

# Proverbs 14:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.

## Analysis

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The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge. This proverb contrasts the natural outcomes of simplicity versus prudence. Nachalu petaim ivvelet (נָחֲלוּ פְתָאִים אִוְלֵת, the simple inherit folly). Nachal (נָחַל, inherit, possess, receive as inheritance) shows folly comes to the simple as inherited property—naturally, inevitably. Va'arumim yaktiru da'at (וְעָרוּמִים יִכְתְּרוּ דַעַת, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge). Katar (כָּתַר, crown, surround, encircle) depicts knowledge as a crown adorning the wise. The simple passively receive folly; the prudent actively acquire knowledge as royal honor.

## Historical Context

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Inheritance in ancient Israel passed property, status, and family identity to descendants. This proverb applies inheritance metaphor to character outcomes. The simple, lacking discernment, naturally accumulate folly through poor choices. The prudent, seeking wisdom, gain knowledge as honored possession.

## Related Passages

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

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What are you 'inheriting'—folly through carelessness or knowledge through diligent pursuit of wisdom?
2. How does viewing knowledge as a 'crown' elevate its value above worldly achievements?
3. In what ways can you actively pursue being 'crowned with knowledge' rather than passively receiving folly?

## Interlinear Text

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וְנָחַל	אֵלֶּיךָ	וְנָחַל	וְנָחַל	וְנָחַל	וְנָחַל
inherit	The simple	folly	but the prudent	are crowned	with knowledge
H5157	H6612	H200	H6175	H3803	H1847

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Peter 1:18** (Parallel theme): Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

**1 Peter 5:4** (Parallel theme): And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.