

NATIVITY HYMN 9

ST EPHREM THE SYRIAN

I

Who will dare speak to her son
as in prayer, to the hope of his mother
as God, to her beloved [child] and her son
as man. In fear and love
it is right for Your mother to stand before You.

Refrain:

Praise be to You on the day of Your manifestation for Your flock.

2

You are the Son of the Creator, Who resembles His Father.
As Maker, He made Himself in the womb;
He put on a pure body and emerged;
He made our weakness put on glory
by the mercy that He brought from His Father's presence.

3

From Melchizedek, the high priest,
the hyssop came to You; a throne and a crown
from the House of David; a family and a people
from Abraham. Who will speak
so to her son as Your mother to You?

4

"I became a haven for Your sake,
great Sea. Behold, the psalms
of Your father David and also the words
of the prophets, like ships
discharged in me Your great wealth.

5

David, Your father, wove and brought for You
Psalm one hundred and ten,
two numbers, as a crown.
O Victorious One, with them You were crowned,
and You ascended and sat down upon the right hand.

6

The great crown is the number
that is woven with the hundred; with it Your divinity
is crowned. The small crown,
the number ten, crowns the head
of Your Humanity, O Glorious One.

7

Because of You, women pursued
men: Tamar desired
a man who was widowed, and Ruth
loved a man who was old. Even Rahab,
who captivated men, by You was taken captive.

8

Tamar went out and in darkness
she stole the light, and by impurity
she stole chastity, and by nakedness
she entered furtively to You, the Honorable One,
Who brings forth chaste [people] from the licentious.

9

Satan saw Him and was afraid and ran
as if to hinder [her]; He reminded [her] of judgment,
but she feared not, of stoning and the sword
but she was not afraid. The teacher of adultery
was hindering adultery to hinder You.

10

For the adultery of Tamar was chaste
because of You. For You she thirsted,
O Pure Fountain. Judah cheated her of
drinking You. A thirsty fount
stole Your drink from its source.

11

She was a widow for Your sake.
She desired You, pursued You, and even
became a harlot for Your sake.
For You she longed, You she kept [in memory], and she became
a chaste woman.” She loved You.

12

May Ruth receive good tidings, for she sought Your wealth;
Moab entered into it. Let Tamar rejoice
that her Lord has come, for her name announced
the son of her Lord, and her appellation
called You to come to her.

13

By You honorable women made themselves contemptible,
[You] the One Who makes all chaste. She stole You
at the crossroads, [You] Who prepared the road
to the house of the kingdom. Since she stole life,
the sword was insufficient to kill her.

14

Ruth lay down with a man on the threshing floor for
Your sake. Her love was bold
for Your sake. She teaches boldness
to all penitents. Her ears held in contempt
all [other] voices for the sake of Your voice.

15

The fiery coal that crept into the bed of Boaz
went up and lay down. She saw the Chief Priest
hidden in his loins, the fire for his censer.
She ran and became the heifer of Boaz.
For You she brought forth the fatted ox.

16

She went gleaning for love of You;
she gathered straw. You repaid her quickly
the wage of her humiliation: instead of ears [of wheat],
the Root of kings, and instead of straw,
the Sheaf of Life that descends from her.