

The Lovers Speak

8:1 ¹OH that you were like a brother to me
Who nursed at my mother's breasts.
If I found you outdoors, I would kiss you;
No one would despise me, either.

2 "I would lead you *and* ^abring you
Into the house of my mother, who used to instruct me;
I would give you spiced wine to drink from the juice of my pomegranates.

3 "Let ^ahis left hand be under my head,
And his right hand embrace me."

4 ¹ ^aI want you to swear, O daughters of Jerusalem,
²Do not arouse or awaken *my* love,
Until ³she pleases."

5 ¹ ^aWho is this coming up from the wilderness,
Leaning on her beloved?"
² ^aBeneath the ³ ^bapple tree I awakened you;

There your mother was in labor with you,
There she was in labor *and* gave you birth.

6 "Put me like a ¹seal over your heart,
Like a ^aseal on your arm.

For love is as strong as death,
² ^bJealousy is as severe as Sheol;
Its flashes are flashes of fire,
³The *very* flame of the LORD.

7 "Many waters cannot quench love,
Nor will rivers overflow it;
^aIf a man were to give all the riches of his house for love,
It would be utterly despised."

8 ¹ ^aWe have a little sister,
And she ^ahas no breasts;
What shall we do for our sister
On the day when she is spoken for?

9 "If she is a wall,
We shall build on her a battlement of silver;

But if she is a door,
We shall barricade her with ^aplanks of cedar.”

10 “¹I was a wall, and ^amy breasts were like towers;
Then I became in his eyes as one who finds peace.
11 “Solomon had a ^avineyard at Baal-hamon;
He ^bentrusted the vineyard to ^ccaretakers;
Each one was to bring a ^dthousand *shekels* of silver for its ^efruit.
12 “My very own vineyard is ¹at my disposal;
The thousand *shekels* are for you, Solomon,
And two hundred are for those who take care of its fruit.”

13 “¹O you who sit in the gardens,
My ^acompanions are listening for your voice—
^bLet me hear it!”

14 “^{1 2}Hurry, my beloved,
And be ^alike a gazelle or a young ³stag
On the ^bmountains of spices.”
i

^a Song 3:4

^a Song 2:6

¹ BRIDEGROOM

^a Song 2:7; 3:5

² Or, *Why should you arouse*

³ Or, *it*

¹ CHORUS

^a Song 3:6

² BRIDE

³ Or, *apricot*

^b Song 2:3

¹ Or, *signet*

^a Is. 49:16; Jer. 22:24; Hag. 2:23

² Or, *Its ardor is as inflexible*

^b Prov. 6:34

³ Another reading is *A vehement flame*

^a Prov. 6:35

¹ CHORUS

^a Ezek. 16:7

^a 1 Kin. 6:15

¹ BRIDE

^a Ezek. 16:7

^a Eccl. 2:4

^b Matt. 21:33

^c Song 1:6

^d Is. 7:23

^e Song 2:3; 8:12

¹ Lit., *before me*

¹ BRIDEGROOM

^a Song 1:7

^b Song 2:14

¹ BRIDE

² Lit., *Flee*

^a Song 2:7, 9, 17

³ Lit., *of the stags*

^b Song 4:6

ⁱ *The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.