

A Mandæan Book of Black Magic

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A Mandæan Book of Black Magic

TRANSLITERATED AND TRANSLATED BY E. S. DROWER.

IT is unfortunate that I have no copy of this interesting book that is complete or in good condition. I possess a broken remnant (D.C. 45 of my collection of MSS.), blotted, dog-eared, and often illegible, and a book of excerpts copied by a priest in Baghdad. The latter (D.C. 46) is extremely incorrect. Besides these, I have borrowed and transliterated pages from another fragmentary loose-leaved copy, brittle with age. All these manuscripts were illiterate and corrupt, each talisman displayed variations due to miscopying or miscomprehension, so that originally identical texts showed considerable differences. A dictionary-maker, however, may neglect no text, however corrupt, and although the illiteracy of scribes has led me on many a wildgoose chase, the labour has been amply compensated.

The magic of this book I have termed "black", for the Mandæans themselves regard the book as haršia bišia, "evil magic." Some of it is ancient magic, ancient by tradition and use. Of such is the direction "take clay from the two river-paths" (i.e. from the two banks of a river), "and make therefrom two clay images." Professor Stephen Langdon (Sumerian Liturgical Texts, Philadelphia University Press, 1917, pp. 199-200) translates an incantation against wizards and witches in which occurs an instruction to make "an image of clay, of clay from the two river's banks". Nor is internal proof of the age of certain talismans missing: for instance, in the popular talisman for separating lovers, or parting husband and wife:—

In the name of the sundering angels! There shall be sundering of N. (woman) from N. (man). Sundered is Bel from Babylon, sundered Nebo from Borsippa, sundered is Nišra from Kaškar.

Babylon lies amidst its dust-heaps, Borşippa, now called Birs-Nimrud, only survives as a ruined pile, Kaškar already lay in ruins when the Arabs built their city of Wasit (itself now a ruin) in the year A.D. 83. Nišra is obviously a corruption: who was the patron god of Kaškar I know not.

Many of the talismans in the collection are in Arabic phonetically transliterated into Mandaic script. These I have not translated.

The collection may be divided roughly into groups.

- (a) Curative, and against the Evil Eye.
- (b) To induce pregnancy or protect the embryo.
- (c) Against enemies and demons.
- (d) To stop children from weeping.
- (e) To assist the fowler and fisherman.
- (f) Love-charms.
- (g) Jealousy-spells—as a rule associated with love-charms.

Occasionally the texts degenerate into gibberish which may or may not have meant something once upon a time. Invocations of angels, demons, and genii occur frequently, in this reminding one of the Jewish book of magic, "The Sword of Moses" (The Sword of Moses: An Ancient Book of Magic, M. Gaster. Nutt, 1896). The ineffable name Yahu is a word of power as in Jewish magic. Magical figures and images, similar to those traced in Mandæan magic bowls, occur often: some look like degenerate cuneiform, others like the human figures which a small child draws on its slate. These are copied by the magician with as much care as he bestows upon the text; I will not say "with as great a care", as transcription is often hurried and copyists notoriously inaccurate. For magic is a trade. Few of the magician's clients are literate enough to criticize what is written for them; indeed, only a minority are Mandæans, and Moslems, Jews, and Christians look upon incomprehensibility as part of the mystery of the spell. Of the Mandæans themselves, laymen who read and write the Mandaic script are rare, and even literates understand little of the written and classical Mandaic. The spoken dialect, or ratna, is a debased jargon intermixed with foreign words.

I sometimes visit a small dark shop in the Baghdad bazaars. Its owner is a Mandæan priest who depends on magic for his livelihood. Clients slip in, one or two at a time, waiting outside to take their turn if they find the magician occupied with an earlier visitor. He sits on the floor, his ink-pot, sand-box, and reed-pen beside him. His stock-in-trade further comprises a box containing the book of black magic, other phylacteries written on scrolls of paper; bags containing sundry spices, herbs, or other substances necessary to ritual; a bench, carpet, and mattress for his customers. Here he sits the day long, his spectacles on his nose, his greying beard sweeping his white robe, his long hair tucked under his red-and-white head-kerchief, writing talismans and instructing customers

how they should be used, for to each talisman is appended instruction as to its use, just as a pharmacist writes on the label of a bottle of physic "to be taken in water three times daily". These directions are extremely varied. I append a few selected at random:

Write this for a woman who is not pregnant. Write and bury it at the outer door, so that the woman comes and goes (over it). Further, read this order thrice over sesame oil and give it to the woman and her man to drink.

This charm is a talisman. Write it in red ink and tie it to the legs of a she-goat. It is a love-charm for man and woman. There shall be solace.

Draw this figure in the sun and put oil of jasmine into it and bury it under a fire. This is a love-charm.

Write this charm upon a horseshoe and cast it into the fire. This is a love-charm.

This is a love-charm. Write on a strip (of cotton) and make into a wick and insert into a lamp. There will be relief and healing by the power of our lord.

Write this charm in the milk of a woman whose husband detests her. Write on paper and melt it off in water and give it to her husband to drink.

Read this charm over an egg dyed with saffron (*lbit maruqtia*) for three days—twenty-one times—and bury it in a place where no one sees it and the evil one will come out of his stomach.

This charm for coldness of heart write and melt off in water and give to the lover to drink.

Write this charm on the skin of a bitch and bring clay from the two river paths and make two images and put writing on one of them and bury it at his door. It is strong (the charm).

Read this charm over pitch seven times, smear it on the door of the woman and man, and it shall come to pass that they become estranged, through the power of our lord.

Inscribe this charm on the interior of a hollow basin in which there is no engraving; steep it in white sesame-oil and make drink of it the woman who does not get pregnant; she should drink it when her husband lies and sleeps with her. There will be healing from our lord, praised be his name.

The proof of a pudding is in the eating, and some talismans are more popular than others because clients have tested their efficacy and pronounced them to be powerful. A sick person cured in the course of nature, a successful lover, these correspond to the "grateful users" of patent medicines and spread the repute of both magician and charm. Small wonder that many of the magical formulae, like coins that pass from hand to hand, become defaced and worn in the course of centuries.

Of the talismans in the volume I offer here only a selection. Should I have the good fortune at some future date to come upon a

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text more satisfactory than those I now possess, a complete version might be justified. I have not attempted to correct the texts transliterated below: though occasionally I have inserted an obvious reading in brackets. I have, however, selected from the three manuscripts the likeliest version. Moreover, scribes throughout employ the illiterate h for the plural ia—the pronunciation is the same. This I venture to remedy. Otherwise the texts are presented in all their corruption: would that it were otherwise! As regards my translations, I fear that I have often sacrificed good English in the effort to be as literal as possible. To translate freely would have been comparatively easy: but accuracy suffers thereby.

TRANSLATIONS

I. Curative and Against the Evil Eye

1

In the name of the Great Life! There shall be healing for N. from burning fever and malady and disease and the Evil and the Dimmed Eye. And there shall be health for N. Amen, amen selah. S——a. Write this talisman, melt it in water and give it to the fevered person to drink.

2.

Depart and be scared away, Evil Eye and withered eye and discharging eye and eye with cataract and darkened eye and reddened eye and eye that comes and eye that goes, and discharging eye and inflamed eye and eye directed to the heavens, and squeezed-out eye, and killing and dying. Like a yoke thou art lifted off and departest from my body and spirit and soul and my trunk and my stature and all my fabric, and (from) my wife, and my sons, and my daughters, mine, N. son of N.¹ Amen, amen selah. S——a. A spell for eye complaint (closed vision) . . . (protects) a child from the Evil Eye. Tie on with thy right hand : there will be relief and healing by the strength of our lord. S——a.

3.

Magically bound are devils and šids,² and groanings, discharges, and blemishes (?); bound is Pain of the Eyes, the pain by the eyes, magically bound membranes scraped by discharge. They are all

¹ The parent's name in magic is always that of the mother.

² Šid, a household demon.

bound and sealed. The eyes of N. son of N. (are protected) from pains and discharge and waterings and becoming dim. Bound are devils, bound the *pitiaras* ¹ and gods and high places and liliths. And health shall be his, N.'s, son of N. Amen, amen selah. S—a. Write this charm for headache. Write and hang upon his right (side) and he will become well by the strength of our lord. S—a.

4.

In the name of the Great Life! Healing and cleansing and sealing and arming and the great safeguard of soundness be his, N.'s, the son of N. And healing be there for his head, that of N. the son of N. from the Life and from Dwelling-of-Life, the Healer, lord of all healers!

From the east I come and to the west I go. I found him and his pain; he was weeping, wailing, and shedding tears. And I said to him: Why weepest thou and why sheddest thou tears? And he said: Why should I not weep, and why should I not shed tears when your blows fall on my face, and (it is) your burning that inflamed it, and (your) staff is in my eyes, and your scourge in my heart and (your) loosening in all my limbs and the sixty-six veins, (also the) great vein of my body.

And I said to him: Beat not thy head on the stones, wail not, nor shed tears! Mourn not! I am the Chief; I order him that came to thee, the six beings,² and he shall bring healing from the great Place of Light: (he shall bring thee) of our almonds and our leeks, and our lemon, and our oak (and) the great date-palm.³ He shall shred the principal ones.⁴ (And he shall remove my staff from thy head) and my throne from thy brain, and my blows from the veins of thy body and my burning from thine injured brain (mental infirmity), and my staff (from thine eyes), and my scourge from thy heart, and weakness-as-of-water from all thy limbs and from the sixty (and six) veins and from the great vein of thy babbling (body), and health shall be his, N.'s, the son of N. and for his brain-matter and his head, for his injured brain and for all the body of N. also

¹ pitiara, a kind of demon.

² Probably a corruption. Only one healer is mentioned, namely the exorcist.

³ The reference is to foods eaten in the ritual meal, as all are customarily eaten in the *zidqa brikha* with the exception of the oak (acorn?) unless this is counted "a fruit in season".

⁴ The passage is obviously corrupt. It probably ran unišqal...mn risakh, "and he shall remove my staff from thy head."

for his children by means of this writing which is appointed (for this purpose). Life is victorious. S——a. This charm for the removal of injury to the head should be read over the owner of the head. S——a.

5.

Upon thee, Dirdbun, I have called by name! devil that eateth the flesh of a corpse and drinketh its blood. And upon evil liliths, and upon N. the evil one that guarded not the great (abscess). Libat, his daughter, make live (i.e. cure) the great abscess of N. Libat, remove (?) it. Amen, amen selah. S——a. Read this charm over a saffron-dyed egg (seven times) for three days—twenty-one times—and (bury) in a place where no one sees it, and the evil (one) will issue from his stomach.

6.

Enclosed in a trap, the lion roared and the fever of N. was stayed (lit. quenched).

7.

Grinding the teeth. And split is the tree ² and laughter ³ by His Name, that which is great and honoured, and beloved is his Name! They were afraid, they were severed from N. son of N., from his ears and from his heart, (namely) the grinding of his teeth and the laughter from between his lips and the bolt (or "holding fast") from beneath his tongue, that is of N. son of N. (They were severed) by the Name of Glory, yea, hiding it from the worlds, by His Name that they feared (fearing) its beauty. It bringeth the protection of authority: there shall be health for N., he shall not grind his teeth. Amen, amen. And health, and the great protection of the angels, and satisfaction (shall be his). Yea, yea, selah. S——a. Write this charm for one that grinds his teeth at night and for one that talks in his sleep.

8.

In the Name of the Great Life that is eternal! Thou groanest, and I wept and rose to the heavenly vault. I stopped, I found a

¹ Libat is the Mandæan Ishtar or Venus (Dilbat).

² Corrupt; should probably read 'lita " wailing ".

³ guha is written, i.e. "trembling" or "terror", but ghuka is written below, so I have read it here as ghuka.

great cloud ¹ resting on the edge (summit) of the mountains. I questioned her and said to her: What is the pain of fever? I have brought the pain of fever, the portion of a man, a scribe, and have dispersed the fever from the body of N. to the mountains and marshes. And (for lo!) he sins not, nor (behaves) vainly, nor makes strife, nor does his hand work for reward. S——a. The mystery of this charm for fever whisper it beside him with a bell so that it is not understood seven times and insert it into a place which no one knows. There will be healing and relief. S——a.

9.

Tremble, be off and vanish, be expelled and removed, all ye devils, *sids*, plague-demons, satans, "misadventures," and "dividing demons" and roo-demons from N. son of N.; moreover, appear not to him whether in dreams at night or visions by day, neither sleeping nor waking. Lie not upon him, deceive him not, appear not to him nor to his wife, nor to his sons or daughters, nor to any persons in his house, N.'s son of N. Life is victorious (over) all works. S—a. Ye are all bound, and these phylacteries shall bring healing to N. son of N.; they shall not loosen one another. By the name Yahu Yaya and Yu, Light, by Tus Qas they will bind. Strike! They are struck down and . . . (illegible) . . . the bond, a (powerful) word . . . and health be there for N. son of N., amen, amen selah. Lying-down, lying-down. . . . This talisman is for one that hath nightmares. Write and fasten to him and there will be relief. S—a.

(There are talismans of a curative character for a number of complaints—"those bitten by a snake" or "mad dog", or "stung by a scorpion", "for hæmorrhage," "nose-bleeding," "cold fever," "hot fever," for "one whose hand is painful" or "whose heart and side are painful", and so on. In quite a different category are a series included in D.C. 46, which bear a markedly Arab stamp, and are probably translated from some Arabic book of magic. The pattern, however, has little that is Moslem in its composition. The illness or trouble from which the client is suffering is personified as a demon. The appearance of the demon is described: "with

¹ The anana (cloud) of this charm was originally in all probability a Babylonian deity (Nana? Nanai?). Hence the secrecy, the whispering, and drowning the voice with a bell.

³ pigia upalgia are often cited in exorcisms of demons. They are personified pollutions, which separate the polluted persons from his fellow men.

the head of a bull and the body of a man," "a fish," "a dog-headed woman," and so on. The formula then proceeds in every case in similar fashion. The demon is brought before Solomon, who asks it: "O demon, where residest thou, and how much evil has thou wrought upon the son of man?" The demon then names its place of residence, "in water," "beneath trees," "at cross-roads," "in the markets," as the case may be, and confesses which part of the human body he attacks, or how otherwise he injures the sick or afflicted person. Solomon then asks, "O demon, what is the charm that exorcises thee?" (qublakh mahu hawia). The demon replies, giving a recipe and a magical formula, the latter being usually Arabic in Mandaic script. The recipes are various: for instance, "black rue in the milk of a red cow: boil over the fire and eat it." Concoctions are often to be inserted in the nostrils of the patient, probably because the nostrils are supposed to be one of the places by which evil spirits enter and issue.)

II. To Induce Pregnancy, or Protect the Embryo

(These are numerous, especially in the Arabo-Mandaic. Most of them are corrupt. They include lists of liliths, of angels, etc. I give a few typical examples. The 'uthras are Mandaic life-spirits: the "Spouse" (anana) again suggests a former invocation of Nana.)

10.

Healing and the great safeguard of authority be there for her, N. Bound, bound, bound are all idols, great and small; bound are the female liliths and the mouth of the vagina is bound. Bound are the liliths. And thou speakest: and they are removed, fettered and impeded. Bound is the Spouse of the 'uthras, all the tribes of demons and angels and idols are removed, made powerless and expelled from the body of N. The twelve liliths are bound into darkness, bound is Shamish (the sun-god), bound are the male gods by their own mysteries; bound are the idols whose names I mention with your names, (ye) four beings who surround and protect the sleeping. And health shall be N.'s and the unborn child's in her womb, (that) is found with her. . . . upon you, ye holy and pious angels, so that ye bring safely 1 (to birth) the embryo of N. (by the names of) Nuriel, Sauriel, 'Tibiel, Hamriel, "Scatter-Demon,"

¹ Past after conditional.

Shamish, Mlakhiel, and Sharel. S—a. Write this spell in the interior of a shallow basin in which there is no engraving, steep it in white sesame oil and let the woman who does not get pregnant drink it. And she shall drink it when her husband lies with and sleeps with her. There will be healing from our lord, praised be his name! S—a.

11.

Health be there for N. and the embryo in her womb. And I praise you, holy and pious angels. Ye have hearkened, ye have hearkened, so that ye will bring safely (to birth) the embryo of N. by the names of Nuriel, Suriel, Uthriel, Ardiel, Shatashiel, Kbel, and Sidriel. S——a. Write this charm on gazelle-skin and tie it to the woman's neck when her labour begins.

III. Against Enemies, etc.

12.

The voice of the earth so that he weeps, and the voice of the heavens with Shamish so that he sits in his blood and weeps at the torture to which the Seal ¹ subjects him. He weeps, my enemy! And my tooth is upon his tooth. In his blood he mourns ² and weeps.³ By the names of . . . iel, Rufiel, Markiel, by the name of Gabriel and Glaplaiel and Pakriel, ye shall turn away and separate the evil one N. from his companions and friends, and his wife and sons and daughters and from any river at which he may drink. Quickly, quickly! Amen, amen selah. The mystery of this command read upon bitter salt (salt-petre?) sixty-one times and put it into thine enemy's house and the evil man will depart from it. Establishing and efficacious. S——a.

13.

Earth is separated from the heavens and the heavens from the earth! The sun is separated (from the moon) 4 and the four corners of the House (i.e. the world) are separate, turned away is the likeness of the demon in the nights, 5 turned away (i.e. unpropitious?) are the twelve Signs of the Zodiac!

- Gušbanga, gushpanga.
- ² Read mamba (mourns).
- 3 Read alia (weeps).
- ⁴ This opening is common: and should run as in brackets.
- ⁵ The passage is corrupt. "Her likeness" is probably intended. The *dmutha* "likeness" is a spiritual double which acts as a guardian angel, and its estrangement would mean that she was no longer protected.

And she is turned away from her village (the village of) N., and from her husband N. and from her children and her district: she is turned away from her husband, her sons and her daughters and from her home, so that she wanders away from it. And the king shall turn from her and his regents (yea she shall be shunned) by all the children of men. Amen, amen selah. S——a. Write and bury at thine enemy's outer door, and she (or he) will be overthrown by thee.

14.

In the names of the angels written down in this talisman, and of (this) subduing spell and bond! In the names of Shaiel, Biniael, Nhuriael, Haqaniel, Qashtiel, Huriael, Dahwiael, Anianiel, Biniael, Shiaiel, and Kibiael; further, (of) Wawiael, Haniael, and Aniael! Ye angels (and?) Ruhm'iael,¹ whose names are written down, ye shall avert hatred from, and bestow upon me, N. love and beauty and fame and honour. Subjugate (to me) great and small, women and men, and virgins male and female, completely, and the river from which they drink, and freemen and freewomen, and the worlds and generations, and all the world in its entirety. And the whole world shall tremble, and the sun shall tremble and the moon shall tremble and gods and men will tremble and mountains and valleys will tremble, and all the evil folk that offended me, N. and my house, (also) my enemies. Revenge (me) with fire, blood, and slaughter.

I have adjured thee, Biyarukt, daughter of the gods, and Turiael and Miniael and Qiniael and Tuniael and Atiael and Miniael and Qiniael and Tuniael and Miniael. Su, su, su! Depart, break down, earth and dust, depart!

Their tongues were held fast, all the evil ones who wronged me, N., and my house, moreover their mouths were exorcised and a clamp (was placed) beneath their tongues. Ye seven stars! (ye whose names are concealed or were not revealed with the exception of the Great Name which they revealed, and it was revealed—by the name Adonai Sbaboth (My Lord of Hosts) this it is!—break, cause to depart, . . . bind and accomplish! By the name Ainiael, and fire and blood and slaughter of witches. Amen, amen selah. S——a. Write this charm and hold it to thee then read it over salt and

¹ Interpolation from a gloss.

mustard, and it will destroy thine enemy and evil persons and their tongues will be bound.¹ S——a.

15.

In the names of Yaniael, Shiel, and Niaiel! Ye angels that have removed hatred and bestowed love, favour, beauty, fame and honour upon N.! Bring into subjection to him persons in authority,² great and small, women and men. Amen, amen selah.

This is a charm for the humiliation of those in authority. And read it over salt and mustard, and cast it (into) the place of whomsoever thou wishest (to humiliate). Further, hold it to thee with thy left hand and the evil persons will be quelled. S——a.

IV. For Children's Ailments and Crying

(There are a number of these, both in Mandaic and Arabo-Mandaic. Some, such as that addressed to a personified Sobbing, and that which invokes a mysterious Fish of Sleep, have something of a nursery rhyme flavour, as if they had been crooned over a restless child. The fish is associated in Lower Iraq with sleeplessness because a fish "never closes its eyes". When a marsh-dweller complains "Chan es-semech yanam bil-hor ana nimet!" ("If the fish in the marsh slept, then I slept!") he is saying ironically "I never closed my eyes all night". Unfortunately, all these charms are corrupt and badly misspelt. The first given below has a Christian invocation.)

16.

In the name of the Great Life, healing and purity and sealing and arming and the great guard of authority be there for me, N. son of N., from the Life and from "Dwelling-of-Life", the Healer, lord of healers that heal my soul, so that the Spirit (of) Wailing and the spirit (of) Weeping and the spirit that wails in the night and affrighting spirits were scared off. And she (the spirit of Wailing) was made impotent by the name of the Seven Angels that govern the children of men and cure them from pains and infirmities, and the Evil Eye, and persistent fever and dampness (perspiration?),

¹ The text is very corrupt, and the above only an approximate translation

² Or "masterful persons", "tyrants"

and Weakness, daughter, sister, of Death, so that she shall flee away and be rendered harmless by the vaunted name of Jesu Christ, son of the Remover. He is the healer of the souls of boy-child and girl-child, and removes the troublesome spirit and diarrhæa and weakness from boy-child and girl-child by the name of Qass Damad and chases them away to cure him and makes (them) fly, yea, he made (them) flee (etc.). S——a. This, a spell (for) fear, is of Hibil (Ziwa) it is for a child that cries and has nightmare. Write and fasten to thee, on thy neck. There will be relief. S——a.

17.

Health be the portion of N., son of N. The fishermen fish, they fish, the fishermen. His fast shall cease. Put into contact,⁸ bind (his eyes?). Rise, calm the thought and spirit of N., son of N., who refuseth to suck and to whose eyes sleep cometh not. He shall not arise from his sleep until he seeth the light of the sun, and the Fish of Sleep shall lie in its place. Amen, amen selah. Write this charm for a child that cries and refuses to suck its wet-nurse. Write, and it will suck its wet-nurse.

18.

Sobbing, Child of Hysteria, Child of Sobs! He was shaken by sobs ⁹ and was quietened from sobbing, his sobs were vain, his sobs are subdued, and his sobs (tears) are dried and sent away. If not, I call on the angels of wrath that oversee and expel weeping and the dire affliction of sobbing, and they shall drive out weeping from N., the son of N. And there shall be health for N., son of N., from heaven. Sobbing. And Life is victorious. Write this charm and insert into an onion of three knots ¹⁰ and tie to the little one's neck.

- ¹ Delete "daughter".
- ² tibtul. The feminine singular refers primarily to the Spirit of Wailing.
- ³ Probably msana should read msiha (messiah).
- 4 For yanqia read yanqa.
- ⁵ 'liza. More probably to be read 'lita " the spirit of wailing".
- 6 "The Christian priest Damad"? Qass = (Christian) priest.
- 7 Hibil Ziwa is the Light-Giver, a saviour-spirit.
- 8 With the breast.
- 9 Or "his sobs were scared away".
- ¹⁰ amuza. So a priest translates the word, but it is disputed. "Of three knots" is, I believe, a mistake, and it should read "tie to the forearm with three knots".

V. Charms for Fowler and Fisherman

19.

In the name of the Great Life which is unending! I have called on you by name, (by the names of) those seven angels, that liberate game-birds before me, N. By the name of the angel Zarziel, the angel Hudiel, the angel Zaranaiel! All ye angels shall liberate in my direction all birds and fishes. I conjure you with all the conjurations, ye angels, that ye track down, espy, and make settle every eagle and bird in the mountains and plains and gorges; they shall rise up, and (also) the fish that are in the rivers: they shall come before me, N. Amen, amen, yea and amen selah. Recite this charm over salt and mustard, it is an exorcism for fowlers (and fishermen). And tie it to his forearm, further, write it on a piece of silk and tie to his forearm. There will be relief.

20.

In the name of the Great Life that is never-ending! From Tarwan, the great mystery of the flowing-water, came I forth, and I stand upon the great artery of the air, and I expound occult mysteries to thee, this man that draweth up (the net) so that they may be drawn up and come, the fishes and birds of the lake and marsh, at my call, and may go to me and to my snare and my net and my command (?), N. son of N., drawing up (the net) in thy name, (the name of) that being, drawing-up, so that they shall be drawn up, so that they shall come, the fishes and the birds. And his name is the Great Light. Write this fishing spell and suspend it to thy hand, and it shall be that they will come before thee. For the fowler, write and hang upon the snare.

VI. Love Talismans

(The example given just below is much copied, and I had purchased a separate copy of it before the book of magic came into my hands. Like all these talismans, it is used for a woman in love with a man, or vice versa, with resulting confusion to the gender of verbs.)

¹ Tarwan, a river in the world of light. G.R.(r) 214, 300, 301.

² širiana or "sheath".

³ For akwath ("like"), read 'lakh ("to thee").

21.

In the name of Libat (Venus), mistress of gods and men! He shall be brought into subjection, this man, N., neath the feet of N., woman, by the four limbs of his body, by the eight corners of his stature; his male member and his sinews are subjected, subjected are his incoming and outgoing, subjected his slaves and his handmaidens, subdued are his sids (household spirits) and his demons, subdued his amulets and idols, subdued his knowledge and understanding, subdued are the evil thoughts that are in his heart and his body, that of N. by the name of Mimhisiq Qusum, the lady that illumines them, that casts water on dry land, and on the hands of (Libat) mistress of gods and men. He shall be bound and will come: he is brought into subjection, N., by the strong bond (spell) wherewith heavens and earth were brought into subjection. From underneath the feet of N. (woman) he will go abroad, and his liver shall be seized, and he will not go to any place other (than hers), by the name of their mistress, she whose purity is sweet, who arose from the east,2 who removeth them,3 the queen 4 whom they remove 5 and call her and she comes, and they seek her and find her and consider (?) her, and sleeps 6 in the firmament of Qidsar,7 the love-longing and marriage-maker. In the name of Libat (Venus), mistress of gods and men he is brought into subjection, and became impassioned.8 And the heart and mind of N. are brought into subjection beneath the feet of N. the woman. He is bound and made subject, (yea) and heavens and earth are subdued at her name. Verily, and amen selah. S---a.

This talisman and bond and mystery summon. And there shall be love and fame and honour and fairness of face for N. (woman) before N. (man). He shall be driven after N. (woman).

Woe to the mouth that speaketh falsehood and to the lips that

- ¹ <u>d</u>maiarlun, "or that awakes them." It will be noticed that the verb is throughout in the masculine form, probably because many texts use the word mla<u>kh</u>a ("angel") for mli<u>kh</u>a ("queen").
- ² mn madna. The variant mn maruna ("from rebellion") might be mn maruna ("from the height"). The reference is to the planet Venus, or to her attendant.
- ³ The whole passage is corrupt. I suggest that mrahqan should read mrahmanan "makes us love".
 - 4 Read mlakta or mlikta for mlakha in all cases when Libat is invoked.
 - ⁵ Probably should read "whom they love", see note 3.
 - Read šakib.
 - ⁷ The name only occurs in this text, and is probably a corruption.
 - 8 Read unurh sbiq = "his fire was kindled", i.e. "he became impassioned."

lie, for they are brought low even as the earth below the heavens above. And N. (the man), (is brought into subjection) below N. (woman) by the names of Kabshiel, Darkiel, Balmiel, Sanunel, and Ariel 1 (and) by the name of Libat, mistress of gods and men. Bind him, seal him, bring him and subjugate him beneath the feet of N. by the seal and name of this lord of a seal 2 and by the name of (the mistress of) gods and men. S——a.

All the children ³ of men, small and great, are bound, sealed, and subdued, (yea) all that sit in the market and mosques and stand in the streets. ⁴ By the names of the gods he, N., shall be brought low beneath the feet of N., woman, in the name of the Life, until he sits upon her couch, ⁵ in the name of Adunai, who trod down the earth and condensed the heavens, by the name of YA (repeated seven times), by the name Markiel ⁶ by the name of those angels of love that is fervent and glowing, (bind on him) bonds and upon all the children of men. These are the angels that subjugate N. to N.! (He is subdued) by the name of (Libat mistress of) gods and men, and by the name Adunai Sbaboth. YA YAHU, amen, amen selah. S——a.

By your names have I called upon you, Rahmiel and Mrahmiel, that cause men to fall in love with women and women with men, in love and lust, and such ardour as thou bestowest on fire when it flames and glows, such glow and love and passion as thou bestowest on the ready (impetuous) north wind. And upon thee, N. (man) and N. (woman) there shall be bestowed that love which was infused into Adam and Eve, and love and passion were kindled in them,⁷ their hearts embraced, they were clothed in love and covered with love, putting on passion and desire. They joined together, Adam and Eve, and fell in love: they were wrapped up in each other ⁸ and were not parted from one another. Thou didst make him enamoured of her loveliness and her society. And the love which

¹ Some texts omit angel-names.

² gušbanqa. maria d gušbanqa. See p. 157, n. 1.

³ Literally "daughters".

⁴ A miscopying at some early date has resulted in a displacement of *qaimia* which should precede *biriatha*.

⁵ Read $alma \underline{d}$ yatib 'l arsh $bšumh \underline{d}$ Adunai. The lwarsa (which makes nonsense) is influenced by the lwarsa " on dry land" above.

⁶ In one variant only.

⁷ Read 'lawaihun.

⁸ Read rhamta.

rested upon Adam and Eve arose, (and) shall rest upon thee, N., that same love and passion for her loveliness and society. Ye shall possess each other, ye shall be wrapped up in each other as in a single garment, and shall not be parted one from the other.

And they shall not see, they shall die (of their love) and will neither eat nor drink until they possess ¹ each other. These. Yea, and amen selah. S——a.

He is humbled and laid low by the name of the angel Mumhaq. When (they?) send him (the angel), he goes and subdues the heart and mind of N. beneath the feet of N. (woman). Yea, and amen selah. S——a.

He (N.) is curbed in like a horse with four halters; he is held like a camel ² by its head-rope, tied back like a mule by its halter, held back like a dog by its collar, by the name Dashtiel which bringeth assault into cities, by the name Rufiel who is a ministering angel upon earth, who answereth and removeth the troubles of mankind, by the name of the angel Nţita, who tieth up men with women.

And N. said: "I behold N. (woman) before me, my own: we will not part from each other."

Beseech the angels that they may go and make (love) overpowering, and kindle love for N. (woman) in the heart of N. (man). (By) all the names that there are, N. shall go after N. with ardent love and passion, like unto a breeding dog after a bitch on heat, even thus shall he, N., be drawn and dragged after her, N., by the names of those angels of heaven ³ and earth, by the names of the angels of love. Images. ⁴ Yea, and amen selah. S——a.

In the names of the Queen of Love, Libat the beautiful, and a gleaming-white queen thou art! And thou wilt beautify N. (woman) before N. (man). (She shall shine) in his heart like the glow of the sun or the glow of the moon, or the radiance of Venus, or like the glow of the sun amongst the encircling stars.⁵ N. shall be magnified with N. like unto a mountain peak.⁶

- ¹ Delete mn.
- ² Read gumla.
- ³ Read <u>d</u> 'šumia warqa for 'šatha warqa.
- 4 Probably indicates that magic features are inscribed here. Similar notes have silmia usuratha.
- ⁵ Delete bhdadia. The expression mitkarkia bhdadia is so common in love-charms that the word probably crept in by inadvertence.
 - 6 Or, "her chosen one."

By thy name have I summoned thee, Kiwan (Saturn), so that N. shall be inflamed. When his vessel ¹ emits (semen) he rejoices, ejecting it as his seed upon his thighs. He blossomed, the head of N. was turned towards N. (woman): like trees they were intertwined. Amen, amen selah. S——a.

The man N. is held to the woman N. his wife like these: like a horse with four halters, like camels by a camel-halter, like a bull by his yoke, reined-in like a mule by its head-rope, pent back like fishes by a stone. And N. the man said, gazing upon her, upon N. the woman, "I am drawn to her body: I have called to her in love, mine own, N. We will not part company."

Splendour, nobility, and honour shall be N.'s in the eyes of N. woman, by Bel³ by the name of Libat, mistress of gods and men. S—a.

This is the spell of the Seven Gates of Love, for a man after a woman, or for a woman after a man. S——a.

22.

(Much copied and misspelt.)

In the names of these angels, that they may seize on N. in every place to which he comes (goes), bringing him (hither): (namely) Azael, Abdael Tarqun Ptauna. He shall say, "Go. . . . (?) there, there my husband." (?) Hathmiel, (names of various angels follow) . . . these angels shall inflame him, make him restless, N., everywhere that he goeth, bringing him to her bed. Bring him (withersoever he goeth), whether on water, or on mountains, he shall come and shall remain at her place: they will inflame him and bring him to her house and her place and her village, quickly, speedily they shall bring him. Amen selah. This word is for N., with stringency. He shall have neither breath, nor relief, nor rest, and whatever the place to which he comes, they will bring him, and he shall remain in the presence of N. (woman). Amen, amen selah.

Write (this) mystery for an absent one and put it beneath the head of the woman and the man will come. Moreover, bury (it) at cross-roads and the man will come.

- ¹ An euphemism.
- ² One variant has bagbia pikta.

³ This should probably read: asfara uharatha u'qara nihuilia lPlanitha alanpia Plan bilh, "splendour and nobility and honour shall be N.'s (the woman's) in the presence of N., her husband."

23.

Upon thee by name I call, angel 1 dwelling in Arbela that solaceth 2 hearts and consciences, and taketh away N. from N. and from the home of his father and mother and brethren and friends, and from his place and his amulet. . . . (?) And Pthahil 3 called, and the voice of Libat in dreams and she seals him (?). And (I hear) the sound of the rain in the clouds, and the noise of the lion that roars, and the sound of the serpent in the grass, and the noise of earthquake with its mysteries, and the voice of the lion that roars in the thickets, and the voice of thunder that rumbles from the heavens, and the voice of the lion in the sea, and the roar of a bull that is in pain, and (of) a dog that barks, and the voice of neighbours that are intoxicated, and the noise of a village of human beings, and the voice of the creatures of Libat, the doves,4 and the sound of earthquake with its mysteries, and the sound of rain in the clouds, and the noise of the serpent in the reeds and the sound of thunder that arises from the heavens 5: nevertheless, I have heard (the plea) of N. that burns for and flies after N. just as her loins (burn for) his husbandry (lit. "ploughing"). Amen, amen sala. Write this charm and fasten it to thy fore-arm. For a woman after a man. And it is powerful and proven.

24.

Cause these seven angels to descend and put love for N. (woman) into the heart of N. (man). And (I invoke) all names that there are. And N. shall be inflamed, and be sent off 6 and fly and come after N. (woman) with love that is fervent and burning, like a he-goat after she-goats, like a bull after a cow, like a breeding-dog after a bitch on heat, and like a fish after a fisherman, 7 even thus shall he be towed and pulled. And N. shall be inflamed with love for N.

- ² Literally "bringeth forth".
- ³ A demi-urge and spirit of creation.
- ⁴ For taumia read yaunia. Doves were sacred to Ishtar (Libat).

¹ The deity invoked was probably Ishtar of Arbela, and *mlakha* ("angel") should read *mlikta* ("queen").

⁵ I suggest read $qala \ \underline{d}$ ramia l'šumia, "the cry raised to heaven" (i.e. by the suppliant woman).

⁶ The verb has also the meaning of emitting semen.

⁷ In the marshes of Lower Iraq fish have a string run through their gills when caught, and are towed after the boat: a method of keeping fish alive and fresh during fishing.

(woman) by the names of the angels of love. Images and pictures. Amen, amen selah. S——a. Write this charm and bury (it) at the back of a fire: the man shall be kindled with love for the woman.

25

By the name of the Great Life have I adjured you, ye Seven (Planets) and twelve (Signs of the Zodiac); by thy name Life, and (the names of) Hananiel, the sun; Hanfael, the moon; Hadiael, Venus; Hakimishel, Mercury; Agiael; Kibrael; Dushael, Mars; so that N. shall come after N. (woman). By the name Harziel who is Hufnael, Haziael and Mibaqiael and Kifiael and Haniael and Sihiaiel and Haziaiil 1—these, the seven planets and the twelve Signs of the Zodiac (I have adjured), so that N. shall come after N., his mouth open and his saliva flowing. He will take her skirt in his hand, and she will put her hand to her head and say, "Woe is me, woe! I am pierced 2 and lie in the embrace of N.!"

Amen, amen selah. Write this charm on gazelle skin or in a place of water ³ and bury at the mouth of three springs. It is either for a woman after a man, or for a man after a woman. For whomsoever is in love with the other write this charm.

26.

In the names of Yaniel, Shaniael, and Niael! Remove, ye angels, hatred and set up love, kindness, beauty, fame, and honour for me, N. And subjugate to me masterful persons, whether great or small, whether men or women, to me, N. Amen, amen selah.

In the name of the Great Life! A beautiful appearance and a blooming countenance be mine, N.'s, in the eyes of N. (the beloved). I anointed my face and shone like the sun, I was radiant with the moon and glowed with the stars before N., I increased 4 with the dawn. I shall be his incubus, like his echo I call to him.

He will kindle and take fire, N. (will come) after N. like a wild cat

- ¹ The first list is an identification of angel-names with the seven planets; the second list must have given an identification of angel-names with the twelve signs of the Zodiac.
 - ² Or, "I exude drops of moisture."
- ³ A corruption of the phrase "on a gut (mia) skin". The juxtaposition of a reference to springs explains the scribe's error.
- 4 As the whole simile is that of light, I imagine that gilia here has not the usual meanings of "waves" or "features", but should be read gilii (יוֹבָלוּדׁי "the glowing horizon" or "dawn". Variants have gilia d. mia ("waves of water"), but this is probably a corruption, the whole text being degenerate.

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12

and mad dog; (yea) he shall wax hot and become inflamed, and N. will come after the man N. in the name of Libat, mistress of gods and men. In the presence of (his friend) N., N. will be fair of face, he will find favour and be beloved. Amen, amen selah.

In the name of the Great Life, and in the names of the seven angels of love, the angel Qadishiel, the names of the angels, and his Name! Go ye, rest upon N., take away his eating (appetite) and his drinking (thirst), and make him come after me, N., when his excitement shall be appeased in his (fore?) skin in your names, (ye) seven and twelve angels, (and of) Sun and Moon. And I conjure thee by thy name, (and the name of) the Twelve (signs of the Zodiac). For his melting they sent thee (?) to thee, ye (?) Shaqriel.¹ Thy heat (shall be) for the burning of N. N. shall appear before N. as the moon. Ye twelve angels, by day and night I made sure of N. Thou hast aroused his burning (love), my father, with thine eye, when he averts and turns away his eyes. And N. shall come after N. in love, for his choice. . . .²

Write these three charms and secure to thyself. For a man after a man.

VII. Jealousy Charms

27.

In the name of the angels! Turned away is his countenance, there will be alienation for N. (woman) from N. (man). Bel is turned from Babylon, Nebo turned from Borsippa,³ Nišra turned from Kaškar,⁴ and alienated is the heart and thought of N. from the thought and heart of N. His ⁵ face is the face of a lion, his body that of a wild cat, his snout that of a pig, his feet those of a buffalo, and his hair that of a night-demon. He stinketh, (and) she will spurn him like a potsherd for scraping. With him she will not eat, with him she will not drink, with him she will not sit, neither shall he approach her. In the name of the astarte, Libat, amen, amen selah.

- ¹ All variants of this text are confused and corrupt from here on, and differ considerably.
 - ² What follows is hopelessly corrupt.
- ² The list of gods and cities is corrupt in this, the oldest text I possess; but should be compared with the next talisman which is still more corrupt.
 - ⁴ See p. 149.
- ⁵ The gender of pronouns and verbs varies, as the charm is used for both sexes, according to the wish of the client. The same applies to the following talisman.

Write this spell on a day's-old hen's egg and bury (it) at the gate of him (or her) whom thou wishest to drive out of his (or her) house, for all that thou wilt. And it is strong and proven.

28

(Compare previous talisman)

Bel is turned from Babylon and Nirigh (Mars) from his countenance ¹ (read Borṣippa) and Kiwan (Saturn) from his light, and Nebo (Mercury) from his father, the Arab: and Shamish (sun) from the dwelling of the Persians and Libat (Venus) from the Indians, and all evil folk.

They have bound the loins of N. with pitch: when he beholds N. (woman) he says: "Send her away, she shall not remain in my presence." Amen, amen selah. Read this spell seven times over pitch and (then) smear it on the door of the man, and the man and woman shall become estranged by the strength of our lord, and there will be relief and healing.

29.

Afriel, Badriel, Qadriel, Dukrabel, Dufiel, Hurel, and Bulziel, these seven angels, sever the thoughts and pondering and habit and root of N. (man) from N. (woman). Amen, amen selah.

This spell for making the heart cold read upon a cup of water for one who is lovesick and give it him to drink, and his heart will grow cold by the strength of our lord.

There are a number of jealousy charms, which not infrequently include directions for making figures in clay or dough.

TRANSLITERATION

¹ parșufh for Burșipi or Burșipa.

Note.—When $\underline{\mathfrak{C}}$ is pronounced gutturally I transliterate $\underline{\mathfrak{gh}}$, and $\underline{\mathfrak{h}}$, and $\underline{\mathfrak{h}}$ when pronounced gutturally.

TEXT Haršia Bišia

1.

Bšumaihun d hiia rbia asu<u>th</u>a huilh lPlan mn 'ša<u>th</u>a umahra uqarsa ušiqufta waina bišta ukiwihta wasu<u>th</u>a tihuilia lPlan amin amin sala S——a Hazin talism kdub upuš bmia wašqia almari 'šatha S——a.

2.

'zha u'tazha aina bišta waina qliqtia waina šihiltia waina bruqtia waina 'kumtia waina hamranita waina azla waina athia waina raiubtia waina qadawia waina rmia 'la rqiha waina mṣuṣtia ugatla umithi kth nura tipšur utifuq mn paghrai uruhai unišimtai u'ṣṭunia uhiklai ukulh binianai uzawai ubnai ubnathai dilia Plan br Planitha amin amin sala S——a Baba nazar band gam yanqa mn aina bišta ruf b'dakh yaminakh hawia rwaha wasutha bhailia d maraian S——a.

3.

'siria daiwia ušidia ugunahia ubṣiaria 'sir kiba 'sir d ainia kiba d aganbia d ainia 'sir širiania d mqardin mn murqa 'siria hthimia kulhun aina Plan br Planitha mn kibia unafṣa ušidaiia uramašia 'siria daiwia u'siria paṭiarutha walahia u'kuria uliliatha wasutha tihuilia Plan br Planitha amin amin sala S—a Hazin baba gam kuba (kiba) d riša kdub u'aliq 'lšara d yaminh ubasm bhaila d maraian S—a.

4.

Bšumaihun d hiia rbia asu<u>th</u>a uzaku<u>th</u>a uzarazta unațarta rabtia d šrara nihuilia ldilia Plan br Plani<u>th</u>a wasu<u>th</u>a tihuilia lrišia d Plan

mn hiia umn manda d hiia asia maraihun d asawatha mn madna athina ulmarba azilna aškath (aškith) ukibh bikia (bakia) alia umitašad wamarnalh walma d mitašidit wamar alma labakina walma lamitašidna uzanfusaikhun 1 bpambia (banpia) yaqdaikhun d şişlia umargnia (umargnaikhun) bainai usautaikhun blibai ušawia (ušaria) bkulhun handamai ušitin ušita širiania uširiana rba d rumgai (qumtai) wamarnalh latabnia riša 2 ulatala ulatitašida ulatinandia rišana 'paqid man d athalakh šita gubria wasutha mathalia mn athra rba d nhura luzan umuz(an) unuman umilan sindirka rba rišaiia niqlaf ukursia mn muhakh uzanfuthia mn širiania d pquthakh slia (sislia) mn sairia umargnh . . . usuth mn libakh ušapaiia mn kulhun handamakh umn šitin širiania uširiana rba d pquthakh 3 wasutha tihuilia ldilia Plan br Planitha ulmuqrh ulrišia ulsairia ulkulh paghria d Plan ulšitlh bhazin kdaba bhaza baba d'tbadla uhiia zakin S---a Hazin baba psaqa d silita kdub umaria riša mgaria S—a.

5.

Lakh bšumakh qraitakh Dirdbun daiwa d akil bisra d mitana ušatia zmh uliliatha 'l Plan biš dlašmar (butanh ?) rba laibat (Libat) brata haia butana rba d Plan libat nausa amin amin sala S—a (Hazin) baba qria lbit maruqtia thlatha yumia srin uhda z(ibnia uqbur) dukta d 'niš lahazilh unafiq bkarsh . . . biša. . . .

6.

Aufiq b'ṣar aria nham umitignat 'šatha d Plan . . . (etc.).

7.

Hariq šina mšabinalkhun umauminalkhun upasia 'lana guha (ghuka) d hraqa d šina d hahu šumia rba uyaqira waziza šumia zhun psiqiun mn Plan br Planitha mn 'udnh umn libia hraqa d šina ughuka mn bina sfihathh uldaşa mn atutia lišanh Plan br Planitha bšuma d 'qara 'n kasih mn almia bšumia d zha umn nuh nithia zrazta d šrara wasutha tihuilia lPlan šinh lanihruq amin amin asutha rabtia d mlakha uziqu 'in 'in sala S——a Hazin baba kdub lman hariq šinh blilia umn mhadith bšintia S——a.

¹ Read zanfuthaikhun as below.

² Should be rišakh.

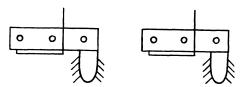
³ The scribe writes first rumqai (?) and then in a parallel passage below pquthakh. Read qumtai and qumtakh.

R

Bšumaihun d hiia rbia d labațlia nihmat ldaria ubaqit usilqit lkifa sikrit aškit anana rba kif ţuria yatib šailit wamar(i)lh kib d şimra mahu kib şimra aithit miniana d gabra sapra ubadirtia lşimra mn paghra d Plan lţuria wagmatha ulahaţia ulabaţlia uzaina labdia u'dia bagra labdia S——a Raza hazin baba lşimra nhišlh bganfh bzagin d lamapraš šuba zibnia ubudqh dukta d 'niš layada hawia asutha urwaha S——a.

9

Zha aṭar ukbuṣ utbaṭal utbarun utrahqiun kulaikhun daiwia sidia usibṭia usaṭania upigia upalgia ubnia angaria mn Plan br Planitha tum latitahzulh labhilmia d lilia ulabhizwania d 'umama ulabsintia ulabtirathh latisikbun 'lh ulatiramunh ulatitahzulh 'l Plan br Planitha uzawh ubnia ubnathh ukulhun nismatha d 'ka bbaithh Plan br Planitha hiia zakin (l)kulhun ('ubadia) S—a 'siria anatun kulaikhun 'sir umzaman umsadria qmahia halin asutha Plan br Planitha lanistria hdadia bsum Yahu yaya uYu Nhur nTus Qas taqmahia asquf sqin. . . .¹ asara mitilta (minita) sa . . . wasutha tihuilia 'l Plan br Planitha amin amin sala . . . gunta gunta (etc., magical nonsense and figures, e.g.



S—a. Hazin qmaha lman d hazia hizwania d šinta kdub ulguț 'lh khawia (qahawia) rwaha S—a.

10.

(Pieced together from two illiterate copies)

Asu<u>th</u>a untarta rabtia <u>d</u> šrara nihuilia lPlani<u>th</u>a 'siria 'siria kulhun pati<u>kh</u>ria rurbia udirdqia 'siria lilia<u>th</u>a nuqba<u>th</u>a upati<u>kh</u>ria ¹ 'sira lilia<u>th</u>a ² umalit urgila umragla ³ šana 'sira anana <u>d</u> 'u<u>th</u>ria kulhun širšia daiwia umala<u>kh</u>ia upati<u>kh</u>ria <u>d</u> mrahqin umbatlan umbaran

¹ D.C. 45 has pira 'sira " the vagina is bound ".

² Variant: Tarbiš liliatha.

³ Variant udgila umdagla "disappointed and outwitted".

mn paghra d Planitha 'sira trisar liliatha bhabara 'sir Šamiš u'siria alahia zikria brazaihun d nafšaihun 'sir patikhria d 'dkar šumaikhun anatun arba gubria d mkalala ugindal (gan'ia'l) šakhbia wasutha tihuilia lPlanitha u 'l 'ula d bkarsia maškia minh . . . ² lkhun anatun mlakhia qadisia umhaimnia d minitun minitun 'l 'ubadia (read 'ula d) Planitha d Nur'il Ṣaur'il u'Tib'il uHamr'il uDradaiwa Ṣamiš uMlakh'il Rumil uṢaril S——a Hazin baba kdub bgwara d ṭašt kuan d laṣir bgauh ṣurta šribh miša d šišmia hauria wašqilh 'l 'ntha d labatna ušatia kth midak (midmak) umiganilh bilh hawia asutha mn maraian mšaba šumia S——a.

11.

Asu<u>th</u>a tihuilia lPlani<u>th</u>a u'l 'ula d bkarsh umšabinal<u>kh</u>un anatun mla<u>kh</u>ia qadišia umhaimnia tinitun tinitun d minitun l'ubadia ('l' 'ula)d Plani<u>th</u>a bšuma Nur'il Ṣuri'il u'Uthria'il u'Rdi'il uŠataš'il Kbil Ṣidril S——a Hazin baba kdub bmgalta d ṭabia urifh 'ntha lhalṣh d afkaulh afka S——a.

12.

Qal arqa d bakia uqal šumia umn Šamiš d yatib bdma umn sriqa d rmilh gušbanqa bakia sanai ušinai lsinh bdma 'mba 'lia yatib bšumia . . . uf'iil uRuf'il uMarka'il ubšum Gabr'il uGlaplaial uPakriaiil anatun pkuih wafkuih lPlan bišamn habrih urahmih u'nthh ubnia ubnathh umn kul nahra d šatia minh sarhib sarhib amin amin sala S—a Raza hazin pugdama qria lmihla marartia šitin uhda zibnia ušdilh lsanakh bbaithia unafiq biša minh qaimia umnasia S—a.

13.

'fiqa arqa mn šumia ušumia mn arqa 'fiq Šamiš (mn Sira?) u'fiqin arbia zawiatha d baitha 'fika dmutha d daiwa bliliatha 'fika trisar malwašia 'fika matha d Planitha mn ziwa (zawh) Plan ubnh uhanzaman 'fik mn ziwh (zawh) ubnh ubnathh mathh ulauda minh unitfik minh malka ušaharalia mn kulhun bnath anašia amin amin sala S—a Kdub uqbur bbaba d sanakh bbaba baraia umikbišš minakh S—a.

¹ Variant, 'daihun "their hands ".

² All that follows in one copy only.

14.

Bšumaihun d mlakhia d kdibia bhazin qmaha ukibša wasara bšum Šaiaiil uBiniaiil uNhuriaiil uHaqaniaiil uQašti'il uHuriaiil uDahwiaiil uAnianiaiil uBiniaiil uŠiaiil uKibiaiil tum Wawiaiil uHaniaiil wAnaiaiil anatun mlakhia Ruhm'iaiil d kdibia šumaihun anatun (rahiqiun) afkiukha siniukha

urmun arhamta ušupra ušaia u'qara ldilia Plan ukbuš minh rurbia udirdqia u'nšia ugubria uptulia uptuliatha bgumura (bgmura) unahra d šatia mia minh uharia uharatha walmia udaria bguamrh (bgmura) uninud alma kulh uninud šamiš uninud Sira uninud alahia wanašia uninud turia waramatha 'l kulhun bišia d hatibia l bdilia Plan ulbaithai ubildbabai niqum bnur zma ugatla 2 auimitikh Biyarukt pth alahia uTuriaiil uMiniaiil uQiniaiil uTuniaiil wAtiaiil uMiniaiil uQiniaiil uTuniaiil wAtiaiil uMiniaiil Şu şu şu anad aqar arqa anad (or anar?) şmar lišanun kulhun bišia d hatibia bdilia Plan ulbaithai tum ašif pumaihun uşmad atutia lišanun anatun šuba kukhbia d šumaikhun ksia ulamgalal lbar mn šum rba d galilh ugaliata bšum Adunai Şbabuth hu zha uhaihu anar anad alidna asar ukšar Ainiil bšum unur zma ugatla d harašatha amin amin sala S—a Hazin baba kdub ulgut 'lakh tum qria lmihla uhardla ušaria lsanakh d bišia wasar lisanun S—a.

15.

Bšum Yaniaiil uŠiaiil uNiaiil anatun mla<u>kh</u>ia rahiqiun siniu<u>th</u>a urmun rhamta hizda ušupra ušaia u'qara ldilia Plan kbuš min<u>h</u> sulṭania rurbia udirdqia u'nsia ugubria amin amin sala S——a.

16.

Bšumaihun d hiia rbia asutha uzakutha uhathamta uzarazta unațarta rabtia d šrara nihuilia ldilia Plan br Planitha mn hiia umn Manda d Hiia asia maraihun d asawatha d masia nišimtai d til. . . . 4 'liza 5 ('lita ?) ruha ruha baka (bakia) uruha d blilia bakia udahlulia bšum šuba mlakhia d mšalția lbnia anašia umasilun mn kibia umasisia waina bišta u'šatha qita umarganita 6 ruita pth ahath d

- ¹ Variants have hibța bdilia. I read \underline{d} hațibia bdilia as below. The text is corrupt in all copies.
 - ² Read bnura zma ugatla. One scribe writes niqm busr zma ugatla.
 - ³ Variant has alidia (?).
 - Variant has zha. The copy above is blotted.
- ⁵ I suggest 'lita. Bkita u'lita "crying and wailing" is an expression found in the Ginza Rabba (R., p. 175).

 ⁶ One variant has marganita.

mutha d h' tizha utibțul bšum mhaqar Yuša A'isa br Mariam mšana hu masia nišmatha d yanqia uyanqita umrahiq ruha 'liza ušrita uruita d yanqia uyanqita bšum Qas Damad wațias asiuia umațus qațus šu šu za za za za za za za (magical figures and gibberish follow, including the sacred name Yahu five times repeated) S——a Hazin baba hauqa d Hibil lyanqa d bakia umistarwad kdub ulguț 'lakh bṣaurakh hawia rwaha S——a.

17.

(Note.—I give all the variants as an example of the corruption of these magic texts. Few who copy these talismans understand what they write, and so thorough has been the degeneration that even on comparison of the texts the meaning is doubtful and obscure.)

(a)

Wasu<u>th</u>a tihuilia ldilia Plan br Plani<u>th</u>a masiria șiria șaumia nidla qaf șir qum nizal rbutia lPlan br Plani<u>th</u>a mișil<u>h</u> ulamaiiș ušinta lain<u>h</u> la<u>th</u>ia mn šintia laniqum alma lziwa <u>d</u> Šamiš nihzia ușișia šinta ba<u>th</u>a šakib amin amin sala S——a Hazin baba lyanqa <u>d</u> bakia ulgut bșuria S——a.

(b)

Asutha tihuilia lPlan br Planitha saidia saida saidia saium anar wapisir qum nihil bbala ubruha lPlan lPlan d mimna wamaiis usinta lainai watha mn sinth laniqum uziwa d Šamis lanihzih ununa d sinta bathrh sakib amin amin sala S——a Hazin baba kdub lyanqa d baka unanh lamaiis kdub umaiis nanh hawia S——a.

(c)

Asu<u>th</u>a tihuilia lPlan ṣaidia ṣadia uṣai umanad wapiṣid qum nizal ubrula bdhh lPlan d mimna wamaiun ušinta lainai wa<u>th</u>a mn šinta laniqum uziwa d šamiš lanihzi ununa d šinta ba<u>th</u>rh šakib amin amin sala S——a Hazin baba kdub lyanqa d baki unanh kdub umaiiş nana hawia S——a.

(d) Recently copied (sic!)

Wasu<u>th</u>a tihuilia ldilia Plan br Plani<u>th</u>a şiria şiria şaumia nidla qaf şir nizal nidbulia qaf şir nizal nibdulia qafşir nizal nibulia rbutia Plan br Plani<u>th</u>a mişil<u>h</u> ulama <u>d</u> hun u<u>šinta lainh lath</u>ia umn <u>šintia laniqum almia lziwa d šamiš nihzih uşişia šinta ba<u>th</u>ra <u>šakib amin amin sala S——a Hazin baba kdub lyanqa ulgut bşuria S——a.</u></u>

(Of these four versions (b) and (c) were from older documents. I venture to guess at the following:—

Wasu<u>th</u>a tihuilia lPlan br Plani<u>th</u>a şaidia şaiad şaiad şaidia şaumia nidla quf şir qum nha lbalh ulruhh d Plan br Plani<u>th</u>a d mimna (מנט) maiiş ušinta lainh la<u>th</u>ia mn šintia laniqum alma d ziwa d šamiš nihzia ununa d šinta ba<u>th</u>rh šakib amin amin sala S—a Hazin baba kdub lyanqa d bakia unanh lamaiiş kdub umaiiş nanh hawia S—a.

18.

Qitia br Qatia brh d Qitia zha d qitia unha d qitia 'tabatal qitia umkabšin qitia umyabšin qitia umafqin qitia hinila qarina 'lawaikhun mlakhia d rughza umafqin bkita uqirsa biša d qitia umafqin bkita mn Plan br Planitha Yahu Yahu Yahu wasutha tihuilia 'l Plan br Planitha mn 'šumia qitia hiia zakin (magic figure) S—a Hazin baba kdub bduq bamuza d thlatha gitria uruf bṣuria d zuṭa S—a.

19.

Bšumaihun d hiia rbia d labatlia bšumaihun (bšumaikhun) qraitinkhun halin šuba mlakhia d šarin kul sipria saidia lqudamai dilia Plan bšum Zarz'il mlakha Qarbi'il 1 mlakha Hathqi'il 2 mlakha Hudi'il mlakha Zaranaiil mlakha 3 kulaikhun mlakhia šarin 'l awai kulhun sipria ununia mauminalkhun bkulhun 'umamatha taiamaikhun (= d, etc. ?) mlakhia tililun tihzinun tišrin kul niṣra uṣipria (uṣipra) lturia udištatha upaqatha qaimia ununia d bnahrawatha 'l qudamai dilia Plan nithun amin amin 'in wamin sala S——a. Hazin baba qria lmihla uhardla šrita d ṣaidia urufh lmasia tum kdub 'l kaṭa šaraia uraiif lmasia hawia rwaha S——a.

20.

Bšumaihun d hiia rbia d labatlia mn Tarwan raza rba d yardna nafqit ulširiana rba d ayar qaimna umaprišna razia kasia akwath ('lakh) gabra d mud d 5 d mdilia hazin d nidalun d nithia nunia usipria d yama wagma 'l qalai u'lai azlai lhinqai warwai umilanaia dilia Plan br Planitha midiia 6 bšumakh hakh gabra d mdulia d

- Variant, Barbi'il.
- ² Variant, Zaraniaiil.
- 3 Last two angels missing in one variant.
- 4 Read as in brackets.
- ⁵ Delete <u>d</u> mud <u>d</u>. It is a scribe's blundering. (The whole talisman is exceedingly corrupt.)
 - 6 Read mdalia.

nidalun d nithun nunia lṣipria (uṣipria) hu ziwa rba šumia S—a Hazin baba ṣiid kdub u'aliq b'dakh hawia qudam anpakh ṣaiid ṣipria kdub u'aliq bmašwaf S—a.

21.

Bšumh d Libat marat alahia wanašia nitikbiš hazin Plan atutia kraiia Planitha 'ntha barbia handamia d qumth bthamania zawiatha d qumth kbišia girbia ugidia (giadia) kbišia aialh unfaqh kbišia abdih wamathh ušidih udaiwih kbišia humrih upatikhrih kbišia madia ukbišia madihth kbišia hašbia bišia d blibh upaghria d Plan bšumia d Mimhisiq Qusum martia d maiarlun d ramia mia lwarṣa u'l 'dia d marat alahia wanašia nistar unithia ukbiš Plan b'sura biša d kibšuia (kibša) 'l šumia warqa mn atutia lighria d Planitha nifuq ukabdia nidbur d Plan dukta hurintia lanizal bšumia d mariathun mlikha d mn dukia hly umn madna 'tigbil d mrahqinin mlikha d mšqalia uqarilh wathia ubaiilh umaškilh ušawih ušakib bšumia d Qidsar d daitia ušadik bšumh d Libat marat alahia wanašia kbiš ušbiq ukbišia libh uruianh d Plan atutia lighria d Planitha 'ntha 'siria ukbiš u'sir ukbiš lšumia warqa b'šumia 'in wamin sala S——a.

Mzaman hazin qmaha wasara uraza urhamta ušaia u'qara ušapur anpia nihuilh 'l Planitha alanpia Plan nidribia abathar Planitha hasla lpuma d nimar šiqra ulsfihatha d nikadbun d kibšia 'l arqa atutia šumia d 'lawaihun Plan atutia Planitha bšumia d Kabši'il uDarki'iil uBalmi'iil uSanun'il vAr'il bšuma Libat marat alahia wanašia 'siria huthmuih wathuih ukibšuih lPlan atutia lighria d Planitha ubisqa ušum hazin maria gušbanqa bšum (marat) alahia wanašia S——a.

- ¹ Variant has correct nidbar.
- ² Variants have for the preceding sentence: (a) warukia hla mun maruma 'tigbil (= mn maruma 'tigbil ?). (b) umn madna 'tigbil.
 - ³ Variant, mšarilh.
 - 4 Variants, šakb, šakiab.
 - ⁵ Variants, Qirsar, Qirsaq.
 - ⁶ Variant, diitia.
 - 7 Variant, Sinun'il.
 - 8 Variant, al arsia.
- Passages in the variants following bšum Mark'iil vary widely in all the copies to the end of the section. I have chosen the least illiterate.

bšumaihun d halin malakhia d rhamta d šiha ušigra 'lh asaria ukulhun bnath anašia halin hinun mlakhia nikibšin Plan atutia Planitha bšumaihun d halin mlakhia bšum (marat) alahia wanašia bšum Adunai Sbabuth Ya Yahu amin amin sala S——a.

Bšumaihun qraitinkhun Rahmi'il uMrahmi'iil d mrahim gubria brhamta 'nšia u'nšia lwath gubria brhamta urgaga uṣauta d šrat lnura kth yaqda umhababa hanatia ṣauta urhamta urgaga d šrat layar stana atitia ('titia) utišria 'lakh Plan uPlanitha hanatia rhamta d šrat lAdam uHawa ušbaqiun rhamta urgaga 'lawaihun mitkarkan libun brhamta malbišia urhamta mkasin šiha ušigra ramin hathunun lAdam uHawa utarminun brhamta mitlabšin mn hdadia lamitpisqin arhamth mn busma lṣauth ¹ uqam arhamta d šrat lAdam uHawa tišria 'lakh dilakh Plan bhanata rhamta urgaga 'l busma uṣauta titlabšun ubihda lbuša titlabšun bhdadia ulatipisqun mn hdadia ulanihzun unimuthun ulaniklun ulanišaitun alma d mn² waqna hdadia 'in wamin sala S——a.

Mšawia umištawia bšumia d Mumhaq mlakha kth mšadarlh ³ azil umkabišlh 'l liba uruiana d Plan atutia lighrh d Planitha 'in wamin sala S——a.

Zim 4 kth susia 5 barbia piktia zim kth gumlia bzmama zim kth kdana bmhaqa zim kth kalba bsungara ubšuma Mahbqi'il d h' šabiq hauqa barqa d Babil bšum Dašti'il d hu mqarib turia bmdiniatha bšum Rufi'il d hu mlakha barqa šaita d hu gaiib plibh tiqatha d br anašia bšum Ntita mlakha d hu zaiim gubria lwath 'nšia wamar Plan d hazina lPlanitha qudamai dilia lwath hdadia la nipsiq 6 halin mlakhia ba d nizlun unišrun unišbqun rhamta d Planitha bliba Plan ukul (ubkul) 'šumia d 'tlia nithia Plan abathar Planitha brhamta d šiha ušigra ayak kalba gnuna abathar gurita gnuntia haikin nišla uništilh Plan abathar Planitha bšumaihun d halin mlakhia d 'satha warqa bšumaihun mlakhia d rhamta uṣilmatha 'in wamin sala S——a.

Bšumaihun qraitin<u>kh</u>un mla<u>kh</u>a ⁷ d rhamta d Libat šapirtia ulbina mal<u>kh</u>ta anat ti<u>th</u>ia utišapr<u>h</u> lPlani<u>th</u>a banpia Plan blib<u>h</u> k<u>th</u> șihma

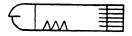
- ¹ All the variants have lauta: one would expect sauta.
- ² Delete mn.
- ³ Variant, mšararl<u>h</u>.
- 4 The verb zam means "to hold in, keep back, by the nose or head": hence "curb", "rein in", "lead by the nose".
 - ⁵ Variants: kth suqi b'dh pukta; kth suq bdra pukta.
 - 6 Variant: ba halin mlakhia d nizlun ukibrun unišibqun.
 - ⁷ Read Bšumikh qraitikh mlikha. The address is to Libat.

d Šamiš d sihma d Sira usihma d Libat usihma d Šamiš bina kukhbia mitkarka bhdadia mitrurab Plan lwath Planitha kth giba b bumakh qraitakh Kiwan d nithia Plan umšagar kth mpatar liginh hadia rmilh kth tuhmh latmh nitias tgadal rišia d Plan lwath Planitha kth 'lania bhdadia mitkarka amin amin sala S——a.

Zim kth hazin Plan gabra lwath Planitha zawh kth susia barbia piktia ² zim kth gumlia bzmama zim kth taura bnira zim kth kdana bmhaqa zim kth nunia başaşa wamar Plan gabra hazilh d Planitha 'ntha matitilia (mahtit 'lia ?) lpaghria 'tiqrilia brhamta dilia Planitha mn lwath hdadia lanipsiq asfara uharutha ³ u'qara nihuilia lPlan alanph Planitha bil bšumh d Libat marat alahia wanašia.



Hazin šuba babania d rhamta gabra aba<u>th</u>ar 'n<u>th</u>a u'n<u>th</u>a aba<u>th</u>ar gabra S----a.



22.

Bšumaihun d halin malakhia d lagṭialh 'l Plan kul dukta d aithia mathilh Azi'il Abdaiil uTarqun Pṭauna blibh nimar azil sala tam tambil Hathmi'il Nirmi'il Amami'il Lha . . . alana nain rsa uhisa uhisia (figure) Qmba'il uDardi'il Salanasa Mimrimi'il Katmi'il uSarsafi'il uṢapri'il Sasumar Dihuma Dimṣat Hṭiauniaka Lhṭfmiil qahu Halsri'il Baqni'il 'lhalṣḥ halin mlakhia mšahnilh umšrguzlh lPlan mn kul duktia d aithia mathilh lmginth mathilh 'u bmia 'u bṭura hu hu athia unadar bduktia unišahunuh unaithunh lbaithh wathrh umathh ligil (ligal) sarhibunh mathilh amin sala. Hai minilta bšrara nihuilia lPlan kahuta ušrita ukauna lahwilh ukul dukta d aithia aithilh unidar alanpia d Planitha amin amin sala S—a. Raza kdub lgaiib watha atitia riša 'ntha ugabra athia tum qbur barba 'uhrawatha wathia gabra S—a.

23.

'lakh bšumakh qraitakh mlakha amaria Arbiil mlakha d mafqia lilbia utiratha uPlan mn Planitha umn mathh d abuia u'mh wahia urahmia umn athrh hu martia . . . uqra Pthahil uqala d Libat bhilmia utitma uqala mitra d banana uqal aria d nahim uqal hiwia bhilfia

- ¹ Variant gibia ("her choice").
- ² Copies vary much here, some omit kth taura or other similes.
- ³ Variant, hadutha "joy".

uqal guha brazia uqal aria d nahim bababia uqal rima d raiim mn 'šumia uqal aria d byama uqal taura d bgauh d duita ukalba d mnaba uqal šibabia (šbabia) d bgauh ruita uqal matha d bar anašia uqal qiriatha d Libat taumia uqal guha brazia uqal mitra banana uqal hiwia bhilfa uqal rama d qaiim (raiim) mn 'šumia hinila d Planitha šamana d mištahna upahra abathar Plan kth hanh abathar 'karth amin amin sala S—a. Hazin baba kdub uruf bmasakh 'ntha abathar gabra ušarir umnasia hu S—a.

24.

Halin šuba mlakhia azilinun urmun rhamta d Planikha blibh d Plan ukul šumhakha d 'tlia uništahan unitpatar unipra unikhia Plan abakhar Planikha brhamta d šiha ušagra ayak pahra abakhar 'nzia wayak taura abakhar turita wayak kalba gnuna abakhar gurikta gnuntia wayak nuna abakhar ṣaida haikin nišal uništalia uništan (ništahan) Plan abakhar Planikha bšumaihun d mlakhia d rhamta ṣilmia uṣurakha amin amin sala S——a Hazin baba kdub uqbur bqba d nura šgir gabra abathar 'nkha S——a.

25.

Bšumaihun d hiia rbia aumitinkhun anatun šuba kukhbia utrisar malwašia bšumakh hiia uHanan'iil Šamiš uHanfaiil Sin uHadiaiil Libat uHakimišil 'Nbu Agiiaiil Kibriaiil (Kiwan?) Dušaiil Nirigh d athia Plan abathar Planitha bšum Harzi'iil d hu Hufnaiil Haziaiil uMibaqiaiil uKifiaiil uHaniaiil uSihiaiil uHaziaiil hazin šuba kukhbia utrisar malwašia zazaaaaaaaaaaa d nithia Plan abathar Planitha kth puma pthia uriria daiib šiflh b'dh lgatlh u'dh lrišh mathnalh wamra wai 'lai wai ušahlana uganiana bhbaqa d Plan S—a Hazin baba kdub bmgalta d tabia 'l ('u) bmatha d miia ('u bmgalta d mia?) uqbur bpuma d thlatha mubawatha 'u 'ntha abathar gabra ('u)gabra abathar 'ntha rhmana lwath hdadia lman d aiit kdub hazin baba S—a.

26.

Bšuma Yaniaiil uŠaniaiil uNiaiil anatun mlakhia rahiqiun siniutha utrus arhamta hizda ušupra ušaiia u'qara ldilia Plan ukbušiun minai šultania ururbia udirdqia 'nšia ugubria minai dilia Plan amin amin sala bšumaihun d hiia rbia anpia šapiria uparsufa rauzia nihuilia ldilia Plan banpia Plan rbit mn gilia huilia kth nala hawilh kth br qalh miqrilh uninhar uništagar Plan abathar Plan akwath šunara upaqara uništahan uništagar unithlh Plan abathar Plan gabra bšum Libat marat alahia wanašia anpia šapiria unišpur

unitrahim Plan banpia Plan amin amin sala bšumaihun d hiia rbia ubšumaihun d šuba mlakhia d rhamta Qadišiial mlakha ušumaihun mlakhia ušuma anatun aziliun u'tiblh 'l Plan nisbuih lmiklia umašqith minh unisbuih lṭamh wathia (Plan) abathar dilia Plan kth šlia lbuth bqraumia bšumaikhun šuba utrisar mlakhia Šamiš uSira umainalakh (mauminalakh) bšumakh lišaihh 'sadarlakh 'lakh anatun (anat?) Šaqri'il haumakh lyaqdana d Plan nadimia Plan banpia Plan kth Sira anatun trisar mlakhia blilia u'umama yandit kbibia 'abuia bainakh kth hama wahana ainh unithlia Plan abathar Plan brhamta lbihria u.... Yaha S——a Hazin thlatha babia kdub ulgut 'lakh gabra abathar gabra S——a.

VII. Jealousy Charms

27.

Bšumaihun d mlakhia 'fikia anpia 'fika nihuilh lPlanikha mn Plan 'fik 'fik 'fik 'fik 'fik 'fik Bil mn Babil 'fik 'Nbu mn Burşippi 'fik Nišra mn Kaškar 'fik liba uruiana d Plan mn liba uruiana d Planikha anpia anpia d aria gišumh d šunara kartumh d hizura kraiia d bahima umanzia d lilikha tisrih utitarth Plan kh hasfa d garaia wabihdh latikul wabihdh latištia wabihdh latitab ulwakh laniqrub bšum Libat 'stra amin amin sala S——a Kdub hazin baba lbaia d zagata pth yuma qbur bbaba d man baiit nafaq (nafaqh) mn baithh lkul man d baiit ušarir umnasia S——a.

28.

'fik Bil mn Babil uNirigh mn parşufa (Burşipa) uKiban (Kiwan) mn nhura u'Nbu mn aba arbaia uŠamiš mn Bit Parṣaiia uLaiwat (Libat) mn Hinduaiia ulanašia bišia qira 'sirlh bhalsh Plan kth hazilh lPlanitha nimar afquih mn qudamai lanitab amin amin sala S—a Hazin baba qria 'l qira šuba zibnia ušiflh bbaba d gabra (ugabra) u'ntha hawin 'fik mn hdadia mn haila d maraian hawia rwaha wasutha S—a.

29.

Apri'il uSadr'il Qadri'il Dukrab'il Dufi'il Hr'il uBulzi'il hazin šuba mlakhia qduia l'uṣria ulruiana unimusa ulširiš Plan mn Planitha amin amin sala S——a Hazin baba d qarušta d liba qria lkuza minh (mia) lman d hawia 'ašuq wašqih uqaruš libia bhaila d maraian S——a.

- ¹ Variant, lyušiahh.
- ² All versions differ here and are ill-spelt—the text is very corrupt.