CHAPTER FOUR
SONGS OF THE BELOVED WOMAN
(Song 2:8–3:5)

MORNING SONG

I

Woman  "Listen... it is my beloved!  
Look at him: he is coming,  
leaping on the mountains,  
bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle  
or a young stag.  
Look: he is standing  
behind our wall;  
he peers through the windows,  
he is gazing through the lattice.

II

My beloved is speaking, and he says to me:  
'Rise up, my love,  
my fair one, and go!'  
For, look, winter is over,
the rain has ceased, it has gone.
12The flowers have appeared in the land,
the time for song has arrived,
the voice of the turtle dove has been heard
in our land.
13The fig tree reddens its early figs,
the flowering vines pour forth their fragrance.

Rise up, my love,
my fair one, and go!
14My dove, you who are in the rocky ravines,
concealed in the crags,
let me see your face,
let me hear your voice,
for your voice is sweet
and your face lovely'.
15Catch us the foxes,
the little foxes,
who are spoiling the vineyards,
for our vineyards⁴ are in flower.

III

16My beloved is mine and I am his,
he grazes among the lotus flowers.

17When the day sighs
and the shadows lengthen,⁵
come, my love, be like a gazelle
or like a young stag
on the cloven mountains".⁶

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⁴ Vg reads in the singular (vinea nostra); so too the Targum.
⁵ MT nāsū literally means 'flee'; so too LXX kinēthōsin ('move'). Vetus Latina amoveantur ('disappear') refers to the morning, but Vg inclinentur, and the Syriac nrknwn, understand the 'lengthening' of the shadows in the evening.
⁶ MT’s ἀλ ἁρέ βάτερ is disputed. LXX has: ἐπὶ ὥρῃ κοιλώματον ('on the mountain of the caves'). Aquila’s ἐπὶ ὥρῃ βαθῆρ understands a proper name, as does Vg’s super montes Bether; Theodotion reads ἐπὶ ὥρῃ θυμιάματον: ('on the mountain of