CHAPTER THIRTEEN

DISCONTINUOUS PHRASES

13.1 THE ELEMENT BREAKING UP A PHRASE

Some elements may break up phrases by taking a position within the phrase. The result is a discontinuous phrase. The elements that may break up a phrase are the following.

1. Enclitic pronouns:¹

   1:19 לָאִישָׁה יִתְנֵגָה בִּנְשָׁה ‘She is a sceptre of strength’.
   6:14 בִּנְשָׁה יִתְנֵגָה בִּנְשָׁדָה ‘(A true friend is) a strong friend’.

2. The connective particles וְ and וָ:²

   40:15 לָאִישׁ וְלָא יִתְנֵגָה בִּנְשָׁדָה ‘For the root of sins (is like a spike)’.
   26:23 לָאִיתֶה וְלָא יִתְנֵגָה בִּנְשָׁדָה ‘For a wicked woman (is given in the portion of the unrighteous man)’.

Two intervening elements are combined in³

   36:29 לָאִיתֶה וְלָא יִתְנֵגָה בִּנְשָׁדָה ‘For she is a help like you’.

In Sirach the enclitic pronouns and the connective particles are the only intervening elements. We do not find intervening prepositional phrases or noun phrases as in

   Martyrium Theclae 34 לָאִיתֶה וְלָא יִתְנֵגָה בִּנְשָׁדָה ‘Accusations were brought against a man before Narsi Tamshabor’.
   Life of Rabbula 6 בָּאִיתֶה וְלָא יִתְנֵגָה בִּנְשָׁדָה ‘He proclaimed before the whole Church the names of all those who’.

¹ This happens both in cases where the pronoun is the subject of a bipartite nominal clause of the type Pr–Supron (§ 17.1 [C]) and where it occurs in a tripartite nominal clause of the type Pr–Ep–Su (§ 18.2 [B]).
² Cf. Falla–Van Peursen, ‘Particles וְ and וָ’, § 3.1.2; for the designation ‘connective particles’ see ibid., § 3 (introduction).
³ Cf. outside our corpus: Laws 539 (ed. Drijvers 6, line 5) לָאִיתֶה וְלָא יִתְנֵגָה בִּנְשָׁדָה ‘it is a beautiful thing’.
⁴ Ed. Assemani I, 123, line 1–2; Nöldeke, Grammatik, § 208B.
13.2 THE POSITION OF THE INTERVENING ELEMENT

If there is a discontinuous phrase, the break comes always after the first phrase atom. Thus the intervening elements occupy the following slots.

1. Between the first phrase atom and a d-phrase, e.g.:

9:8 דַּעַתַּהָ לְאֹתֵר הָעָיִן ‘For through the beauty of a woman (many have been destroyed)’.
5:3 לַעֲדוּיָהּ דָּוִד שְׁמִית לְכַל ‘(For the Lord is) an avenger of all the oppressed’.

Also with י + Adjective:
7:25 יִשְׂרָאֵל יְרֵא יָדִי ‘(And give her) to a wise man’.

And with י + Verb:
10:27 יָדַעְתָּ לְאֹתֵר הָעָיִן ‘For (better is) he who labours’.
16:4 יָבָא לָנוּ וַתִּתְמַלְּךָ ‘For from one who fears God (the whole city can be filled)’.

2. Between the first phrase atom and a parallel element, e.g.:

2:11 יְהֹוָה יָדָע יִרְחָל ‘Because (the Lord is) compassionate and merciful’.
17:31 יְהֹוָה יִרְחָל ‘Because he is flesh and blood’.

3. Between the first phrase atom and an adjective, e.g.:

21:10 יָדָעַת לְאֹתֵר הָעָיִן ‘(Its end is) a deep pit’.
26:23 יָדָעַת לְאֹתֵר הָעָיִן ‘For a wicked woman (is given in the portion of the unrighteous man)’.

4. Between the adjective יָדָעַת and the noun it modifies, e.g.:

29:4 יָדָעַת לְאֹתֵר הָעָיִן ‘For there are many borrowers who have asked for a loan’.

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5 Ed. Overbeck 176, line 2; Nöldeke, Grammatik, § 208B.
6 Cf. Kuty, ‘Partielle dën’, 189; see also Talstra–Sikkel, ‘wivu-Datenbank’, 48. ‘Während Atome stets lineare, ununterbrochene Wortfolgen sind, lassen die aus ihnen zusammengesetzten funktionale Einheiten Lücken bzw. Einschübe zu’. For an example in which the break comes in rather than after the first phrase atom, see below, at the end of this paragraph.