

**THE SONG OF SONGS, BEING A
COLLECTION OF LOVE LYRICS OF
ANCIENT PALESTINE, A NEW
TRANSLATION BASED ON A REVISED TEXT,
TOGETHER WITH THE ORIGIN, GROWGHT
AND INTERPRETION OF THE SONGS**

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The Song of songs, being a collection of love lyrics of ancient Palestine, a new translation based on a revised text, together with the origin, growth and interpretation of the songs by Morris Jastrow

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MORRIS JASTROW

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THE SONG OF SONGS

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Let us get up early to the vineyards,
Let us see whether the vine has budded;
Its blossom has opened.

Song xix, Love In The Fields

BEING
A COLLECTION OF LOVE LYRICS
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1921

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TO

H. B. J.

TO WHOM MY FIRST BOOK WAS DEDICATED

I INSCRIBE ALSO THIS ONE

BECAUSE ITS THEME RECALLS TO ME HER LOVING COMPANIONSHIP

WHICH HAS BEEN THE JOY OF MY LIFE

AND THE INSPIRATION TO MY CAREER

When, on June 21, my husband laid down his facile pen forever, the manuscript of the Song of Songs was practically in the shape in which it now appears. He had planned to round out the sixth chapter by giving several examples of Ancient Egyptian and Modern Palestinian Love Songs. Of these he had translated—from the Arabic—only a few extracts of the modern ditties, which are still sung by the peasants of Palestine. In order to give the reader some idea of how closely they resemble the Biblical love songs, I have added them at the end of the book. It is my hope that the comparison of these extracts with my husband's translation of the Song of Songs will tend to confirm his interpretation of the Biblical book—as a collection of *secular* love songs.

A seventh chapter on "The Song of Songs as Literature" was included in the original plan of the work. It seems more fitting that this chapter be omitted than that it be written by another.

It is a great satisfaction to me to feel that the Trilogy to which my husband had devoted so many years of ardent and joyful study, should have been so nearly completed,—in his own words—"Job, the most philosophical, Ecclesiastes, the most fascinating, and the Song of Songs the most charming book of the Old Testament."

Rev. Dr. Royden Keith Yerkes has been good enough to read a proof, as well as to verify the many references, and Dr. Chas. J. Mendelsohn has also read a proof. To both these friends I am deeply grateful.

HELEN B. JASTROW

OCTOBER, 1921