

# Exodus 32:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear.

## Analysis

Moses' threefold correction uses different Hebrew terms: not קול ענות גבורה (qol anot gevurah, sound of triumph) nor קול ענות חלשה (qol anot chalushah, sound of defeat), but קול ענות (qol annot, sound of singing/responding). The word ענות (annot) suggests responsive singing, likely the antiphonal worship of pagan festivals. Moses recognized immediately what Joshua missed—this was worship, but directed toward the wrong object. The parallel sounds (ענות, anot) emphasize Moses' certainty that this was religious activity, not warfare.

## Historical Context

Moses' immediate discernment came from his awareness of Egyptian religion (having lived in Pharaoh's court) and God's recent revelation. He recognized pagan worship patterns despite Joshua's military interpretation.

## Related Passages

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How can religious activity mask spiritual adultery?
2. What enables discernment between godly and fleshly worship?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמֶר	וְאֵלֶיךָ	אֵלֶיךָ	וְאֵלֶיךָ	וְאֵלֶיךָ
<b>And he said</b>	H369	<b>It is not the voice</b>	<b>of them that cry</b>	<b>for mastery</b>
H559		H6963	H6030	H1369
וְאֵלֶיךָ	וְאֵלֶיךָ	וְאֵלֶיךָ	וְאֵלֶיךָ	וְאֵלֶיךָ
<b>It is not the voice</b>	<b>of them that cry</b>	<b>for being overcome</b>	<b>It is not the voice</b>	
H6963	H6030	H2476	H6963	
וְאֵלֶיךָ	וְאֵלֶיךָ	וְאֵלֶיךָ	וְאֵלֶיךָ	וְאֵלֶיךָ
<b>of them that sing</b>	H595	<b>do I hear</b>		
H6031		H8085		
וְאֵלֶיךָ	וְאֵלֶיךָ	וְאֵלֶיךָ	וְאֵלֶיךָ	וְאֵלֶיךָ

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