

# Proverbs 26:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

## Analysis

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The lazy person is wiser in his own eyes than seven who can answer discreetly. The Hebrew 'chakam me`eynayv' (wise in own eyes) and 'shivah meshivey ta`am' (seven answering with discretion) creates striking arrogance. Sluggard won't receive correction from even abundant wise counsel. Seven represents completeness; answering discreetly indicates wisdom. But sluggard's self-deception resists all counsel. Laziness and unteachable pride combine destructively.

## Historical Context

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This verse combines two Proverbs themes: lazy sluggard and self-deception. Proverbs 12:15 says: 'The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.' Rehoboam rejected elders' counsel for young men's foolishness, splitting his kingdom (1 Kings 12). No amount of wisdom penetrates willful self-deception. Teachability requires humility; pride prevents learning regardless of counsel's quality.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

## Study Questions

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1. What wise counsel are you rejecting because you're confident you know better?
2. How does laziness relate to unteachability - are you too lazy to change despite knowing you should?
3. What humility would make you receptive to abundant wise counsel currently being ignored?

## Interlinear Text

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חָכָם	עָצֵל	בְּעֵינָיו	מִשְׁבָּעַה	מִשֵּׁ יָדָיו	טֶעֶם:
is wiser	The sluggard	in his own conceit	than seven men	that can render	a reason
H2450	H6102	H5869	H7651	H7725	H2940

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 26:12** (Parallel theme): Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

**Proverbs 12:15** (Parallel theme): The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

**1 Peter 3:15** (Parallel theme): But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: