

your words are a delight
 (*or, your mouth is shapely*).¹
 Your temples² glow like a pomegranate split³ open
 behind your veil.
 4 Your neck is like the tower of David,⁴
 built with winding courses⁵
 (*or, Your neck displays jewelry beautifully*).
 On it a necklace displaying a thousand shields,⁶
 all sorts of decorative shields.⁷
 5 Your (*two*)⁸ breasts are like two fawns,
 twin fawns of a gazelle,
 browsing⁹ among the lilies (*or, hyacinths*).¹⁰
 6 When the morning breezes gently blow¹¹
 and the dawn has arrived,¹²
 I will hurry to your scented curves of myrrh
 and to your fragrant charms.
 7 Every part of you is beautiful, my darling.
 There is no blemish in you
 (*or, you are perfection*)!

 8 Come from Lebanon with me, my bride;
 Come from Lebanon with me.¹³
 Descend (*or, look*)¹⁴ from the peak of Amana,
 from the peak of Senir and Hermon,¹⁵
 from the haunts of lions
 and the lairs¹⁶ of leopards.

1 The Hebrew word: ^איְרַבְמַי = "That with which one speaks." LXX: λαλεα. The Zurich Bible translates the word as "chatterbox."

2 Hebrew root word: ^הקַר = "thin." The thin part of the skull is hardly the cheeks, as some translators have suggested. Perhaps the temple. LXX: ^μυλον.

3 ^איְרַבְמַי is the root word. The word in the MT is singular. To consider it literally would give the impression of an advanced case of acne. Pomegranates were considered to be an aphrodisiac. KEE translates: "a slit in a pomegranate."

4 Hardly a flattering description in the 21st Century. It would evoke the thought of a linebacker on a football team. The writer is thinking of an attitude, not a particular form, thus "proudly."

5 The meaning of this line is uncertain. The Hebrew word is ^תקַיִל LXX has ^θαλπωθ Some have translated this as Tel Pinoth, but such a location is not known.

6 The Hebrew word is usually translated "buckler." ^נוֹמֵם is the root word. It describes a door shaped shield. LXX ^θυρεος The necklace possibly had the general appearance of a modern charm bracelet.

7 The Hebrew word for "shield" is different, now describing a small round shield used by warriors.

8 This stich is better poetically if the Hebrew word for "two" is omitted. It is possibly a gloss.

9 This word is absent in the LXX.

10 KEE: "lotus blossoms."

11 Literally: "when the day blooms."

12 Literally: "when the shadows flee."

13 "Come is omitted in Hebrew but found in the LXX. V & Syriac have imperatives. The second stich is possibly dittography and is not needed for the poetry.

14 There are two possible root words, one meaning "descend" the other meaning "look" and either would fit the sentence.

15 These are the names of peaks in the Lebanon and anti-Lebanon mountains that overlook the Baqa Valley.

16 So: emended.