Chapter II

The Second Book of the Psalter

1 Psalms 42–43

Structure: 6.6.5 > 3.3|3.3|2.3 lines (Type IB)

I

2 k’ylt t’rg ‘l ’pyqy mym
3 šm’h NPŠY L’lhyym L’L HY
4 hyth ly dm’ty lhym YWMM wLYLH
5 ‘lh zkrk w’spkh ‘ly NPŠY
6 MH tštwḥḥy NPŠY wthmy ‘ly

II

7 ‘ly NPŠY tštwḥḥ ‘l KN ‘zkrr
8 thwm ‘l thwm qwr’ lwq snwryk
9 YWMM yswh yswh HSDw
10 ‘wrmh ᵠ’l sl’y lnh škh’tny
11 bršḥ b’smwyty ḥrwyny swrry
12 MH tštwḥḥy NPŠY wmnı thmny ‘ly

III

1 špnty ‘lhyym wrwbh ryby Mgw ly ’ ḤSYD
2 ky ’th ‘lhy m’wzy lnh znḥtny
3 šľ ‘wrk w’mtk lnh ynhwny
4 w’BW’Ḥ ‘l mzbh ‘lhyym ‘l ‘ľmhgt qyły
5 MH tštwḥḥy NPŠY wmnı thmny ‘ly

1.1 Text

42,2a—k’ylt: ‘like a deer’; MT k’ył (‘like a hart/stag’; a loss of t by haplography).
42,3—MT divides with ‘atnaḥ after ‘bw’ in v. 3b.
42,5b—’drm: ‘distinguished people’ (see BHS); MT ’ddm (from the root ddh?).
42,5c–d: MT divides with ‘ole wegored after ’lhyym in v. 5c.
42,6c—pny w’lhy: cf. 42,12c and 43,5c; MT reads pnyw ’lhy and takes ’lhy as the first word of v. 7.
1.2 Content

The prayer of an individual: I trustfully wait for God!

I The longing for the sanctuary.
   I am longing to be in your presence (42.2–3), because people attack my faith (v. 4).
   I remember my pilgrimages to the sanctuary (v. 5); my soul, wait for God your Saviour (v. 6).

II The hostile attacks.
   Amidst the forces of the chaos waters (vv. 7–8) you will show your love and I will remain faithful (v. 9; cf. also v. 7).
   Why do you let me down, when my enemies taunt me? (vv. 10–11); my soul, wait for God your Saviour (v. 12).

III Prayer for salvation.
   O God, deliver me from my enemies (43.1–2).
   Bring me into your presence so that I can praise you (vv. 3–4); my soul, wait for God your Saviour (v. 5).

1.3 Transition markers

1.3.1 In the first line of the strophe

1.3.1.1 vocative: 'lhym, 42,2b
   'lh, 42,5a
   cohortatives: 'zkrh w'spkh,
   42,5a
   'l kn, 42,7a
   cohortative: 'wmrh, 42,10a;
   also imperf. qal 1 sing. 1.3.1.2 lmh, 42,10a and 10b
   imperatives: šptny . . .
   wrybh, 43,1a
   vocative: 'lhym, 43,1a
   imperative: šlh, 43,3a

1.3.2 In the last line of the strophe

1.3.2.1 ywmw wylh, 42,4a
   kl hywm, 42,4b
   'wd, 42,6b
   ywmw, 42,9a
   'wd, 42,12b
   'wd, 43,5b

1.3.2.2 'gh, 42,4b
   mh, 42,6a
   vocative: npšy, 42,6a
   imperative: hwy̱ly, 42,6b
   mh, 42,12a (2×)
   vocative: npšy, 42,12a
   imperative: hwy̱ly, 42,12b
   mh, 43,5a (2×)