

**KosherTorah School**  
for Biblical, Judaic & Spiritual Studies  
**P.O. Box 628**  
Tellico Plains, TN. 37385  
tel. 423-253-3555  
email. [koshertorah@wildblue.net](mailto:koshertorah@wildblue.net)  
[www.KosherTorah.com](http://www.KosherTorah.com)  
Ariel Bar Tzadok, Director, Rabbi



# KosherTorah on “Who is Wise?”

*by Ariel B. Tzadok*

*Who is wise?  
One who can listen to anyone  
with enough intelligence  
to carefully review what is said  
and draw rational, and honest conclusions.*

*Who is a fool?  
One who refuses to listen to another  
and condemns the other  
without even knowing  
what that other has to say.*

*Information is  
the most valuable commodity in the world.  
Access to information  
is worth its proverbial weight in gold.*

*Ignorance is  
the greatest blight in the world.  
One who embraces ignorance,  
and praises it in oneself and in others  
is a dangerous fool  
who needs to be shunned.*

*One who is strong  
can listen to the views of others  
so very different from one's own  
and be intrigued,  
but at the same time,  
not influenced.*

*The strong stand firm in their knowledge.  
Exposure to new knowledge  
is never a threat,  
but always an opportunity to grow.*

*The closed mind,  
and the closed heart  
are the signs of the fearful,  
and the fool.*

*Those who scream aloud,  
"this other one must not speak,"  
are the same ones who themselves  
have nothing valuable to say,  
and nothing worth while to hear.*

*Yet, those who scream to silence others  
are blindly convinced that  
what they have to say,  
and what they believe  
are the only words to be heard,  
and the only thoughts to be believed.*

*This contradicts wisdom,  
and is thus folly.*

*This contradicts intelligence,  
and is thus stupidity.*

*This contradicts strength,  
and is this weakness.*

*Listen to others, all others.  
Weight carefully what each has to say.  
Discern with intelligence, wisdom,  
strength, and understanding  
what you chose to accept and embrace,  
and what you chose not to.*

*This is the Way of Torah,  
the Way of the Wise Sages of the Teaching.  
Pay no mind to those  
who tell you what to think.  
Rather, learn well, by yourself  
how to think, independently, for yourself.  
This is the Way  
one draws close to God,  
and reflects the Divine Image within.*

*Overcome fear, and foolishness.  
Learn to listen, learn to show respect.  
In this way one truly is learning kosher Torah.*

The KosherTorah School



The Written Works of Ariel Bar Tzadok

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