

Sheani Shecharchoret

Because I Am Black

אֶל-תִּרְאוּנִי שְׂאֵנִי שְׁחַרְחֹרֶת שְׁשֵׁזַפְתָּנִי הַשָּׁמֶשׁ בְּנִי
אִמִּי גָחַר-וֹבִי שְׂמִנִי נִטְרָה אֶת-הַכְּרָמִים כְּרָמֵי שְׂלִי
לֹא נִטְרָתִי:

*Altiru'ni, sheani' shecharchor'et,
sheshezafat'ni hasha'mesh:
bene' immi' nicha'ruvi,
samu'ni noterah' et-hake'ramim',
karmi' sheli' lo nata'reti'.*

It is written in the Song of Songs 1:6,
“Look not upon me, because I am black,
because the sun hath looked upon me:
my mother's children were angry with me;
they made me the keeper of the vineyards;
but mine own vineyard have I not kept.” (KJV)