

The Shepherd Dog

by Neal Couey
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Face it, most of us are sheep. We look for the greenest side of the fence, follow the easiest route we can find, and we hope to make it back home without any trouble. Once in awhile, we'll make a little noise but most of the time we are content to follow along quietly. Sometimes, one of us becomes lost. Unfortunately, in our line of work, there are a lot of wolves waiting for one of us to step out of line. Wolves are fierce and mean creatures who like to strike fear into the hearts of sheep. Pity the poor sheep that are late returning home. Wolves have no sympathy for sheep that have lost their

way and they will attack without mercy. Wolves try to separate sheep from the rest of the herd because wolves like to outnumber their prey. Wolves will follow sheep on their route hoping they will fall out of line.

The fact is that a man who wants to act virtuously in every way necessarily comes to grief among so many who are not virtuous.

Niccolò Machiavelli
The Prince

Wolves especially like younger prey since they have little experience with wolves.

Only one thing can prevent the attack of a wolf on our fellow sheep and that is the shepherd dog. The shepherd dog is the only one with the courage to stand toe-to-toe with wolves and force them to back down. A shepherd dog works tirelessly to protect the herd and receives very little thanks in return. The shepherd dog faithfully obeys instructions given by the good shepherd and is trained on how to defend the sheep. That protection allows us to go home at night without worry or intimidation. Our livelihood depends on the vigilance of the shepherd dog. It is this union that makes us stronger than the wolves.