

MUSSAR & JUSTICE

Proverbs, from the first, connects wisdom to moral discipline, and moral discipline to justice and right equity. Malbim (Rabbi Meir Leib ben Y'chiel Michael) taught that "to know chochma (wisdom) is to understand the principles of moral law governing the proper exercise of all the faculties. . . ." The purpose of Proverbs, then, is "to inculcate 'justice and right and equity'—correct behavior in the social and political spheres. . . ."*

* From R' Charles Wengrov, *Malbim on Mishley, the Commentary of Rabbi Meir Leibush Malbim on the Book of Proverbs* (New York: Feldheim, 1982), pp. 10-12.