

SHEEP SMARTS

"The sheep, black and white, associate without discord...Therefore, in the world of humanity it is wise and seemly that all the individual members should manifest unity and affinity." — Abdu'l—Bahá

f someone calls another person a sheep, it means they consider that person to be meek, easily led, or even unimaginative. Maybe not so smart. But that's a **stereotype** – an unfair generalization.

Sheep do move together in large flocks, but it's actually clever; they unite to avoid predators. They're safer when they stick together. Scientists say sheep are so bright that they can recognize individual faces,

navigate a maze, and develop friendships.

There's another way sheep are smart—black, brown, and white sheep all mingle in unity. Their wool is colored by **melanin**, the same stuff that colors human skin, hair, and eyes. But unlike humans, who can be unfair to those who look different, sheep don't let pigment cause a problem. And that's pretty perceptive!

