The Hokey-Cokey

O proud left foot, that ventures quick within
Then soon upon a backward journey lithe.
Anon, once more the gesture, then begin:
Command sinistral pedestal to writhe.
Commence thou then the fervid Hokey-Coke,
A mad gyration, hips in wanton swirl.
To spin! A wilde release from Heaven's yoke.
Blessed dervish! Surely thou must twirl.
The Hoke, the Coke — banish now thy doubt
For verily, I say, 'tis what it's all about.
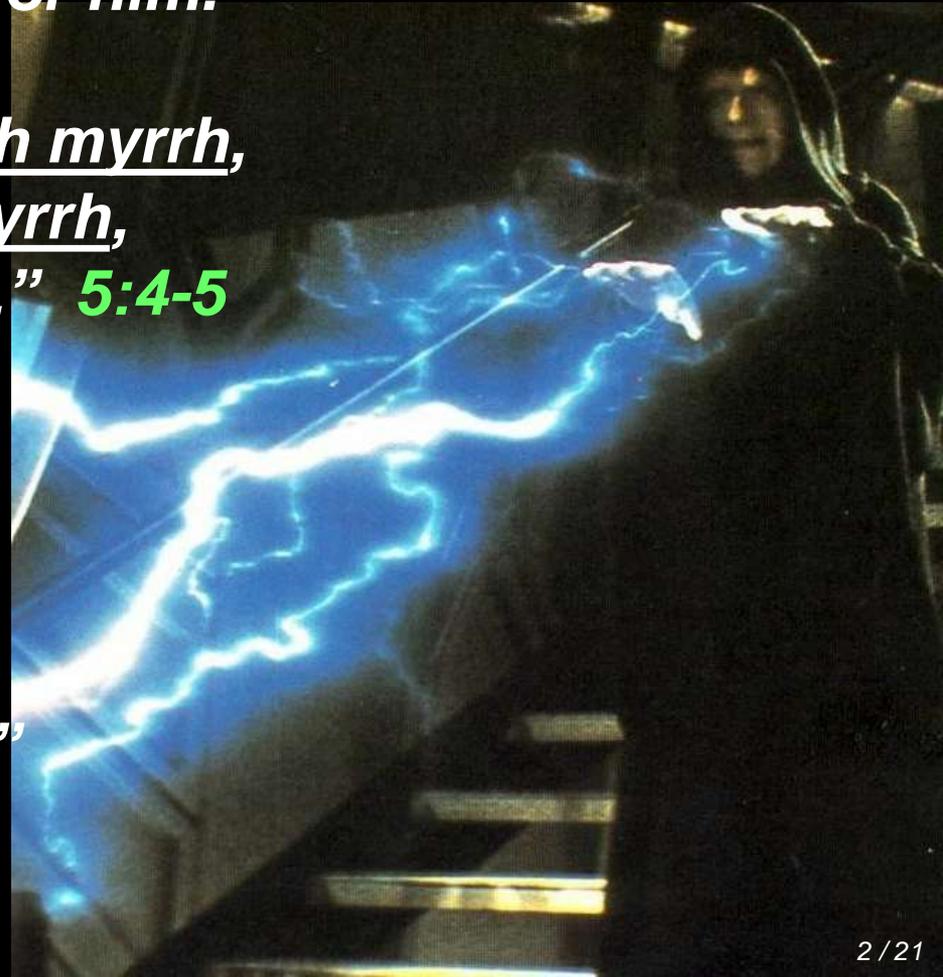
Beloved's Deadly Embrace

"My lover thrust his hand
through the latch-opening;
my heart began to pound for him.
I arose to open for my lover,
and <u>my hands dripped with myrrh,</u>
<u>my fingers with flowing myrrh,</u>
on the handles of the lock." *5:4-5*

Then a strange development:

"I opened for my lover,
but my lover had left…"
5:6

Where did he go?
And why?

"I opened for my lover,
but my lover had left…"
5:6

Watchmen of Jerusalem

Theme: Protectors of a city; Obligated to defend *Ezek 33*

Precedental Biblical mention: A song of ascents. Of <u>Solomon</u>. *Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, <u>the watchmen stand guard in vain</u>. Ps 127:1*

Watchmen have no power if the king is ungodly

The Bride & the Watchmen

1ˢᵗ Encounter:

Bride: *"All night long on my bed I looked for the one my heart loves; I looked for him but did not find him. I will get up now and go about the city, through its streets and squares…" The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. "Have you seen the one my heart loves?" Scarcely had I passed them when I found the one my heart loves.* *3:1-4*

The watchmen learn:
- **The Bride and the King rendezvous at night**
- **The Bride is intent on the union with the King**
- **The King is vulnerable**

The Bride & the Watchmen

"I opened for my lover,
but my lover had left…"
5:6

"I looked for him but did not find him.
I called him but he did not answer.
The watchmen found me
as they made their rounds in the city." *5:6-7*

The watchmen have snatched Solomon away – trying to save him

Conflict

2nd Encounter:

"They beat me, they bruised me; they took away my cloak, [Heb: ra-diyd] *those watchmen of the walls!"* *5:7*

In that day the Lord will snatch away [Judah's] finery… the linen garments and tiaras and shawls [Heb: ra-diyd] *Isa 3:19-23*

The watchmen do what God does

⇒ **They attempt to save the city (forfeit lives otherwise) but are powerless, fulfilling: *Ps 127:1*!**

⇒ **The watchmen are not punished by Solomon… …he can't justify the union**

Central Couplet of the Song

Couplet is the Song's center:
- Literally (same # lines before and after)
- Thematically (sexual consummation a focus)

"I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride;
I have gathered my myrrh with my spice." *5:1*

DEATH

"I have joined with you, my sister, my bride,
I have gathered my death with my pleasure"

Daughters of Jerusalem

"I <u>adjure</u> you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
   If you find my beloved,
   As to what you will tell him:
   For I am lovesick."

"What kind of beloved is your beloved,
   That thus you <u>adjure</u> us?"
5:8-9, NASB

- **Adjure = to compel an oath when not freely given**
- **This dynamic has friction**

She stakes her claim   *"This is <u>my</u> lover, this is <u>my</u> friend,*
                              O daughters of Jerusalem." **5:16**

The Oath: "Don't Interfere"

"Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires." **2:7; 3:5; 8:4**

Traditional reading: Don't start love before it is ready

Hebrew means:
"Do not disturb our lovemaking" **Fox, 1985, p107-9**

Beloved is aware the King of Jerusalem is mesmerized by her

She adjures the Daughters of Jerusalem not to split them up

Contextual Evidence for "Do Not Disturb"

For each oath (*2:7, 3:5, 8:4*) the verse before speaks of the onset of an intimate encounter

*"His left arm is under my head,
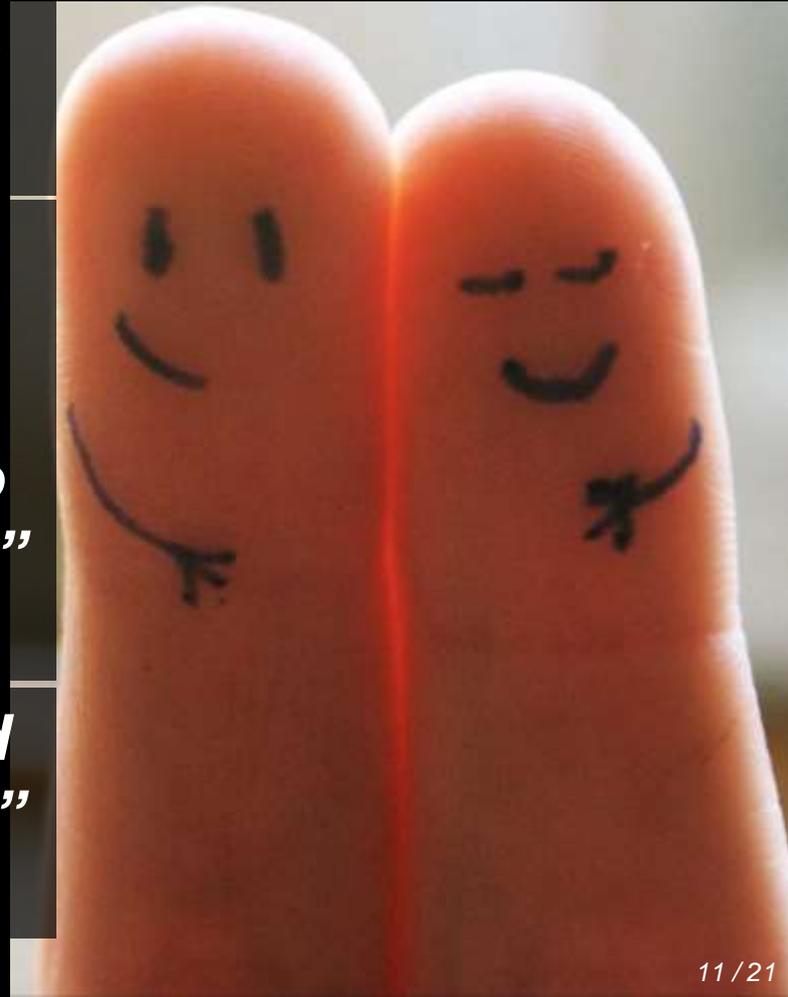   And his right arm embraces me."*
2:6

"When I found him whom my soul loves; I held on to him and would not let him go; until I had brought him to my mother's house, and into the room of her who conceived me."
3:4

*"Let his left hand be under my head
     And his right hand embrace me."*
8:3

"I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field," **2:7**

"My beloved is like a gazelle…. Look! There he stands…" **2:9**

"Your breasts are like … twin fawns of a gazelle" **4:5**

Nothing to swear by but the animals / themselves

Major Symbols

Song belongs in the Bible

BEAUTY

DEATH

NEW PATH

FERTILE WOMAN

Mt 6:28-29

Mt 2:11
Jn 19:39-40

Gen 8:11
Mt 3:16
Jn 1-4
Hos 7:11

Solomon's deadly new path chasing beautiful women

Gen 9:4
Mt 26:27-28
Isa 1:29

Single Symbols

A Mare Among Military Stallions

"I liken you, my darling, to a mare among Pharaoh's chariot horses."
1:9

Battle of Kadesh, 1274 BC

Hittites loosed mares in heat against Egyptian stallion-drawn chariots as a military tactic

Suggestion she may be enticing but deadly

Jerusalem

Bride: *"My lover is to me a cluster of henna blossoms from the vineyards of En Gedi."* *1:14*

Life giving water flows into the Dead Sea at En Gedi

En Gedi

En Gedi: **Where Man of God was in mortal peril** *1 Sam 24; 2 Chr 20:1-4*

En Gedi: Beautiful, but deadly

Song of Songs' Vineyards beautiful, but perilous to the Man of God

The Veil [ra-diyd]

they took away my cloak, [Heb: ra-diyd]
those watchmen of the walls! 5:7

Sole Biblical appearance: garment worn by prostitute Judah

The Lord says, "The women of Zion are haughty… flirting with their eyes… strutting along with swaying hips… In that day the Lord will snatch away their finery: the bangles and headbands… and mirrors, and the linen garments and tiaras and shawls [Heb: ra-diyd]." Isa 3:16-23

=> Bride is represented as sexually enticing; but in a dangerous context

Mandrakes at her Door

*The **mandrakes** send out their fragrance, and at our door is every delicacy 7:13*

Hebrew: duda-'im; (c.f. dodi, lovemaking) believed aphrodisiac

Sole Biblical appearance: Leah "buys" a night with Jacob with her mandrakes

So when Jacob came in from the fields that evening, Leah went out to meet him. "You must sleep with me," she said. "I have hired you with my son's mandrakes." So he slept with her that night. Gen 30:16

=> Bride is represented as sexually enticing; but inappropriate

The Predatory Desire

"*I belong to my lover, and his <u>desire</u> is for me.*" **7:10**

Heb: Tashuwqah: desire, of man for woman, or <u>beast to devour</u>

Repeat of her deadliness

"*If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it <u>desires</u> to have you, but you must master it.*" *Gen 4:6-7*
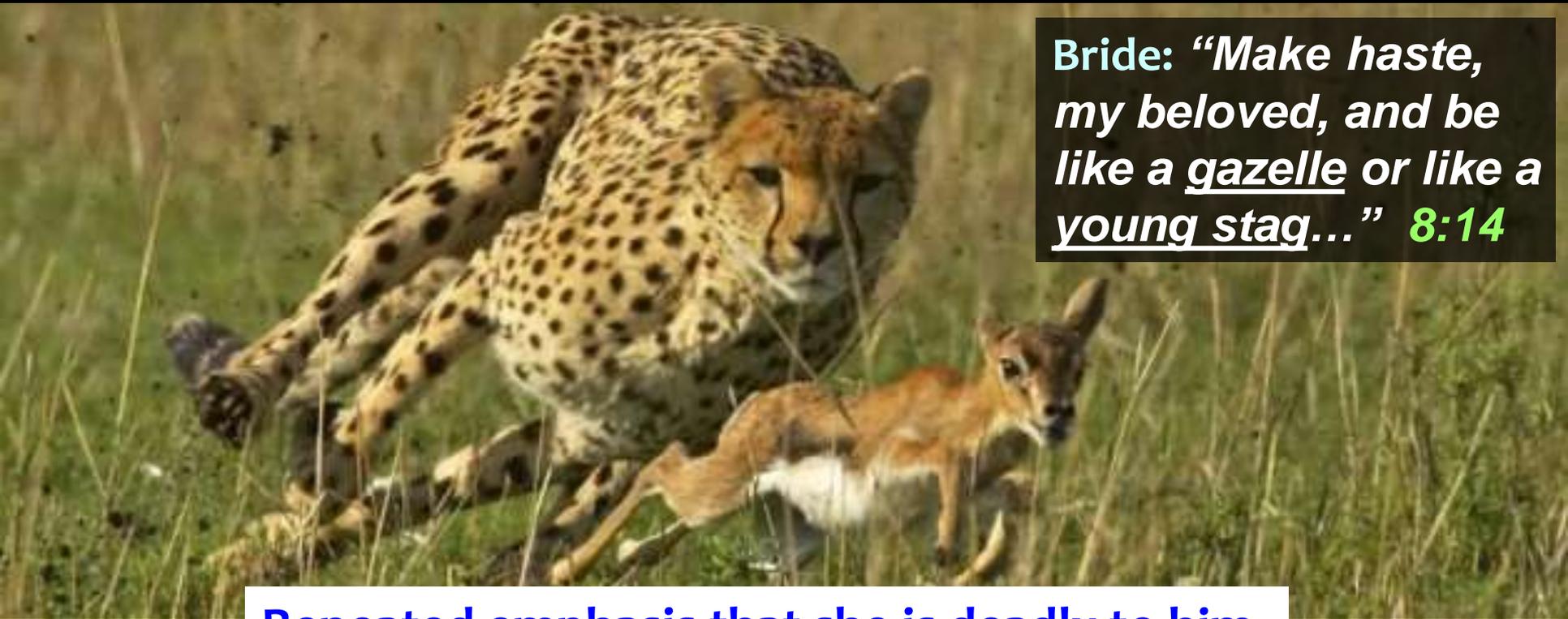
7:10 *reverses* **Gen 3:16**

"*I will greatly increase your pains in child-bearing… Your <u>desire</u> will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.*" *Gen 3:16*

Predator and Prey

Solomon: *"Come with me from Lebanon, my bride… from the <u>lions' dens</u> and the mountain haunts of <u>leopards</u>."* *4:8*

Bride: *"Make haste, my beloved, and be like a <u>gazelle</u> or like a <u>young stag</u>…"* *8:14*

Repeated emphasis that she is deadly to him

En Gedi

Mare in Egypt

60 guards / 60 queens

Leopard & gazelle

'Ra-diyd' shawl

Proverbs 7 girl

Mandrakes

Subtle infusions of deadly concepts

'Tashuwqah' desire

A Love like Death

The King Who Fell

6

Here There Be Giants