(*Boy*)
My beloved has come,
my heart rejoices,
my arms are open to embrace her.
My heart is as happy in its place
as a fish in its pond.
O night, you are mine forever,
since my lady came to me!

[I wish I were her Nubian maid]

(*Boy*)
I wish I were her Nubian maid,
her attendant in secret,
as she brings her a bowl of mandragoras.[1]
It is in her hand,
while she gives pleasure.
In other words:
she would grant me
the hue of her whole body.[2]

(*Boy*)
I wish I were the laundryman
of my beloved's clothes,
for even just a month!
I would be strengthened
by grasping the garments
that touch her body.
For I would be washing out the moringa oils[3]
that are in her kerchief.
Then I'd rub my body
with her castoff garments,
and she . . .
O how I would be in joy and delight,
my body vigorous!

(*Boy*)
I wish I were her little signet ring,
the keeper of her finger!
I would see her love[4]
each and every day,
And I would steal her heart.

1. The mandragora fruit was thought to be an aphrodisiac. It was also an erotic symbol, both for its flower and probably for its long taproot.
2. In the boy's fantasy, he is a maidservant in the girl's bedchamber. He would offer fruit while the girl gave him pleasure. That is to say, she would let him see her naked.
3. Moringa oil was the normal ancient Egyptian oil, and evidently could be perfumed.
4. Her capacity to inspire love.