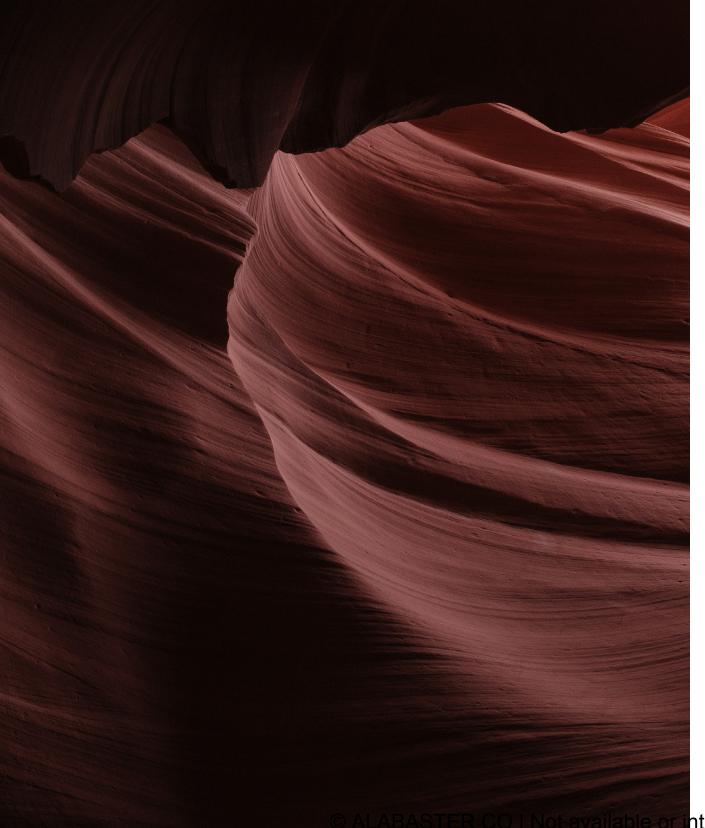
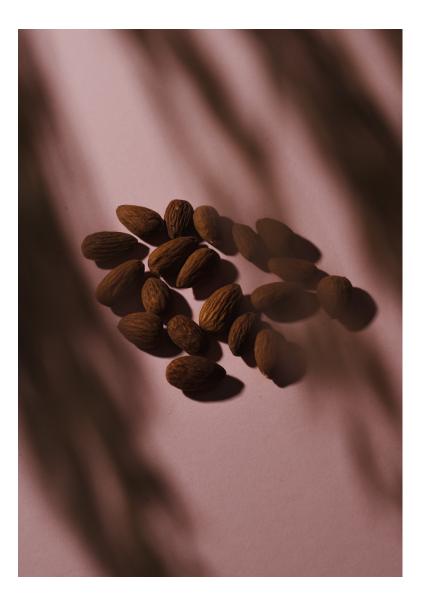
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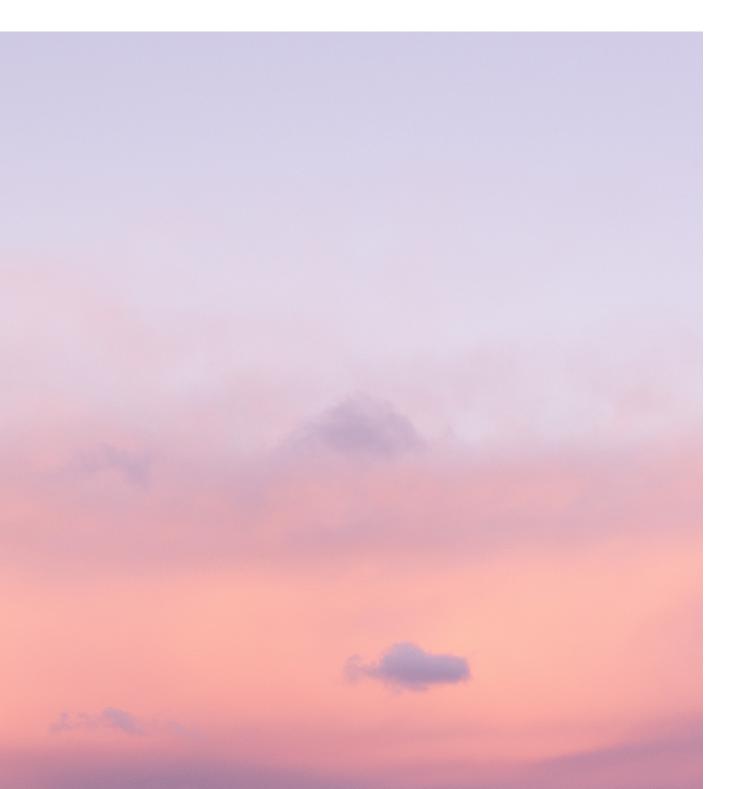
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1

¹ This is Solomon's song of songs, more wonderful than any other.

YOUNG WOMAN

- ² Kiss me and kiss me again, for your love is sweeter than wine.
- ³ How pleasing is your fragrance; your name is like the spreading fragrance of scented oils. No wonder all the young women love you!
- ⁴ Take me with you; come, let's run! The king has brought me into his bedroom.

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CHAPTER 1

YOUNG WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

How happy we are for you, O king. We praise your love even more than wine.

YOUNG WOMAN

How right they are to adore you.

- I am dark but beautiful,
 O women of Jerusalem—
 dark as the tents of Kedar,
 dark as the curtains of Solomon's tents.
- ⁶ Don't stare at me because I am dark the sun has darkened my skin.
 My brothers were angry with me; they forced me to care for their vineyards, so I couldn't care for myself—my own vineyard.
- ⁷ Tell me, my love, where are you leading your flock today?

Where will you rest your sheep at noon? For why should I wander like a prostitute among your friends and their flocks?

YOUNG MAN

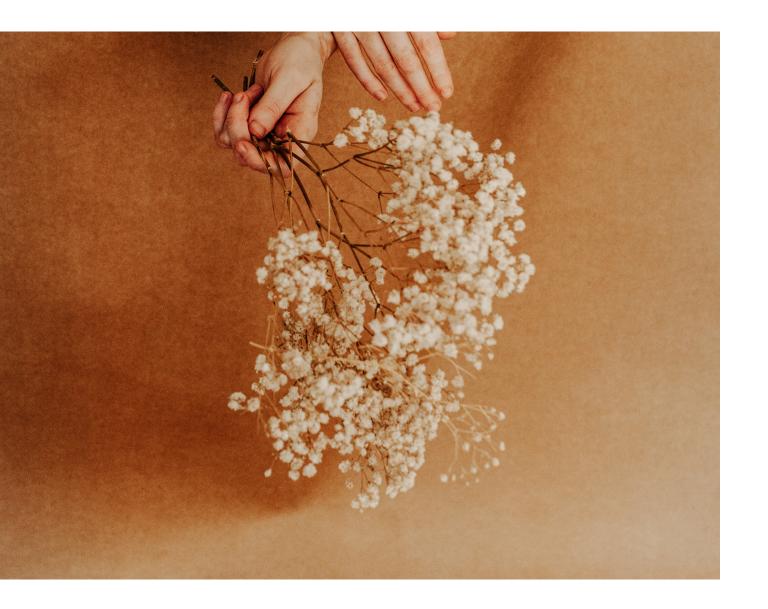
- ⁸ If you don't know, O most beautiful woman, follow the trail of my flock, and graze your young goats by the shepherds' tents.
 ⁹ You are as exciting, my darling,
- as a mare among Pharaoh's stallions.
- ¹⁰ How lovely are your checks; your earrings set them afire! How lovely is your neck,
- enhanced by a string of jewels.
- ¹¹ We will make for you earrings of gold and beads of silver.

YOUNG WOMAN

- ¹² The king is lying on his couch,
- enchanted by the fragrance of my perfume.
- ¹³ My lover is like a sachet of myrrh
- lying between my breasts.
- ¹⁴ He is like a bouquet of sweet henna blossoms from the vineyards of En-gedi.



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2

YOUNG WOMAN

¹ I am the spring crocus blooming on the Sharon Plain, the lily of the valley.

YOUNG MAN

² Like a lily among thistles is my darling among young women.

YOUNG WOMAN

 ³ Like the finest apple tree in the orchard is my lover among other young men.
 I sit in his delightful shade and taste his delicious fruit.