

# Contents

<i>Foreword</i>	xiii
<i>Preface</i>	xv
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xvii
<b>Chapter 1: A Methodological Framework</b>	1
1.1. The Question	1
1.2. Exposing the Framework	1
1.3. Relevant Literature Review	4
1.4. Socio-cultural Anthropology as a Method of Study	5
1.4.1. Introduction to Sociology as a Method of Interpretation	5
1.4.2. Introduction to Cultural Studies as a Branch of Anthropology	8
1.4.3. Socio-cultural Anthropology as a Method	9
1.5. A Literal Reading from the Perspective of Socio-cultural Anthropology	11
1.6. Paradigms by Novelty	12
1.7. The Parameter	13
<b>Chapter 2: Ancient West Asian Love Poetry: An Investigation</b>	15
Introduction	15
2.1. Background of AWA Literature	16
2.2. Etymology of “Love” in the AWA Culture	18
2.3. Poetic Love Lyrics in the AWA Literature	19
2.3.1. Mesopotamian Love Poetry	19
2.3.1.1. Sumerian	20
2.3.1.2. Akkadian	21
2.3.1.3. Egyptian Love Poetry	24

2.3.1.4. Hebrew Poetry	28
2.3.1.5. Arabian Wasf	30
2.4. Love Songs in the AWA Literature	31
2.4.1. A Harper's Song	31
2.4.2. Love-Song to a King	33
2.4.3. Inanna and the King: <i>Blessing on the     Wedding Night</i>	34
2.4.4. A Love Song for Shu-Sin- <i>Lettuce is My Hair</i>	35
2.4.5. Love Song to a King: <i>The Honey-Man</i>	36
2.4.6. Set Me Free, My Sister: <i>The Sated Lover</i>	36
2.4.7. The Babylonian Epic of Gilgamesh	37
2.5. Human Sexuality in AWA Love Lyrics	39
Summary	40
<b>Chapter 3: History of Interpretation: A General Survey of the Book</b>	41
Introduction	41
3.1. Title	41
3.2. Authorship	42
3.3. Dating	43
3.4. Canonicity	44
3.5. Genre	45
3.6. Structure of the Book	46
3.7. History of Interpretation: Hermeneutical Approaches to the Song of Songs	47
3.7.1. Before Akiba Ben Yosef	47
3.7.2. Jewish Allegorical Interpretation	48
3.7.3. Early Christian Interpretation	49
3.7.4. The Early Middle Ages	50
3.7.5. Literal/naturalistic Interpretation	51
3.7.6. Dramatic Approach	52
3.7.7. Early Modern Period	53
3.7.8. Modern Interpretation	54
3.7.9. Love Poetry	54
3.8. Alternative Theories of Approaches to the Song of Songs	55
3.8.1. Typological Approach	55
3.8.2. Mythological/Cultic Interpretation	55

3.8.3. Psychological Interpretation	56
3.8.4. Political Interpretation	56
3.8.5. Dream View	57
3.8.6. Wasf	57
3.9. AWA Background and Others	58
3.10. A Critique to the Traditional Interpretations	59
Summary	60
<b>Chapter 4: Exegetical Study: Investigation of the Symbolism of Human Eroticism</b>	<b>61</b>
Introduction	61
4.1. Longing for the Greatest Pleasure	62
4.1.1. Song 1:2, 4, 7-8	62
4.1.2. Textual Comments	62
4.1.3. Structure, Form and Genre	63
4.1.4. Exegetical Analysis	63
4.1.5. Interpretation in Relation to the Symbolism of Human Eroticism	65
4.2. The Allure of the Beloved Outspoken	66
4.2.1. Song 1:9-11, 13-15	66
4.2.2. Textual Comments	67
4.2.3. Structure, Form and Genre	67
4.2.4. Exegetical Analysis	68
4.2.5. Interpretation in Relation to the Symbolism of Human Eroticism	69
4.3. The Symbolical Springtime Rhapsody	70
4.3.1. Song 2:1-4, 16.	70
4.3.2. Textual Comments	71
4.3.3. Structure, Form and Genre	71
4.3.4. Exegetical Analysis	72
4.3.5. Interpretation in Relation to the Symbolism of Human Eroticism	74
4.4. An Instinctual Desire Outspoken	75
4.4.1. Song 3:1-4	75
4.4.2. Textual Comments	76
4.4.3. Structure, Form and Genre	76
4.4.4. Exegetical Analysis	77

4.4.5. Interpretation in Relation to the Symbolism of Human Eroticism	79
4.5. Persuasion, Admiration and Consummation	81
4.5.1. Song 4:10-16; 5:1	81
4.5.2. Textual Comments	81
4.5.3. Structure, Form and Genre	82
4.5.4. Exegetical Analysis	83
4.5.5. Interpretation in Relation to the Symbolism of Human Eroticism	86
4.6. Graceful Body and a Realized Desire	88
4.6.1. Song 7:2-4, 10-11	88
4.6.2. Textual Comments	88
4.6.3. Structure, Form and Genre	89
4.6.4. Exegetical Analysis	90
4.6.5. Interpretation in Relation to the Symbolism of Human Eroticism	93
4.7. Freedom is My Sensuality for My Desire is as Strong as Death	94
4.7.1. Song-Song 8:1, 6	94
4.7.2. Textual Comments	95
4.7.3. Structure, Form and Genre	95
4.7.4. Exegetical Analysis	95
4.7.5. Interpretation in Relation to the Symbolism of Human Eroticism	98
Summary	98
<b>Chapter 5: Human Sexuality in the Song of Songs and     its Implications</b>	101
Introduction	101
5.1. Church, Sexuality and the Song of Songs	101
5.2. The Worldview Undergirding Sexuality and Spirituality	104
5.2.1. Attitude	104
5.2.2. Questions about Celibacy and Spirituality	105
5.2.3. The Question of Duality: Body and Soul-a Dichotomy?	108

5.3. Socio-Cultural Anthropology and Sexuality	109
5.4. Sexuality and Spirituality: A Relational Aspects?	111
5.5. Balancing Attitude to Human Sexuality	113
5.6. Theological Hermeneutics and the Song of Songs	114
5.6.1. Hermeneutics of Earthly, Naturalistic Spirituality	114
5.6.2. The Spiritual and Physical Value of Eroticism	116
5.6.3. Hermeneutics of Wholeness and Healing	117
5.6.4. Embodiment in Sexual Theology:	119
An Alternate View of Human Sexuality	
Summary	122
<b>Chapter 6: General Conclusion</b>	<b>123</b>
<i>Appendix</i>	129
<i>Bibliography</i>	141