

# Song of Solomon 2:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.

## Analysis

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The bridegroom calls to his beloved: 'O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.' The 'dove' (yonati, יונת) symbolizes purity, gentleness, and faithfulness. The phrase 'clefts of the rock' (chagvey hasela, חגי הצלע) suggests hidden refuge—the dove finding safety in rock crevices. The bridegroom invites the bride from hiding into his presence. The dual requests—'let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice'—express desire for both visual and verbal communion. The affirmations—'sweet is thy voice, comely is thy countenance'—provide reassuring acceptance. This verse celebrates the beloved's desire to draw the shy or fearful into secure intimacy. Christ similarly calls believers from fearful hiding into confident fellowship.

## Historical Context

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Doves in ancient Palestine nested in rock clefts, seeking safety from predators. The imagery would resonate with shepherding culture familiar with rocky terrain. The bridegroom's invitation reflects courtship patience—drawing the beloved from reserve into confident relationship. Early church fathers saw Christ calling the timid soul from fearful hiding into His presence. The 'clefts of the rock' became imagery for refuge in Christ (Exodus 33:22; Isaiah 2:21). Bernard of Clairvaux

preached on this verse, emphasizing Christ's gentle invitation to fearful sinners. The Reformers taught that Christ doesn't coerce but graciously invites; the Spirit enables responsive coming. Modern readers see both courtship wisdom (patient drawing out shy partners) and gospel invitation (Christ calling fearful sinners to Himself).

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What makes you hide 'in clefts of the rock'—fear, shame, unworthiness—and how does Christ's invitation to come forth address these?
2. How can you emulate the bridegroom's approach—gently inviting others from hiding with reassuring affirmations rather than harsh demands?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּמִדְרָג הַ  
יָנָתִי בְּחִגּוֹן הַלְּעָבָד  
O my dove that art in the clefts of the rock in the secret places of the stairs  
H3123 H2288 H5553 H5643 H4095

כֹּוֹל גַּן אֶת הַשְׁמִיעַנִּי אֶת בְּרָא יְנִי  
let me see and thy countenance let me hear is thy voice  
H7200 H853 H4758 H8085 H6963 H3588

כֹּוֹל גַּן עַר בְּנָאוּה  
is thy voice for sweet and thy countenance is comely  
H6963 H6156 H4758 H5000

## Additional Cross-References

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**Song of Solomon 1:5:** I am black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon.

**Exodus 3:6:** Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

**Song of Solomon 5:2:** I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night.

**Song of Solomon 8:13:** Thou that dwellest in the gardens, the companions hearken to thy voice: cause me to hear it.

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