

"Of Roses and Lilies"

A Romantic Expression Based on King Solomon's "Song of Songs"

by Sarah Wallin Huff

I am the Rose of Sharon
The Lily of the Valley
A lily among thorns,
Yes, compared to others, a lily among thorns.

Oh, my lover is like the finest apple tree,
I rest beneath his delightful shade,
And his fruit is sweet to my taste!

Oh promise me, dear sisters,
Don't awaken love until the time is right.

His hand is under my head.
His right hand embraces me.
His banner over me is love,
I take great delight in my king.

Oh, my lover is mine and I am his.
He feeds among the lilies so fair.
See him run across the mountain like a young gazelle!

Oh promise me, dear sisters,
Don't awaken love until the time is right.

He calls to me sweetly at night,
"Rise up, my love, come away with me.
For the winter is past and the rain gone."

Should I dress? Should I soil my feet?
My heart thrills with joy when I hear his voice!
How I yearn for him now!
Am I too late? He's nowhere to be found.

He calls to my fluttering heart,
"Be not shamed my dove, let me see your face,

Let me hear your voice, it is pleasant to me."

Oh promise me, dear sisters,
Don't awaken love until the time is right.

Love's jealousy endures the grave.
Yes, love flashes with the brightest kind of flame!

Oh, my lover is mine and I am his.
I'm overcome by one glance of your eyes.
"You are like a private garden, my treasure and my bride!"

Oh promise me, dear sisters,
Don't awaken love until the time is right.

How sweet is your love,
How much better 'tis than wine.
He is lovely in ev'ry way.
Catch the foxes before they spoil the vineyard of our love.

Promise me, dear sisters,
Don't awaken love until the time is right.

Such, women of Jerusalem,
Is my lover and my friend.