

SHIR HASHIRIM

1 Shir HaShirim, which is Sh'lomo's

|2| Let him kiss me with the neshikot (kisses) of his mouth; for better is dodecha (thy love) than yayin (wine).

|3| Tovim is the fragrance of thy shmanim (ointments); thy shem (name) is like shemen (ointment) poured forth; therefore do the alamot love thee [*alamot, young unmarried virgins; pl of almah virgin; see Shir HaShirim 6:8; Yeshayah 7:14; Bereshis 24:43; Shemot 2:8; Mishlei 30:19, where the word has this explicit or implicit meaning throughout the Tanakh; see page vii*].

|4| Draw me; so will we run after thee; the Melech hath brought me into his chadarim (chambers); we will be glad and rejoice in thee; we will extol dodecha (thy love) more than yayin; uprightly have they loved thee.

|5| Shechorah (black, dark, sun-blackened) am I, yet lovely, O ye banot Yerushalayim, like the oholim (tents) of Kedar, like the curtains of Sh'lomo.

|6| Let your eyes burn not into me because I am black, because the shemesh hath burned its eyes into me; bnei immi (my step-brothers) were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the kramim (vineyards); but mine own kerem (vineyard) have I not kept.

|7| O tell me, thou whom my nefesh loveth, where feedest thou? Where makest thou thy flock to lie down at noon? For why should I be as one who veils herself among the edrei chaverecha (the flocks of thy chaverim, fellow companions)?

|8| If thou know not, O thou fairest among nashim, go thy

way forth by the footprints of the tzon, and feed thy young goats beside the mishkenot haro'im (the tents of the shepherds).

|9| O my love, to a susah (mare) among the chariots of Pharaoh do I compare thee.

|10| Thy cheeks are lovely with ornaments, thy tzavar (neck) with necklaces.

|11| Ornaments of zahav will we make for thee, studded with kesef.

|12| While the Melech is at his table, my spikenard perfume has yielded its fragrance.

|13| Dodi (my beloved) is to me a sachet of myrrh that lieth in my bosom.

|14| Dodi (my beloved) is to me as a cluster of henna blooms in the kramim (vineyards) of Ein-Gedi.

|15| See, thou art yafeh (fair), my love; see, thou art fair; thine eynayim are yonim (doves).

|16| See, thou art yafeh (handsome), dodi (my beloved), yea, na'im (pleasing); also our couch is verdant.

|17| The beams of our bais are cedar, and our rafters are cypress.

2 I am the rose of Sharon, and the shoshan (lily) of the valleys.

|2| As the shoshan (lily) among thorns, so is my love among the banot.

|3| As the tapuach (apple tree) among the trees of the wood, so is dodi (my beloved) among the banim. Betzilloh (in his shade, shadow) chimmadti (I desire [*see Shir HaShirim 5:16*]), and his p'ri (fruit) is sweet to my taste.

|4| He brought me to the Bais HaYayin, and his degel (standard, banner, flag) over me is ahavah.

|5| Sustain me with cakes of raisins, comfort me with apples: ki cholat ahavah ani (for I am faint with ahavah, lovesick).

|6| His left hand is under my rosh, and his right hand doth embrace me.

|7| I charge you, O ye banot Yerushalayim, by the gazelles, and by the deer of the sadeh, that ye arouse nor awake HaAhavah till it pleases [*i.e., until its own time—see 3:5; 8:4*].

|8| Kol dodi (the voice of my beloved)! Hinei, he cometh leaping upon the harim, bounding over the hills.

|9| Dodi (my beloved) is like a gazelle or a young deer; hinei, he standeth behind our Kotel (Wall); he looketh forth at the chalonot (windows), peering through the lattices [*Rev 3:20*].

|10| Dodi (my beloved) spoke, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.

|11| For, hinei, the winter is past, the geshem (rain) is over and gone;

|12| The flowers appear on ha'aretz; the time of zemer (song, singing of birds) has come; and the voice of the turtledove is heard in Artzeinu (our Land);

|13| The te'enah (fig tree) putteth forth her early figs, and the vines with the tender grape give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

|14| O my yonah (dove), that art in the clefts of the rock, in the seter (secret place) of the cliff, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is lovely.

|15| Catch the shu'alim (foxes), the shu'alim ketanim (little foxes), that spoil the kramim (vines); for krameinu (our [*blooming*] vines) have tender grapes.