

# Proverbs 14:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding: but that which is in the midst of fools is made known.

## Analysis

Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding: but that which is in the midst of fools is made known. Belev navon tanuach chokhmah (בָּלֶב תָּבוֹן תְּנוּחָה, in the heart of the discerning wisdom rests). Nuach (נוֹחַ, rest, settle, remain) shows wisdom dwells peacefully in understanding hearts. Uvekerev kesilim tivvada (וּבְקָרְבָּן כְּסִילִים תִּבְדַּע), but in the midst of fools it is made known). The text suggests that whatever wisdom fools possess becomes known—likely meaning they broadcast it prematurely or proudly. The wise keep wisdom quietly until appropriate; fools advertise what little they have.

## Historical Context

Ancient wisdom tradition valued discretion. Wise counselors didn't broadcast everything they knew. Fools, lacking depth, displayed shallow knowledge loudly. Proverbs 12:23 says: "A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness." Jesus exemplified this—speaking plainly to disciples but in parables to crowds (Matthew 13:10-17), knowing when to reveal and conceal truth.

## Related Passages

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. Do you tend to rest quietly in wisdom or feel compelled to broadcast what you know?
2. What is the difference between humble confidence in truth and proud display of knowledge?
3. How can you cultivate a heart where wisdom 'rests' rather than a mouth that must constantly speak?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּלִבְנֵי	בָּן	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי
in the heart	of him that hath understanding	resteth	Wisdom
H3820	H995	H5117	H2451
וְבָקָרְבָּן	בְּסִילְיָם	תַּדְעַן	
but that which is in the midst	of fools	is made known	
H7130	H3684	H3045	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 12:16** (Parallel theme): A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame.

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

**Proverbs 15:28** (Parallel theme): The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.

**Proverbs 13:16** (Parallel theme): Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly.

**Proverbs 12:23** (Parallel theme): A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.

**Ecclesiastes 10:3** (Parallel theme): Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool.

