

## Song of Songs 1:2-14

### Translation with Prosodic Annotations

Song of Songs is love poetry without guilt. The lovers it portrays are at ease but not obsessed with their sexuality. They praise each other's beauty, are overtaken by the desire for intimacy and union, and celebrate their longing for each other.

The young girl takes the lead in the relationship. The song celebrates a love so fierce that nothing but death can match its power. The lovers expect unwavering commitment from each other. As the girl says to the boy, "Set me as a seal upon your heart" (8:6).

The translation below is designed to enhance appreciation of the poetry and prosody of the underlying Hebrew text. The notations provided relate to the operation of the general rule and the length rule (for an introduction to the system of "twos and threes" and the length rule, see "Regularities in Ancient Hebrew Verse: An Overview" at [www.ancienthebrewpoetry.typepad.com](http://www.ancienthebrewpoetry.typepad.com)). Minimal use of capitalization and the lack of punctuation are intentional. Capitalization serves to mark the onset of a strophe or stanza.

#### Symbols

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↯	A strophe made up of three lines
↯	1:(1:1) in structure; the strophe
↯	↯ concludes a strophe; ↯ a stanza; ↯ a section
2:(2:2)	A line consisting of three versets, each of which contains two stress units, the last two of which form a pair
22/48/120 10/4/2	A poetic composition made up of 22 lines, 48 versets, and 120 stress units, with a total of 10 strophes, 4 stanzas, and 2 sections

Further reading: Michael V. Fox, *The Song of Songs and the Ancient Egyptian Love Songs* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1985); idem, "Introduction" and "Notes" to "The Song of Solomon" in *The HarperCollins Study Bible* (gen. ed. Wayne A. Meeks; San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1993) 1000-1010.

## Song of Songs 1:2-14

(Girl)

2	☞	May he kiss me with kisses of his mouth	your love is sweeter than wine	3:3
3	☞	sweet are your oils to inhale	oil of Turaq is your name	3:3
4	☞	that is why girls love you	draw me after you, let us run	<u>3:3</u>
	☞	The king has brought me to his chambers	let us exult and rejoice in you	3:3
	☞	let us praise your prowess in love	more than smooth wine do they love you	<u>2:3</u>
5	☞	Dark am I, but lovely	o daughters of Jerusalem	3:2
	☞	like tents of Kedar	curtains of Salmah	<u>3:3</u>
6	☞	Pay no mind that I am dark	the sun has gazed upon me	3:2
	☞	my mother's sons got hot with me	they made me a keeper of vineyards	(2:2):3
	☞	my own vineyard	I did not keep	<u>2:2</u>

10/21/54

7	☞	Tell me	you whom I love	2:2
	☞	where do you graze	where do you rest at noon	2:3
	☞	why should I be like one dressed in veils	beside your fellows' flocks	<u>3:2</u>

(Boy)

8	☞	If you do not know	most beautiful of women	3:2
	☞	go on out	on the sheep tracks	2:2
	☞	take your kids to graze	beside the shepherds' camps	<u>2:2</u>
9	☞	To a mare among Pharaoh's chariots	I would compare you, my darling	3:2
10	☞	lovely are your cheeks in bangles	your neck in pearls	3:2
11	☞	bangles of gold we will make for you	spangles of silver	2:(2:2)

(Girl)

12	☞	While the king is on his couch	my nard gives forth its scent	2:3
13	☞	a sachet of myrrh is my love to me	between my breasts he lodges	(2:2):3
14	☞	a spray of henna is my love to me	in the vineyards of Ein Gedi	<u>(2:2):3</u>

12/27/62

22/48/116

8/4/2/1