CONGREGATION KODIMOH
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Lectures on E'ire

I. Author - Solomon - Sin on 3 stages:
   youth - E'ire - love
   middle - 1st - wisdom
   old - 2nd - disappointment

II. Story: series love songs - 3 characters - shepherdess, shepherd, King....

III. History Import.
   1. almost excluded the Canaan - only love song
   2. but AKiva - 2232? brib E'ire, brib pi. E'ire
   3. Interp: love song between A and M and "Joys"
      also - Joys and will... mass
      many diverse interps, none absolute...
      return to interp in later

IV. Style - rich oriental imagery, wealth of metaphor, elegance style.
   1. will read some passages to give idea style: Hebrew or Eng.
   2. To give idea of Chuse "spring" passage, since that is
   3. The reason why read today.
3. read: 10-13 Pts 2, 3, 4 [spring]

(plus interpret of Midrash that Sinai is refers to Exodus at time of 140 to spring - that Sinai, i.e. Moses and Israel sing Shirah. Thus rod connection)

v. Fact? Powerful love - and infinite possible varieties of interpret.
- its melody - picture red, sea etc.
- the beauty of a people making love to God. In human
  - superhuman metaphors, yet superhuman devotion, fleshly images,
  - highly spiritual realities.
This is the eternal love of Israel for its God:

"Many waters cannot quench [this] love, neither can the floods drown it"
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ONE INTERP (J.B.)

1. why say in Fri. Nights, & attend flood

2. "Girl" as tragic love poem—
   describe APPROACH & RETREAT (use small illustrations)

3. hence, the religious interp of this drama reaches heights of
   spiritual ecstasy in the excitement & melancholy
   of retreat; the surging joy of near-culmination, to the
   tragedy of frustration.

4. For here is the Jewish soul yearning for its beloved — for
   God's world, for Divine peace & spiritual bliss. i.e. (251) PFIN.

5. "[text unclear] as beloved — [text unclear]

6. "[text unclear] as beloved — [text unclear]"

7. "[text unclear] as the approach of ... utopia, the beloved.

8. but — RETREAT! frustration et jibbin when leaves.
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9- 1: sings C"i'il on Fri. Night.
    and last verse - 9/17/22 -

This is a send-off with a hope for return, hope for permanent reunion, when they will be with each other never to separate.
No desire for a permanent while - see Hala'la Midrash - the great future, C"i'il, the eternal Sabbath.

10- Thus too on 100. We have celebrated C"i'il in midst of life. An illusion - no memories. C"i'il leave, the dark bitter while sets in again. Hope for permanent C"i'il. Midrash in last verse - see Soncino.

These are the powerful emotions of C"i'il, charged not by secretions of the glands, but by secrets of the soul: This is the eternal love-song of Israel for G-d; Israel will remain loyal to her beloved protector, though she may seem far off; for soon, soon He will return, and with him bring an eternal Sabbath, and an eternal Redemption.