

Song of Solomon 5:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold:
his countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars.

Analysis

His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold (shoqav amudey shesh meyusadim al adney paz, על-אַדְנֵי-פַז) (שׁוֹקָעִי עַמּוֹדִי שֵׁשׁ מִיטְדִּים עַל-אַדְנֵי-פַז) the beloved's legs are compared to marble pillars on gold bases. Marble pillars represented strength, permanence, and architectural beauty—supporting temples and palaces. Gold sockets indicated supreme value and stability. The beloved stands firm, unmovable, strong—his foundation is precious and sure.

His countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars (mar'ehu kaLevanon bachur ka'arazim, מְרַאַהוּ כְּלָבְנָן בָּחָור קָאַרְזִים—Lebanon's cedar forests were legendary for height, strength, and fragrance. "Excellent" (bachur, בָּחָור) means choice, select, the best. The beloved's overall appearance (mar'ehu, מְרַאַהוּ) combines Lebanon's majestic beauty with cedars' strength and excellence. Christ stands firm (marble legs), grounded in divine worth (gold sockets), majestic and strong as Lebanon's cedars—unmovable, reliable, supremely excellent.

Historical Context

Marble pillars were architectural marvels in ancient world—supporting massive structures with beauty and strength. Solomon's temple featured marble and gold prominently (1 Kings 6-7). The beloved's legs as marble pillars on gold bases celebrated immovable strength and supreme value. Lebanon's cedar forests were ancient world's premier timber source—used in Solomon's temple (1 Kings 5:6-10). Cedars grew to enormous heights, lived for centuries, resisted decay, and

produced beautiful fragrance. They symbolized strength, longevity, majesty, and incorruptibility throughout Scripture (Psalm 92:12; Isaiah 2:13). The beloved's countenance as Lebanon with excellent cedars celebrated comprehensive majesty. Early church fathers saw Christ as the immovable pillar supporting God's temple (the Church)—strong, permanent, reliable. His cedar-like excellence represented His eternal, incorruptible nature. The Reformers emphasized Christ as the Church's only foundation—all other ground is sinking sand. The Puritans taught that believers can rely completely on Christ's unchanging strength.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's immovable stability (marble pillars on gold sockets) provide security amid life's uncertainties and storms?
2. What aspects of Christ's "excellent" character (like Lebanon's cedars) do you find most reliable, beautiful, and worthy of trust?
3. In what ways does knowing Christ stands firm—unchanging, unmovable, permanently reliable—transform how you face instability or fear?

Interlinear Text

פְּתַת	אַדְנִי	שׁוֹקְעִי	עַל	מִפְּסָד	יְמִשְׁשָׁ	עַמְּדָה	עַמְּדָה	עַמְּדָה	עַמְּדָה	עַמְּדָה	עַמְּדָה
His legs	are as pillars	of marble	set	H5921	upon sockets	of fine gold					
H7785	H5982	H8336	H3245		H134	H6337					
מְרַאַת	כְּלָבֵן	וְ	בְּחֵרֶב	וְ	כְּאַכְזִים	:					
his countenance	is as Lebanon		excellent		as the cedars						
H4758	H3844		H977		H730						

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 4:33: And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes.

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