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On Coldness of the Abdomen and Fluttering of the Heart

Muhammad b. ‘Ali b. Ranjawayh al-Mutatabbib narrated from ‘Abd Allah b. ‘Uthman that he said: “I complained to Abu Ja’far Muhammad b. ‘Ali b. Musa, peace be upon him, of coldness in my abdomen and of fluttering (*al-khafaqan*) in my heart. He said: “What about the medication of my father, the ‘comprehensive medication’?” I replied: “O son of the Messenger of Allah, what is it?” He said: “It is well known among the Shi’a.” I said: “My lord and master, I am one of them, so describe it to me so that I may use it as treatment and give it to people.”

He replied: “Take equal measures of saffron, pyrethrum, Indian nard, cardamom, henbane, white hellebore, and white pepper, and two parts of *abarfiyun*. Grind them all finely, sieve in a piece of silk, and mix with twice its weight of honey which has had its froth removed. Give the one suffering from heart-fluttering and coldness in the abdomen one grain to drink with a decoction of cumin water. He will be cured, Allah, the Exalted, willing.”

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