The Weight of a Lion's Mane

The weight of a Lion's mane
who can bear?
Like the support of a wise man's cane
who bid the fare?

The weight of a lions mane
As a cub, did he brood its absence?
Did he fret the first sprout's rude expense?
Was it wrought within during his adolescence?
can his neglect lead to its obsolescence?

Did it ever catch his own gaze?
Did it ever drift him into a wayward daze?
Was it mirrored in his mother's gentle prescient face?
Did the reflection of a sunset stream ever leave a hinted trace?

The weight of a Lion's mane
A heaviness held only by him
A light beheld by others, never dim

The weight of a Lion's mane
hinted at, in his heavy weathered golden gaze
Innocent,
yet never squinted, his eyes burn a confident blaze

Though he rise ere the shadow on the west
Hunger and impulse are not his alarm
Though He ride on the wings of dusk
The hunt will be void of his harm
In wise maturity his care is for the Nursery
The authority of his roar marks their territory

The weight of a lion's mane
does it lessen as it turns from gold to grey?
do his lessons become too old to say?
could a sovereign sage become a submitted stray?

If the weight of a lion's mane
like a lamb were to be sheered
I ask of all things;
was it bore unto his own fame?
If unto his name,
then perhaps all was in vain

The weight of a lion's mane
When all is cut away, what then will remain?

Insight!

Who can bear... support of a wise man's cane...

Sense of age, wisdom, experience

A cane is earned through time. Similarly a lion's mane could not come without time, age, and experience. This earned support also distinguishes. The mane sets the Lion apart from a female and from a youth. Yet what distinguishes also burdens.

The weight of anointing has a cost...

For David, his anointing meant being chased by Saul for years (c. 7–12 years). For Jesus, the cost of his anointing was the cross.

Support of Distinction

As a cane can physically support an old man so too can a mane of a lion support him by distinguishing him as leader of the Pride. Similarly, an anointing supports someone by distinguishing them for the role God has prepared, and the good works God has for them to complete (Eph 2:10). God "Bid the fare".

Wrought DEFINITION

Wrought (verb):
shaped, fashioned, or worked with care or skill.

Etymology: Middle English, past tense of "work," from Old Germanic *wurkjan*.
Definition from Merriam-Webster's Dictionary

Did You Know?

In the western world influenced by greek thinking, answers and/or clear definitions are often the goal. Whereas, in Hebrew culture, questions were often valued as highly as answers, used to provoke thought and reveal layered meaning.

Many times in scripture, God speaks through questions, as seen in Job and in the teachings of Jesus.
Jesus seemed to value questions so much that he would sometimes answer other people's questions, with a question.

This type of Hebrew thinking inspired me as I wrote this. You my have noticed that in just the first 13 lines there are already 10 questions.

Insight!

A heaviness held only by him...

This stanza shares one real difficulty of annointing. To other's the gift of your annointing is a light, as it should be, but to the one bearing the annointing it is heavy. This heaviness is only felt, only understood by the one the annointing rests.

This is also a clever play on words.
In weight it is...
Heavy to him
Light to others
Light is opposite of heavy but in context the meaning is light as in what comes from the sun.

Ere DEFINITION

Ere (adverb, archaic):
Meaning: before; earlier than (in time).

Etymology: Old English *ǣr* (adverb), from Proto-Germanic **airiz*, from Proto-Indo-European **ayer-* (“early”).
Definition from Merriam-Webster's Dictionary

Did You Know?

Just as questions are valued in Hebrew thought, so too is mystery. Often, Scripture does not present revelation in a straightforward way, but uses literary forms such as chiasm and other structural patterns. This invites rereading and encourages the reader to actively seek and gradually arrive at understanding for themselves.

Inspired by this, much of this writing is cryptic and riddle-like, using old english words, hebrew writing styles, and lion facts to inspire you, the reader, to ask yourself "Hmm, what does that mean".
Unlike Hebrew writing, I do give you some of the answers or "Insight" in these "did you know" sections. That is due to the broad spectrum of writing styles, cultural differences, and inspiration I have pulled from.

The very nature of this old english, Hebrew inspired, riddle-like poem mirrors the ancient mystery of God's principles and designs. As a 21st century westerner discerns, studies, interprets, and deciphers this archaic eastern writing so too do we endeavor in all those same practices as we dance between the dissonance of our eternal spirits and transient flesh. As humans with limited understanding we long to grasp the depths of metaphysical realities such as anointing, God's sovereignty, and His ancient ways.
Hopefully, this writing serves you with a touch of mystery and wonder, while inspiring a deeper pondering of anointing.

!READ THIS FIRST!

I encourage you to first read the poem through a couple times, take a moment to ponder and think about it. Look over sections that are highlighted to you. Think for yourself what the meaning and intention of it may be.
Then after some time, enjoy reading the information on the sides of the writing such as the "Definitions" "Insight" and "Did You Know?" sections to give you better understanding of this writting.

Brood DEFINITION

Brood (verb):
To think deeply about something that makes one unhappy; to dwell gloomily on it

Definition from Merriam-Webster's Dictionary

Obsolescence DEFINITION

Obsolescence (Noun):
The process of becoming out of date; no longer used, or no longer useful

Definition from Dictionary

Insight!

Own gaze... wayward daze...

Foolish would it be to dwell too intently on your own anointing rather than dwelling on the one who gave the anointing. To do so would only lead to fear of man, pride, and perfectionism. You would either live by the praise of man or die by their criticism. To gaze upon your own anointing for your own good is to slip into a prideful daze of prostituting God's given anointing.

Prescient DEFINITION

Prescient (Adjective):
Having knowledge of events before they happen, Showing foresight or the ability to anticipate the future

Definition from Dictionary

Insight!

Prescient Face

Have you ever seen the prescient stare of your mother or maybe a grandparent? It's the look they give you when they know something that you don't know, specifically about you. Its like this deep sense of knowing that they have. It almost feels as though they are prophetically projecting things upon you. A time I experienced this profoundly was one of the first times I Spoke at my church. As my eyes moved from one audience member to another I caught my Mom's prescient face. Through her teal glossed gaze I felt a sense of great delight. I also felt as if she was not just seeing me in that moment for who I was or what I was currently saying but rather she was transcending time and ultimately seeing where I've come from and who I might become. In her stare I could see myself, I felt as though God had audibly spoken to her his plan for my life and she was just receiving and watching it play out in his timing. She portrayed and projected this through her content, quiet, prescient face.

Did You Know?

Lions are mostly active at night and in the early morning (dusk, night, and dawn).

Leader Male lion's Rarely hunt. Their main role is defending the pride's territory, often protecting the cubs while the lioness's hunt.

Lions use their roar to mark and defend their territory, with the sound carrying up to 3-5 miles to warn rivals to stay away.

Sage DEFINITION

sage (noun):
A person of profound wisdom, especially one who is venerated for their wisdom and judgment.

Definition from Dictionary

Insight!

Sovereign Sage, Submitted Stray, Lamb,

These final couple lines were intended to point to non other than Jesus and the way he carried out His anointing. The questions not only relate to Jesus but should inspire the reader to ponder the same things in their life and anointing.

Sovereign Sage: Jesus in His full glory before coming to earth.
Submitted: Jesus on earth fully submitted to the father.
Stray: "the son of man has nowhere to lay his head". (Mt 8:20)

Lion's Mane/Lamb Sheered: Jesus is both the Lion that conquered and also the Lamb that was slain, "...and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. (Acts 8:32b)