

שיר השירים - Shir Ha-Shirim

attributed to King Solomon

About the Piyut

The Song of Songs, also known as the Song of Solomon, the Canticle of Canticles, or simply Canticles is one of the *megillot* (scrolls) of the *Ketuvim* (the "Writings", the last section of the *Tanakh*. Scripturally, the Song of Songs is unique in its celebration of sexual love. It gives the voices of two lovers, praising each other, yearning for each other. The two are in harmony, each desiring the other and rejoicing in sexual intimacy; the women (or "daughters") of Jerusalem form a chorus to the lovers, functioning as an audience whose participation in the lovers' erotic encounters facilitates the participation of the reader.

In modern Judaism, the Song is read on the Sabbath during the Passover, which marks the beginning of the grain harvest as well as commemorating the Exodus from Egypt. Jewish tradition reads it as an allegory of the relationship between God and Israel.

Hebrew Text

Shir ha-Shirim asher li-Shlomo

שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים אֲשֶׁר לְשִׁלְמֹה:

Yishakeni minshikot pihu ki tovim dodecha mi-yayin

יִשְׁכְּנֵנִי מִנְּשִׁיקוֹת פִּיהוּ כִּי-טוֹבִים דְּדִידְךָ מִיַּיִן:

*L'-reyach sh'manecha tovim shemen turak sh'mecha al ken
alamot ahevucha*

לְרִיחַ שְׁמֶנְךָ טוֹבִים שֶׁמֶן תּוֹרַק שְׁמֶךָ עַל-כֵּן עֲלָמוֹת
אֶהְיֶה:

Mashcheni acharecha narutza hevieni ha-melech chadarav

מָשַׁכְנִי אַחֲרֶיךָ נָרוּצָה הִבִּיאֲנִי הַמֶּלֶךְ חֲדָרָיו

*Nagila v'-nismecha bach nazkira dodecha miyayin
meysharim ahevucha*

נָגִילָה וְנִשְׁמְחָה בְּךָ נִזְכִּירָה דְּדִידְךָ מִיַּיִן מִיִּשְׁרָיִם
אֶהְיֶה:

*Sh'chora ani v'-na'ava b'not Yerushalayim k'-ohaley kedar
keyiriyot Sh'lomo*

שְׁחֹרָה אֲנִי וְנָאָה בְּנוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם כְּאֹהֲלֵי קֶדָר
כִּירִיעוֹת שְׁלֹמֹה:

Al tir'uni she'ani sh'charchoret she-sh'zaftani ha-shemesh

אַל-תִּרְאוּנִי שֶׁאֲנִי שְׁחָרְחֹרֶת שֶׁשִּׁזְפַּתְנִי הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ

*B'nei imi nicharu vi samuni notera et ha-k'ramim karmi
sheli lo natarti*

בְּנֵי אִמִּי נִחְרוּ-בִּי שֶׁמְנִי נִטְרָה אֶת-הַכְּרָמִים כְּרָמִי
שֶׁלִּי לֹא נָטַרְתִּי:

*Hagida li she-ahava nafshi eycha tir'eh eycha tarbitz ba-
tzoharayim shalama eh'yeh k'-ot'ya al ad'rey chaverecha*

הַגִּידָה לִּי שֶׁאֲהַבָּה נַפְשִׁי אִיכָּה תִרְעָה אִיכָּה תִרְבִּיץ
בַּצְּהָרִים שְׁלָמָה אֶהְיֶה כְּעֵטֶיָּה עַל עֲדָרֵי חֲבֵרֶיךָ:

*Im lo tid'i lach ha-yafa ba-nashim tz'i lach b'ikvey ha-tzon
u'-r'i et g'diyotayich al mishkenot ha-roim*

אִם-לֹא תִדְעִי לָךְ הִיפָּה בְּנָשִׁים צְאִי-לָךְ בְּעֻקְבֵּי
הַצֹּאן וְרַעֲי אֶת-גְּדִיֹתֶיךָ עַל מִשְׁכְּנוֹת הָרָעִים:

L'-susati b'-richvey Par'o dimitich ra'ayati

לְסֻסָּתִי בְּרֻכְבִּי פָרְעָה דְּמִיתִיךָ רַעֲיָתִי:

Na'avu l'chayayich ba-torim tzavarech ba-charuzim

נָאֻנוּ לְחַיִּיךָ בַּתָּרִים צֹאנֶיךָ בַּחֲרוּזִים:

Torey zahav na'aseh lach im n'kudot kesef

תּוֹרֵי זָהָב נַעֲשֶׂה-לָּךְ עִם נִקְדּוֹת הַכֶּסֶף:

Ad she-ha-melech bi-m'sibo nirdi natan reycho

Tz'ror ha-mor dodi li beyn shaday yalin

Eshkol ha-kofer dodi li b'charmey Eyn Gedi

Hinach yafa ra'ayati eynayich yonim

Hincha yafeh dodi af na'im af arseinu ra'anana

Korot bateinu arazim r'hiteynu b'rotim

עֲד־שֶׁהַמֶּלֶךְ בְּמִסְבּוֹ נִרְדִּי נָתַן רֵיחוֹ:

צִרּוֹר הַמֹּר | דּוֹדִי לִי בֵּין שָׁדַי יָלִין:

אֶשְׁכּוֹל הַכֹּפֶר | דּוֹדִי לִי בְּכַרְמֵי עֵין גֶּדִי:

הִנֵּה יָפָה רַעֲיָתִי הִנֵּה יָפָה עֵינֶיהָ יוֹנִים:

הִנֵּה יָפָה דּוֹדִי אַף נָעִים אַף־עֲרֻשָּׁנוּ רַעֲנָנָה:

קִרּוֹת בְּתֵינֵנוּ אֲרָזִים־רְהִיטָנוּ בְּרוֹתִים:

English Translation

Chapter 1

- 1 The Song of Song, which is Solomon's
- 2 Kiss me, make me drunk with your kisses!
Your sweet loving is better than wine.
- 3 You are fragrant, you are myrrh and aloes.
All the young women want you.
- 4 Take me by the hand, let us run together!
My lover, my king, has brought me into his chambers.
We will laugh, you and I, and count each kiss, better
than wine. Every one of them wants you.
- 5 I am dark, daughters of Jerusalem, and I am beautiful!
Dark as the tents of Kedar, lavish as Solomon's tapestries.
- 6 Do not see me only as dark: the sun has stared at me.
My brothers were angry with me, they made me guard
the vineyards. I have not guarded on my own.
- 7 Tell me, my only love, where do you pasture your sheep,
where will you let them rest in the heat of noon?
Why should I lose my way among the flocks of your
companions?
- 8 Loveliest of women, if you lose your way,
follow in the tracks of the sheep,
graze your goats in the shade of the shepherds' tents.
- 9 My love, I dreamed of you as a mare, my very own,
among Pharaoh's chariots.
- 10 Your cheekbones, those looped earrings,
that string of beads at your throat.
- 11 I will make you golden earrings with silver filigree.
- 12 My king lay down beside me
and my fragrance wakened the night.
- 13 All night between my breasts
my love is a cluster of myrrh
- 14 A sheaf of henna blossoms
in the vineyards of Ein Gedi.
- 15 And you, my beloved, how beautiful you are!
Your eyes are doves.
- 16 You are beautiful, my king, and gentle.
Wherever we lie our bed is green.
- 17 Our roof beams are cedar, our rafters are cypress.

[Recording of the Sephardi Jerusalemite Tradition by Rabbi Hagay Batzri](#)