

# Proverbs 7:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

## Analysis

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I've perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. The Hebrew 'noph' (sprinkle/perfume) and exotic spices create sensory seduction. Myrrh, aloes, cinnamon were expensive imports creating luxurious aromatics. The seductress appeals comprehensively to senses - visual beauty (v.16), aromatic pleasure (v.17), later sexual gratification (v.18). Temptation engages multiple dimensions simultaneously. Resisting requires recognizing comprehensive assault and responding with equally comprehensive commitment to wisdom.

## Historical Context

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Song of Solomon celebrates similar sensory delights within marriage - spices, perfumes, intimate pleasures (4:14, 5:1). The difference is context: marital covenant versus adulterous betrayal. Satan's strategy is perverting good gifts by removing them from God's designed contexts. Sexual pleasure, sensory delight, aesthetic beauty - all good within marriage, all destructive outside it.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does temptation engage multiple senses simultaneously to overwhelm resistance?
2. What God-designed pleasures are you tempted to enjoy outside His intended contexts?
3. How can you celebrate legitimate sensory and sexual pleasures within appropriate boundaries while resisting illegitimate versions?

## Interlinear Text

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לְכַתְּחוֹן: אֶבֶל יָמִינְךָ מִשְׁכֵבִי נִפְתַּחְתִּי  
I have perfumed my bed with myrrh aloes and cinnamon  
H5130 H4904 H4753 H174 H7076

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 45:8** (Parallel theme): All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.

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