

# Song of Solomon 5:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers: his lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh.

## Analysis

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**His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers** (lechayyav ka'arugat habosem migdelot merqachim, מִגְדָּלוֹת מֶרְקָחִים—*the beloved's cheeks are compared to spice beds—cultivated gardens producing aromatic plants.* "Sweet flowers" (migdelot merqachim, מִגְדָּלוֹת מֶרְקָחִים) literally means "towers of perfumers" or "raised beds of fragrant herbs." His very presence is aromatic—being near him is like walking through fragrant gardens.

**His lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh** (siphteha shoshanim notephoh mor over, שְׁפָתֶיה שׁוֹשָׁנִים נְטִפּוֹת מוֹר עַזְבָּר describes lips as lilies (purity, beauty) that drip myrrh (precious, fragrant, costly). His speech is both pure and precious—words that carry fragrant grace. This represents Christ's gracious words (Luke 4:22)—speech that blesses, teaches, and transforms. His presence and words both spread fragrance.

## Historical Context

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Cultivated spice gardens were luxury items—kings and wealthy landowners maintained elaborate gardens of imported aromatic plants. "Towers" or "raised beds" (migdelot, מִגְדָּלוֹת) may reference terraced garden architecture maximizing fragrance. The beloved's cheeks suggest his very presence creates aromatic atmosphere. Lilies represented purity and beauty throughout Scripture. Myrrh's costly fragrance represented devotion and suffering. The beloved's lips dropping myrrh suggested that every word carried precious, fragrant worth. Early church

fathers saw Christ's "cheeks as spice beds" as His incarnate presence making earth fragrant with heaven—wherever He went, spiritual fragrance followed (2 Corinthians 2:14-16). His lips dropping myrrh represented gospel words—both sweet and costly, gracious yet calling to sacrificial discipleship. The Reformers emphasized Christ's words as more precious than gold (Psalm 19:10)—Scripture carries His fragrant speech to believers. The Puritans taught meditation on Christ's words—savoring their beauty, fragrance, and nourishing power.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ's presence spread spiritual "fragrance" in your life—making ordinary moments holy through awareness of His nearness?
2. What "sweet smelling myrrh" (precious, costly words) has Christ spoken into your life through Scripture that you need to remember and cherish?
3. In what ways do your words drop fragrance or poison—do you speak with the gracious, life-giving quality of the beloved's myrrh-dropping lips?

## Interlinear Text

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|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| לְפָנָי                    | תִּשְׁעַרְתָּנִי  | שְׁפָתֹתָנִי |
| His cheeks                 | are as a bed      | of spices    |
| H3895                      | H6170             | H1314        |
| מִגְדָּל וְתִשְׁעַרְתָּנִי | מִרְקָח יְמִינָךְ | שְׁפָתֹתָנִי |
| flowers                    | as sweet          |              |
| H4026                      | H4840             |              |
| like lilies                | dropping          | myrrh        |
| H7799                      | H5197             | H4753        |
| מִרְקָח יְמִינָךְ          | שְׁפָתֹתָנִי      |              |
| עַבְרָה:                   | מִרְקָח יְמִינָךְ |              |
| sweet smelling             | myrrh             |              |
| H5674                      |                   |              |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Song of Solomon 1:10:** Thy cheeks are comely with rows of jewels, thy neck with chains of gold.

**Song of Solomon 2:1:** I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.

**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.

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