

# Proverbs 26:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As he that bindeth a stone in a sling, so is he that giveth honour to a fool.

## Analysis

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Binding a stone in a sling is like giving honor to a fool. The Hebrew 'tseror even' (bind stone) in 'margemah' (sling) creates absurd image. Slinging requires stone to release; binding it makes sling useless or dangerous (stone might swing back and hit user). Honoring fools is similarly counterproductive - it doesn't help them and may harm those who honored them. Fools can't handle honor properly. Wisdom withholds honor from those who'll misuse it.

## Historical Context

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Ancient warfare used slings effectively (David and Goliath - 1 Samuel 17). Binding stone defeats purpose. Similarly, honoring fools defeats honor's purpose - it should reward and encourage virtue, not vice. Modern culture's celebrity worship often gives honor to fools, producing exactly the predicted harm. Scripture teaches honoring whom honor is due (Romans 13:7), not indiscriminately.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

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

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

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. What 'fools' are you honoring (following on social media, financially supporting, imitating) to everyone's detriment?
2. How can you ensure you're giving honor appropriately to those who deserve it?
3. What does it mean that you might be the 'fool' who can't handle honor well if given it prematurely?

## Interlinear Text

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כָּבֹד: לְכָס יְלָנוּת | נָתַת | בְּמִרְגַּמְתִּי אֶל בְּנֵי כָּצֵר וְרָ

H6887 H3651 H5414 H3684 H3519  
a stone in a sling so is he that giveth to a fool honour  
H68 H4773

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 26:1** (Parallel theme): As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honour is not seemly for a fool.

**Proverbs 30:22** (Parallel theme): For a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat;