

The Song of Songs an Outline

1/. Title 1:1

2/. First coming together and intimacy 1:2 – 2:7

- a. Female: Longing for her lover 1:2-7
- b. Male: Response with invitation and praise 1:8-11
- c. Female: Her lover as fragrance 1:12-14
- d. Male: Praise of beauty 1:15
- e. Female: Love in paradise 1:16-2:1
- f. Male: My love is like a flower 2:2
- g. Female: A Pastoral scene 2:3-7

3/. Lovers joined and separated 2:8 – 3:5

- a. Female: Her lover pursues her 2:8-9
- b. Male: Invitation to come away 2:10-14
- c. Couple: Protect our love 2:15
- d. Female: Love affirmed, gratification delayed 2:16-17
- e. Female: 1st Search at night and seizure 3:1-5

4/. Love and marriage at the heart of the song 3:6 – 5:1

- a. Male: Marriage scene 3:6-11
- b. Male: 1st *Wasf* for the female and a call to come along 4:1-8
- c. Male: A walk in the garden 4:9-15
- d. Female: Invitation to her garden 4:16
- e. Male: Tasting the garden 5:1a
- f. Chorus: Enjoy 5:1b

5/. Search and reunion 5:2 – 6:3

- a. Female: A 2nd search at night for her dream lover 5:2-8
- b. Chorus: Challenge to compare the male lover 5:9
- c. Female: 1st *Wasf* for the male 5:10-16
- d. Chorus: Inquiry for the male 6:1
- e. Female: Reunites with her lover 6:2-3

6/. Desire for the female and love in the country 6:4 – 8:4

- a. Male: 2nd *Wasf* for the female 6:4-10
- b. Female: Lingering in the groves 6:11-12
- c. Chorus: Call to return 6:13
- d. Male: 3rd *Wasf* for the female 7:1-9a
- e. Female: Springtime and love 7:9b-8:4

7/. The power of love 8:5 – 14

- a. Chorus: Search for the couple 8:5a
- b. Female: The power of love 8:5b-7
- c. Brothers: Their younger sister 8:8-9
- d. Female: Her defence/response 8:10
- e. Female: Solomon's vineyard 8:11-12
- f. Male: Listening 8:13
- g. Female: Departure 8:14

Wasf... (Arabic)... (literally '**attribute**' or '**description**'); is an ancient style of Arabic poetry, which can be characterised as descriptive verse. In *wasf* love poems, each part of a lover's body is described and praised in turn, often using exotic, extravagant, or even far-fetched metaphors.