

# Proverbs 12:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame.

## Analysis

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A fool's wrath is presently known, but a prudent man covers shame. Fools immediately display anger - no self-control delays emotional expression. Prudent persons conceal insult (kelon - disgrace, dishonor) rather than reacting visibly. This verse contrasts impulsive emotional reaction with measured response. Wisdom includes emotional regulation; folly includes uncontrolled expression.

## Historical Context

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Reflects ancient honor-shame culture where responding to insult was expected. Yet wisdom recognized that overlooking offense demonstrated strength, not weakness.

## Related Passages

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

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How quickly do you display anger when provoked?

2. What would enable you to 'cover shame' rather than immediately retaliating?

## Interlinear Text

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עַרְוָמֶן: קָלְלָה וְלִכְשָׁהָן כְּנָסֶה יְלָעָה בְּזִמְמָרָה אֵלָי  
A fool's is presently known wrath man covereth shame but a prudent  
H191 H3117 H3045 H3708 H3680 H7036 H6175

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 29:11** (Parallel theme): A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.

**James 1:19** (Judgment): Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

**Proverbs 10:12** (Parallel theme): Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

**Proverbs 17:9** (Parallel theme): He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.

**Proverbs 16:22** (Parallel theme): Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly.

**Proverbs 25:28** (Parallel theme): He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.