

# Proverbs 27:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whosoever hideth her hideth the wind, and the ointment of his right hand, which bewrayeth itself.

## Analysis

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**Whosoever hideth her hideth the wind**—Attempting to restrain (šāpan, שָׁפַן, hide/restrain) a contentious woman (v. 15) is like trying to contain wind (rûah, רוּחַ) —impossible. **The ointment of his right hand, which bewrayeth itself**—perfume (shemen, שֶׁמֶן) inevitably reveals its presence; you cannot conceal fragrance. Both metaphors emphasize futility.

This verse acknowledges the limits of human ability to change another person. Only God's Spirit can transform a quarrelsome heart. The New Testament echoes this—husbands are called to love, not to control (Ephesians 5:25), and transformation comes through the Spirit's work (Galatians 5:22-23), not human manipulation.

## Historical Context

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Wind and perfume were common life experiences in ancient Israel. Wind was proverbially uncontrollable (Ecclesiastes 1:14, 'feeding on wind'). Perfumed oils were valuable commodities whose scent inevitably permeated clothing and surroundings (Song of Solomon 1:3).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. Where are you attempting to 'hide the wind' by trying to change or control someone whom only God can transform?
2. How does this proverb's realism about human limitations drive you to prayer rather than manipulation?
3. What does surrendering impossible situations to God's sovereignty look like in your closest relationships?

## Interlinear Text

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צִפֹּן	צִפֹּן	ר וּחַ	וְשֶׁמֶן	יְמִינוֹ
Whosoever hideth	Whosoever hideth	the wind	and the ointment	of his right hand
H6845	H6845	H7307	H8081	H3225
וְקִרְאָה				
which bewrayeth				
H7121				

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 12:3** (Parallel theme): Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.