "scorching".
The devil gained the victory over the angel -

His decline - 4 scenes -

1. Big delegation - "let nothing stop you" - "I will ask the Lord again" -
asks for privilege of what he knows to be wrong - He wants to
"wants to please himself without displeasing God".
[Begs God for an indulgence] -

Prays till he convinces himself that the thing he once
thought wrong is right.

Balaam on his knees has blinded himself -

Subtle lying - Has lied to himself.

2. On his journey - God angry - B. irritable - civil war ^{with} -
loses his temper - foot crushed -

3. Balaam with Balak - Taltars - 7 rams - 7 bullocks -

The two of them go about hoping to blind themselves
so as to get around God's requirements -

4. Last scene - In background - no reward - plot - plague -

The goal B. reached - Charred + blackened ruin - - -

BALAAM . 400 miles

Num 22, 23

" 31:16

(B)

Hireling prophet - seeking to make a market of his gift.

{ 2 Pet 2:15 "This is the way of Balaam"

Jude 11 "The error of Balaam" -

{ Rev. 2:14 "The doctrine of Balaam" -

Chooses path of "self-will" + "self-advantage" -

"If God be for us who can be against us".

avarice Jude 11 . 2 Pet 2:15/

idolatry + fornication taught Rev 2:14

He wanted to go back - Confess failure - Defeat -

He must go on to Moab to serve the purposes of God -

great far-reaching plans of the God of Israel -

The journey was of his own wilful choosing - He must finish it -

Whatever we start in self-will + pride - the movement cannot be

arrested when we choose -

Must go on resisting - do what God requires - attempt to

curse, yet he constrained to bless -

Meets Balak - Critical hour for Balaam -

God met him early in morning -

Man finally decides he will adulterate certain commodities, but he will never claim that they are pure & 1st class - genuine -

May burst forth in flame of indignation vs sin
loud protestation vs so-called false charges

But he dies a Balaam with perverted
conscience -

God does not make the way smooth for one who
has extorted permission to follow his own way.

When B- became aware of opposition he is angry.

God checks a man on his wilful way projected
by ambition & avarice -
wives - children - obstacles placed in way
by ordinary duties -

Fit of temper in public or private explained by
fact man is in the wrong & aware of it -

Donkey had to suffer because of it -

"saw angel in the way - sought to save"
cruel stroke falls on them - "maddlers" - "fools"

Balaam found himself foiled - embarrassed -
a fool - caught -

Ambition & avarice move him to wait - hold on. 6

Travel in state across desert -

Temptation pressed upon him - tired of being good.

Went back to God a second time about a matter that ought to have been settled once for all -

Serious matter - moral hazard -

[Fault] Tempering with his inspiration -

When he lets down - & lets in sordid, selfish considerations he slipped to the point where his moral vision was affected. It is clouded - He hears two voices -

Total surrender - 2nd hour -

On the way -

He is attempting the impossible - trying to free the hands of Providence - He receives permission to go - with definite reservations -

He was excited by many things - but afraid of God. He knew that he had driven a bad bargain.

Knew he was in opposition to God - God displeased

Half the wrong things men do are ~~not~~ ^{not} done, in despite of conscience, but with its dubious consent - when the first clear decision has been set aside.

Man in business tempted to some practice - dishonest, ^{it} feeling one of disgust - then -

Extorts from conscience permission to go where he himself desires -

Prophet -

Restraint God lays on B -
 Parley with temptation { Charges him not to go }
 "They are blessed" " " " " curse

B - said "The Lord refuses to let me go"
 He applauded their conduct -
 was in sympathy with their plans -
 Could not afford to resist God -
 People to Balak - "He will not come"
 Nothing about fact of Jek being vs it.

2nd Embassy

Double money - heavy assault - honors -
 urgent request - I will promote you -
 Balaam seemed to resist but yielded to temptation.

Pious words -

Reflection on Jek - that he would change his mind -

Permission to go - "I ran greedily into an error for reward."
 Jude 11

Opposition God presents -

His displeasure - "anger kindled" -
 Allows sin - yet is angry at it -

our best friends are those who would stop our
 progress in sin -

B - is angry at the one who would prevent his ruin
 accidents apt to come on highway of wilful going -
 crushing of his foot (tho' it saved him) made him ang.

Balaam -Divination - an art -

Received revelation from God -

Wide reputation -

1 month for round trip - 800 miles -

Man of intellectual power - a diplomatist - prince of his tribe.

Avaricious - cunning - malignant - perverted his gifts.

Man of imposing personality -

Determined to keep by the truth -

Did he really communicate with God? prophetic insight?

Separated by great gulf from Israelites - ?

B. had heard of deliverance at Red Sea - progress of tribes across desert - knew Law given at Sinai.

God spoke to him - opened his eyes - unfolded secrets of the future -

Claimed he could not go without Pharaoh's consent -

Went apart in prayer - Next a.m. said "Go to your land, for Ph. refuses to let me go with you".

Rewards large -Effect on Balak & Co. - More anxious now. Must have him at any ^{and trip}Effect on Balaam - Been expecting - dreading - flattered
bowed over by the offers -Emphatic in his word about rewards - "If B. would give me ~~all~~ his house full of ^{silver & gold} - - -"

Air of incorruptible virtue -

Does not dismiss them - Can't miss the opportunity
"Stay all night"

BALAM.

Home by Euphrates - 400 miles - famed across whole Arab speaking world.

Prophet who can bless or curse.

His character - delineated with the fineness of touch -

His greatness - His fall - Self-deception which persuades him in every case that the sin which he commits may be brought within the rules of conscience & revelation -

a worldly ambition never satisfied - -

Combination of purest form of religious belief with conduct far below it -

Kind of awe in the gradual preparation with which he is brought before the pathos of the struggle - The two of them are seen striving to overpower the voice of conscience & of God with the fame of sacrifice - yet always failing -

the irresistible force of the prophetic impulse overpowering the baser spirit of the individual man - The divine message struggled within him & was delivered in spite of his own sordid resistance - blessed enemies he was hired to curse -

Knowledge + love of good in a bad man

(B)

a prophet -

Knew God - His character
 Knew righteousness - its nature -
 Knew of future state -
 Would not break law of God -
 wanted to curse - wanted money -

more than
 { Knowledge
 desire for righteousness
 " to go to heaven
 required -

Men deceive themselves about their condition - { self-delusion -
 compromises

Thought he was a hero in firmness + a martyr to duty.

Kept letter + broke spirit of law.

Very ~~devout~~ devout - yet sinning on -

Sin is deceitful.

Unrighteousness so absurd + unreasonable.

How could a man go on seeking for an opportunity to break
 a law which he knew to be irrevocable -

Men know the absurdity of sin yet they go on sinning -

The wages of unrighteousness -

His death - ends the experiment -

Sad figure

#3 Unfulfilled desire. { 23:10 } Two pictures - } Devout aspirations.
 { 31:8 } a worthy desire -
 a prophet - knows God + His will -

Danger! of mere vague religious desires + convictions which we
 do not allow to determine our conduct.

Had Much Knowledge

Pure morality - spiritual worship - future state -

What use to Balaam? What a gulf between Knowledge + life!

Example of convictions that remain ineffectual -

" " wishes that are never fulfilled -

willing to die the death but not ~~live~~ live the life

Beware of Knowledge that is not operative in conduct, of convictions
 which are neglected + pass away - of vague desires which
 never to amount.