Visions of Amram

*(Adapted from an anonymous translation* [*found online*](https://couldbeanonymous.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/testament-of-amram.pdf)*.)*

4Q543, Fragment 1 (4Q545–6)

Copy of the book of the words of the vision of Amram, son of Qahat, son of Levi all [that] he explained to his sons and enjoined on them on the day of [his] death, in his one hundred and thirty-sixth year, which was the year of his death, [in] the one hundred and fifty-second year of Israel’s exile in Egypt … to call Uzziel, his youngest brother, and he [married] to him Miriam, [his] daughter and said (to her), “You are thirty years old.” And he gave a banquet lasting seven days. And he ate and drank and made merry during the banquet. Then, when the days of the banquet were completed, he sent to call Aaron, his son, and he was about twenty years old, and said to him, “Call, my son, the messengers, your brothers from the house of …”

4Q544, Fragment 1 (4Q543, 545–7)

Qahat (went) there to stay and dwell and build … many of the sons of my uncle together … a man as our work was very great until the dead would be buried. In the year of my beginning, when the news of a was became worrying, with my consent our company returned to the land of Egypt and I went to bury them and they did not build the tombs of our fathers. And my father Qahat and my wife Jochebed left me to stand and build and provide them with all their needs from the land of Canaan. And we stayed in Hebron while we were building. A war broke out between the Philistines and the Egyptians and the Philistines and Canaanites defeated the Egyptians and they closed the [frontiers] of Egypt. And it was impossible [for Jochebed, my wife, to go from Egypt to Canaan] for forty-one years. And we could not return to Egypt. Therefore, [we could] not … [the war] between Egypt and Canaan and the Philistines. And, during all this, [Jochebed] my wife [was away from me in the Land of Egypt … my post …for] she was [not] with me. And I did [not] take [another] wife. Women … all, that I would return to Egypt in peace and would see the face of my wife. [I saw Watchers] in my vision, a dream vision. And behold! Two (of them) argued about me and said … and they were engaged in a great quarrel concerning me. I asked them, “You, what are you … thus … [about me]?” They answered and [said to me, “We have been made] masters and rule over all the sons of men.” And they said to me, “Which of us do you [choose …]”

I raised my eyes and saw one of them. His looks were frightening [like those of a] viper and his [garments] were multi-coloured and he was extremely dark …

And, afterwards, I looked and, behold … by his appearance and his face was like that of an adder, and he was covered with … together, and over his eyes …

Fragment 2

… this [Watcher], “Who is he?” he said to me, “This [Watcher] … [and his three names are Belial, Prince of Darkness] and Melki-Resha.” And I said, “My Lord, what rule …” [And he said to me] … [and all his paths are darkness … you see. And he rules over all darkness … and I rule over all light and [all] …

4Q545 Fragment Ia(i) (4Q543a, 546d)

Copy [of the writing of the words of the vision] of Amram, son of Qahat, son of Levi, all that [he has explained to his] sons … on the day of [his] death in the year one hundred and thirty-six – this is the year of his death – in the year one hundred and fifty-two of the exile of Israel in Egypt. Also, it came to him … and call Uzziel, his younger brother, [and gave] him Miriam, his thirty-year-old daughter for wife. He made her wedding feats lasting seven [days] and he ate and drank at her wedding feast and rejoiced. Then, when the days of the wedding feast came to an end, he sent out to call Aaron, his about twenty-year-old son, [and said] to him, “My son, call to me the messengers, your brothers, from the house of …”

Fragment 4

… and I will explain to you your names … [that] he wrote for Moses. And also, about [Aaron] … I will explain to you the mystery of his worshipping. He is a holy priest [to the Most High God. Also,] all his seed will be holy in all the generations of eternity] … The seventh of the men of (God’s) good will [he will be] called and he will be said … and will be chosen as a priest for ever …

4Q548

I [announce] to you [the] firm [path]. I will indeed inform [you … For, all the Sons of Light] … and, by all their knowledge, they will … and the Sons of Darkness will be … And the Sons of Darkness will be removed … For, every fool and wicked [will be] dark and every [sage] and upright will shine. [For, all the Sons of Light will go] to the light, to … and all the sons of Darkness [go towards death] and perdition … The people shall have brightness … and they will explain to [them] …