

# Proverbs 29:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not.

## Analysis

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**Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul**—The *choleq im ganav* (one who shares with a thief) becomes complicit in crime. Though not the primary perpetrator, the accomplice bears guilt. The verdict is self-destructive: he **hateth his own soul** (*sone nafsho*)—his actions work against his own welfare.

The specific scenario follows: **he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not**. Under oath (*alah*, the curse invoked for false testimony per Leviticus 5:1), he hears demands to testify but **bewrayeth it not** (*lo yaggid*, does not declare, reveal). Fear of retaliation silences him, but silence makes him guilty. His complicity—whether through active partnership or passive concealment—destroys him.

## Historical Context

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Mosaic law required witnesses to come forward (Leviticus 5:1). Concealing knowledge of crime made one liable. Ancient Israel's communal justice system depended on truthful testimony. Achan's theft brought judgment on Israel until exposed (Joshua 7). New Testament parallels: Ananias and Sapphira's conspiracy (Acts 5), Paul's warning against partaking in others' sins (1 Timothy 5:22).

## Related Passages

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

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. Are there situations where your silence or complicity enables wrongdoing?
2. How do you balance loyalty to others with the responsibility to expose truth?
3. What does it mean to 'hate your own soul' through self-destructive associations or choices?

## Interlinear Text

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חֹלִי ק	עִם	גַּנָּב	שׂוֹנֵא	נַפְשׁוֹ	אֶלֶּה	שָׁמַע
Whoso is partner	H5973	with a thief	hateth	his own soul	cursing	he heareth
H2505		H1590	H8130	H5315	H423	H8085
וְלֹא	יִגִּיד:					
H3808	and bewrayeth					
	H5046					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 5:1** (Sin): And if a soul sin, and hear the voice of swearing, and is a witness, whether he hath seen or known of it; if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity.

**Proverbs 8:36** (Sin): But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

**Isaiah 1:23** (Parallel theme): Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

**Proverbs 15:32** (Parallel theme): He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.

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