

The Song of Songs: The Honeybee in the Garden

Debra Band



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The Song of Songs has provided generations with some of the most passionate and most lasting love poetry ever recorded. And because of that passion, it has also been a source of lasting controversy and debate. What exactly is the true meaning of these 117 verses—a celebration of romantic love, or an allegory of divine love and redemption? In *The Song of Songs: The Honeybee in the Garden*, author and artist Debra Band presents a breathtakingly beautiful illuminated work in which these two lines of interpretation are harmonized within a stunning visual context. Her fine calligraphy and striking artwork are like *The Song of Songs* itself, both literal and allegorical, sensuous and spiritual.

This lovingly produced volume contains 65 full-page illuminations and beautifully crafted papercuts. The illuminations draw upon classic rabbinic texts and modern scholarship, creating both visual beauty and a new visual midrash on this beloved poetry. The art is accompanied by the artist's interpretation of the images, and it includes the Bible text in its original Hebrew, next to both the JPS English translation and the new David Band translation. The preface, by Raymond Scheindlin, eminent scholar of medieval Hebrew literature at The Jewish Theological Seminary, provides the framework for truly understanding Band's artistic achievement and scholarly contribution.

This work, hailed as a masterpiece by art-lovers and scholars across the world, is an art-book collector's delight, a Bible devotee's treasure, and a magnificent gift for weddings, anniversaries, and other special occasions.

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