

Song of Solomon 7:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy navel is like a round goblet, which wanteth not liquor: thy belly is like an heap of wheat set about with lilies.

Analysis

Thy navel is like a round goblet, which wanteth not liquor (שְׁרֶצֶת אֲגָן הַסְּפָר אֶל-)—the Hebrew shorer (שְׁרֶצֶת) may refer to the navel or more broadly the midsection. The 'round goblet' (aggan hassahar) suggests a curved, well-formed vessel. The phrase 'wanteth not liquor' (al-yechsar hammazeg) means it never lacks mixed wine—suggesting abundance, festivity, and satisfaction. The imagery celebrates the bride's form while emphasizing that she's a source of delight and abundance, never lacking.

Thy belly is like an heap of wheat set about with lilies (בְּטַנְךָ עַרְבָּתָה חֲטִים סְוִגָּה)—wheat represents nourishment, prosperity, and the harvest's blessing. Lilies symbolize beauty and purity. The combination celebrates both function (nourishment) and beauty (lilies). Church tradition saw wheat as the bread of life (Christ) offered through the Church, surrounded by the beauty of holiness. The imagery affirms the goodness of the physical body and marital intimacy.

Historical Context

In agricultural ancient Israel, wheat was the primary grain staple, representing sustenance and prosperity. A 'heap of wheat' indicated harvest abundance and blessing. Lilies grew wild and cultivated, celebrated for beauty (Matthew 6:28-29). Mixed wine was served at feasts and celebrations. The Song's detailed celebration of the human body counters both ascetic denial of the body's goodness and pornographic reduction of persons to mere objects. The imagery presents the

beloved as both beautiful and life-giving. Church fathers sometimes allegorized the 'wheat' as Christ's body (the Eucharist) and the 'lilies' as martyrs or pure believers. The Reformers recovered appreciation for marital sexuality as God's good gift, neither shameful nor idolatrous.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does biblical celebration of the body's beauty challenge both prudish shame and cultural objectification of sexuality?
2. What does it mean to be a source of 'abundance' (like wheat) and 'beauty' (like lilies) in your relationships?
3. How can you cultivate an understanding of sexuality that honors both its physical pleasure and its covenant context?

Interlinear Text

בָּטָן	כַּפְרָג	שְׁרָבָר	רַחֲשָׁה	אֵל	כַּפְרָה	אֲגָם	שְׁרָבָר
Thy navel	goblet	is like a round	H408	which wanteth	not liquor	thy belly	
H8326	H101	H5469		H2637	H4197	H990	
עֶרֶם ת	חֶטְיוֹן	סְגָג ה	בְּשָׂוְשָׁנִים:				
is like an heap	of wheat	set about	with lilies				
H6194	H2406	H5473	H7799				

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