

SONG OF SONGS: EROTIC LOVE POETRY  
TRANSLATIONS OF SONGS

**Key:**

**Blue Bold: Text included in the song.**

Black Text: omitted or not included in the song.

Regular English, Roman Print: From Marcia Falk's Translation: (f): female; (m): male; (u/g): unidentified speaker or group.

*Yellow Highlighted Italic English*, Common Translation according to Leonard Kravitz and Kerry Olitzky, URJ Press.

I. Dodi Li: (Sher, Friedman, Maseng) Song of Songs 2:16, 3:6, 4:9, 4:1, 4:16, 6:3

2:16

דוּדִי לִי וְאֲנִי לוֹ הֲרַעָה בְּשׁוֹשָׁנִים:

(f) **My lover turns to me, I turn to him, who leads his flock to feed among the flowers.**

*My love is mine and I am his, who grazes among the lillies.*

3:6

מִי זֹאת עֹלָה מִן־הַמִּדְבָּר כְּתִימָרוֹת עֶשֶׂן מְקַטְרֶת מִזֶּרֶחַ וּלְבוֹנָה מִכָּל אֲבָקָת רֹכֵל:

(u/g) **Who is this approaching, up from the desert in rare columns of smoke, fragrant with incense,** rare spices and herbs of the wandering merchants?

*Who is coming up from the wilderness, like columns of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all the perfumed powders of the merchant?*

4:9

לְבַבְתָּנִי אֲחֹתִי כִלָּה לְבַבְתָּיִנִי בְּאַחַד [בְּאַחַת] מְעִינֶיךָ בְּאַחַד עֶנְק מְצִוְרֵיךָ:

(m) With one flash of your eyes, **you excite me**, one jewel on your neck stirs my heart, **O my sister, my bride.**

*My sister, my bride, you have captivated my heart with only one glance, with only one link of your necklace.*

4:1

הֲנֵךְ יִפֶּה רַעֲיִתִי הֲנֵךְ יִפֶּה עֵינֶיךָ יוֹנִים מִבְּעַד לְצִמְתֶּךָ שְׂעָרֶךָ כְּעֵדֵר הָעִזִּים שֶׁגִּלְשׁוּ מִהַר גִּלְעָד:

(m) **How fine you are, my love, your eyes like doves'** behind your veil. Your hair -- as black as goats winding down the slopes.

*Oh, you are beautiful, my darling, you are beautiful. Your eyes are like doves behind your veil. Your hair is like a flock of goats bounding down Mount Gilead.*

4:16

עוּרִי צָפוֹן וּבֹאִי תִימָן הֲפִיחִי גַנִּי יִזְלֶנּוּ בְּשִׁמְיוֹ יְבֵא דוּדִי לְגַנִּי וַיֹּאכֵל פְּרִי מִגְדֵּיו:

(f) **Come, north winds and south winds!** Breathe upon my garden, Bear its fragrance to my love, Let him come and share its treasures.

*North wind awake! South wind come! Blow upon my garden. Let the aroma of its spices*

SONG OF SONGS: EROTIC LOVE POETRY  
TRANSLATIONS OF SONGS

*spread. Let my lover come to his garden and eat its delicious fruits!*

6:3

**אָנִי לְדוֹדִי וְדוֹדִי לִי הִרְעָה בְּשׁוֹשַׁנִּים:**

(f) **I turn to meet my love, He'll turn to me, who leads his flock to feed among the flowers.**

*I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine, the one who grazes in the lilies.*

II. Zeh Dodi (Benjie Ellen Schiller): Based on Song of Songs 5:16

5:16

**חִפּוֹ מִמִּתְקִים וְכֵלּוֹ מִחֲמֵדִים זֶה דוֹדִי וְזֶה רַעִי בְּנוֹת יְרוּשָׁלָּיִם:**

(f) May of pleasure - weet to taste his love! **Friend and lover** chosen for my love.

*His mouth is sweet. Everything about him is delightful. This is my beloved. This is my darling, O daughters of Jerusalem.*

Ana Dodi (Charles Davidson): Song of Songs 2:10-12

2:10-12

**עָנָה דוֹדִי וְאָמַר לִי קוּמִי לָךְ רַעִי וְלָכִי לָךְ: 11 כִּי־הִנֵּה הַסֵּתוֹ  
[הַסֵּתוֹ] עָבַר הַגֶּשֶׁם חֲלָף הַלֵּךְ לוֹ: 12 הַנְּצַנִּים נִרְאוּ בְּאֶרֶץ עֵת הַזְּמִיר הִגִּיעַ  
וְקוֹל הַתּוֹר נִשְׁמַע בְּאֶרְצֵנוּ:**

10. (m) **Come with me, my love, come away.**

*My beloved called out to me: "Get up, my darling, my beauty, and come away."*

11. (m) **For the long wet months are past, the rains have fed the earth.**

*Look, the winter is gone, the rainy season is over.*

12. (m) **And left it bright with blossoms. Birds wing in the low sky, dove and songbird singing in the open air above.**

*Flowers can be seen in the land. The time of singing has come. The sound of the Turtledove is heard in our land.*

III. El Ginat Egoz (Tanai): Song of Songs 6:11, 7:12, 13

6:11

**אֶל־גִּנַּת אֶגּוֹז יֵרְדֹתִי לְרֵאוֹת בְּאֵבִי הַנַּחַל לְרֵאוֹת הַפְּרֻחַ הַגָּפֶן הַנִּצּוֹ הַרְמָנִים:**

(m) **Walking through the walnut orchard, looking for the signs of spring: The pomegranates -- have they flowered? The grapevines -- are they blossoming?**

*Down to the nut garden I went, to see the shoots of the date palm, to see if the vines had blossomed, if the pomegranates were in bloom.*

7:12-13

**12 לָכֶּה דוֹדִי נִצָּא הַשָּׂדֶה נְלִינָה בַּפְּפָרִים: 13 נִשְׁכִּימָה לְפָרְמִים נִרְאָה אִם**

SONG OF SONGS: EROTIC LOVE POETRY  
TRANSLATIONS OF SONGS

פְּרַחַה הַגֶּפֶן פִּתַח הַסְּמֹדִר הַנִּצְו הַרְמוֹנִים שָׁם אָתָּן אֶת־דֹּדֵי לָךְ:

12 (f) **Come, love, let us go out to the open fields and spend our night lying where the henna blooms,**

*Come, my beloved, let's go into the field. Let's spend the night amidst the henna plants.*

13 **rising early to leave for the near vineyards where the vines flower, opening tender buds,** and the pomegranate boughs unfold their blossoms. There among blossom and vine I will give you my love...

*Let's wake up in the vineyards. Let's see if the vine has budded, if the blossoms have opened, if the pomegranates are in bloom. There I will give my caresses to you.*

IV. Ana Halach Dodeich (Adema): Song of Songs 6:1-2

6:1-2

אָנָּה הֲלַךְ דּוֹדְךָ הִיפָּה בְּנָשִׁים אָנָּה פָּנָה דּוֹדְךָ וַיִּבְקֶשְׁנוּ עִמָּךְ: ב דּוֹדִי יָכַד לָגֵנוּ  
לְעֲרוּגוֹת הַבָּשָׂם לְרֵעוֹת בְּגָנִים וְלִלְקֹט שׁוֹשַׁנִּים:

1. (u/g) **Beautiful woman, where has your lover gone to? Where has he gone? We'll help you look for him.**

*Where did your lover go, O most beautiful among women, to where has he disappeared? Let's look for him together.*

2. (f) **My love has gone to walk within his garden** -- to feed his sheep and there to gather flowers.

*He has gone down to the garden, to the spice bed, to graze in the gardens and to pick lilies.*

**SONG OF SONGS: EROTIC LOVE POETRY**  
**TRANSLATIONS OF SONGS**

**Example of Dialogue from Marcia Falk Translation**

Poem 18

Traditional Chapter 4:12-5:1

*Italic*: man

Roman: woman

CAPS: unidentified person(s) or group

*Enclosed and hidden, you are a garden,  
A still pool, a fountain.*

*Stretching your limbs, you open —  
A field of pomegranates blooms,*

*Treasured fruit among the blossoms,  
Henna, sweet cane, bark, and saffron,*

*Fragrant woods and succulents,  
The finest spices and perfumes.*

*Living water, you are a fountain,  
A well, a river flowing from the mountains.*

Come, north winds and south winds!  
Breathe upon my garden,

Bear its fragrance to my lover,  
Let him come and share its treasures.

*My bride, my sister, I have come  
To gather spices in my garden,*

*To taste wild honey with my wine,  
Milk and honey with my wine.*

FEAST, DRINK — AND DRINK DEEPLY — LOVERS!