

ܘܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܬܝܪ ܕܝܥܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܝܐ

The Eucharistic Marriage Feast

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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 ܕܩܬܝܪ ܕܝܥܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܝܐ

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

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܬܝܪ ܕܝܥܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܝܐ

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

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܬܝܪ ܕܝܥܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܝܐ

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

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܬܝܪ ܕܝܥܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܝܐ

fill my mouth with Your praise.

❖❖❖

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܬܝܪ ܕܝܥܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܝܐ

Praise to You from everyone who has perceived Your truth¹.

❖❖❖

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܬܝܪ ܕܝܥܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܝܐ

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

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܬܝܪ ܕܝܥܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܝܐ

this eloquent wine that gives birth to praise

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܬܝܪ ܕܝܥܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܝܐ

and also that wine gave birth to praise

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܬܝܪ ܕܝܥܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܝܐ

from those who drank it and beheld the wonder.

❖❖❖

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܬܝܪ ܕܝܥܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܝܐ

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

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܬܝܪ ܕܝܥܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܝܐ

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

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܬܝܪ ܕܝܥܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܝܐ

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

ܡܝܬܐ ܕܩܬܝܪ ܕܝܥܠܡܐ ܕܕܩܘܝܐ

but the ten thousand ears with its sweetness.

❖❖❖

בעוד דיין ודומך גסלעך דינסט

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

אין סלעך דאס ווארט דאס גלייכע

here is Your own pure and fair wedding feast: gladden Your worlds²

דאס ווארט דאס גלייכע

for Your guests too, O Lord, need

אין סלעך דאס גלייכע

Your songs; let Your harp utter!

אלעס וואס איז דאס גלייכע

The soul is Your bride, the body³ too is Your bridal chamber,

אין סלעך דאס גלייכע

Your guests are the senses and the thoughts.

אין סלעך דאס גלייכע

And if a single body is wedding feast for You,

אין סלעך דאס גלייכע

How great is Your banquet with the whole church!

אין סלעך דאס גלייכע

The Holy one⁴ took the synagogue up on Sinai:

אין סלעך דאס גלייכע

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

אין סלעך דאס גלייכע

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

אין סלעך דאס גלייכע

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

אין סלעך דאס גלייכע

Who has ever seen such horror in a shameful deed -

אין סלעך דאס גלייכע

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

אין סלעך דאס גלייכע

When she dwelt in Egypt she learnt it from

אין סלעך דאס גלייכע

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

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

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

ܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

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

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ܕܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

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

ܕܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

how could I ever teach my tongue infidelity?

ܕܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

Your love gives to my shamefacedness confidence, -

ܕܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

- yet my will is ungrateful.

❖❖❖

ܕܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

It is right that humanity should acknowledge Your divinity,

ܕܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

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

ܕܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ ܕܥܝܬܐ

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

ܕܡܫܬܥܬܐ ܕܥܡܘܕܐ 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.