

דוֹדִי לִי וְאֲנִי לוֹ

Do-di' li va-a-ni' lo ,
my beloved (is) mine, and I (am) his ,

הִרְעָה בְּשׂוֹשַׁנִּים .

ha-ro-eh' ba-sho-sha-nim'.
the (one who) shepherds in the lilies.

1. מִי זֹאת עֹלָה מִן הַמִּדְבָּר , מִי זֹאת עֹלָה ,

1. *first attraction between future lovers.*

Mi zot o-lah', min ha-mid-bar', mi zot o-lah',
who (is) this ascending from the desert , who (is) this ascending,

מִקְטֹרֶת מֹר , מֹר וְלִבְנָה , מֹר וְלִבְנָה ?

me-ku-te'-ret mor, mor u-le-vo-nah', mor u-le-vo-nah'?
perfumed (with) myrrh, myrrh and frankincense, myrrh and frankincense

2. לִבְבַּתִּי אַחְתִּי כִּלָּה , לִבְבַּתִּי כִּלָּה .

2. *falling in love*

li-bav-ti'-ni a-cho-ti' cha-lah', li-bav-ti'-ni cha-lah'
"you have stolen my heart", sister my bride ,

3. עוֹרֵי צָפוֹן וּבֹאֵי תִימָן .

3. *come the winds of destiny as they may, the lovers face the future together.*

U'-ri, tsa-fon', u-vo-i' tei-man'.
Wake up, north wind , and come, south wind

NOTES ON LITERAL TRANSLATION

ro-eh': רעה is the same root used in Psalm 23, in "Adonai is my shepherd, Adonai ro-i' (י רעי)"; the same root is used in the word for friend/companion, re-eh' (רעה)

shoshanah, pl. shoshanim - oldest meaning is lily, post-Biblical Hebrew is flower, and new Hebrew is rose; some think origin is from Akkadian shu-shu (six-sided, also later shi-shi', six in Hebrew)

li-bav-ti'-ni: lev, le-vav' both mean "heart, mind, will". the root לבב means to be understanding, likeable; in the intense, pi-el' form of the verb it means to ravish the heart, to be fascinated.

tza-foh: the north wind, from the root meaning hidden/concealed, also meaning treasured; the sun hides from the north. in the array of the Israelite tribes around the Tent of Meeting in the wilderness, north of the Tent was the least favored spot, east being most favored and reserved for Moses and Aaron.