

She Praises His Body

the bride speaks of her husband

This is a wife speaking openly of her husband's body — his head, his eyes, his cheeks, his lips, his hands, his legs, his mouth. The language is deliberately intimate, unashamed and exclusive: it belongs to the two of them alone, inside the covenant that holds them for life.

*My beloved is white and ruddy,
the chiefest among ten thousand.
His head is as the most fine gold,
his locks are bushy, and black as a raven.
His eyes are as the eyes of doves by the rivers of waters,
washed with milk, and fitly set.
His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers:
his lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh.
His hands are as gold rings set with the beryl:
his belly is as bright ivory overlaid with sapphires.
His legs are as pillars of marble,
set upon sockets of fine gold...
His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely.
This is my beloved, and this is my friend,
O daughters of Jerusalem.*

Song of Solomon 5:10-16 (KJV)

She names him beloved and friend in the same breath. Desire and faithfulness are not two loves here, but one — given to one man, by one woman, and to no one else.

AGIFTFORNEWLYWEDS,MARRIED
COUPLES,ANDFUTURECOUPLES

A Garden Enclosed

The Sacred Song of Solomon

A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.

Song of Solomon 4:12

First love belongs to God. Within that covenant, two lovers celebrate.

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