

¹By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not.²I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not.³The watchmen that go about the city found me: to whom I said, Saw ye him whom my soul loveth?⁴It was but a little that I passed from them, but I found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go, until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me.⁵I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please.⁶Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke,

perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant?⁷Behold his bed, which is Solomon's; threescore valiant men are about it, of the valiant of Israel.⁸They all hold swords, being expert in war: every man hath his sword upon his thigh because of fear in the night.⁹King Solomon made himself a chariot of the wood of Lebanon.¹⁰He made the pillars thereof of silver, the bottom thereof of gold, the covering of it of purple, the midst thereof being paved with love, for the daughters of Jerusalem.¹¹Go forth, O ye daughters of Zion, and behold king Solomon with the crown wherewith his mother crowned him in the day of his espousals, and in the day of the gladness of his heart.