

Song of Solomon 7:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me.

Analysis

The bride declares, 'I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me.' This verse presents the third variation on the mutual belonging theme (see 2:16; 6:3), now emphasizing the beloved's desire for the bride. The phrase 'I am my beloved's' reaffirms covenant commitment and self-giving. The second clause 'his desire is toward me' (Hebrew 'teshuqato alay,' תְּשׁוּקָתוֹ אֵלַי) employs the same root word (teshuqah, תְּשׁוּקָה) used only twice elsewhere in Scripture: Genesis 3:16 ('thy desire shall be to thy husband') and Genesis 4:7 ('sin's desire is for you'). In Genesis 3:16, teshuqah describes the fallen dynamic where the woman's desire is toward her husband who will rule over her—a consequence of the fall. Here in Song of Solomon, the desire flows from the beloved toward the bride—reversing the curse. In redeemed covenant love, the husband desires his wife (not merely rules her), and she joyfully belongs to him (not in subjection but in mutual love). This verse celebrates the beloved's pursuing desire and the bride's security in being desired—love that seeks and treasures the other.

Historical Context

The use of teshuqah (desire) creates an intertextual link with Genesis 3:16, where the fall distorted relationships—introducing domination, conflict, and broken mutuality. Song of Solomon presents redemptive covenant love that reverses curse dynamics: instead of ruling and domination, there is mutual desire and delight; instead of conflict, there is harmonious belonging. Ancient patriarchal cultures often emphasized husband's authority with little regard for wife's dignity or mutual desire. The Song's celebration of the beloved's pursuing desire for the bride

affirms her value, beauty, and worth—she is treasured and sought, not merely tolerated or used. Early church fathers saw this as Christ's passionate desire for His Church—He seeks, pursues, and treasures His people (Luke 19:10; John 10:11). The Reformers emphasized that salvation originates in God's electing love and pursuing grace—He desires us before we desire Him (1 John 4:19). Modern readers find hope both in marriage (spouses should actively desire and pursue each other) and gospel truth (Christ passionately desires His people, not reluctantly tolerating them).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does knowing that Christ's 'desire is toward you'—He actively pursues, treasures, and delights in you—transform your security and identity in Him?
2. In marriage, how can both spouses cultivate and express ongoing desire for each other, reversing cultural patterns of neglect or dominance?

Interlinear Text

אֲנִי	לְדִידִי	וְעַל	תְּשׁוּקָתוֹ:
H589	I am my beloved's	H5921	and his desire
	H1730		H8669

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 45:11: So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him.

Song of Solomon 2:16: My beloved is mine, and I am his: he feedeth among the lilies.

Song of Solomon 6:3: I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine: he feedeth among the lilies.

Job 14:15: Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.

Galatians 2:20: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Acts 27:23: For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

Psalms 147:11: The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.

John 17:24: Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.