

Solomon's Egotism Revealed by Possessive Pronouns: "My lover," "My wife." Becoming Teenage King of Israel Fosters Attitude of Privilege & Hedonism

Song of Solomon 4:1 - [KS: Pick-Up Line #6] "How beautiful you are, my lover, how beautiful you are! [KS: Pick-Up Line #7] Your eyes are like doves behind your flowing black tresses; [KS: Pick-Up Line #8] your hair flows like a flock of goats descending from Mount Gilead.

SOS 4:2 - [KS: Pick-Up Line #9] "Your teeth are as white as a flock of newly shorn ewes coming up from the washing, every one of which bears twins, and none is missing.

SOS 4:3 - [KS: Pick-Up Line #10] "Your lips are like a scarlet thread, and your mouth is lovely. [KS: Pick-Up Line #11] Your forehead is the color of a slice of pomegranate behind your flowing tresses.

SOS 4:4 - [KS: Pick-Up Line #12] "Your neck is like the tower of David, built with a battlement of stones on which are hung in its embrasures a thousand shields, all the round shields of the army of Israel.

SOS 4:5 - [KS: Pick-Up Line #13] "Your two breasts are as youthful as two fawns, twins of a gazelle [belonging to the Shepherd (2:9, 17)] which feed among the lilies."

SOS 4:6 - (Paraphrase) [SW] "Until this period of pressure is removed I will retreat into my memory center inspired by the aroma of my sachet and recall principles of doctrine that give me courage and confidence."

1. Solomon, who is completely self-possessed, ignores her comment and continues his aria in:

SOS 4:7 - [KS: Pick-Up Line #14] "You are altogether beautiful, my lover, and there is no blemish in you."

2. This pick-up line is a general compliment of the Shulammite's obvious physical beauty. He amplifies the opening statement by adding, "... there is no blemish in you."
3. The reference here is to her entire person. Her personality, mannerisms, carriage, poise, grace, and presence indicate to Solomon that she is a beautiful person within her soul as well.
4. What Solomon says is true and he no doubt believes it but he is stating the obvious. He is no doubt aware that others have recognized her physical beauty and he wants to go a step further and compliment her soul.
5. When a man states the obvious to a woman she must discern his intent. Solomon has gone to a great deal of effort for an entire day to say 14 very complimentary things, so far. In reality he has captured the Shulammite and taken her to his palace in Jerusalem where he is holding her as a POW in the Invisible War.
6. What is obvious to the Shulammite is that he has more on his mind than praising her beauty. He is surely obsessed with her physical appearance but his true intent is to satisfy his sexual lust at her expense.

7. That Solomon is arrogant, possessive, and egotistic is revealed by his repeated reference to the Shulammite with a possessive pronoun “my” plus the noun “lover.” He said this to her in Pick-Up Line #6 in verse one, “How beautiful you are my lover.” In verse seven he intensifies the compliment by adding the particle **kol**. It has an inclusive meaning that takes in the entirety of a person thus Solomon is now trying to flatter her by including her soul and personality into the Pick-Up Line.
8. His repeated use of the possessive pronoun to identify the Shulammite reveals a mental attitude driven by over-emphasis on self. This condition of soul may be defined by several terms but we first must note what is not indicated.
9. The first word we must consider is “ego” which is defined by:

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed., s.v.:

Ego. The self especially as contrasted with another self or the world

This word is often used in a negative sense but it simply describes a living human being consisting of both a body and a soul. A person’s ego is his conscious understanding of his individuality and is a bona fide word that describes every person. Ego is created at the moment of selection and continues until physical death.

The word is often used as a synonym for pride or arrogance but this is inaccurate. The word has been cooped by the field of psychoanalysis but that theory is not applicable here.

Ego has to do with being aware of one’s own existence and applies to Solomon, the Shulammite, and the Shepherd in the sense that they are all physically alive.

10. The words for self-centeredness are derived from “ego” and include the following:

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed., s.v.:

Egocentric. To be concerned for oneself rather than society. Limited in concern to one's own needs. Self-centered, selfish

For Solomon this describes his habit of regarding everything in relationship to himself in that he is concerned solely with his own desires, needs, and interests.

Egoism. The doctrine that individual self-interest is the motive of all conscious action. Excessive concern for oneself.

This may be classified as narcissism: the love of one’s own body. Solomon’s accumulation of women was for his own satisfaction and displays and excessive love of self. The latter part of his life was consumed by Operation Overthink which he documents in both Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs.

Egotism. An exaggerated sense of self-importance. Conceit. This is the practice of constantly referring to oneself.

It is interesting to note the definition of this word from:

Webster, Noah. *An American Dictionary of the English Language.* (New York: S. Converse, 1828), 1:70:

Egotism. Primarily, the practice of too frequently using the word *I*. Hence, a speaking or writing much of one’s self; self-praise; self-commendation; the act or practice of magnifying one’s self, or making one’s self of importance.

These definitions are exemplified by Solomon's constant reference to the Shulammite as "his lover" (Song 1:9, 15; 2:2; 4:1, 7; 6:4) and "his wife" (Song 4:8, 9, 10, 11, 12; 5:1).

11. The words "egocentric," "egoism," and "egotism" describe Solomon as a man dominated by a prideful attitude brought on by extreme arrogance.
12. All his glowing comments to the Shulammite are designed to assuage his various categories of arrogance: sexual, psychopathic, and unhappiness, each being intensified by over-emphasis on himself which may be classified as egocentric arrogance.
13. Those who have facilitated sexual arrogance have behavior patterns that deny reality. They conclude that reality is the pursuit of happiness and anyone or anything that delays or denies its progress must be dominated, abused, or eliminated.
14. Consequently a person in psychopathic arrogance driven by sexual lust has no capacity for love. Solomon may refer to the Shulammite as "my lover" and later as "my wife" but he only has eyes for her body and what he plans to do with it to assuage his lust and achieve happiness. He would do neither.
15. His only interest is self-gratification and he will say anything to the Shulammite that he thinks might break her down and entice her to willingly join his harem.
16. Solomon is in a position of maximum power. He has been king of Israel since he was around 15 years of age:

Orr, James (gen. ed.). *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*. (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1956), 4:2823:

Solomon obtained his father's crown, and was bequeathed a brilliant legacy. Being but a mere lad when he began to reign, not more than eighteen years old at the most ...

Josephus, Flavius. *Antiquities of the Jews*. In *The Life and Works of Flavius Josephus*. Trans. William Whiston. (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, nd), 256:

Solomon died when he was already an old man, having reigned eighty years, and lived ninety-four.

He has known nothing but privilege his entire life. He has been catered to by palace staff and military personnel from childhood the present moment. His personal possessions defy comprehension. He is used to his desires being fulfilled and his order followed. He would never pass the time of day with a middle-class woman from the North Country if there were not something in it for him. What's in it for him is sex and he likes for his women to be submissive to his advances not just resigned to the task. Therefore, his Pick-Up Lines are designed to convince the Shulammite that she not only should be impressed by the wonderful compliments given her but that she has the highly prized opportunity of being romanced by the king of Israel. This summarizes the unreality that exists in Solomon's soul and the lifestyle that has fostered it.