

# Proverbs 11:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.

## Analysis

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As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman without discretion. The striking image presents incongruity - precious jewelry adorning a filthy animal. External beauty without moral discretion (ta'am - taste, judgment) is similarly incongruous and wasted. Beauty should accompany wisdom; without it, physical attractiveness is absurd. This verse subordinates external beauty to internal character.

## Historical Context

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Pigs were unclean animals in Israel, making the imagery especially vivid. The proverb addressed cultural tendency to value female beauty above character.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How much do you value external beauty versus internal character in yourself and others?
2. What would it mean for you to pursue discretion with the energy often devoted to physical appearance?

## Interlinear Text

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כֶּסֶם	זָהָב	בֶּצֶק	בְּזֵי יָר	אִשָּׁה	כֵּן	וְלֹא
As a jewel	of gold	snout	in a swine's	woman	so is a fair	which is without
H5141	H2091	H639	H2386	H802	H3303	H5493
וְלֹא כֵּן:						
discretion						
H2940						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 31:30** (Parallel theme): Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

**Proverbs 9:13** (Parallel theme): A foolish woman is clamorous: she is simple, and knoweth nothing.

**Proverbs 7:10** (Parallel theme): And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.

**2 Peter 2:22** (Parallel theme): But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.