

Solomon's Wisdom #3

by Ariel Bar Tzadok

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“The heroism of the wise is [in their] courage. A man of knowledge makes every effort to use his abilities. For with cunning you will make war and salvation is in much counsel.”

Proverbs 24:1-2

To be wise, one must act with wisdom. Wisdom that is not put into practice is not wisdom. One is not wise if one's wisdom is only internal. The wise therefore act courageously. They rise up and do that which is sometimes dangerous. They act heroically and valiantly. The wise are never caught sitting on “their bottoms.” No, the wise are always up and moving forward. Like a valiant soldier they stealthily move towards battle ready to fight, ready to strike down an unsuspecting enemy. The wise are never passive, rather it is the nature of wisdom to rise up and reach out.

Wisdom requires courage. For once one sees with wisdom what is the right path for the moment, one also sees all the obstacles preventing one from doing the right thing. The wise, therefore, rise to the occasion and plot the right course around all the obstacles that hinder one from performing righteousness. It takes courage and “guts” to do the right thing. It takes wisdom to know what that right thing is. Therefore, wisdom and courage are incomplete one without the other. Wisdom and courage are inseparable. Each fulfills the other.

Wisdom arises from within. It is the ever-flowing source of life and liberty. Wisdom is the source of the desire to pursue happiness, and true happiness can only solidly materialize through righteousness. Inner wisdom naturally leads to external knowledge. For the one who knows truth within, recognizes how to implement it externally. Thus the man of wisdom becomes the man of knowledge when he allows the inner wisdom to naturally flow outside of himself into the world, to transform our jungle back into a garden.

The man of knowledge is full of great strength and power. These strengths and powers are his abilities to see, to know, to plan and to implement the directives of inner wisdom. Many are the tools of the man of knowledge. He is educated from books, but realizes that his wisdom did not come from those books. Books can actually hinder wisdom, for the words on a page often limit one's imagination and thus, therefore, limit one's course of action. But the true man of knowledge looks within himself to his inner wisdom. He allows that wisdom to flow outside himself and to use the knowledge of books as tools to accomplish that which needs to be accomplished. The books do not direct, instead wisdom directs the information to be used in the best and wisest of ways, as the present circumstances dictate.

War is the way of life. War is the way we live or it becomes the cause of our deaths. There is a time for peace and a time for war. The wise know how to distinguish between the two. Such times are not separate periods, rather they are everyday practices. Each practice has its time, each has its place. Everyday we encounter some situations which require of us warlike behavior and others which we can interact with in peace.

The fool and the weak always seek peace. They are afraid of conflict and war. This is why they are easily conquered and end up serving as duped agents of evil. Beware of the “peace-lover,” for more than any other, they are agents of evil and corruption. Anyone refusing to recognize evil and to make the necessary efforts to stand up to it and to fight it in the right and proper way are essentially already overcome by evil, and become its unwitting pawns. Without wisdom, even those with the best of intentions, often pave the highway to hell.

When wisdom is properly balanced with knowledge, we have the mystical union of male and female consciousness. This has nothing to do with biological men and women. All of us, men and women alike, have within us male and female consciousness. This is the meaning of the verse in Genesis that states we human beings were created in God's male and female image. Wisdom is male. Knowledge is female. Wisdom penetrates and give to knowledge. Knowledge in tun receives wisdom, embraces it and is impregnated by it, leading to the birth of right and proper action.

Warfare is a way of dealing with life's conflicts. Warfare cannot be avoided any more than life itself. Therefore life must be lived with cunning. Cunning is the child of Father Wisdom and Mother Knowledge. Cunning embraces the best of its father and mother and is both very wise and very knowledgeable. With great wisdom and great knowledge we proceed to confront life's daily challenges. We confront them as a warrior takes on battle. Every warrior knows the abilities and the limitations of his weaponry. Therefore, the wise warrior fights with both, his arms in hand, and his “arms” in mind. Every wise warrior knows that a battle is won long before arms are raised. Every wise warrior seeks to conquer the mind of his opponent, therefore weakening, if not totally neutralizing, the strength of his opponent's arms in hand.

Life requires of us cunning. The wise know this and live and prosper thereby. The fool denies this and is therefore overcome by the many who seek to enslave him. Redemption from slavery is no easy task. Moses learned this well in Egypt and has commanded that the Exodus be daily remembered so that we never allow ourselves to fall again into psychological slavery that leads to the loss of all our hard-won inalienable human rights. Alas, for the most part, slavery has overtaken the masses. Few think, even fewer know and even fewer than few care enough to do something about it.

Take counsel in wisdom, Hear the voice within. Get out while you still can. Become a warrior. And remember, warriors are not born, they are made. Warriors are molded out of life's difficulties and the triumphs over them. Warriors grow, nurtured on the milk of wisdom. Warriors mature with the acquisition of knowledge. Warriors conquer because they listen to the Inner Voice, know the way of wisdom and act fearlessly to accomplish that which needs be done.

Warriors have no patience for fools and deniers of truth. Warriors let the willing sheep be led to the slaughter. They are not worth the effort to save. But for those who cry out and plead for help, the warrior arises and with the counsel of his heart and his fellow warriors, he goes forth to release those who are bound. A warrior seldom talks, rather he always acts.

Warriors take counsel from their inner wisdom and hears the voices of his fellow warriors and learn from their experiences. In unity, there is strength. In isolation, there is weakness. While this is so, it is not always the case, as the wise warrior knows. But more than this is not for this time. This is the wisdom of King Solomon, revealed.

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