

For what reason are your garments red?

«Bring me into the house of wine ...
for I have been wounded by love» (Cant 2, 4-5LXX).

How much (the soul) has already attained! May she thirst even more! And such is the vehemence of her thirst that the cup of Wisdom does not satisfy her (cf Pr 2: 9) [...] She seeks to be brought into the very house of wine, and to hold her mouth under the winevats themselves as they overflow with sweet wine, and to see the grape cluster being pressed in the vats and the vine that puts forth such a cluster and that Husbandman of the true vine whose work produces a cluster so sweet and thriving [...] The bride also wants, in every way, to see into this mystery, namely, how the garments of the Bridegroom who has trodden the wine press are made red. It is with reference to this Bridegroom that the prophet says, «for what reason are your garments red, and your clothing, as one who treads the wine press» (Is 63:2)?

Saint Gregory of Nyssa, Homilies on the Song of Songs, IV.

ἐκ τοῦ ἁγίου Γριγορίου ἐπισκόπου Νύσσης

Εἰσαγάγετέ με εἰς οἶκον τοῦ οἴνου, ...

ὅτι τερωμένη ἀγάπης ἐγώ. (Cant. 2:4-5)

Πόσων ἔτυχεν (ἡ ψυχὴ) ἐν τοῖς φθάσασιν. καὶ ἔτι διψῇ. καὶ τοσαύτη τοῦ δίψους ἐστὶν ἡ ἐπίτασις, ὅτι οὐκ ἀρκεῖται τῷ τῆς σοφίας κρατῆρι. [...] ἀλλ' εἰς αὐτὸν τοῦ οἴνου τὸν οἶκον παραχθῆναι ζητεῖ καὶ αὐταῖς ταῖς ληνοῖς ὑποσχεῖν τὸ στόμα, αἱ τὸν οἶνον τὸν ἡδὺν ὑπερβλύζουσι, καὶ ἰδεῖν τὸν βότρυν τὸν ταῖς ληνοῖς ἐνθλιβόμενον καὶ τὴν ἄμπελον ἐκείνην τὴν τὸν τοιοῦτον βότρυν ἐκτρέφουσιν καὶ τὸν γεωργὸν τῆς ἀληθινῆς ἀμπέλου τὸν οὕτως εὐτροφον τὸν βότρυν καὶ ἡδὺν ἐργαζόμενον. [...] πάντως δὲ κάκεῖνο βούλεται κατιδεῖν τὸ μυστήριον, πῶς ἐρυθραίνεται τῷ πατητῷ τῆς ληνοῦ τὰ τοῦ νυμφίου ἱμάτια, περὶ οὗ φησιν ὁ προφήτης Διὰ τί σου ἐρυθρὰ τὰ ἱμάτια καὶ τὰ ἐνδύματά σου ὥς ἀπὸ πατητοῦ ληνοῦ;

W. Jaeger, *Gregorii Nysseni Opera*, Vol. VI, pp. 119, 120

PG 53, 24-25.

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