

Proverbs 12:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

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

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

Related Passages

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

1. How quickly do you display anger when provoked?

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

Interlinear Text

אִלּוּ יֵל	בְּ יוֹם	יָדָע	כַּעַס וְ	וְכָסֵה	קָל וְ	עָרוֹם:
A fool's	is presently	known	wrath	man covereth	shame	but a prudent
H191	H3117	H3045	H3708	H3680	H7036	H6175

Additional Cross-References

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.