

Beat: News

## First Impressions Are Deceitfully Dangerous

### They Disguise The Poison

Proddatur, Andhra Pradesh, India, 05.11.2016, 17:59 Time

**USPA NEWS** - They Disguise The Poison; They Cover The Blade

“But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Proverbs 5:4”

Even pagans recognize the short lives of fornicators. She is not cheap, as she expects much in return for her favors.

Consider how a strange woman will be bitter and cutting. Consider it well, young man, for first impressions are deceitfully dangerous. Do not think on her beauty or flirt with her eyes (Pr 6:25). Do not listen to her enticing words (Pr 5:3). They disguise the poison; they cover the blade. She will take you to death and hell, and she will do it painfully!

What is the end of a thing? Its reward, results, or consequences (Ps 37:37; 73:17). What is wormwood? An herb known for intense bitterness (Lam 3:15). How bitter? The Greeks called it “undrinkable,”<sup>[1]</sup> and it is a regular symbol of bitterness. How sharp is a two-edged sword? Twice as sharp as a one-edged sword! It will cut you either way, or both ways.

A strange woman, a woman you have not known before and have no right to be with, can be a great pleasure in some respects. But it is a very short pleasure, and then you discover the horrible consequences of such a heinous sin. Her sweet words and kisses turn bitter like wormwood, and her smooth flattery and lovemaking cut deep like a two-edged sword.

Many men have been destroyed by this deceitful delusion. She looks, sounds, smells, and feels so inviting, and man’s lusts and pride for such a conquest swear it will be very rewarding, but the corrupting and cutting results are hidden from view. Knowing the great danger, Solomon used this chapter to warn his son about the dire trouble a strange woman brings into a man’s life and the delightful and protective pleasure of a loving wife.

The proverb completes a sentence started in the previous verse. There the wise Preacher told about a strange woman’s sweet lips and smooth mouth. The flattery of such a woman is overpowering ““ her offer of adoration and lovemaking is too much to resist. The proverb here states a strong warning ““ consider the consequences!

What is the end of a thing? Its reward, results, or consequences (Ps 37:37; 73:17). What is wormwood? An herb known for intense bitterness (Lam 3:15). How bitter? The Greeks called it “undrinkable,”<sup>[2]</sup> and it is a regular symbol of bitterness. How sharp is a two-edged sword? Twice as sharp as a one-edged sword! It will cut you either way, or both ways.

She will take your time, for lusts are not satisfied with short liaisons or infrequent contact. The guilt will devour your soul day and night, even when not with her. Fear of being caught and exposed will destroy your confidence and conscience. The lie you must live to cover your sin will turn your life into a perpetual drama of deception. The joy you once had in lawful relationships will be stolen from you. How bitter! How cutting!

Even pagans recognize the short lives of fornicators. She is not cheap, as she expects much in return for her favors, so you are reduced from being a virtuous prince to a begging slave.

And, of course, there is the Lord, death, judgment, and hell. How bitter! How cutting!

Man, get away from her; do not even get near her (Pr 5:8). If you are in a relationship, break it today and never think about her or go near her again. Your life depends on it.

**Article online:**

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-9872/first-impressions-are-deceitfully-dangerous.html>

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V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDStV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Doruvu Paul Jagan Babu

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United Press Association, Inc.  
3651 Lindell Road, Suite D168  
Las Vegas, NV 89103, USA  
(702) 943.0321 Local  
(702) 943.0233 Facsimile  
[info@unitedpressassociation.org](mailto:info@unitedpressassociation.org)  
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