ܘܝܡܐ ܕܡܬܐ ܟܣܘܟܐ ܕܢܬܐ

The Eucharistic Marriage Feast

ܡܒܕܬܐ ܕܡܫܐ ܢܦܫܗ ܕܬܐ

ܒܟ ܬܟܐ ܕܣܝܟܬܐ ܗܕܬܐ

ܚܒܝ ܫܝܒܘܬܐ ܕܥܡ̈ ܕܒܝܫܟ

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.

ܘܝܡܢܐ ܡܬܐ ܟܣܘܟܐ ܕܡܒܕܬܐ

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

ܣܒܐ ܐܗ ܫܡܥܬܐ ܟܣܘܟܝ ܡܢܡܐ ܥܡܚܬܐ

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

ܘܥܒܬܐ ܕܡܟܐ ܗܘ ܢܟܬܐ

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

ܫܡܥܬܐ ܦܬܬܐ ܡܟܝ ܦܘܡ ܕܐܥܡܣܢܐ

fill my mouth with Your praise.

❖❖❖

ܚܘܬܬܐ: ܥܡܚܬܐ ܟܝ ܡܢ ܟܠ ܕܢܦܩܝܥ ܐܗ ܫܥܪܬܐ

Praise to You from everyone who has perceived Your truth[1].

❖❖❖

ܫܡܥܬܐ ܕܒܟܟܬܐ ܙܐܬܐ ܗܘ ܐܟ ܫܐ ܦܘܡܬܐ

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

ܕܐܬܐ ܫܡܥܬܐ ܡܟܟܐ ܕܡܘܠܕ ܥܡܚܬܐ

this eloquent wine that gives birth to praise

ܕܐܟ ܗܘ ܫܡܥܬܐ ܥܡܚܬܐ ܢܘܠܕ

and also that wine gave birth to praise

ܡܢ ܫܬܝܬܐ ܕܣܘ ܐܕܡܗܕܬܐ

from those who drank it and beheld the wonder.

❖❖❖

ܦܟ ܚܢܐ ܕܢܨܕܩ ܒܟܣܘܟܐ ܒܟ ܕܢܟ

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

ܐܗ ܢܟܬܬ ܡܟܗ ܟܘ ܫܡܥܬܐ ܦܬܬܐ

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

ܚܐܢ ܣܟܘܟܐ ܣܟ ܢܟܬܐ

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

ܕܐܗ ܢܕܬ ܡܟܗ ܫܢ ܚܘܫܢ

but the ten thousand ears with its sweetness.

❖❖❖

ܒܥܘܕ ܕܝܘܕܘܟ ܟܣܘܟ ܕܢܣܬܐ

Jesus, You were invited to the wedding feast of others,

ܗܐ ܣܘܟ ܕܝܟ ܘܦܢܐ ܢܩܝܐ ܬܟܦܬ

here is Your own pure and fair wedding feast: gladden Your worlds[2]

ܕܗܐ ܗܒܝܬ ܡܕܡ ܐܟ ܘܒܝܬ

for Your guests too, O Lord, need

ܒܟ ܡܬܬܗ ܒܩܠ ܚܢܗ

Your songs; let Your harp utter!

❖❖❖

ܟܠܗ ܐ ܒܪܬ ܐܟ ܦܓܢ ܚܘܬ ܗ

The soul is Your bride, the body[3] too is Your bridal chamber,

ܘܒܝܬ ܐܒܗܘ ܩܟܝ ܒܟ ܣܒܬ

Your guests are the senses and the thoughts.

ܘܝ ܒܕ ܦܓܢ ܣܘܟ ܗܐ ܟ

And if a single body is wedding feast for You,

ܡܥܗܗ ܐ ܒܕܗ ܟܕ ܒܟܗ

How great is Your banquet with the whole church!

❖❖❖

ܟܚܘܥ ܥܒܟ ܗܐ ܒܕܒ ܚܗܘ ܗܒܕ

The Holy one[4] took the synagogue up on Sinai:

ܢܩܕ ܦܓܢ ܚܩܢ ܡܣܝ ܟܬ

He made her body shine with garments of white, but her heart was dark [Exod 19:14]

ܚܟܟ ܟܕ ܡܗ ܢ

She played the harlot with the calf, and so the Exalted One rejected her, [Exod 32:1ff]

ܡܗܕ ܟܘ ܚ ܕܡ

Breaking the tablets, the book of her covenant. [Exod 32:19]

❖❖❖

ܡܘ ܣ ܡܥܗܡ ܟܘ ܚܟ ܥܘ

Who has ever seen such horror in a shameful deed -

ܟܠ ܕܟܚܘ ܗܕ ܕ ܢ

a bride who has played false in her own bridal chamber, raised her voice?

ܚܡܙ ܡܗ ܐ ܒܟ

When she dwelt in Egypt she learnt it from

ܢܗ ܕܘ ܕܡ ܗܕ

the mistress of Joseph, who cried out when she played false. [Gen 39:15]

❖❖❖

ܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܒܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܘܠܥܢܢܐ

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

ܡܢܐ ܐܝܟ ܕܫܡܫܐ ܘܟܒܝܩܘܗ ܒܕܡܘܗ ܫܡܥ

drew into itself its rays like the sun

ܗܘ ܕܐܬܟܫܝ ܒܝܘܡܐ ܕܩܥܬ ܘܐܡܪ

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

ܡܠܟܐ ܫܪܝܪܐ ܥܠ ܥܘܠܐ ܬܘܣܦ

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

❖❖❖

ܐܝܟ ܢܕܪ ܢܫܪܐ ܒܝ ܡܪܢ ܠܫܒܚܬܟ

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

ܐܝܟ ܐܘܕ ܠܝܫܢܝ ܢܬܠܡܕ ܟܦܘܪܐ

how could I ever teach my tongue infidelity?

ܚܘܒܟ ܣܒܝ ܠܟܦܝܢܘܬܝ ܐܡܝ

Your love gives to my shamefacedness confidence, -

ܐܦ ܗܟܢܐ ܐܝܬ ܠܝ ܪܓܫܢ ܟܦܝܪ

- yet my will is ungrateful.

❖❖❖

ܫܪܝ ܐܢܫܐ ܠܡܘܕܝܬܟ ܕܒܪܝܬܐ

It is right that humanity should acknowledge Your divinity,

ܫܪܝ ܠܥܠܝܐ ܠܡܫܒܚ ܠܒܪܝܬܟ

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

ܬܡܗܘ ܥܠܝܐ ܒܟܝ ܐܦ ܐܢܐ

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

ܘܟ ܐܣܬܝ ܒܟܝ ܒܗܕܡܐ

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 fi the context nearly so well here.*
4. *The Holy One: Ephrem deliberately reflects Jewish usage.*