

Song of Solomon 8:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Make haste, my beloved, and be thou like to a roe or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices.

Analysis

The Song concludes with the bride's invitation: 'Make haste, my beloved, and be thou like to a roe or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices.' The imperative 'make haste' (Hebrew 'berah,' בָּרַח, flee quickly/hurry) expresses urgent longing for the beloved's arrival. The comparison to 'a roe or a young hart' (gazelle or young deer) echoes earlier imagery (2:9, 17)—these animals are swift, graceful, and sure-footed in mountainous terrain. The 'mountains of spices' (harei besamim, הָרֵי בִשְׁמִימִים) recalls the garden of spices (4:16; 5:1) and may refer to mountainous regions where aromatic plants grow, or metaphorically to the bride herself (earlier described with spices, 4:10-14). The bride invites her beloved to come quickly to her, to the place of intimacy and delight. This ending leaves the Song open—not describing arrival but expressing ongoing longing and invitation. The bride's final word is a plea for the beloved's presence, suggesting that covenant love involves continual desire for greater intimacy and deeper communion. It never reaches a point where longing ceases; instead, love perpetually seeks the beloved's presence.

Historical Context

Ancient love poetry often concluded with anticipated union or celebration. The Song's ending is unique—expressing ongoing longing rather than fulfilled arrival. This suggests that human love, however wonderful, remains incomplete in this life, always pointing beyond itself. Jewish tradition read this eschatologically: Israel's longing for Messiah and final redemption. The bride's urgent plea became a

prayer: 'Make haste, beloved; come quickly, O Lord.' Early church tradition heard in this ending the Church's eschatological cry: 'Even so, come, Lord Jesus' (Revelation 22:20). The book of Revelation similarly concludes with urgent longing for Christ's return: 'The Spirit and the bride say, Come' (Revelation 22:17). The mountains of spices suggest the bride is ready, prepared, cultivated—waiting for the beloved's arrival. The Puritans emphasized the 'pilgrim' nature of Christian life—always moving toward but never fully arriving at complete union with Christ until the eschaton. Modern readers recognize both the ideal for human marriage (perpetual desire to deepen intimacy, never settling for maintenance mode) and the spiritual reality that believers groan for Christ's return and complete consummation of the divine-human relationship (Romans 8:22-23; Philippians 1:23).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does your spiritual life express urgent longing for Christ's presence and return—'make haste, my beloved'—or have you settled into comfortable maintenance Christianity?
2. What does it mean to cultivate your life as 'mountains of spices'—prepared, fragrant, ready for Christ's arrival and intimate communion?

Interlinear Text

בְּרַחֵן	דִּוֹדִי	וְדָמָה	לְךָ	לְצִבִּי	אוּ	לְעֹפָר
Make haste	my beloved	and be thou like	H0	to a roe	H176	or to a young
H1272	H1730	H1819		H6643		H6082
הָאֵלִים	עַל	הַרֵי	בְּשָׁמִים:			
hart	H5921	upon the mountains	of spices			
H354		H2022	H1314			

Additional Cross-References

Song of Solomon 2:17: Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be thou like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains of Bether.

Revelation 22:20: He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:17: And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Song of Solomon 2:9: My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, shewing himself through the lattice.