

# Proverbs 7:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)

## Analysis

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Now in the streets, now in the squares, lurking at every corner. The Hebrew 'arab' (lie in wait/ambush) describes predatory positioning. The seductress strategically places herself where targets gather. This isn't passive availability but active hunting. Temptation often involves environmental engineering - placing ourselves where we know we're vulnerable. Wisdom requires avoiding dangerous places, not testing our resistance in them.

## Historical Context

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Ancient marketplaces and public squares were social centers. Prostitutes positioned themselves strategically for maximum visibility. The principle applies broadly: predatory people and influences deliberately inhabit spaces where vulnerable targets congregate. Modern equivalents include bars, certain online spaces, and social contexts that facilitate particular sins.

## Related Passages

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. What 'corners' do you habitually turn where temptation lurks predictably?
2. How can you alter your patterns to avoid places where you're most vulnerable?
3. What environmental engineering would reduce your exposure to strategic temptation?

## Interlinear Text

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פָּעַם	בַּחַזֵּק	בְּרַחֲבָת	כָּל	פָּנָים
Now	is she without	Now	in the streets	at
H6471	H2351	H6471	H7339	H681
				H3605
				every corner
				H6438

תָּאַרְבָּה:  
and lieth in wait  
H693

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 23:28** (Parallel theme): She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men.

**Proverbs 9:14** (Parallel theme): For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city,

**Revelation 18:3** (Parallel theme): For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.