

# Song of Solomon 1:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A bundle of myrrh is my wellbeloved unto me; he shall lie all night betwixt my breasts.

## Analysis

The bride continues: **A bundle of myrrh is my wellbeloved unto me; he shall lie all night betwixt my breasts.** The Hebrew 'tsenor hamor' (צְרוֹר הַמָּר, bundle of myrrh) refers to a small sachet of aromatic myrrh resin worn around the neck, resting against the chest. Women would wear such fragrant bundles for personal enjoyment and to perfume their clothing. The beloved is like this intimate, constant fragrance—always near, continually pleasant, creating lasting delight. The phrase **he shall lie all night betwixt my breasts** (beyn shadai yalin, בֵּין שָׁדֵי יָלִין) employs vivid language of intimate proximity and constant presence throughout the night.

Myrrh carries profound biblical significance: used in anointing oil (Exodus 30:23), burial preparation (John 19:39), and brought by the Magi to Christ (Matthew 2:11). It symbolizes suffering, sacrifice, and death—yet also precious fragrance. The beloved is like myrrh: precious, constantly present, bringing both joy and association with sacrifice. Theologically, Christ is our 'bundle of myrrh'—intimately near, continually fragrant presence, yet associated with suffering love that purchased our salvation. His presence is constant comfort and delight to the believer's heart.

## Historical Context

Myrrh was harvested from trees in Arabia and Africa—aromatic resin prized for perfume, medicine, and embalming. Carrying myrrh sachets against the body was

common practice among ancient women—the body's warmth released the fragrance throughout the day and night. The intimate imagery of the beloved as myrrh worn constantly near the heart celebrates his precious, pervasive presence in the bride's life and thoughts. Early church fathers immediately connected this to Christ—He is the believer's constant companion, intimate presence, and fragrant delight. The mystics meditated on 'wearing Christ' continually, keeping Him near the heart through prayer and meditation. The Puritans practiced the presence of God—cultivating awareness of Christ's constant nearness. Modern readers see both marital application (keeping the spouse central in thoughts and affections) and spiritual discipline (practicing Christ's presence, making Him the heart's constant treasure).

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. Is Christ your 'bundle of myrrh'—constant, fragrant, intimate presence near your heart—or do you only think of Him occasionally?
2. How can you cultivate greater awareness of Christ's nearness, making Him your heart's continual delight and treasure?

## Interlinear Text

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וְרָא כִּי־בְּמִרְאֵת־צָרָר  
A bundle of myrrh is my wellbeloved      H6872      H4753      H1730

וְלֹא־בְּבָנָה־בְּבָנָה

H996      all night betwixt my breasts

H7699

:וְלֹא־  
:

unto me he shall lie

H3885

## Additional Cross-References

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

**Ephesians 3:17:** That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

**John 19:39:** And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.

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