

A Voice Greater than Kings: The Fool in Scotland's Proverbs

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"A wise man carries his cloak in fair weather, an' a fool wants his in rain" (Hilsop 1868, 50)

The rash fool risks life and limb for love of life, for whimsy and for truth making himself as an outcast to the nature of organized society.



"A fool may give a wise man council" (Hilsop 1868, 20)

The fool speaks his mind when the whimsy strikes him, telling the truth through an unfiltered lens because he lives in it at the mercy of society.

"A nod frae a lord is a breakfast for a fool" (Hilsop 1868, 36)

The fool's antics made it possible for the king to not look like a fool. The fool provided a distraction and a release valve for pent-up aggression toward the king.



"A fool may speer mair questions than a wise man can answer" (Hilsop 1868, 21)

The fool is wise because of her broadened understanding of the world through harsh life experiences. The fools know the world because they have been beaten down by it.

"A fool winna gie his toy for the Tower o' London" (Hilsop 1868, 21)

A fool makes her decisions and sticks to them knowing that she is being true to herself in the process. She does what she wants with little care for the disparaging glances of others.

