



A Virtuous Wife

By Marcus Lander (1994)

*A virtuous wife, who can find?
- Who's kind of heart and pure of mind.
Surpassing rubies is her price,
And riches, which the heart entice.*

*And she is like the merchant ships
As to the field she gaily trips
And gathers in the family's bread
Ensuring they are all well fed.*

*She girds herself about with strength
And labours hard and at great length,
Her candle goes not out by night
And she is up before the light.*

*And in the winter she doth know
Her family need not fear the snow
For they are clothed in scarlet cloth
To keep them from the biting frost.*

*To business yet she turns her hand
And sells her goods throughout the land,
In strength and honour she is dressed
Her children rise and call her blessed.*

*Her husband also speaks her praise
For the goodness of her ways:
"Many women stand in virtue tall
But you my wife exceed them all."*

*In whose firm heart a man may trust,
In all her dealings, she is just.
She freely works with both her hands,
In wool and flax new clothes she plans.*

*Before the dawn she rises up
So all her house and maids may sup.
She sees a field which she soon buys;
In all her labours she is wise.*

*With patient hands she holds the loom
And in her heart she doth find room
To love the needy and the poor
And gives them food from her own store.*

*She clothes her in a silken gown,
Her husband's known about the town,
He sits among the council wise
And at his presence people rise.*

*In her mouth are words of wisdom
To which she makes her children listen.
Her bread is not of idleness
But on her lips are words of kindness.*

*Charm is deceitful, beauty vain
But she who fears the Lord is praised.
Give her the fruit of her own labour
For in the gates her works shall praise her.*