

Song of Solomon 4:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.

Analysis

Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits. The bride responds to her beloved's praise (4:12-15) with invitation. The Hebrew *uri tsafon uvo'i teiman hafichi ganni yizelu vesamav yavo dodi legano veyokhal peri megadav* (עוּרִי צָפוֹן וּבֹאִי תֵימָן הַפִּיחִי גַנִּי יִזְלוּ בְשָׁמָיו יְבֹאֵא דוֹדִי לְגָנוֹ) invokes opposite winds to release fragrance, then invites consummation of love.

"Awake, O north wind" (*uri tsafon*) uses imperative *ur* (עוּר)—wake up, stir yourself! North wind (*tsafon*) brought cool air; south wind (*teiman*) brought warmth. Calling both opposite winds suggests comprehensive activation—whatever it takes to release the garden's full fragrance. "Blow upon my garden" (*hafichi ganni*) asks wind to breathe, the same verb (*puach*) used in Genesis 2:7 when God breathed life into Adam. Wind here represents divine enabling that releases latent potential.

"That the spices thereof may flow out" (*yizelu vesamav*)—the garden's purpose realized. Spices must be bruised, crushed, or heated to release fragrance. The bride willingly invites whatever process necessary to offer her best to her beloved. Christ's church likewise must be "broken" (2 Corinthians 4:7-12) for His fragrance to permeate through us (2 Corinthians 2:14-15). The shift from "my garden" to "his garden" is crucial—she offers what is ultimately his. "Let my beloved come into his garden" (*yavo dodi legano*) acknowledges ownership while inviting intimacy. "Eat

his pleasant fruits" (yokhal peri megadav) invites full enjoyment. This finds ultimate fulfillment in Revelation 3:20: "I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern gardens required careful cultivation in Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers. Spice gardens like those described (4:13-14) demanded constant attention—watering, pruning, harvesting at proper times. Spices were luxury items in ancient world, used for perfumes, anointing oils, burial preparations, and flavoring. The bride's identification with this valuable garden emphasizes her preparation and worthiness for royal marriage. The invitation for wind to blow echoes agricultural practice of winnowing grain—wind separating chaff from wheat. The bride invites whatever refining process releases her best qualities for her beloved's enjoyment.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What "north winds" and "south winds" (trials and blessings) might God use to release Christ's fragrance through His church?
2. How does the bride's shift from "my garden" to "his garden" model proper understanding of stewardship—recognizing Christ's ownership of our lives?
3. What does it mean to invite Christ to fully "come into his garden and eat" rather than keeping areas of our lives closed to Him?

Interlinear Text

ע וְיָרִי	צָפוֹן	יָבֹא	תִּימָן	הִפֹּיחִי	לְגַן וְ
Awake	O north wind	and come	thou south	blow	into his garden
H5782	H6828	H935	H8486	H6315	H1588
וְיֵצֵא	בְּשֵׁמֶיךָ	יָבֹא	דֹדִי	לְגַן וְ	
thereof may flow out	that the spices	and come	Let my beloved	into his garden	
H5140	H1314	H935	H1730	H1588	
וְיֹאכַל	פְּרֵי	מִגְדֵּיוֹ:			
and eat	fruits	his pleasant			
H398	H6529	H4022			

Additional Cross-References

Song of Solomon 6:2: My beloved is gone down into his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies.

Song of Solomon 5:1: I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved.

Ezekiel 37:9: Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

1 Peter 2:5: Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.