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|  | E | G | RII | |
| 1 | E1  “…Don’t let noises and blows and threats shock you,  E2  Don’t fear death rather than your mother’s curse | G1.134  Saying, “Do not, brother, let shouts shock you at all,  G1.135  Nor let noises alarm you nor wounds shock you at all,  G1.138  Don’t spare yourself though you are young but think of your mother’s curse;  (cf. G1.80: mother's and father's curse) | (cf. RII.172: mother's prayer) | |
| 2 | Similarities: “Put your trust in God [(E8, G1.140,)” RII.174v] – sing a hymn to God to succeed. [E1-2, G1.134-135, 128, RII.177] – reminder to remember the words of their mother.  The Emir then rode out to battle, imposing in appearance [and connected in some way with the sun's rays (E16, G1.163) = "where the brothers were standing, that place shines like the sun," RII.174v] | | | |
| 3 | E17  The emir wielded a blue, gilded spear | G1.164  he wielded a blue gilded spear |  | |
| 4 | Similarities: [E21-7, G1.155-160; RII.175, first instance] Saracen bystander admonished the Emir to not underestimate the power of the challenger, upon the sight that the brother is a formidable force, while listing qualities to be admired of the opponent. | | | |
| 5 | E29  “He is a roman cur! Don’t let him do you down.”  E32  They mounted at once and they came to the battlefield.  E38  The plains grew fearful and the mountains re-echoed  E40  Blood flowed down over their horse trappings | G1.189  “The Roman is dangerous, don’t let him harm you.”  G1.172  Urged his horse on and went on to the battle-field.  G1.180  The mountains re-echoed, the hills shook with thunder  G1.181  And the blood flowed all over the ground | RII.174  And mounting their horses they came down | |
| 6 | “The watching Saracens once more intervened with advice E46-51, G1.184-9” RII.175 second instance | | | |
| 7 | E55  “May you live and rejoice, young man, victory is yours.” | G1.196  “Stop, my young friend; victory is yours. | RII.175  "Have mercy on me, dear brothers;" | |
| 8 | (E56-57, G1.198-204; RII.175v: "Hearing this the brothers were joyful") Battle ends and the youngest brother rejoins the other brothers to speak to the emir in unison | | | |
| 9 | E59  “Emir, first of emirs and first man of Syria,  *(prob. redupl. of a lost formula above)*  E60  Emir, servant of God, carry out what you promised us  E61  And show us our sister, so that our souls may rejoice.”  E62  Then the emir in his fury said to them  E63  “go out into my army, and search the tents | G1.100  “Emir, servant of God and first man of Syria,  G1.206  “Give us our sister, emir, as you promised;  G1.208  The emir said to them, not speaking the truth,  G1.209  “Take my seal, and go round the tents, | RII.175v (= RII.173v): *seam* and *theme/run*  Brother, Amir the tsar,  (= Tell us, Amir the tsar,)  But now tell us, where is our sister?  (= Now tell us, where have you put our little sister?)  And the Amir the tsar said to them tearfully: "Dear brothers! Do you see yon fair field? There stand many tents,"  (= And Amir the tsar answered them:  “There stand many tents…”) | |
| 10 | “and if you find your sister take her and go” (E64, G1.210-11, RII.175v “Hearing this the brothers were joyful and galloped to her tent.”) As they went, | | | |
| 11 | E67  They met a Saracen outside the tents | G1.216  On the way they met a Saracen peasant; | RI.172= RI.172v  They came upon a Saracen standing guard. =  Only three men did they spare to lead them to Amir the tsar. *(theme/run)* | |
| 12 | E71  Go up to the high ground, you will find a ditch  E72  Yesterday we slaughtered some enchanting girls in it  E73  Because they didn’t want to do what we told them | G1.223  Go through to the lower ravine; you will find a ditch  G1.224  Yesterday we slaughtered some lovely high born girls in it  G1.225  Because they refused to do what we told them | (RII.175v =) RII.173v-174: *seam*  (Do you see yon fair field? =)  Do you see that mountain, great, and fair?  There [were slain many honored] women and fair maidens. And there was your sister slain  because she had not done my will. | |
| 13 | “The brothers follow these directions” RII.174 “They mounted their horses and went up …” | | | |
| 14 | E79  There they found girls dripping with blood\*  E80  Some lacked hands, others their heads | G1.227  They found many girls slaughtered, soaked in blood  G1.228  Some lacked hands, heads and feet | RII.174  … and saw on the mountain many women and fair maidens slain. | |
| 15 | They try to identify their sister without success (E80, G1.230, RII.174 “They began to seek their sister …”) | | | |
| 16 | ~~E87~~  ~~Because the girls had been crushed together and covered in blood~~  *(reduplication of E79?)* | ~~cf. G1.227~~  ~~They found many girls slaughtered, soaked in blood~~ | ~~cf. RII.174~~  ~~… and found one maiden very fair~~ | |
| 17 | They put earth upon their heads and began to lament their sister’s death. RII.174 “… and began to shed tears over her, believing she was their sister.” | | | |
| 18 | E91  Lord Sun, what shall we do to find our sister,  E94  Lord Sun, why have you done this to us and wronged us? | G1.253  Sun, why did you envy our lovely sister?  G1.254  And killed her unjustly because she outshone you? |  | |
| 19 | The brothers buried the girls in a common grave (E123-5, G1.255-8) | |  | |
| 20 | E126  And returned to the Emir in bitter spirits | G1.257  And, lamenting, they returned immediately to the emir. | RII.174  The brothers mounted their horses and were loudly singing the angelic hymn ... And they charged the tent of Amir the tsar ... calling out Amir the tsar. |
| 21 | E129  Emir, first of emirs and cur of Syria  *(NB variance from formula, plus abusive tone as in Slav; probably modified in E)* | G1.100  Emir, servant of God and first man of Syria |  | |
| 22 | Brothers try to reason with the Emir to return their sister. E demands the return of their sister and threatens to “cut” the emir like he cut the maidens. G asks for the return of their sister and says that they shall kill themselves due to their oaths. RII.175: Saracens recommend the return of the sister lest the brothers “destroy” the emir “utterly.” | | | |
| 23 | E145  Our Father was Aaron and Our Uncle Karoilis  E149  No General or governor has ever stood in my way | G1.285  Ambron was my grandfather, Karois my uncle  G1.297  The generals could not withstand me, nor the armies |  | |
| 24 | But now I’ve been defeated by a girls beauty. (G1.298, RII.175 “I shall receive holy baptism for love of that maiden.”) And so | | | |
| 25 | E162  In case you can accept me as your brother in law  E163  I have your sister, so do not be upset about her.  E165  I swear this and I say to you by the good Prophet, the great Mohammed,  E166  She has not given me even a kiss, nor have I said one word to her  E169  So now come into my tent and find your sister  E176  I renounce my faith and my great reputation  E177  And become a Christian and will go with you | G1.304  If you do not reject me as a brother in law  G2.97  ~~Bring the Roman girl too,~~ if you are upset because of her  G1.307  And know this for certain, by the great Prophet,  G1.308  She has given me neither a kiss nor a word  G1.309  Come, then, to my tent and see the girl you are looking for  G1.306  I shall come over to Roman Territory and become a Christian | RII.175-175v  That I may be your brother in law  ~~RII.177 (x2), 178~~  ~~Bring the/with his beloved maiden~~  RII.176  And Amir the tsar always came to me once a month and looked  upon me from afar. And he ordered his servants to cover my face and he would never enter the tent.  RII.176v  And I wish to assemble strong warriors, and whoever wishes  to accept holy baptism with me, and I shall come to you in the Greek  land. | |
| 26 | The brothers went and found their sister in a well-furnished tent.  E180  On it was a coverlet of gold and on it was laying their sister  G1.312  They found a couch draped with gold, and on it a girl  RII.175v  Strewn with golden coverlets  They said to her | | | |
| 27 | E190  We thought you were dead | G1.324  We thought you were dead and hacked by a sword | (cf. RII.175v:  interrogation re. virginity) | |
| 28 | And then they embraced her | |  | |
| 29 | E195  Some kissed her lips, the others her eyes  *(formula, cf. ceremony after the hunt, lost in E)* | G1.204  Some kissed his hands, others his head  *(formula, cf. G4.190-191 after the hunt: And his father and his uncle kissed him, /*  *his hands and arms, his eyes and his chest)* | *cf. RII.180v (after hunt):*  *And his father kissed him on the lips and on the eyes and on the ears* | |
| 30 | “So they all returned amid great rejoicing to Romania” RII.176v “And the brothers, taking their sister, went their way.” | | | |
| 31 | E213  And from then on it was renowned throughout the whole world | G1.335  And it became well known throughout the whole world |  | |
| 32 | That a beautiful girl could defeat a whole army.  After the consummation of the marriage = RII.179v “And then the Queen … took the fruit of male sex in her womb” | | | |
| 33 | E219  They bore a marvelous child, Digenis Akritis, The Frontiersman of Double Descent | G2.48  And bore Basil Digenis Akritis, the Frontiersman of Double Descent, | RII.179v  Bore a son and gave him the name Akrit…they gave him the name of Devgenij | |
| 34 | But then the Emir received a letter: E226 and G2.50 (cf. RII.179-180: letter sent to Emir, but not obviously received by him) | | | |
| 35 | E226  The emirs mother sent him a letter from Syria  E227  A letter full of laments, reproaches and grief  E228  “My most beloved child, my soul, my comfort | G2.50  But the emir’s mother sent a letter from Syria  G2.51  Full of lamentation, reproach and blame  G2.53  “Most beloved child, how could you have forgotten your mother, | RII.177, 178:  She began to tear the hair from her head | |
| 36 | You’ve put out the light of my eyes and shamed your family don’t you remember the deeds of your E: grandfather / G: father | |  | |
| 37 | E255  How many Romans he slew, how many slaves he captured?  E256  He filled the prisons with Roman Lords  E258  He raided Ikonion, as far as Amorion  E261  And my brother, your uncle, Mourstasit, went out | G2.61  How could you not remember your father’s deeds,  G2.62  How many Romans he slew, how many he carried off as slaves?  G1.295  Coming past Amorion as far as Ikonion  G2.75  My brother, your uncle, Moursis Karois | Cf. RII.177:  Why are you called tsar and have strong warriors serving you;  they receive a revenue of the thousand and of two thousand. | |
| 38 | And now you’ve destroyed everything for the sake of a pork-eater. But if you want my blessing, | |  | |
| 39 | E275  I have sent you there choice swift steeds  E279-280  Mount the chestnut horse and put on the breastplate,  E281  And even if steeds pursue you, no one will overtake you | G2.94  Look, I have sent you, as you see, choice horses  G2.95  Mount the chestnut, lead the black,  G2.96  Let the bay follow you and no one will catch you | RII.178v  She gave them … three horses: (a horse) called Windflower, a second, Thunder, a third, Lightning …  Seat him on Windflower (179) and he will not be ~~visible~~ [harmed (corr. Vaillant: i.e., caught)] by anyone. | |
| 40 | If you like you can even bring the Roman girl (E828-3, G2.97; RII.177x2, 178v: “with the beloved maiden”). Otherwise, | | | |
| 41 | E286  They will slaughter your children and they will strangle me | G2.86  And kill your children since their father is a rebel |  | |
| 42 | And your wives will be embraced by others (E287, G2.87-8) you will also have my curse (E291, G2.98) | |  | |
| 43 | Messengers brought the mother’s letter (E292, G2.100; RII.179 = “And they reached the Greek city”; cf. 177x2, 177vx2, 178v = “[assemble a great force and] go to the Greek land,”) and camped at a place called Chalkopetrin/Lakkopetra (E293, G2.101-102; RII.179 = “and halted outside the city in a secret place”).  The messengers urged the emir to go with them under the cover of moonlight. But he was  much moved by the letter and went straight to his wife. He said to her, | | | |
| 44 | E307  “My mother has sent me a letter from Syria” | G2.127  But I have received a letter from my mother in Syria |  | |
| 45 | E318  But her youngest brother saw this in his sleep | G2.136  For the girl’s youngest brother has a dream | RII.179  That night the queen, the fair wife (of Amir the Tsar), had a dream | |
| 46 | And he told his brother his dream about an eagle/falcon pursuing a dove into the (E320-325, G2.135-146; RII.179, she tells her brothers her dream about falcon pursuing her) | | | |
| 47 | E326  Then the oldest brother replied thus;  E327  “It seems to me that the hawks are abductors, | G2.147  Then the brother interpreted the vision  G2.148  “Hawks, so they say, stand for abductors, | RII.179  The brothers assembled in the city all the seers and scribes and Pharisees and told of their sister’s dream. And they said to them, “your brother in law, newly baptized Amir the tsar, at his mother’s bidding wishes to steal our fair lady from her chamber and flee to the Saracen land with your beloved sister.” | |
| 48 | the eagle/falcon is our brother-in-law and the dove is our sister.’ (RII.179: “And the three ravens are Saracens”)  They went straight to the encampment and confronted the messengers from Syria saying (RII.179v: “[They] found the three Saracens outside the city: they seized [them] and began to question them”) | | | |
| 49 | E335  “Welcome, our brave young men, hawks of our brother-in-law | G2.156  saying, “Welcome, our brother-in-law’s youngsters |  | |
| 50 | Why camp here and not come to the house?  They went to the emir and threatened him saying (RII.179v: “The brothers went to Amir the tsar and began to accuse him”): | | | |
| 51 | E346  Leave our sister behind, renounce your son | G2.168  Leave our sister, renounce your child |  | |
| 52 | Take what belongs to you and go back where you came from. The emir was appalled (RII.179v: “But he swore by the Living God”)  and began to reproach his wife. [E: is this how Christians keep their oaths? G: is this your love for me?] | | | |
| 53 | E355  Do you not remember what I suffered because of your at the beginning? | G2.187  Do you not remember what I did with you at the beginning? |  | |
| 54 | I took you as a slave | |  | |
| 55 | E357  And now you have me as your slave; | G2.189  I had intended to keep you as a slave, but instead you made me the slave |  | |
| 56 | Now your brothers are determined to kill me | |  | |
| 57 | E367  Surely, if I draw my sword and kill myself | G2.196  Without fail I shall draw my sword and kill myself |  | |
| 58 | the nobles of Romania will reproach you. | | | |
| 59 | The girl movingly protested her innocence, and then went to her brothers. Why do you attack the emir who has done you no wrong? She said to them. He is so upset: | |  | |
| 60 | E395  And is about to be lost to the world because of his grief | G2.218  For excess of grief bring delirium |  | |
| 61 | After all he gave up his faith and his family for me, and | |  | |
| 62 | E399  He set out for Roman territory because of me and you five  E404  But how did you watch out for your mother’s curse  E406  You did not fear death more than your mother’s curse | G2.3  And returned to the Roman Territory, for the sake of his beloved  G2.228  Now, out of fear of his mother’s curse  G2.231  And how did you, out of respect of our mother’s curse, | *Cf. RII.177v*  *But Amir the tsar sent on ahead … and went to the Greek land.*  (cf. RII.172: mother's prayer) | |
| 63 | The brothers were moved by this speech. “you are our life and soul,” they said to her. “if your husband want to go, | |  | |
| 64 | E411  To see his mother and to come back again | G2.184  That we should enjoy the journey together and then return | RII.176v-177  Amir the tsar, going to his mother [and to his brothers] | |
| 65 | he has our blessing” so they all returned to the Emir and asked his pardon.  The Emir swore to be faithful to his wife and child, and his preparations were made for his departure (RII.176v: “I shall be called your brother-in-law; in great honor shall I come. I wish first to go [to the Arab land] …”).  Before leaving he went in to his wife: | | | |
| 66 | E468  He entered the chamber and kissed the girl | G2.267  And heartfelt tears fell like showers |  | |
| 67 | And he sighed loudly. “give me your ring as a keepsake while I’m gone,” he asked her. She complied and adjured him to be faithful to her on his journey. The two embraced, the emir mounted his horses and all the girl’s relations accompanied him on the first stage of his journey. | |  | |
| 68 | As he started out, the emir said to his retainers (RII.177v: When Amir the tsar reached the border of the Greek land, he said): | | | |
| 69 | E487  And he said to his youngsters: “youngsters, be strong,”  E490  All of you struggle against rain, storms, and frosts | G3.22  Youngsters, let us be strong: horses, do not be lazy  G3.24  Consider rain, snow and frost as nothing, | RII.177v  My dear brothers, strong Arab warriors, who will go with me to attack the Greek land? | |
| 70 | So that I can return quickly. And with these words the emir finally set out (E494. G3.47) | |  | |
| 71 | As they went he told stories of his former exploits to his retainers. They came upon a lion devouring a deer/heifer. The emir spoke proudly to the animal, then killed it and asked his retainers to send its [hide], teeth and claws as gifts to his son, Digenis Akrites | |  | |
| 72 | E527  And when they had made their way to the fortress of Raqqa | G3.111  When they approached the fortress of Rachab |  | |
| 73 | They camped outside and his mother and his relatives came out to greet the emir, saying: | |  | |
| 74 | E539  My much loved child, my heart, my breath,  E540  light of my eyes | G3.132  My sweetest child, light of my eyes |  | |
| 75 | [The emir persuaded his mother and their retainers to return with him to Romania and convert to Christianity: cf. RII.176v: “and whoever wishes to accept holy baptism with me.”]  On his return he embraced his wife E583, G3.279-81) and baptized all his people who had accompanied him (E608, G3.329-33; RII.179v: “And they baptized them with godly baptism and they began to live at the abode of Amir the tsar”). | | | |