

# SONG of SONGS

## CHAPTER 1

1 *Here beginneth the Song of Songs*<sup>1</sup>.

2 Kiss he me with the kiss of his mouth. For thy loves be better than wine (For thy love is better than wine)<sup>2</sup>,

3 and give odour with best ointments. Thy name *is* (like) oil shed out; therefore young damsels loved thee. (and thy aroma is equal to the best perfumes. Thy name *is* like oil poured out; and so the young women, *or the maidens*, loved thee.)

4 Draw thou me after thee; we shall run. The king led me into his cellars; we mindful of thy loves above wine, shall make full out joy, and we shall be glad in thee; rightful men love thee. (Draw thou me after thee; and we shall run away/and we shall run together. The king led me into his chamber; and we thinking more about thy love than about wine, shall rejoice, and we shall be glad for thee; yea, all the upright people love thee.)

5 Ye daughters of Jerusalem, I am black, but fair, as the tabernacles of Kedar, as the skins of Solomon. (Ye daughters of Jerusalem, I am black, and beautiful, like the tents of Kedar, and like Solomon's curtains.)

6 Do not ye behold me, that I am black, for the sun hath discoloured me; the sons of my mother fought against me, they set me a keeper in vineries; I kept not my vinery. (Do not ye look down upon me, because I am black, for the sun hath coloured me, *that is, it hath tanned me*; the sons of my mother fought against me, and they made me the guardian of the vineyards; and so I could not look after my own vineyard.)

7 *Thou spouse*, whom my soul loveth, show to me, where thou pasturest, (yea,) where thou retest in

midday; lest I begin to wander, after the flocks of thy fellows.

8 A! thou fairest among women, if thou knowest not thyself, go thou out, and go forth after the steps of thy flocks; and feed thy kids, beside the tabernacles of shepherds. (O! thou most beautiful among women, if thou thyself knowest not, go thou out, and go forth after the steps of thy flocks; and feed thy goat kids, beside the shepherds' tents.)

9 My love, I likened thee to mine host of knights in the chariots of Pharaoh. (My love, I would liken thee to Pharaoh's army of chariot drivers.)

10 Thy cheeks be fair, as of a turtle; thy neck *is* as brooches. (Thy cheeks be beautiful, like a turtledove; thy neck *is adorned* with jewels.)

11 We shall make to thee golden ornaments, parted and made diverse with silver. (We shall make golden ornaments for thee, set with silver beads.)

12 When the king was in his resting place, my nard gave his odour. (While the king lieth on his couch, my spikenard gave forth its aroma.)

13 My darling is a bundle of myrrh to me; he shall dwell betwixt my teats. (My darling is like a bundle of myrrh for me; and he shall rest between my breasts.)

14 My darling *is* to me (as) a cluster of cypress tree(s), among the vineries of Engedi. (My darling *is* like a cluster of cypress trees for me, among the vineyards of Engedi.)

15 Lo! my love, thou art fair; lo! thou *art* fair, thine eyes *be the eyes* of culvers. (Lo! my love, thou art beautiful; lo! thou *art* beautiful, thine eyes *be* like doves.)

16 Lo! my darling, thou art fair and shapely; our bed *is* fair as flowers. (Lo! my darling, thou art beautiful and shapely; the grass and the flowers shall be our bed.)

17 The beams of our houses *be* of cedar; our couplings *be* of cypress. (The beams of our house *shall be* the cedars; our couplings *shall be* the cypress trees.)

## CHAPTER 2

1 I *am* a flower of the field, and a lily of great valleys. (I *am* a flower of Sharon, and a lily of the great valley.)

2 As a lily among thorns, so *is* my friendess among

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<sup>1</sup> One manuscript adds, "*that were made of Solomon (that were made by Solomon), to be sung in the temple of the Lord, into everlasting worshipping, and (so) needeth none other prologue.*"

<sup>2</sup> The "Early Version" of the "Wycliffe Bible", and one copy of the "Later Version" labeled "X", present this book as an allegorical dialogue between Christ and the Church. For example, this verse is introduced as: "*The Church, of the coming of Christ speaketh, saying ('The Church speaketh of the coming of Christ, saying')*",

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daughters. (Like a lily among the thorns, *is* my friendess among the daughters.)

3 As an apple tree among the trees of woods, so (*is*) my darling among (the) sons. I sat under the shadow of him, whom I desired; and his fruit was sweet to my throat. (Like an apple tree among the trees of the woods, *is* my darling among the sons of men. I sat under his shadow, yea, he whom I desired; and his fruit was sweet to my taste.)

4 The king led me into the wine cellar; he ordained charity in me (he ordained his love upon me).

5 Beset ye me with flowers, compass ye me with apples; for I am sick for love. (Put ye flowers about me, yea, surround ye me with apple blossoms; for I am weak, *or I faint*, because of love.)

6 His left hand *is* under mine head; and his right hand shall embrace me.

7 Ye daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you greatly, by caprets, and harts of fields, that ye raise not, neither make to awake the dearworthy *spousess*, till she will. (Ye daughters of Jerusalem, I strongly command you, by the gazelles, and the harts of the fields, that ye raise not up, nor awaken the dearworthy *spousess*, until she desireth it.)

8 The voice of my darling; lo! this *darling* cometh leaping in mountains, and skipping over little hills. (The voice of my darling; lo! my *darling* cometh leaping over the mountains, and skipping over the little hills.)

9 My darling is like a capret, and a calf of harts; lo! he standeth behind our wall, and beholdeth by the windows, and looketh through the lattice. (My darling is like a gazelle, or like a hart calf; lo! he standeth behind our wall, and seeth in through the windows, and looketh through the lattice.)

10 Lo! my darling speaketh to me, My love, my culver, my fair *spousess*, rise thou, haste thou, and come thou; (Lo! my darling speaketh to me, and saith, My love, my dove, my beautiful *spousess*, rise thou up, hasten thou, and come thou away;)

11 for winter is passed now, rain is gone, and is departed away. (for the winter is now passed, *finally* the rains have gone away, yea, they have departed *at last*.)

12 Flowers have appeared in our land, and the time of cutting is come; the voice of a turtle is heard in our land (the song of a turtledove is heard in our land),

13 the fig tree hath brought forth his buds; the vineries flowering have given their odour. My love, my fair *spousess*, rise thou, haste thou, and come thou. (the fig

tree hath brought forth its buds; the flowering vines have given forth their aroma. My love, my beautiful *spousess*, rise thou up, hasten thou, and come thou away.)

14 My culver *is* in the holes of [the] stone, in the chink of a wall without mortar. Show thy face to me, thy voice sound in mine ears; for thy voice is sweet, and thy face is fair. (My dove *is* in the holes of the stone, in the chink of a wall made without mortar. Show thy face to me, let thy voice sound in my ears; for thy voice is sweet, and thy face is so beautiful.)

15 Catch ye little foxes to us, that destroy the vineries; for our vinery hath flowered. (Catch ye for us the little foxes, that destroy the vineyards; for our vines have flowered.)

16 My darling *is* to me, and I *am* to him, which is fed among lilies; (My darling *is* for me, and I *am* for him, who is fed among the lilies;)

17 till the day spring, and shadows be bowed down. My darling, turn thou again; be thou like a capret, and a calf of harts, on the hills of Bether. (until the day spring forth, and the shadows be bowed down. My darling, return thou; be thou like a gazelle, or a hart calf, on the hills of Bether/upon the rugged hills.)

## CHAPTER 3

1 In my little bed, I sought him by nights, whom my soul loveth; I sought him, and I found not. (In my little bed, night after night, I sought him, whom my soul loveth; I sought him, but I could not find him.)

2 I shall rise, and I shall compass the city, by little streets and large streets; I shall seek him, whom my soul loveth; I sought him, and I found not. (*So I said*, I shall arise, and I shall go about the city, by the little streets and the large streets; I shall seek him, whom my soul loveth; so I sought him, but I could not find him.)

3 (The) Watchmen, that keep the city, found me. (I asked,) Whether ye saw him, whom my soul loveth? (But the watchmen, who guard the city, found me. And I asked them, Have ye seen him, whom my soul loveth?)

4 A little when I had passed them, I found him, whom my soul loveth (Then only a little while after that I had left them, I found him, whom my soul loveth); I held him, and I shall not leave *him*, till I bring him into the house of my mother, and into the (bed-)closet of my mother.

5 Ye daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you greatly, by the caprets, and harts of fields, that ye raise not, neither make to awake the dearworthy *spousess*, till she will. (Ye

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daughters of Jerusalem, I strongly command you, by the gazelles, and the harts of the fields, that ye raise not up, nor awaken the dearworthy *spouess*, until she desireth it.)

6 Who is this *woman*, that goeth up by the desert, as a rod of smoke of sweet smelling spices, of myrrh, and of incense, and of all powder of an ointment maker? (Who is this *woman*, who goeth up by the desert, like a column of smoke of sweet smelling spices, yea, of myrrh, and of incense, and of all the powders of a perfume maker?)

7 Lo! sixty strong men of the strongest men of Israel compass the bed of Solomon; (Lo! sixty strong men of the strongest of Israel surround, *or protect*, Solomon in his bed;)

8 and all they hold swords, and *be* most witting to battles; the sword of each man *is* on his hip, for the dread of nights. (and they all hold swords, and *be* most knowing about battle, *or about fighting*; the sword of each man *is* on his hip, ready for any attack in the night.)

9 King Solomon made to him a seat, of the wood of Lebanon; (King Solomon made for himself a throne out of the wood of Lebanon;)

10 he made the pillars thereof of silver; *he made* a golden resting place, a going up of purple; and he arrayed the middle things with charity, for the daughters of Jerusalem. (he covered its pillars, *or its posts*, with silver; *and* its golden seat had a purple cushion, lovingly woven by the daughters of Jerusalem.)

11 Ye daughters of Zion, go out, and see king Solomon in the diadem, with which his mother crowned him, in the day of his espousing, and in the day of the gladness of his heart. (Ye daughters of Zion, go out, and see King Solomon in his crown, with which his mother crowned him, on the day of his espousing, *that is, on his wedding day*, yea, on the day when his heart was happy, and full of joy.)

## CHAPTER 4

1 My friendess, thou art full fair, thou art full fair; thine eyes *be (like)* of culvers, without that, that is hid within; thine hairs *be* as the flocks of goats, that went up from the hill(s) of Gilead. (My friendess, thou art so beautiful, thou art so beautiful; thine eyes *be* like doves, behind thy veil; thy hair *is* like the flocks of goats, that went up from Mount Gilead.)

2 Thy teeth *be* as the flocks of shorn sheep, that went up from [the] washing; all *be* with double lambs, and no barren is among those. (Thy teeth *be* like the flocks of

shorn sheep, that went up from the washing; all of them *have* double lambs, *or twins*, and there is no barren among them.)

3 Thy lips *be* as a red lace, and thy speech *is* sweet; as the remnant of an apple of Punic, so *be* thy cheeks, without that, that is hid within. (Thy lips *be* like a red lace, and thy voice *is* sweet; thy cheeks *be* like a piece of an apple of Punic/thy cheeks *be* like a piece of a pomegranate, behind thy veil.)

4 Thy neck *is* as the tower of David, which is builded with strongholds made before for defence; a thousand shields hang on it, all [the] armour of strong men. (Thy neck *is* like the tower of David, which is built with strongholds, *or with bulwarks*, made ahead of time for defence; a thousand shields hang on it, all the armour of the strong.)

5 Thy two teats *be* as two kids, twins of a capret, that *be* fed among (the) lilies, (Thy two breasts *be* like two kids, *or like two fawns*, yea, like the twins of a gazelle, that *be* fed among the lilies.)

6 till the day spring, and [the] shadows *be* bowed down. I shall go to the mountain of myrrh, and to the little hill of incense. (And when the day shall spring forth, and the shadows shall *be* bowed down, then I shall go to the mountain of myrrh, and to the little hill of incense.)

7 My love, thou art all-fair, and no wem is in thee. (My love, thou art so very beautiful, and there is no blemish on thee/and there is no fault in thee.)

8 My spouess, come thou from the Lebanon; come thou from the Lebanon, come thou; beholding from the head of Amana, from the top of Shenir and Hermon, from the dens of lions, from the hills of leopards. (My spouess, come thou from Lebanon; come thou from Lebanon, come thou; come thou down from the top of Amana, from the top of Shenir, and the top of Hermon, from the dens of the lions, and from the hills of the leopards.)

9 My sister spouess, thou hast wounded mine heart; thou hast wounded mine heart, in one of thine eyes, and in one hair of thy neck. (My dear spouess, thou hast stolen my heart; yea, thou hast stolen my heart, with one look from thine eyes, and with one jewel of thy necklace.)

10 My sister spouess, thy loves *be* full fair; thy loves *be* fairer than wine, and the odour of thy clothes *is* above all sweet smelling ointments. (My dear spouess, thy love *is* so beautiful; thy love *is* more beautiful than wine, and the aroma of thy clothes *smelleth* more sweet than any

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perfume.)

11 Spousess, thy lips *be* (as) an honeycomb dropping; honey and milk *be* under thy tongue, and the odour of thy clothes *is* as the odour of incense. (Spousess, thy lips *be* like a dripping honeycomb; honey and milk *be* upon thy tongue, and the aroma of thy clothes *is* like the aroma of Lebanon.)

12 My sister spousess, a garden closed (al)together; a garden closed (al)together, a well asealed. (My dear spousess *is* a garden altogether enclosed, *yea, a secret garden*; a garden altogether enclosed, and a sealed well.)

13 Thy sendings-out *be* (a) paradise of (the) apples of Punic, with the fruits of apples, cypress trees, with nard; (Thy out-sendings, *or thy shoots, be* like a garden of the apple trees of Punic, with its fruits of apples, and cypress trees, with spikenard; Thy cheeks *be* like an orchard of pomegranate trees, with its fruits, and cypress trees, with spikenard;)

14 nard and saffron, *an herb called* fistula, and canel, with all [the] trees of the Lebanon, myrrh, and aloes, with all the best, *either (the) first*, ointments. (spikenard and saffron, henna, and cinnamon, with all the trees of incense, myrrh, and aloes, with all the best spices, *or the choicest of perfumes*.)

15 A well of (the) gardens, a well of welling, *either quick*, waters, that flow with fierceness from the Lebanon. (The well in the garden *is* a fresh water well, that floweth with fierceness from Lebanon.)

16 Rise thou (up), north *wind*, and come thou, south *wind*; blow thou through my garden, and the sweet smelling ointments thereof shall flow (blow thou through my garden, and its sweet smelling perfumes shall flow forth). My darling, come *he* into his garden, to eat the fruit of his apples.

## CHAPTER 5

1 My sister spousess, come thou into my garden. I have reaped my myrrh, with my sweet smelling spices; I have eaten an honeycomb, with mine honey; I have drunk my wine, with my milk. Friends, eat ye, and drink; and most dear *friends*, be ye filled greatly. (My dear spousess, come thou into my garden. I have gathered my myrrh, and my sweet smelling spices; I have eaten a honeycomb, and my honey; I have drunk my wine, and my milk. Friends, eat ye, and drink; yea, my most dear *friends*, be ye greatly filled.)

2 I sleep, and mine heart waketh. The voice of my darling knocking; my sister, my love, my culver, my

*spousess* unwemmed, open thou to me; for mine head is full of dew, and mine hairs *be* full of [the] drops of nights. (I sleep, and then my heart awakeneth. My darling is knocking, and saying, My dear, my love, my dove, my unblemished *spousess*, open thou the door to me; for my head is drenched with dew, yea, my hair *is* full of the drops, *or the mist*, of the night.)

3 I have unclothed me of my coat; how shall I be clothed therein? I have washed my feet; how shall I defoul them? (I have taken off my coat; shall I now put it on again? I have washed my feet; shall I now defile them again?)

4 My darling put his hand by an hole (of the door); and my womb trembled at the touching thereof.

5 I rose, for to open to my darling; mine hands dropped myrrh, and my fingers *were* full of myrrh most proved. (I rose, to open the door for my darling; my hands dripped with myrrh, yea, my fingers *were* covered with the best myrrh.)

6 I opened the wicket of my door to my darling; and he had bowed away, and had passed forth. My soul was melted, as the darling spake; I sought, and I found not him; I called, and he answered not to me. (And I opened my door for my darling; but he had turned away, yea, he had gone forth. My soul had melted, as my darling had spoken; and now I sought him, but I could not find him; I called to him, but he did not answer me.)

7 The keepers that compassed the city found me; they smote me, and wounded me; the keepers of [the] walls took away my mantle. (But the guards, who went around the city, found me; and they struck me, and wounded me; yea, the guards on the walls took away my cloak.)

8 Ye daughters of Jerusalem, I beseech you by an holy thing, (that) if ye have found my darling, that ye tell to him, that I am sick for love. (Ye daughters of Jerusalem, I plead with you by a thing most holy, that if ye find my darling, that ye tell him, that I am weak, *or that I faint*, because of love.)

9 A! thou fairest of women, of what manner condition is thy darling of the beloved? of what manner condition is thy darling of a darling? for thou hast so besought us by an holy thing. (O! thou most beautiful of women, of what manner condition is thy darling more than any other beloved? of what manner condition is thy darling more than any other darling? for thou hast so besought us by such a holy thing.)

10 My darling *is* white and ruddy; chosen of thousands.

11 His head *is* best gold; his hairs *be* as the boughs of

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palm trees, *and be* black as a crow. (His face *is* smooth and bronzed; his hair *is* like the boughs of the palm trees, *and it is* as black as a crow.)

12 His eyes *be* as culvers on the strands of waters, that be washed in milk, and sit beside [the] fullest rivers. (His eyes *be* like the doves by the streams of water, that be washed with milk, and sit beside the fullest rivers.)

13 His cheeks *be* as gardens of sweet smelling spices, set of ointment makers; his lips *be* (as) lilies, dropping down the best myrrh. (His cheeks *be* like the gardens of sweet smelling spices, ready to be mixed by perfume makers; his lips *be* like lilies, dripping down the best myrrh.)

14 His hands *be* able to turn about, golden, and full of jacinths; his womb is of ivory (his belly is like ivory), adorned with sapphires.

15 His hips *be* pillars of marble, that be founded on foundations of gold; his shapeliness *is* as the Lebanon, *he is* chosen as cedars. (His hips *be* like pillars of marble, that be founded on gold foundations; *he is* shapely like Lebanon/*he is* majestic, like *the mountains of* Lebanon, *he is* chosen, *or favoured*, like the cedars.)

16 His throat *is* most sweet, and *he is* all desirable. Ye daughters of Jerusalem, such is my darling, and this is my friend. (His voice *is* very sweet, and *he is* truly desirable. Ye daughters of Jerusalem, such is my darling, yea, this is my friend.)

## CHAPTER 6

1 Thou fairest of women, whither went [away] thy darling? whither bowed [down] thy darling? and we shall seek him with thee. (O most beautiful of women, where did thy darling go? where did thy darling lie down? yea, we shall seek him with thee.)

2 My darling went down into his orchard, to the garden of sweet smelling spices, that he be fed there in [the] orchards, and gather lilies.

3 I to my darling; and my darling, that is fed among the lilies, *be* to me. (I *am* for my darling; and my darling, he who is fed among the lilies, *is* for me.)

4 My love, thou art fair, sweet and shapely as Jerusalem, *thou art* fearedful as the battle array of hosts set in good order. (My love, thou art as beautiful as Tirzah, and as lovely as Jerusalem, and *thou art* as awesome as the battle array of armies set in good order.)

5 Turn away thine eyes from me, for they made me to flee away; thine hairs *be* as the flocks of goats, that appeared from Gilead (thy hair *is* like the flocks of goats,

that appeared from Gilead).

6 Thy teeth *be* as a flock of sheep, that went up from [the] washing; all *be* with double lambs, *either twins*, and no barren there is among them. (Thy teeth *be* like a flock of sheep, that went up from the washing; all of them *be* with double lambs, *or with twins*, and there is no barren among them.)

7 As the rind of a pomegranate, so *be* thy cheeks, without thy privates. (Like the rind of a pomegranate, so *be* thy cheeks, behind thy veil.)

8 Sixty be queens, and eighty be secondary wives; and of young damsels is none number. (There be sixty queens, and eighty concubines, and of young women, *or of maidens*, there is no number.)

9 One is my culver, my perfect *spouess*, one is to her mother, and *is* the chosen of her mother; the daughters of Zion saw her, and preached *her* most blessed; queens, and secondary wives, praised her. (But only one is my dove, my perfect *spouess*, the only *daughter* of her mother, yea, the chosen of her mother; the daughters of Zion saw her, and proclaimed *her* most blessed; queens, and concubines, praised her.)

10 Who is this, that goeth forth, as the morrowtide rising, fair as the moon, chosen as the sun, fearedful as the battle array of hosts set in good order? (Who is this, who goeth forth, like daybreak, beautiful as the moon, chosen as the sun, as awesome as the battle array of armies set in good order?)

11 I came down into mine orchard, to see the apples of (the) great valleys, and to behold, if vineries had flowered (and to see, if the vines had flowered), and if the pomegranate trees had burgeoned.

12 I knew not; my soul troubled me, for the chariots of Amminadib. (But I knew not anything for sure; and my soul troubled me, like the chariots of Amminadib.)

13 Turn again, turn again, thou Shulamite; turn again, turn again, that we behold thee. What shalt thou see in the Shulamite, but companies of hosts? (Return, yea, return, O Shulamite; return, yea, return, so that we can see thee. How all of thee love to behold the Shulamite, as she danceth before thee!)

## CHAPTER 7

1 Daughter of the prince, thy goings be full fair in shoes; the jointures of thy hips *be* as brooches, that be made by the hand of a craftsman. (Daughter of the prince, thy feet be so beautiful in thy shoes; the curves of thy hips *be* like brooches, that be made by the hand of a

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craftsman.)

2 Thy navel *is* as a round cup, and well-formed, that hath never need to drinks; thy womb *is* as an heap of wheat, beset about with lilies. (Thy navel *is* like a round cup, that is well-formed, and never lacketh for drinks; thy belly *is* like a heap of wheat, surrounded by lilies.)

3 Thy two teats *be* as two kids, twins of a capret. (Thy two breasts *be* like two kids, *or two fawns*, yea, the twins of a gazelle.)

4 Thy neck *is* as a tower of ivory; thine eyes *be* as [the] cisterns in Heshbon, that *be* in the gate of the daughter of [the] multitude; thy nose *is* as the tower of Lebanon, that beholdeth against Damascus. (Thy neck *is* like an ivory tower; thine eyes *be* like the pools in Heshbon, that *be* at the gate of Bathrabbim; thy nose *is* like the tower of Lebanon, that looketh toward Damascus.)

5 Thine head *is* as Carmel; and the hairs of thine head *be* as the king's purple, joined to troughs. (Thy head *is* held high like Mount Carmel; and the hair on thy head *is* like the king's purple, braided with ribbons.)

6 Most dear spouses, thou art full fair, and full shapely in delights. (My dear spouses, thou art so beautiful, and so shapely, and so delightfully formed.)

7 Thy stature is likened to a palm tree, and thy teats to clusters of grapes. (Thy stature *is* like a palm tree/Thou art stately like a palm tree, and thy breasts *be* like clusters of grapes.)

8 I said, I shall go up into a palm tree, and I shall take the fruits thereof. And thy teats shall *be* as the clusters of grapes of a vinery; and the odour of thy mouth as the odour of pomegranates; (I said, I shall go up into the palm tree, and I shall take of its fruits. And thy breasts *be* like clusters of grapes in a vineyard; and the aroma of thy breath *is* like the aroma of pomegranates;)

9 thy throat *shall be* as best wine. Worthy to my darling for to drink, and to his lips and teeth to chew. (yea, thy breath *is* like the best wine. Worthy for thy darling to drink, and flowing over my lips and teeth.)

10 I *shall cleave by love* to my darling, and his turning *shall be* to me.

11 Come thou, my darling, go we out into the field; dwell we together in towns. (Come thou, my darling, let us go out into the fields, *or into the countryside*; and then stay we together in the towns.)

12 Rise we early to the vinery; see we, if the vine hath flowered, if the flowers bring forth fruit, if [the] pomegranates have flowered; there I shall give to thee

my loves. (Rise we up early, and let us go to the vineyard; and we shall see, if the vine hath flowered, and if the flowers have brought forth fruit, and if the pomegranate trees have flowered; and there I shall give my love to thee.)

13 [The] Mandrakes have given their odour in our gates; my darling, I have kept to thee all apples, new and eld. (The mandrakes have given their aroma at our gates; my darling, I have kept all the fruits for thee, new and old.)

## CHAPTER 8

1 Who may grant to me thee, my brother, sucking the teats of my mother, that I find thee alone withoutforth, and that I kiss thee, and no man despise me then? (Who shall grant me, that thou *be* my brother, yea, he who hath sucked at my mother's breasts, so that if I find thee alone outside, and I kiss thee, no man shall despise me?)

2 I shall take thee, and I shall lead *thee* into the house of my mother, and into the (bed-)closet of my mother; there thou shalt teach me, and I shall give to thee drink of wine made sweet, and of the must of my pomegranates (yea, my pomegranate wine).

3 His left hand *shall be* under mine head, and his right hand shall embrace me.

4 Ye daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you greatly, that ye raise not, neither make the dearworthy spouses to awake, till she will. (Ye daughters of Jerusalem, I strongly command you, that ye raise not up, nor awaken the dearworthy spouses, until she desireth it.)

5 Who is this *spouses*, that goeth up from desert, and floweth in delights, and resteth on her darling? I raised thee (up) under a pomegranate tree; there thy mother was corrupted, there thy mother was defouled. (Who is this *spouses*, who cometh in from the desert, and who floweth in delights, and then resteth on her darling? I raised thee up under a pomegranate tree; there thy mother gave birth to thee, yea, there thy mother was in labour.)

6 Set thou me as a signet on thine heart, as a signet on thine arm; for love is strong as death, envy *is* hard as hell; the lamps thereof *be* [the] lamps of fire, and of flames. (Put thou me like a seal, *or a lock*, upon thy heart, yea, like a seal, *or a lock*, upon thy arm; for love is as strong as death, and envy *is* as hard as the grave; its lamps *be* lamps of fire, and *lamps* of flames.)

7 Many waters *be* not able to quench charity, neither floods shall oppress it. Though a man give all the chattel

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of his house for love, he shall despise, *or reckon it*, as nought. (A great many waters be not able to drown love, nor can the floods sweep it away. And even though a man might give all the possessions of his house for love, he shall reckon it as but nothing, *or of no consequence*.)

8 Our sister *is* little, and hath no teats; what shall we do to our sister, in the day when she shall be spoken to? (Our sister *is* little, *or young*, and she hath no breasts; what shall we do for our sister, on the day when she shall be spoken for?)

9 If it is a wall, build we thereon silveren towers; if it is a door, join we together with boards of cedar. (If she is a wall, then we shall build silver towers upon her; if she is a door, then we shall altogether enclose her with cedar boards.)

10 I *am* a wall, and my teats *be* as a tower; since I am made as finding peace before him. (I *am* a wall, and my breasts *be* like towers; and so I am able to find peace with him/and so I am able to bring him peace.)

11 A vinery was to the peaceable; in that *city*, that hath peoples, he betook it to keepers; a man bringeth a thousand pieces of silver for the fruit thereof. (Solomon had a vineyard in Baalhamon; he rented it out to guardians, *or to farmers*; and each of them bringeth a thousand pieces of silver to him *as payment* for its fruit.)

12 The vinery is before me; a thousand *be* of thee peaceable, and two hundred to them that keep the fruits thereof. (My own vineyard is before me; so let the thousand *pieces of silver be* for thee, O Solomon, and two hundred more for those who guard thy fruits.)

13 Friends harken (to) thee, that dwellest in orchards; make thou me to hear thy voice. (Friends listen to thee, thou who livest in the garden; let me also hear thy voice.)

14 My darling, fly thou; be thou made like a capret, and a calf of harts, on the hills of sweet smelling spices. (My darling, fly thou; be thou made like a gazelle, or a hart calf, on the hills of sweet smelling spices.) ☆