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At first glance, *Megillat Shir Hashirim*, Song of Songs, is a poignant love song between the *dod*, 'lover,' and his *re'aya*, 'beloved,' relating a lengthy dialogue between the couple. However, if it was only a simple love song, it would not be part of *Tanakh*. The canonization of the book indicates that it contains a much deeper meaning; it expresses a dialogue between *Hashem* and His people that spans history.

The *Mishna* records a debate among the Sages regarding whether or not *Megillat Shir Hashirim* should be included in the corpus of *Tanakh*. Rabbi Akiva declares that is it not only worthy of being part of the canon; it is actually holier than any of the other books in the Bible. In his words, "All the writings are holy, but *Shir Hashirim* is the holy of holies." What makes *Megillat Shir Hashirim* so special is precisely the fact that it speaks of the relationship and love between the children of Israel and the Creator.

According to the interpretation of the classic commentaries, *Megillat Shir Hashirim* alludes to the Exodus, the time the Israelites spent traveling in the desert, the first and second Temple periods and the wandering of the Jews throughout the exile. The high points of history are remembered longingly, both by God and by His people in exile, distanced from their homeland and their connection with *Hashem*. Traditionally, *Megillat Shir Hashirim* is read publicly during *Pesach*, since that is a time when God's love for the people of Israel was made manifest with outright miracles, and when the relationship between *Hashem* and His people began.

In chronicling the history of the relationship between God and the children of Israel, *Megillat Shir Hashirim* is replete with imagery taken from the breathtaking landscape of *Eretz Yisrael*. The metaphors are based on its natural phenomena, its plants and wildlife. References are made to the gazelle and the deer, the horse, doves, ravens, pigeons, foxes, lions and leopards. Specific places are mentioned, such as *Ein Gedi*, the mountains of *Gilad*, *Snir* and *Chermon*, as well as other hills, deserts, streams and vineyards – all of which are integral parts of Israel's landscape. Furthermore, there are twenty-three types of plants

mentioned in *Shir Hashirim*, including various spices, roses, nuts, apples and the classic “milk and honey” for which the land is well-known. Additionally, most of the seven species unique to Israel are mentioned in *Shir Hashirim*. Our commentary highlights the similarities between some of these fruits and the people of Israel.

While *Shir Hashirim* is mainly the dialogue between the lover (*Hashem*), and His beloved people, at times the book turns to “the daughters of *Yerushalayim*,” which is understood as a reference to the other nations of the world. These nations are called “daughters of *Yerushalayim*” because eventually, all of mankind will come to recognize Jerusalem as the center of the world.

The book ends with a plea from the female: “Hurry, my beloved, swift as a gazelle or a young stag, to the hills of spices!” Though by the conclusion of *Megillat Shir Hashirim*, the lovers have not yet managed to fulfill their desire to reunite, they continue to yearn for the fulfillment of this dream. Understood on a deeper level, this expresses the cry of the Jewish people, asking that *Hashem* speedily redeem them from their lengthy exile, and bring them back to *Eretz Yisrael* and *Yerushalayim*.

שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים Chapter 1 Song of Songs

- א** 1 The song of songs, which is Solomon's.
שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים, אֲשֶׁר לְשֹׁלֹמֹה.
- ב** 2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth--for thy love is better than wine.
יִשָּׁקֵנִי מִנִּשְׁקֹת פִּיהוּ, כִּי-טוֹבִים דְּדִידְךָ מִיַּיִן.
- ג** 3 Thine ointments have a goodly fragrance; thy name is as ointment poured forth; therefore do the maidens love thee.
לְרִיחַ שְׁמֹנֶיךָ טוֹבִים, שְׁמוֹן תּוֹרֵק שְׁמֶךָ; עַל-כֵּן, עֲלָמוֹת אֶהְבוּךָ.
- ד** 4 Draw me, we will run after thee; the king hath brought me into his chambers; we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will find thy love more fragrant than wine! sincerely do they love thee. {P}
מִשְׁכְּנִי, אַחֲרֶיךָ נָרוּצָה; הֵבִיאֲנִי הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּחֻדְרָיו, נִגִּילָה וְנִשְׁמָחָה בָּךְ--נִזְכִּירָה דְּדִידְךָ מִיַּיִן, מֵיִשְׁרִים אֶהְבוּךָ. {פ}
- ה** 5 'I am black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon.
שְׁחֹרָה אָנִי וְנֹאמָה, בָּנוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם; כְּאֹהֲלֵי קֶדָר, כִּירִיעוֹת שֹׁלֹמֹה.
- ו** 6 Look not upon me, that I am swarthy, that the sun hath tanned me; my mother's sons were incensed against me, they made me keeper of the vineyards; but mine own vineyard have I not kept.
אַל-תִּרְאוּנִי שְׁאֲנִי שְׁחֹרְחֹרֶת, שֶׁשָּׁזְפֹתָנִי הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ; בְּנֵי אִמִּי נִחְרוּ-בִּי, שְׁמֵנִי נִטְרָה אֶת-הַכֶּרְמִים--כֶּרְמִי שְׁלִי, לֹא נִטַּרְתִּי.
- ז** 7 Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest thy flock to rest at noon; for why should I be as one that veileth herself beside the flocks of thy companions?
הַגִּידָה לִּי, שְׁאֵהְבָה נַפְשִׁי, אֵיכָה תִרְעָה, אֵיכָה תִרְבִּיץ בַּצֹּהֲרִים; שְׁלָמָה אֵהְיָה כְּעֹטָיָה, עַל עֲדָרֵי חֲבֵרֶיךָ.
- ח** 8 If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock and feed thy kids, beside the shepherds' tents. {P}
אִם-לֹא תִדְעִי לָךְ, הֵיכָה בְּנָשִׁים; צְאִי-לָךְ בְּעֶקְבֵי הַצֹּאן, וִרְעִי אֶת-גְּדִיתֶיךָ, עַל, מִשְׁכְּנוֹת הָרֹעִים. {פ}

- ט** לְסִסְתִּי בִּרְכָבִי פָרְעָה, דְּמִיתִיךָ רַעֲיָתִי. **9** I have compared thee, O my love, to a steed in Pharaoh's chariots.
- י** נָאוּוּ לְחִינֶיךָ בִּתְרִים, צִנְאֵרְךָ בַּחֲרוּזִים. **10** Thy cheeks are comely with circlets, thy neck with beads.
- יא** תוֹרֵי זָהָב נַעֲשֶׂה-לְךָ, עִם נִקְדּוֹת הַכֶּסֶף. **11** We will make thee circlets of gold with studs of silver.
- יב** עַד-שְׁהַמָּלְךָ, בְּמִסְבּוֹ, נִרְדִּי, נִתֵּן רִיחוֹ. **12** While the king sat at his table, my spikenard sent forth its fragrance.
- יג** צָרוּר הַמֶּרְדּוּדִי לִי, בֵּין שְׁדֵי יָלִין. **13** My beloved is unto me as a bag of myrrh, that lieth betwixt my breasts.
- יד** אֶשְׁכַּל הַכֶּפֶר דּוּדִי לִי, בְּכַרְמֵי עֵין גִּדִּי. **14** My beloved is unto me as a cluster of henna in the vineyards of En-gedi. {S}
- טו** הִנֵּךְ יָפָה רַעֲיָתִי, הִנֵּךְ יָפָה עֵינֶיךָ יוֹנִים. **15** Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thine eyes are as doves.
- טז** הִנֵּךְ יָפָה דּוּדִי אֶף נָעִים, אֶף-עַרְשֵׁנוּ רַעֲנָנָה. **16** Behold, thou art fair, my beloved, yea, pleasant; also our couch is leafy.
- יז** קִרּוֹת בֵּיתֵינוּ אֲרָזִים, רַחֲיִטָנוּ (רַהֲיִטָנוּ) בְּרוֹתִים. **17** The beams of our houses are cedars, and our panels are cypresses.

שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים Chapter 2

- א** 1 I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.
אֲנִי חֲבַצֶּלֶת הַשָּׂרוֹן, שׁוֹשַׁנַּת הָעֲמָקִים.
- ב** 2 As a lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.
כְּשׁוֹשַׁנָּה בֵּין הַחוֹחִים, כֵּן רַעֲיָתִי בֵּין הַבָּנוֹת.
- ג** 3 As an apple-tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. Under its shadow I delighted to sit, and its fruit was sweet to my taste.
כְּתַפּוּחַ בְּעֵצֵי הַיַּעַר, כֵּן דּוֹדִי בֵּין הַבָּנִים;
בְּצִלּוֹ חִמַּדְתִּי וַיִּשְׂבַּתִּי, וּפְרִיו מְתוֹק לְחִכִּי.
- ד** 4 He hath brought me to the banqueting-house, and his banner over me is love.
הֵבִיאָנִי אֶל-בַּיִת הַיַּיִן, וְדָגְלוֹ עָלַי אֲהָבָה.
- ה** 5 'Stay ye me with dainties, refresh me with apples; for I am love-sick.'
ה סִמְכוּנִי, בְּאַשְׁשִׁישׁוֹת--רַפְּדוּנִי, בַּתְּפוּחִים;
כִּי-חֹלֶת אֲהָבָה, אָנִי.
- ו** 6 Let his left hand be under my head, and his right hand embrace me.
ו שְׂמְאָלוֹ תַּחַת לְרֹאשִׁי, וַיְמִינוֹ תַּחְבֵּקֵנִי.
- ז** 7 'I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles, and by the hinds of the field, that ye awaken not, nor stir up love, until it please.' {S}
ז הִשְׁבַּעְתִּי אֶתְכֶם בָּנוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם, בְּצִבְאוֹת,
או, בְּאִילֹת הַשָּׂדֶה: אִם-תַּעֲרִירוּ וְאִם-תַּעֲזֹרוּ
אֶת-הָאֲהָבָה, עַד שֶׁתִּחַפֵּץ. {ס}
- ח** 8 Hark! my beloved! behold, he cometh, leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills.
ח קוֹל דּוֹדִי, הִנֵּה-זֶה בָּא; מְדַלֵּג, עַל-הַהָרִים-
מְקַפֵּץ, עַל-הַגְּבְעוֹת.
- ט** 9 My beloved is like a gazelle or a young hart; behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh in through the windows, he peereth through the lattice.
ט דּוֹמָה דּוֹדִי לְצִבִּי, או לְעֹפֶר הָאֵילִים;
הִנֵּה-זֶה עוֹמֵד, אַחֵר כְּתִלָּנוּ--מִשְׁגִּיחַ
מִן-הַחֲלֹנוֹת, מִצִּיץ מִן-הַחֲרָכִים.
- י** 10 My beloved spoke, and said unto me: 'Rise up, my
י עָנָה דּוֹדִי, וְאָמַר לִי: קוּמִי לָךְ רַעֲיָתִי יָפְתִי,

וּלְכִי-לָךְ. love, my fair one, and come away.

יא כִּי-הִנֵּה הַסֶּתִּי, עָבַר ; הַגֶּשֶׁם, חָלַף הַלֵּךְ לוֹ. **11** For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;

יב הַנִּצְּנִים נִרְאוּ בָאָרֶץ, עֵת הַזְּמִיר הִגִּיעַ ; וְקוֹל הַתּוֹר, נִשְׁמָע בָּאֲרָצוֹ. **12** The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;

יג הַתְּאֵנָה חֲנֻטָּה פִּגְיָהּ, וְהַגִּפְנִים סִמְדָּר נָתְנוּ רִיחַ ; קוּמִי לְכִי (לָךְ) רַעֲיָתִי יָפְתִּי, וּלְכִי-לָךְ. **13** The fig-tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines in blossom give forth their fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away. {S}

יד יוֹנָתִי בְּחֻגֵּי הַסֵּלַע, בְּסִתְּרֵי הַמְּדִרְגָּה, הִרְאִינִי אֶת-מַרְאִיךָ, הַשְּׁמִיעֵנִי אֶת-קוֹלְךָ : כִּי-קוֹלְךָ עָרֵב, וּמַרְאִיךָ נָאוֹה. {ס} **14** O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the covert of the cliff, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.' {S}

טו אֶחָזוּ-לָנוּ, שְׁעָלִים--שְׁעָלִים קִטְנִים, מִחֲבָלִים כְּרֻמִּים ; וּכְרַמֵּינוּ, סִמְדָּר. **15** 'Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vineyards; for our vineyards are in blossom.'

טז דּוֹדִי לִי וְאֲנִי לוֹ, הִרְעָה בְּשׁוֹשַׁנִּים. **16** My beloved is mine, and I am his, that feedeth among the lilies.

יז עַד שְׁיִפּוֹחַ הַיּוֹם, וְנָסוּ הַצִּלָּלִים : סֹב דִּמָּה-לָךְ דּוֹדִי לְצִבִּי, אוֹ לְעֹפֶר הָאֵילִים--עַל-הָרִי בָתָר. {ס} **17** Until the day breathe, and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be thou like a gazelle or a young hart upon the mountains of spices. {S}

שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים Chapter 3

- א** עַל-מִשְׁכְּבִי, בַּלַּיְלוֹת, בִּקְשָׁתִי, אֶת שְׁאֵהְבָה נַפְשִׁי ; בִּקְשָׁתִיו, וְלֹא מָצָאתִיו.
- ב** אֶקוּמָה נָא וְאֶסּוּבָּה בָּעִיר, בִּשְׁוֹקִים וּבְרַחְבוֹת--אֶבְקֶשָּׁה, אֶת שְׁאֵהְבָה נַפְשִׁי ; בִּקְשָׁתִיו, וְלֹא מָצָאתִיו.
- ג** מְצֹאוֹנֵי, הַשְּׁמָרִים, הַסֹּבְבִים, בָּעִיר : אֶת שְׁאֵהְבָה נַפְשִׁי, רְאִיתָם.
- ד** כִּמְעַט, שָׁעַבְרָתִי מֵהֶם, עַד שֶׁמָּצָאתִי, אֶת שְׁאֵהְבָה נַפְשִׁי ; אֶחֱזֹתִיו, וְלֹא אֶרְפְּנוּ-- עַד-שֶׁהֵבִיאתִיו אֶל-בֵּית אִמִּי, וְאֶל-חֹדֶר הַזֶּרֶתִי.
- ה** הַשְּׁבַעְתִּי אֶתְכֶם בָּנוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם, בַּצִּבְאוֹת, אוֹ, בְּאֵילוֹת הַשָּׂדֶה : אִם-תִּעֲרֹו וְאִם-תִּעֲזָרוּ אֶת-הָאֵהְבָה, עַד שֶׁתִּחַפֵּץ. {ס}
- ו** מִי זֹאת, עָלָה מִן-הַמִּדְבָּר, כְּתִימְרוֹת, עֹשֹׂן : מְקַטְרֶת מֵר וּלְבוֹנָה, מִכָּל אֲבֻקַּת רוֹכֵל.
- ז** הִנֵּה, מִטָּתוֹ שְׁלֹשְׁלֹמָה--שְׁשִׁים גִּבּוֹרִים, סָבִיב לָהּ : מְגַבְרֵי, יִשְׂרָאֵל.
- ח** כֻּלָּם אֲחֻזֵּי חֶרֶב, מְלַמְּדֵי מִלְחָמָה ; אִישׁ
- 1** By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth; I sought him, but I found him not.
- 2** 'I will rise now, and go about the city, in the streets and in the broad ways, I will seek him whom my soul loveth.' I sought him, but I found him not.
- 3** The watchmen that go about the city found me: 'Saw ye him whom my soul loveth?'
- 4** Scarce had I passed from them, when I found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go, until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me.
- 5** 'I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles, and by the hinds of the field, that ye awaken not, nor stir up love, until it please.' {S}
- 6** Who is this that cometh up out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant?
- 7** Behold, it is the litter of Solomon; threescore mighty men are about it, of the mighty men of Israel.
- 8** They all handle the sword, and are expert in war; every man hath his sword upon his thigh, because of

חרבו על-ירכו, מפחד בלילות. {ס} dread in the night. {S}

ט אפריון, עשה לו המלך שלמה--מעצי, הלבנון. 9 King Solomon made himself a palanquin of the wood of Lebanon.

י עמודיו, עשה כסף, רפידתו זהב, מרכבו ארגמן; תוכו רצוף אהבה, מבנות ירושלים. 10 He made the pillars thereof of silver, the top thereof of gold, the seat of it of purple, the inside thereof being inlaid with love, from the daughters of Jerusalem.

יא צאנה וראינה בנות ציון, במלך שלמה-- בעטרה, שעטרה-לו אמו ביום חתנתו, וביום, שמחת לבו. {ס} 11 Go forth, O ye daughters of Zion, and gaze upon king Solomon, even upon the crown wherewith his mother hath crowned him in the day of his espousals, and in the day of the gladness of his heart. {S}

Chapter 4 שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים

- א** הִנֵּךְ יָפָה רַעֲיָתִי, הִנֵּךְ יָפָה--עֵינֶיךָ יוֹנִים,
מִבֶּעַד לְצִמְתֶּךָ; שְׁעָרֶךָ כְּעֵדֶר הָעִזִּים, שֹׁגְלָשׁוֹ
מִהָרָה גִלְעָד.
- ב** שְׁנֵיךָ כְּעֵדֶר הַקְּצוּבוֹת, שְׁעָלוּ מִן-הַרְחָצָה:
שְׂכָלָם, מִתְאַיְמוֹת, וְשִׂכְלָה, אִין בָּהֶם.
- ג** כְּחוּט הַשָּׁנִי שִׁפְתוֹתֶיךָ, וּמִדְּבָרֶךָ נְאוּה;
כְּפָלַח הָרִמּוֹן רִקְתֶּךָ, מִבֶּעַד לְצִמְתֶּךָ.
- ד** כְּמִגְדַּל דָּוִיד צֹאֲרֶךְ, בָּנוּי לְתִלְפִיּוֹת; אֶלֶף
הַמָּגֹן תָּלוּי עָלָיו, כָּל שְׁלֹטֵי הַגִּבּוֹרִים.
- ה** שְׁנֵי שָׁדֶיךָ כְּשְׁנֵי עֶפְרַיִם, תְּאוֹמֵי צִבְיָה,
הָרוּעִים, בִּשְׁוֹשָׁנִים.
- ו** עַד שִׁיפּוּחַ הַיּוֹם, וְנָסוּ הַצִּלְלִים--אֵלֶיךָ לִי
אֶל-הַר הַמּוֹר, וְאֶל-גִּבְעַת הַלְּבוֹנָה.
- ז** כֹּלְךָ יָפָה רַעֲיָתִי, וּמוֹם אִין בָּךְ. {ס}
- ח** אֲתִי מִלְּבָנוֹן כָּלָה, אֲתִי מִלְּבָנוֹן תְּבוֹאִי;
תְּשׁוּרֵי מִרְאֵשׁ אֲמָנָה, מִרְאֵשׁ שְׁנִיר וְחֶרְמוֹן,
מִמְעֻנוֹת אֲרִיּוֹת, מִהָרִי נִמְרִים.
- ט** לִבִּבְתְּנִי, אֲחֹתִי כָלָה; לִבִּבְתְּנִי בֶּאֱחָד
- 1** Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair;
thine eyes are as doves behind thy veil; thy hair is as a
flock of goats, that trail down from mount Gilead.
- 2** Thy teeth are like a flock of ewes all shaped alike,
which are come up from the washing; whereof all are
paired, and none faileth among them.
- 3** Thy lips are like a thread of scarlet, and thy mouth is
comely; thy temples are like a pomegranate split open
behind thy veil.
- 4** Thy neck is like the tower of David builded with
turrets, whereon there hang a thousand shields, all the
armour of the mighty men.
- 5** Thy two breasts are like two fawns that are twins of
a gazelle, which feed among the lilies.
- 6** Until the day breathe, and the shadows flee away, I
will get me to the mountain of myrrh, and to the hill of
frankincense.
- 7** Thou art all fair, my love; and there is no spot in
thee. {S}
- 8** Come with me from Lebanon, my bride, with me
from Lebanon; look from the top of Amana, from the
top of Senir and Hermon, from the lions' dens, from
the mountains of the leopards.
- 9** Thou hast ravished my heart, my sister, my bride;

(בְּאַחַת) מֵעֵינֶיךָ, בְּאַחַד עֵנֶק מְצִוְרֶיךָ. thou hast ravished my heart with one of thine eyes, with one bead of thy necklace.

י מה-יָפּוֹ דְדִיךָ, אַחַתִּי כָּלָה; מה-טָבוֹ דְדִיךָ; מִיָּו, וְרִיחַ שְׁמָנֶיךָ מִכָּל-בְּשָׂמִים. 10 How fair is thy love, my sister, my bride! how much better is thy love than wine! and the smell of thine ointments than all manner of spices!

יא נֶפֶת תִּטְפֶּנָּה שְׁפֹתֶיךָ, כָּלָה; דְּבֶשׁ וְחָלָב תַּחַת לְשׁוֹנֶךָ, וְרִיחַ שְׁלֹמֹתֶיךָ כְּרִיחַ לְבָנוֹן. {ס} 11 Thy lips, O my bride, drop honey--honey and milk are under thy tongue; and the smell of thy garments is like the smell of Lebanon. {S}

יב גֵּן נָעוּל, אַחַתִּי כָּלָה; גֵּל נָעוּל, מַעְיָן חָתוּם. 12 A garden shut up is my sister, my bride; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.

יג שְׁלַחֶיךָ פִּרְדָּס רְמוֹנִים, עֵם פְּרִי מִגְדִּים; כִּפְרִים, עֵם-נֶרְדִּים. 13 Thy shoots are a park of pomegranates, with precious fruits; henna with spikenard plants,

יד נֶרְדַּ וְכַרְכֹּם, קָנָה וְקִנְמוֹן, עֵם, כָּל-עֵצִי לְבוֹנָה; מֵר, וְאַהֲלוֹת, עֵם, כָּל-רָאשֵׁי בְשָׂמִים. 14 Spikenard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices.

טו מַעְיָן גְּנִים, בְּאֵר מַיִם חַיִּים; וְנִזְלִים, מִן-לְבָנוֹן. 15 Thou art a fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and flowing streams from Lebanon.

טז עוֹרֵי צָפוֹן וּבֹאֵי תִימָן, הִפִּיחִי גְנִי יְזָלוּ בְשָׁמָיו; יבֹא דוֹדִי לְגִנּוֹ, וַיֹּאכַל פְּרִי מִגְדָּיו. 16 Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his precious fruits.

Chapter 5 שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים

- א** בָּאתִי לְגַנִּי, אֶחָתִי כָּלָה--אֶרְיִיתִי מִוְרֵי
עֵם-בְּשָׁמִי, אֶכְלֹתִי יַעְרֵי עֵם-דְּבָשִׁי שְׁתִּיתִי יַיִנִי
עֵם-חֶלְבִּי; אֶכְלוּ רְעִים, שְׁתוּ וְשָׁכְרוּ דֹדִים.
{ס}
- ב** אֲנִי יֹשְׁנָה, וְלִבִּי עָר; קוֹל דֹּדִי דוֹפֵק,
פֶּתְחִי-לִי אֶחָתִי רְעִיתִי יוֹנְתִי תַמְתִּי--שְׁרָאֲשִׁי
נִמְלֵא-טָל, קִנְצוֹתַי רְסִיסֵי לַיְלָה.
- ג** פָּשַׁטְתִּי, אֶת-כִּתְנֹתַי--אֵיכָכָה, אֶלְבָּשֶׁנָּה;
רַחֲצֵתִי אֶת-רַגְלִי, אֵיכָכָה אֶטְנִפֶם.
- ד** דֹּדִי, שָׁלַח יָדוֹ מִן-הַחֹר, וַיַּעֲי, הֵמוֹ עָלָיו.
- ה** קָמְתִי אֲנִי, לִפְתֹּחַ לְדֹדִי; וַיְדִי נָטְפוּ-מִוֹר,
וַאֲצַבְעֹתַי מִוֹר עֲבָר, עַל, פְּפוֹת הַמִּנְעוּל.
- ו** פֶּתַחְתִּי אֲנִי לְדֹדִי, וְדֹדִי חָמַק עָבָר; נִפְשִׁי,
יָצָאָה בְּדַבְרוֹ--בִּקְשָׁתִיהוּ וְלֹא מָצָאתִיהוּ,
קָרָאתִיו וְלֹא עָנָנִי.
- ז** מְצָאוּנִי הַשֹּׁמְרִים הַסֹּבְבִים בָּעִיר, הַכּוֹנִנִי
פָּצְעוּנִי; נָשְׂאוּ אֶת-רִדִּידִי מֵעָלַי, שְׁמִרִי
הַחַמּוֹת.
- ח** הַשְׁבַּעְתִּי אֶתְכֶם, בָּנוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם:
- 1** I am come into my garden, my sister, my bride; I
have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten
my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine
with my milk. Eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink
abundantly, O beloved. {S}
- 2** I sleep, but my heart waketh; Hark! my beloved
knocketh: 'Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove,
my undefiled; for my head is filled with dew, my
locks with the drops of the night.'
- 3** I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have
washed my feet; how shall I defile them?
- 4** My beloved put in his hand by the hole of the door,
and my heart was moved for him.
- 5** I rose up to open to my beloved; and my hands
dropped with myrrh, and my fingers with flowing
myrrh, upon the handles of the bar.
- 6** I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had turned
away, and was gone. My soul failed me when he
spoke. I sought him, but I could not find him; I called
him, but he gave me no answer.
- 7** The watchmen that go about the city found me, they
smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls
took away my mantle from me.
- 8** 'I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find

- אם-תִּמְצְאוּ, אֶת-דּוֹדִי--מֶה-תִּגִּידוּ לוֹ, שְׁחֹלַת אֲהָבָה אָנִי.** my beloved, what will ye tell him? that I am love-sick.'
- ט מה-דוֹדְךָ מְדוּד, הִיפָּה בְּנָשִׁים : מֶה-דוֹדְךָ מְדוּד, שְׁפָכָה הַשְּׂבַעֲתָנוּ.** 9 'What is thy beloved more than another beloved, O thou fairest among women? What is thy beloved more than another beloved, that thou dost so adjure us?'
- י דוֹדִי צָח וְאָדוּם, דָּגוּל מִרְבָּה.** 10 'My beloved is white and ruddy, pre-eminent above ten thousand.
- יא רֹאשׁוֹ, כָּתָם כָּזָב ; קְנֻצוֹתָיו, תִּלְתָּלִים, שְׁחָרוֹת, כְּעוֹרֵב.** 11 His head is as the most fine gold, his locks are curled, and black as a raven.
- יב עֵינָיו, כִּיּוֹנִים עַל-אַפְיָקִי מֵיָם ; רְחֻצוֹת, בְּחָלָב--יִשְׁבּוֹת, עַל-מִלָּאת.** 12 His eyes are like doves beside the water-brooks; washed with milk, and fitly set.
- יג לִחָיו כְּעֲרוֹגַת הַבָּשָׂם, מְגִדְלוֹת מֶרְקָחִים ; שְׁפָתוֹתָיו, שׁוֹשָׁנִים--נֹטְפוֹת, מֹר עֵבֶר.** 13 His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as banks of sweet herbs; his lips are as lilies, dropping with flowing myrrh.
- יד יָדָיו גְּלִילֵי זָהָב, מְמֻלָּאִים בַּתְּרֻשִׁישׁ ; מַעְיו עֲשֵׂת שֹׁן, מְעֻלָּפֶת סַפִּירִים.** 14 His hands are as rods of gold set with beryl; his body is as polished ivory overlaid with sapphires.
- טו שׁוֹקְיוֹ עַמּוּדֵי שֵׁשׁ, מִיִּסְדִּים עַל-אַדְנֵי-כָזָב ; מְרִאָהוּ, כְּלִבְנוֹן--בְּחֹר, כְּאַרְזִים.** 15 His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold; his aspect is like Lebanon, excellent as the cedars.
- טז חֶכּוֹ, מִמֶּתְקִים, וְכֹל, מִחֲמָדִים ; זֶה דּוֹדִי וְזֶה רֵעִי, בָּנוֹת יְרוּשָׁלָּם.** 16 His mouth is most sweet; yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.'

שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים Chapter 6

- א** אָנָה הִלֵּךְ דּוֹדִי, הִיפָּה בִּנְשִׁים; אָנָה פָּנָה דּוֹדִי, וַיִּבְקֹשְׁנוּ עִמָּךְ. **1** 'Whither is thy beloved gone, O thou fairest among women? Whither hath thy beloved turned him, that we may seek him with thee?'
- ב** דּוֹדִי יָרַד לְגִנוֹ, לַעֲרֻגוֹת הַבָּשָׂם--לְרִעוֹת, בִּגְנִים, וּלְלִקֵּט, שׁוֹשְׁנִים. **2** 'My beloved is gone down into his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies.
- ג** אֲנִי לְדוֹדִי וְדוֹדִי לִי, הָרָעָה בְּשׁוֹשְׁנִים. {ס} **3** I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine, that feedeth among the lilies.' {S}
- ד** יִפָּה אַתָּה רַעֲיָתִי כְּתִרְצָה, נָאוֹה כִּירוּשָׁלַם; אֵימָה, כְּנִדְגָלוֹת. **4** Thou art beautiful, O my love, as Tirzah, comely as Jerusalem, terrible as an army with banners.
- ה** הִסְבֵּי עֵינֶיךָ מִנִּגְדִּי, שֶׁהֵם הִרְהִיבֵנִי; שַׁעְרְךָ כְּעֶדֶר הָעִזִּים, שֶׁגָּלְשׁוּ מִן-הַגִּלְעָד. **5** Turn away thine eyes from me, for they have overcome me. Thy hair is as a flock of goats, that trail down from Gilead.
- ו** שְׁנִיךָ כְּעֶדֶר הָרֹחֲלִים, שֶׁעָלוּ מִן-הֶרְחָצָה; שְׂכָלָם, מִתְאַיְמוֹת, וְשִׂכְלָה, אֵין בָּהֶם. **6** Thy teeth are like a flock of ewes, which are come up from the washing; whereof all are paired, and none faileth among them.
- ז** כְּפֶלַח הָרִמּוֹן רִקְתָּךְ, מִבַּעַד לְצִמְתָּךְ. **7** Thy temples are like a pomegranate split open behind thy veil.
- ח** שְׁשִׁים הֵמָּה מְלָכוֹת, וּשְׁמֹנִים פִּילִגְשִׁים; וְעַלְמוֹת, אֵין מִסְפָּר. **8** There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and maidens without number.
- ט** אַחַת הִיא, יוֹנְתִי תַמְתִּי--אַחַת הִיא לְאִמָּה, בָּרָה הִיא לְיוֹלְדָתָה; רָאוּהָ בָנוֹת וַיִּאֲשְׁרוּהָ, מְלָכוֹת וּפִילִגְשִׁים וַיְהַלְלוּהָ. {ס} **9** My dove, my undefiled, is but one; she is the only one of her mother; she is the choice one of her that bore her. The daughters saw her, and called her happy; yea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her. {S}

- י** מי-זאת הנשקפה, כמו-שחר : יפה כלבנה,
 ברה כחמה--אימה, פנדגלות. {ס}
- יא** אל-גנת אגוז ירדתי, לראות באבי הנחל;
 לראות הפרחה הגפן, הנצו הרמנים.
- יב** לא ידעתי--נפשי שמתני, מרכבות עמי
 נדיב.
- 10** Who is she that looketh forth as the dawn, fair as
 the moon, clear as the sun, terrible as an army with
 banners? {S}
- 11** I went down into the garden of nuts, to look at the
 green plants of the valley, to see whether the vine
 budded, and the pomegranates were in flower.
- 12** Before I was aware, my soul set me upon the
 chariots of my princely people.

שיר השירים Chapter 7

- א** שׁוּבִי שׁוּבִי הַשׁוּלָמִית, שׁוּבִי שׁוּבִי וְנִחֲזֶה-בָּךְ; מַה-תִּחַזְּזוּ, בַּשׁוּלָמִית, כְּמַחֲלֵת, הַמַּחֲנִים.
- 1** Return, return, O Shulammite; Return, return, that we may look upon thee. What will ye see in the Shulammite? As it were a dance of two companies.
- ב** מַה-יָּפּוּ פַעְמִיךָ בִּנְעָלִים, בַּת-נָדִיב; חֲמוּקֵי יָרְכִיךָ--כְּמוֹ חֲלָאִים, מַעֲשֵׂה יָדֵי אָמֹן.
- 2** How beautiful are thy steps in sandals, O prince's daughter! The roundings of thy thighs are like the links of a chain, the work of the hands of a skilled workman.
- ג** שְׁרִירְךָ אֶגֶן הַסֵּהָר, אֶל-יִחְסֹר הַמָּזֶג; בִּטְנְךָ עֲרֵמַת חֲטִים, סוּגָה בְּשׁוֹשַׁנִּים.
- 3** Thy navel is like a round goblet, wherein no mingled wine is wanting; thy belly is like a heap of wheat set about with lilies.
- ד** שְׁנֵי שְׁדֶיךָ כְּשְׁנֵי עֶפְרַיִם, תְּאֵמִי צְבִיָּה.
- 4** Thy two breasts are like two fawns that are twins of a gazelle.
- ה** צִוְאָרְךָ, כְּמִגְדֵּל הַשֵּׁן; עֵינֶיךָ בְּרִכּוֹת בְּחִשְׁבּוֹן, עַל-שַׁעַר בַּת-רַבִּים--אַפֶּךָ כְּמִגְדֵּל הַלְּבָנוֹן, צוֹפָה פָּנֵי דָמָשֶׁק.
- 5** Thy neck is as a tower of ivory; thine eyes as the pools in Heshbon, by the gate of Bath-rabbim; thy nose is like the tower of Lebanon which looketh toward Damascus.
- ו** רֹאשְׁךָ עָלֶיךָ כְּכַרְמֶל, וְדֹלֶת רֹאשְׁךָ כְּאַרְגָּמָן; מָלְךְ, אָסוּר בִּרְהֻטִּים.
- 6** Thy head upon thee is like Carmel, and the hair of thy head like purple; the king is held captive in the tresses thereof.
- ז** מַה-יָּפִית, וּמַה-נְּעִמָּה--אַהֲבָה, בַּתְּעֲנוּגִים.
- 7** How fair and how pleasant art thou, O love, for delights!
- ח** זֹאת קוֹמַתְךָ דְּמִתָּה לְתִמָּר, וְשְׁדֶיךָ לְאַשְׁכְּלוֹת.
- 8** This thy stature is like to a palm-tree, and thy breasts to clusters of grapes.
- ט** אָמַרְתִּי אֶעֱלֶה בְּתִמָּר, אֲחִזָּה בְּסִנְסִנִּי;
- 9** I said: 'I will climb up into the palm-tree, I will take

וַיְהִי־נָא שְׂדֵיךָ כְּאַשְׁכְּלוֹת הַגֶּפֶן, וְרֵיחַ אִפְךָ
כִּתְפוּחִים. hold of the branches thereof; and let thy breasts be as
clusters of the vine, and the smell of thy countenance
like apples;

י וַחֲפֹךְ, כִּיִּין הַטּוֹב הוֹלֵךְ לְדוֹדִי לְמִישָׁרִים;
דוֹבֵב, שִׁפְתֵי יֹשְׁנִים. 10 And the roof of thy mouth like the best wine, that
glideth down smoothly for my beloved, moving
gently the lips of those that are asleep.'

יא אֲנִי לְדוֹדִי, וְעָלִי תִשׁוּקָתוֹ. {ס} 11 I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me. {S}

יב לָכֵה דוֹדִי יֵצֵא הַשָּׂדֶה, נְלִינָה בַּכִּפָּרִים. 12 Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the field; let
us lodge in the villages.

יג נִשְׁכִּימָה, לְכַרְמִים--נִרְאֶה אִם-פָּרְחָה הַגֶּפֶן
פִּתַח הַסִּמְדָּר, הִנְצוּ הָרְמוֹנִים; שֶׁם אֶתֶן
אֶת-דִּדִּי, לָךְ. 13 Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see
whether the vine hath budded, whether the vine-
blossom be opened, and the pomegranates be in
flower; there will I give thee my love.

יד הַדּוֹדָאִים נָתְנוּ-רֵיחַ, וְעַל-פֶּתַחֵינוּ
כָּל-מִגְדִּים--חֲדָשִׁים, גַּם-יֹשְׁנִים; דוֹדִי, צַפְנִתִּי
לָךְ. 14 The mandrakes give forth fragrance, and at our
doors are all manner of precious fruits, new and old,
which I have laid up for thee, O my beloved.

Chapter 8 שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים

- א** מִי יִתְנַךְ כָּאָח לִי, יוֹנֵק שְׁדֵי אִמִּי; אִמְצָאָהּ
בְּחוּץ אֲשָׁקָהּ, גַּם לֹא-יִבְזֹו לִי. **1** Oh that thou wert as my brother, that sucked the
breasts of my mother! When I should find thee
without, I would kiss thee; yea, and none would
despise me.
- ב** אֶנְהַגְדָּהּ, אֲבִיאָהּ אֶל-בֵּית אִמִּי--תִּלְמַדְנִי;
אֲשָׁקָהּ מִיַּיִן הָרֶקֶחַ, מִעֲסִיס רִמְנִי. **2** I would lead thee, and bring thee into my mother's
house, that thou mightest instruct me; I would cause
thee to drink of spiced wine, of the juice of my
pomegranate.
- ג** שְׂמְאֵלוֹ תַּחַת רֹאשִׁי, וְיָמִינוֹ תַּחְבֵּקֵנִי. **3** His left hand should be under my head, and his right
hand should embrace me.
- ד** הִשְׁבַּעְתִּי אֶתְכֶם, בָּנוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם:
מָה-תִּעְרִירוּ וּמָה-תִּתְעַרְרוּ אֶת-הָאֲהָבָה, עַד
שֶׁתַּחֲפֹץ. {ס} **4** 'I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem: Why
should ye awaken, or stir up love, until it please?' {S}
- ה** מִי זֹאת, עָלָה מִן-הַמִּדְבָּר, מִתְרַפֶּקֶת,
עַל-דֹּדָהּ; תַּחַת הַתְּפוּחַ, עוֹרְרֶתִיךָ--שָׁמָּה
חִבְּלָתְךָ אִמָּךְ, שָׁמָּה חִבְּלָה יִלְדָתְךָ. **5** Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness,
leaning upon her beloved? Under the apple-tree I
awakened thee; there thy mother was in travail with
thee; there was she in travail and brought thee forth.
- ו** שִׁימֵנִי כַחוֹתֶם עַל-לִבֶּךָ, כַחוֹתֶם עַל-זְרוּעֶךָ--
כִּי-עֲזָה כַמּוֹת אֲהָבָה, קָשָׁה כְּשֹׂאֹל קִנְיָה:
רֶשְׁפִּיהָ--רֶשֶׁפִּי, אֵשׁ שְׁלֵהֶבֶתָּהּ. **6** Set me as a seal upon thy heart, as a seal upon thine
arm; for love is strong as death, jealousy is cruel as
the grave; the flashes thereof are flashes of fire, a very
flame of the LORD.
- ז** מַיִם רַבִּים, לֹא יוֹכְלוּ לִכְבּוֹת אֶת-הָאֲהָבָה,
וְנִהְרֹת, לֹא יִשְׁטְפוּהָ; אִם-יִתֵּן אִישׁ
עַד **7** Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the
floods drown it; if a man would give all the substance
of his house for love, he would utterly be
contemned. {S}

אֶת-כָּל-הוֹן בֵּיתוֹ, בְּאַהֲבָה--בּוֹז, יְבוֹזוּ לוֹ.
{ס}

ח אָחוֹת לָנוּ קִטְנָה, וְשָׁדִים אֵין לָהּ;
מִה-נַעֲשֶׂה לְאַחֲתָנוּ, בַּיּוֹם שֶׁיִּדְבַּר-בָּהּ. **8** We have a little sister, and she hath no breasts; what shall we do for our sister in the day when she shall be spoken for?

ט אִם-חוֹמָה הִיא, נִבְנֶה עָלֶיהָ טִירַת כָּסֶף;
וְאִם-דֶּלֶת הִיא, נָצוּר עָלֶיהָ לֹחַ אֲרָז. **9** If she be a wall, we will build upon her a turret of silver; and if she be a door, we will enclose her with boards of cedar.

י אֲנִי חוֹמָה, וְשָׁדַי כַּמִּגְדָּלוֹת; אִזְ הָיִיתִי
בְּעֵינָיו, כַּמוֹצֵאת שָׁלוֹם. {פ} **10** I am a wall, and my breasts like the towers thereof; then was I in his eyes as one that found peace. {P}

יא כָּרֶם הָיָה לְשַׁלְמָה בְּבַעַל הָמוֹן, נָתַן
אֶת-הַכָּרֶם לְנֹטְרִים: אִישׁ יָבֹא בְּכַרְיוֹ, אֶלֶף
כֶּסֶף. **11** Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon; he gave over the vineyard unto keepers; every one for the fruit thereof brought in a thousand pieces of silver.

יב כָּרְמִי שְׁלִי, לִפְנֵי; הָאֶלֶף לְךָ שְׁלָמָה,
וּמֵאֲתָיִם לְנֹטְרִים אֶת-פְּרִיו. **12** My vineyard, which is mine, is before me; thou, O Solomon, shalt have the thousand, and those that keep the fruit thereof two hundred.

יג הַיּוֹשֶׁבֶת בַּגִּנִּים, חֲבֵרִים מִקְשִׁיבִים לְקוֹלְךָ-
הַשְּׁמִיעֵנִי. **13** Thou that dwellest in the gardens, the companions hearken for thy voice: 'Cause me to hear it.'

יד בָּרַח דּוֹדִי, וּדְמָה-לְךָ לְצִבִּי אוֹ לְעֹפֶר
הָאֵילִים--עַל, הָרִי בְּשָׂמִים. {ש} **14** Make haste, my beloved, and be thou like to a gazelle or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices. {P}