

ܘܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܚܐ ܕܝܫܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܐ

The Eucharistic Marriage Feast

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܚܐ ܕܝܫܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܐ

ܒܕܐܬܐ ܕܝܫܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܐ

ܕܝܫܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܐ ܕܝܫܠܡܐ

This poem was extracted from Sebastian P. Brock & George A. Kiraz book of Select Poems of Ephrem the Syrian. The original text was scripted in Syriac with English translation; this version is in Aramaic with slight modification to the interpretation of English translation.

ܘܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܚܐ ܕܝܫܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܐ

I have invited You, Lord, to a wedding feast of songs,

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܚܐ ܕܝܫܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܐ

But the wine – the utterance of praise – at our feat has run out. [John 2:1-10]

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܚܐ ܕܝܫܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܐ

[You are] the guest who filled with good wine the jars;

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܚܐ ܕܝܫܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܐ

fill my mouth with Your praise.

❖❖❖

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܚܐ ܕܝܫܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܐ

Praise to You from everyone who has perceived Your truth¹.

❖❖❖

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܚܐ ܕܝܫܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܐ

The wine that was in the jars was akin and related to

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܚܐ ܕܝܫܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܐ

this eloquent wine that gives birth to praise

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܚܐ ܕܝܫܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܐ

and also that wine gave birth to praise

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܚܐ ܕܝܫܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܐ

from those who drank it and beheld the wonder.

❖❖❖

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܚܐ ܕܝܫܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܐ

You who are so just, if at a wedding feast not Your own

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܚܐ ܕܝܫܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܐ

You filled six jars with good wine, [John 2:6],

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܚܐ ܕܝܫܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܐ

do You, Lord, at this wedding feast, fill, not the jars,

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܚܐ ܕܝܫܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܐ

but the ten thousand ears with its sweetness.

❖❖❖

ܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܝܚܝܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

The light of the pillar of fire and of the cloud [Num 14:14]

ܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

drew into itself its rays like the sun

ܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

that was eclipsed on the day that she cried out, [Matt 27:45]

ܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

Demanding the King, further crime. [Mark 15:13]

❖❖❖

ܕܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

How can my harp, O lord, ever rest from Your praise?

ܕܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

how could I ever teach my tongue infidelity?

ܕܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

Your love gives to my shamefacedness confidence, -

ܕܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

- yet my will is ungrateful.

❖❖❖

ܕܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

It is right that humanity should acknowledge Your divinity,

ܕܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

it is right for the supernal beings to worship Your humanity;

ܕܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

the supernal beings were amazed to see how small You become,

ܕܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

and those below to see how exalted!

❖❖❖

1. A different refrain is given in two of the manuscripts: "Praise to You who have poured out Your gift upon Your servant"
2. Your worlds: i.e. both angels and human beings.
3. the body: One manuscript has "Your body"; although this conforms to Text 5, stanza 6, it does not fit the context nearly so well here.
4. The Holy One: Ephrem deliberately reflects Jewish usage.