

Song of Solomon 1:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest,
where thou makest thy flock to rest at noon: for why should I
be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions?

Analysis

The bride asks, 'Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest thy flock to rest at noon: for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions?' The phrase 'thou whom my soul loveth' (she'ahavah naphshi, שְׁאַהֲבָה נַפְשִׁי) expresses deep soul-love. The bride seeks the shepherd-beloved's location—'where thou feedest' (eyphoh tir'eh, אֵiphָה תִּרְאֶה) and 'where thou makest thy flock to rest.' The question 'why should I be as one that turneth aside' (otyah, עַתְּה) may mean 'veil myself' or 'wander.' The bride wants direct access to her beloved, not to search among others' flocks. This verse celebrates the soul's desire for intimate knowledge of and access to the beloved. Spiritually, it represents the believer seeking Christ's presence directly—not content with second-hand religion but pursuing personal communion.

Historical Context

Shepherds in ancient Palestine moved flocks to different pastures—morning, midday, evening. The noonday rest was crucial in hot climate. The bride's question reflects courtship customs: seeking the beloved's location for legitimate encounter. The phrase 'as one that turneth aside' might reference veiled women or wandering outsiders—the bride desires open, direct access, not furtive searching. Early church fathers saw this as the soul seeking Christ the Good Shepherd (John 10:11), asking, 'Where do you feed your flock?'—answered through Word, sacrament, and fellowship. Bernard of Clairvaux's sermons emphasized that the soul must seek

Christ Himself, not merely doctrinal knowledge about Him. The Puritans distinguished between head knowledge and heart knowledge—theological information versus experiential communion with God. Modern readers recognize the difference between religious activity and personal relationship with Christ.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Are you seeking Christ Himself or merely religious information about Him?
2. Where do you find spiritual nourishment and rest—and are you pursuing direct communion with God or settling for second-hand religion?

Interlinear Text

לֵ� בְּגִידָה	שְׁאָבַבָּה	נִפְשֵׁה	אֵיךְ הֵן
Tell	loveth	me O thou whom my soul	where
H5046	H157	H5315	H349
תְּרַאֲצֵה	אֵיךְ הֵן	פָּרַבְתִּי	שָׁלַתְתִּי
where thou feedest	where	thou makest thy flock to rest	at noon
H7462	H349	H7257	H6672
אֲהַיָּה	כַּעֲשֵׂה	עַל	עַדְךָ
H1961	why should I be as one that turneth aside	H5921	by the flocks
	H5844		H5739
כְּבָרִיכָּה			
of thy companions			
H2270			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 13:20: It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.

Psalms 28:1: Unto thee will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit.

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