



**My lover is to me an apple tree among all the trees of the forest.  
I delight to sit in His shade;  
His fruit is delicious to my taste. Song of Solomon 2:3 NIV**

This declaration on the part of the Shulammitte maiden in the Song of Solomon is worthy of a book. I am so heartened by her lack of shame in those first two words.

My lover. The one who loves me. He - He and no other. Oh, this is THE One whom I love. This is my lover. I can imagine her saying all of this and more. I can easily imagine her saying, “He may mean nothing to you, but I find Him beyond compare with any other. Your lover has no meaning for me; only my lover will do for me.”

Is it any wonder that she find him so delectable, so delicious that she is content to “sit in His shade?” She is so drawn to Him that she finds a contentment “in His shade” that she has never had before.

Did you ever consider exactly what the word “shade” means in the context of this song? Likening him to an apple tree, she delights in His shade. But exactly what is this shade? It is a collection of shadows thrown by the branches or arms of the tree. Shade here means shadows.

So she delights to sit in His shadow. As I pondered this, it occurred to me that we cannot ever sit in our own shadow. No matter from where light comes upon us to make a shadow of us, we can never, ever sit in our own shadow. Besides, even if we could, it would not change us or bless us in any way. Oh, but His shadow – now that is a different story!

His shadow, His shade, is a guarantee that he is near. And He is so wonderful and so powerful that even His shadow is full of life-transforming power. Do you remember how God's power was demonstrated through Peter's shadow after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit? Let's look at that for a moment.

This statement was made within the context of describing the early church. It is stated that the first believers met regularly for worship, and though many admired them and saw the miracles they performed, most were afraid to identify with them. It then goes on to say that Peter's anointing was so evident,

**Ac 5:15**

to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his **shadow** might fall on any one of them.

Now if Peter's shadow, Peter's shade, carried healing power, how much more the shade of the Shulammite's Apple Tree? She has discovered something here. And thought she cannot and does not remain there for the duration of the story, how significant it is to observe that she rested in that shade.

Jesus is our Great Lord and Lover. His love for you was so great that He most willingly stretched out His beautiful arms and permitted himself to be nailed to another tree – the tree of Calvary.

That tree casts a shadow too. It is the tree of redemption. Have you found its healing power? Mind you, the emphasis must be on the Person on that tree and not the tree, but the significance of His love for us has to be noted.

Oh, to find that place of rest. Oh, that you and I might be fulfilled, that we might be completely satisfied as we find this niche carved out just for us, under the shadow of His arms, His cross, His wings of mercy, this Apple Tree of Love.

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Draw near to your Lover.  
Sit under the shadow of His wings.  
Be strengthened and refreshed by His fruit.