

# Proverbs 20:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly.

## Analysis

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Suffering and correction have purifying effects—'stripes' (wounds from discipline) and 'blows' cleanse away evil. Physical punishment serves pedagogical and reformative purposes, purging wickedness from the heart. While modern sensibilities recoil, the proverb reflects biblical realism about human depravity and the need for strong correction. The 'inward parts' (Hebrew 'chadrei-beten') refers to the innermost being—thoughts, motives, desires. External discipline can effect internal change by breaking stubborn will and teaching consequences. This applies both to child-rearing and to God's fatherly discipline of His children (Hebrews 12:5-11). Properly administered correction demonstrates love and aims at restoration and righteousness.

## Historical Context

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Biblical corporal punishment was regulated to prevent abuse but recognized as necessary for instruction. Modern rejection of discipline has coincided with societal moral chaos, validating wisdom's ancient counsel.

## Related Passages

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

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. How do you view discipline—as harmful oppression or as loving correction?
2. How has God's discipline in your life purged evil and produced righteousness?

## Interlinear Text

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פָּנָן וְתַּמְרֵר יְקַרְבָּנָן פְּצַע

The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil

H2250

H6482

תַּמְרֵר יְקַרְבָּנָן

H8562

בְּעֵבֶד יְמִינָן

H7451

וְמִכְּנַתְּבֵן

H4347

וְמִכְּנַתְּבֵן פְּנָן וְתַּמְרֵר יְקַרְבָּנָן

H2315

בָּטָן:

of the belly

H990

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 12:10** (Parallel theme): For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

**Proverbs 22:15** (Parallel theme): Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

**Proverbs 19:25** (Parallel theme): Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware: and reprove one that hath understanding, and he will understand knowledge.