

ROSE / רוֹזָה (Shoshanah) / Ladino: Rosa

*"In the garden where roses blush, where lilies bend their heads,
A quiet wind carries whispers, where fleeting passion treads."*

Scent Profile: Floral, heady, slightly sweet and spicy.

Medieval Context: Roses were highly valued in medieval Iberia both for their scent and for their symbolic meanings of beauty, love, and divine presence. Rose water was distilled and used in Jewish, Muslim, and Christian households to perfume pastries, cool the body, and anoint the ill. Rose gardens often symbolized paradise in Andalusí and Sephardic poetry. In Jewish liturgy and piyyut (liturgical poetry), the rose (shoshanah) symbolized the people of Israel, divine love, and sacred longing.

Divine love, and poetic symbolism. In both Islamic and Jewish poetry, the rose was an emblem of love, both earthly and divine. Andalusí Hebrew poets like Yehuda HaLevi infused their writing with rose imagery, blending longing, faith, and natural beauty. The rose also became a symbol of the Jewish people themselves, as in the liturgical hymn *Shoshanat Yaakov*, sung at Purim, praising the "rose of Jacob" in celebration and resilience.

*"In the garden where roses blush, where lilies bend their heads,
A quiet wind carries whispers, where fleeting passion treads.
Each petal tells a story, each fragrance bears your name,
And in their fleeting beauty, my love for you, the same."*

— **Yehuda HaLevi, Le "Diwan"**