

Part 13: On Thirteen-Numbered Characteristics

The Thirteen Transmuted Groups

13-1 Muhammad ibn Ali Majiluyih – may God be pleased with him – narrated that Muhammad ibn Yahya al-Attar quoted Muhammad ibn al-Hussein, on the authority of Ali ibn Asbat, on the authority of Ali ibn Ja'far, on the authority of Muqayrih, on the authority of Aba Abdullah as-Sadiq (MGB), on the authority of his father (MGB), on the authority of his grandfather (MGB), “The transmuted Children of Adam (i.e. the people) are in thirteen groups. They include monkeys, swine, bats, lizards, bears, elephants, leeches, seals, scorpions, Canopus, Venus, spiders, and porcupines. The ‘monkeys’ refers to a tribe from the Children of Israel who lived by the sea. They violated the Shabbat¹ and fished on Saturdays. Then God transmuted them into monkeys. The ‘swine’ refers to a group of the Children of Israel who were cursed by Jesus – the son of Mary (MGB). Then God transmuted them into swine. The ‘bat’ refers to a woman who exploited her wet-nurse by using magic. Then God transmuted her into a bat. And ‘lizard’ refers to a Bedouin Arab who killed anyone he saw. Then God transmuted him into a lizard. And ‘bear’ refers to a man who robbed the pilgrims. Then God transmuted him into a bear. And ‘elephant’ refers to a man who made love to beasts. Then God transmuted him into an elephant. And ‘leech’ refers to an adulterer who did not forsake of anything. Then God transmuted him into a leech. And ‘seal’ refers to a man who was a slanderer. Then God transmuted him into a seal. And ‘scorpion’ refers to a man who was a backbiter. Then God transmuted him into a scorpion. And ‘Canopus’² refers to a tax collector whom God transmuted into a star. And ‘Venus’³ refers to a woman with whom Harut and Marut practiced black witchcraft.⁴ And ‘spider’ refers to an ill-natured woman who disobeyed her husband. Then God transmuted her into a spider. And ‘porcupine’ refers to an ill-natured man. Then God transmuted him into a porcupine.

13-2 Abul Hassan Ali ibn Abdullah ibn Ahmad al-Aswari al-Mozak'kar narrated that Maki ibn Ahmad ibn Sa'duyeh al-Barza'ee quoted Abu Muhammad Zakariya ibn Yahya ibn Ubayd ul-Attar in Damietta, on the authority of Al-Qalanesi, on the authority of Abdul Aziz ibn Abdullah al-Owaysi⁵, on the authority of Ali ibn Ja'far, on the authority of Ma'tab – the servant of Ja'far, on the authority of Ja'far ibn Muhammad

as-Sadiq (MGB), on the authority of his father (MGB), on the authority of his grandfather (MGB),

أبواب الثلاثة عشر

المسوخ ثلاثة عشر صنفا

حدثنا محمد بن علي ما جيلويه رضي الله عنه قال: حدثنا محمد بن يحيى العطار، عن محمد بن أحمد بن 1-13 يحيى قال: حدثنا محمد بن الحسين، عن علي بن أسباط، عن علي بن جعفر، عن مغيرة، عن أبي عبد الله، عن أبيه، عن جده عليهم السلام قال: المسوخ من بني آدم ثلاثة عشر صنفا، منهم القردة والخنازير والخفاش والضب والدب والفيل والدعموص والجريث والعقرب وسهيل والقنفذ والزهرة والعنكبوت.

فأما القردة فكانوا قوما من بني إسرائيل كانوا ينزلون على شاطئ البحر اعتدوا في السبت فصادوا الحيتان فمسخهم الله قردة، وأما الخنازير فكانوا قوما من بني إسرائيل دعا عليهم عيسى بن مريم عليه السلام فمسخهم الله خنازير، وأما الخفاش فكانت امرأة مع ظئرها فسخرتها فمسخها الله خفاشا، وأما الضب فكان أعرابيا بدويا لا يدع عن قتل من مر به من الناس فمسخه الله ضبا، وأما الدب فكان رجلا يسرق الحاج فمسخه الله دبا. وأما الفيل فكان رجلا ينكح البهائم فمسخه الله فيلا، وأما الدعموص فكان رجلا زاني الفرج لا يدع من شيء فمسخه الله دعموصا. وأما الجريث فكان رجلا ناما فمسخه الله جريثا. وأما العقرب فكان رجلا همازا لمازا فمسخه الله عقربا. وأما سهيل فكان رجلا عشارا صاحب مكاس فمسخه الله كوكبا. وأما الزهرة فكانت امرأة فتنت هاروت وماروت فمسخها الله. وأما العنكبوت فكانت امرأة سيئة الخلق عاصية لزوجها مولية عند فمسخها الله عنكبوتا. وأما القنفذ فكان رجلا سيئ الخلق فمسخه الله قنفذا.

حدثنا أبو الحسن علي بن أحمد الاسواري المذكر قال: حدثنا مكي ابن أحمد بن سعدويه البرذعي قال: حدثنا 2-13 أبو محمد زكريا بن يحيى بن عبيد العطار بدمياط قال: حدثنا القلانسي قال: حدثنا عبدالعزيز بن عبد الله الاويسى قال: حدثنا علي

on the authority of Ali ibn Abi Talib (MGB), “I asked God’s Prophet (MGB) about the transmuted ones. The Prophet (MGB) replied, ‘They are in thirteen groups. They are elephant, bear, swine, monkey, seal, lizard, bat, leech, scorpion, spider, rabbit, Canopus and Venus. Then I said, ‘O Prophet of God! What was the reason they were transmuted?’ The Prophet (MGB) replied, ‘The one who was transmuted into an elephant was a man who made love to almost anything.

The one who was transmuted into a bear was a shemale⁶ who invited men to herself.

And the ones that were transmuted into swine were a Christian tribe who asked their Lord to descend water for them. Then when it rained, they blasphemed more and denied God more strongly than before.

And the ones that were transmuted into monkeys were a tribe who violated the Shabbat⁷.

And the one that was transmuted into a seal was a pimp who invited men to make love to his own wife.

And the one that was transmuted into a lizard was a Bedouin Arab who robbed the pilgrims' crosiers⁸.

And the one that was transmuted into a bat was a man who robbed the fruits from the top of palm trees.

And the one that was transmuted into a leech was a slanderer who caused disunion between loved ones.

And the one who was transmuted into a scorpion was a vulgar man who bothered everyone with his tongue.

And the one who was transmuted into a spider was a woman who was disloyal to her husband.

And the one that was transmuted into a rabbit was a woman who would not purify herself after menstruation etc.

And the one who was transmuted into Canopus was a tax-collector in Yemen.

And the one who was transmuted into Venus was a Christian woman who was from some of the Israel monarchs with whom Harut and Marut practiced black witchcraft.⁹ Her name was Naheel but the people called her Naheed.

The compiler of the book – may God be pleased with him – said, “The people made a mistake about Venus and Canopus and said that they were stars while it was not so. They were transmuted into two aqueous creatures

بن جعفر، عن معتب مولى جعفر، عن جعفر بن محمد، عن أبيه، عن جده، عن علي بن أبي طالب عليهم السلام
قال: سألت رسول الله صلى الله عليه وآله عن المسوخ، فقال: هم ثلاثة عشر: الفيل والدب والخنزير والقرد
والجريت والضب والوطواط والدعموص والعقرب والعنكبوت والارنب وسهيل والزهرة

فقال: يا رسول الله ما كان سبب مسخهم؟

فقال: اما الفيل فكان رجلا لوطيا لا يدع رطبا ولا يابساً

وأما الدب فكان رجلا مؤنثا يدعو الرجال إلى نفسه

وأما الخنازير فكانوا قوما نصارى سألوا ربهم إنزال المائدة عليهم فلما انزلت عليهم كانوا أشد ما كانوا كفرا وأشد تكذيبا،

.وأما القردة فقوم اعتدوا في السب

.وأما الجريث فكان رجلا ديوثا يدعو الرجال إلى حليلته

.وأما الضب فكان رجلا أعرابيا يسرق الحاج بمحجنه

.وأما الوطواط فكان رجلا يسرق الثمار من رؤوس النخل

.وأما الدعموص فكان ناما يفرق بين الاحبة

.وأما العقرب فكان رجلا لذاعا لا يسلم على لسانه أحد

.وأما العنكبوت فكانت امرأة تخون زوجها

.وأما الارنب فكانت امرأة لا يتطهر من حيض ولا غيره

.وأما سهيل فكان عشارا باليمن

وأما الزهرة فكانت امرأة نصرانية وكانت لبعض ملوك بني إسرائيل وهي التي فتن بها هاروت وماروت وكان اسمها ناهيل والناس يقولون: ناهيد

قال مصنف هذا الكتاب رضي الله عنه: الناس يغلطون في الزهرة وسهيل فيقولون إنهما نجمان وليس كما يقولون، ولكنهما دابتان من دواب البحر سميتا باسمي نجمين

from the sea which were named after two stars from the sky: just as some of the stars in the sky are

named after some of the animals on the Earth such as Aries (the Ram), the Taurus (the Bull), Betelgeuse, Cancer (the Raven), Scorpion (the stag), Neptune (the Whale), Capricorn (the goat).

Thus, a mistake was made regarding Venus and Canopus since the people cannot see them given that they are two aqueous creatures which exist in the sea and the Honorable the Exalted God would not distort His enemies into the form of bright stars which would illuminate forever. The perverted would not live for more than three days. They will not reproduce either. There are no perverted creatures on the Earth these days. Animals like monkeys, pigs, bears or other similar animals are not perverted themselves, but are similar to those who were cursed and transmuted by the Honorable the Exalted God for denying the Unity of God and denouncing the Prophets. The Blessed the Sublime God has made it forbidden to eat their flesh. I heard this narration from Abil Hussein Muhammad ibn Ja'far Al-Asady – May God be pleased with him.

Boys Attain Puberty at Thirteen

13-3 (The compiler of the book narrated) that his father – may God be pleased with him – narrated that Sa'ed ibn Abdullah quoted Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Isa, on the authority of Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Abi Nasr al-Bazanty, on the authority of Abil Hussein al-Khadim – the pearl seller, on the authority of Abdullah ibn Sin'an that Aba Abdullah as-Sadiq (MGB) said, "My father asked the following question from the Imam (MGB) in my presence, 'When would an orphan attain the age of puberty?' The Imam (MGB) replied, 'When he reaches sexual maturity.' My father asked, 'What is the decree in case a boy more or less reaches eighteen but doesn't attain sexual maturity?' The Imam (MGB) replied, 'He will be held responsible for his actions as soon as he attains thirteen years of age whether or not he attains sexual maturity, unless he is retarded or insane.'"

13-4 (The compiler of the book narrated) that his father – may God be pleased with him – narrated that Muhammad ibn Yahya al-Attar quoted Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Isa, on the authority of Al-Hassan ibn Ali al-Vasha, on the authority of Abdullah ibn Sin'an that Aba Abdullah as-Sadiq (MGB) said, "When a boy reaches thirteen years of age and goes into his fourteenth year, whatever is incumbent upon the sexually mature individual will become incumbent upon him whether or not he is sexually mature. His good and bad deeds shall be recorded. He is also allowed to control whatever is in possession, unless he is retarded or insane."

في السماء كما سمت بروج في السماء بأسماء حيوان في الارض مثل الحمل والثور والجوزاء والسرطان والعقرب والحوث والجدي، وكذلك الزهرة وسهيل وإنما غلط الناس فيهما دون غيرهما لتعذر مشاهدتهما والنظر إليهما لانهما دابتان في البحر المطيف بالدنيا بحيث لا تبلغه سفينة ولا تعمل فيه حيلة وما كان الله عز وجل ليمسح العصاة أنوارا مضئية يهتدى بها في البر والبحر، ثم يبقيهما ما بقيت السماء والارض والمسوخ لم تبق أكثر من ثلاثة أيام حتى ماتت ولم تتوالد وهذه الحيوانات التي تسمى المسوخ فالمسوخية لها اسم مستعار مجازي بل هي مثل ما مسح الله عز وجل على صورتها قوما عصوه واستحقوا بعصيانهم تغيير ما بهم من نعمة وحرّم الله تبارك وتعالى لحومها لكيلا ينتفع بها ولا يستخف بعقوبتها حكيت لي هذه الحكاية عن أبي الحسين محمد بن جعفر الاسدي رضي

الله عنه.

حد بلوغ الغلام ثلاث عشرة سنة إلى أربع عشرة سنة

حدثنا أبي رضي الله عنه قال: حدثنا سعد بن عبد الله، عن أحمد بن محمد بن عيسى، عن أحمد بن محمد 3-13 بن أبي نصر البزنطي، عن أبي الحسين الخادم بياع اللؤلؤ، عن عبد الله بن سنان، عن أبي عبد الله عليه السلام قال: سأله أبي وأنا حاضر عن اليتيم متى يجوز أمره قال: حتى يبلغ أشده، قال: وما أشده قال: الاحتلام، قال: قلت: قد يكون الغلام ابن ثمان عشرة سنة أو أقل أو أكثر ولا يحتلم؟ قال: إذا بلغ وكتب عليه الشيء جاز أمره إلا أن يكون سفيها أو ضعيفا.

حدثنا أبي رضي الله عنه قال: حدثنا محمد بن يحيى العطار، عن أحمد بن محمد بن عيسى، عن الحسن بن 4-13 علي الوشاء، عن عبد الله بن سنان، عن أبي عبد الله عليه السلام قال: إذا بلغ الغلام أشده ثلاث عشرة سنة ودخل في الأربع عشرة سنة وجب عليه ما وجب على المحتملين احتلم أم لم يحتلم، وكتبت عليه السيئات وكتبت له الحسنات، وجاز له كل شيء من ماله إلا أن يكون ضعيفا أو سفيها.

Thirteen Nobilities of the Commander of the Faithful Ali

13-5 (The compiler of the book narrated) that his father – may God be pleased with him – narrated that Abdullah ibn al-Hassan al-Mo'adab quoted Ahmad ibn Ali al-Isbahany on the authority of Ibrahim ibn Muhammad al-Saqafy, on the authority of Ja'far ibn al-Hassan ibn Ubaydullah ibn Musa al-Abasi, on the authority of Muhammad ibn Ali al-Salami, on the authority of Abdullah ibn Muhammad ibn Aqeel, on the authority of Jabir ibn Abdullah al-Ansari, "I heard God's Prophet (MGB) mention several nobilities of Ali (MGB). If anyone had even one of those nobilities, it would suffice for his mastery over the other people. God's Prophet (MGB) said, 'Whoever I am a Master of, Ali is the Master of.' God's Prophet (MGB) said, 'Ali's position relative to me is the same as Aaron's position relative to Moses.' God's Prophet (MGB) said, 'Ali is from me and I am from Ali.' God's Prophet (MGB) said, 'Ali to me is like me myself. Obeying him equals obeying me and disobeying him equals disobeying me.' God's Prophet (MGB) said, 'Fighting with Ali equals fighting with God and making peace with Ali equals making peace with God.' God's Prophet (MGB) said, 'Ali's friends are God's friends and Ali's enemies are God's enemies.' God's Prophet (MGB) said, 'Ali is God's Proof, and His Caliph reigning over His servants.' God's Prophet (MGB) said, 'The love for Ali constitutes faith and the hatred for Ali constitutes atheism.' God's Prophet (MGB) said, 'Ali's party is God's Party. The party of the enemies of Ali is Satan's party.' God's Prophet (MGB) said, 'Ali is with the truth and truth is with him. They will not separate from each other until they meet me (God's Prophet (MGB)) at the Pool¹⁰.' God's Prophet (MGB) said, 'Ali (MGB) is the *Qasim* or the one who divides up Paradise and Hell?' God's Prophet (MGB) said, 'Whoever cuts off from Ali (MGB) has cut off from me. Whoever cuts off from me has indeed cut off from the Honorable the

Exalted God.' God's Prophet (MGB) said, 'The followers of Ali shall all be prosperous on the Resurrection Day.'"

[1.](#) Shabbat is the Jewish holiday, "God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy," says the book of Genesis, "because on it God ceased from all the work of creation that God had done" (Genesis 2:3). The seventh day is Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath, which continues from sunset on Friday until one hour after sunset on Saturday. Jews are enjoined by the Torah to "remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8).

[2.](#) Canopus which is also called Suhail. Canopus, or Alpha Carinae, is the brightest star in the southern constellation of Carina. A yellowish-white super giant star, Canopus is the second brightest star in the sky with a visual magnitude of -0.62. It is located well into the southern hemisphere, at a Declination of -52° 42' (2000) and a Right Ascension of 06:24.0, and is visible on the southern horizon of even the southern US States as far north as Virginia or the African coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

[3.](#) Venus is a planet second in order from the sun.

[4.](#) Al-Ma'mun asked Al-Reza Ali ibn Musa (MGB) about the following which the people say, "Venus is the perverted form of a woman with whom Harut and Marut practiced black witchcraft and Canopus is the perverted form of the tax collector in Yemen." Al-Reza (MGB) said, "No. They lie when they say that those two were perverted into Venus and Canopus stars. They were perverted into two aqueous creatures. The people are mistaken when they say that those two were perverted into two stars. God would not distort His enemies into the form of bright stars which would illuminate forever. The perverted would not live for more than three days. They will not reproduce either. There are no perverted creatures on the Earth these days. Animals like monkeys, pigs, bears or other similar animals are not perverted themselves, but are similar to those who were cursed and perverted by God for denying the Unity of God and denouncing the Prophets. However, Harut and Marut were two angels who taught the people magic so that they could escape from the magic of the magicians and cancel the effect of their magic. They told whomever they taught magic, '...We are only for trial; so do not blaspheme...' [The Holy Quran: Baqara 2:102] However, there were some people who blasphemed via what they had learned and used what they had learned to cause discord and separation between husband and wife. The Honorable the Exalted God says, '... But they could not thus harm anyone except by Allah's permission...' [The Holy Quran: Baqara 2:102] meaning with His Knowledge."

[5.](#) He is Abdul Aziz ibn Abdullah ibn Yahya ibn Amru ibn Oways Abul Qasim al-Madani.

[6.](#) Shemale (sometimes she-male) is a term for a person who appears to be female, possessing both breasts and male genitalia.

[7.](#) Shabbat is the Jewish holiday, "God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy," says the book of Genesis, "because on it God ceased from all the work of creation that God had done" (Genesis 2:3). The seventh day is Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath, which continues from sunset on Friday until one hour after sunset on Saturday. Jews are enjoined by the Torah to "remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8).

[8.](#) Pastoral staff usually with a curved or hooked tops.

[9.](#) Al-Ma'mun asked Al-Reza Ali ibn Musa (MGB) about the following which the people say, "Venus is the perverted form of a woman with whom Harut and Marut practiced black witchcraft and Canopus is the perverted form of the tax collector in Yemen." Al-Reza (MGB) said, "No. They lie when they say that those two were perverted into Venus and Canopus stars. They were perverted into two aqueous creatures. The people are mistaken when they say that those two were perverted into two stars. God would not distort His enemies into the form of bright stars which would illuminate forever. The perverted would not live for more than three days. They will not reproduce either. There are no perverted creatures on the Earth these days. Animals like monkeys, pigs, bears or other similar animals are not perverted themselves, but are similar to those who were cursed and perverted by God for denying the Unity of God and denouncing the Prophets. However, Harut and Marut were two angels who taught the people magic so that they could escape the magic of the magicians and cancel the effect of their magic. They told whomever they taught magic, '...We are only for trial; so do not blaspheme...' [The Holy Quran: Baqara 2:102] However, there were some people who blasphemed via what they had learned and used what they had learned to cause discord and separation between husband and wife. The Honorable the Exalted God says, '... But they could not thus harm anyone except by Allah's permission...' [The Holy Quran: Baqara 2:102] meaning with His Knowledge."

[10.](#) Al-Kauthar

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