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On Wild Rue

Ibrahim b. Khalid narrated from Abu Ishaq b. Ibrahim b. ‘Abd Rabbihi from ‘Abd al-Wahid b. Maymun from Abu Khalid al-Wasiti from Zayd b. ‘Ali [Zayn al-‘Abidin, the fourth Imam (d. 122/740)] who attributed it to his forefathers, peace be upon them, that [one of them] said: ‘The Messenger of Allah, blessings of Allah on him and his family, said: “The wild rue (*al-harmal*) does not grow a tree, or a leaf, or a fruit, but that it has an angel in charge of it until it reaches the one who comes to it, or until it becomes debris. In its root and branches is a secret, and in its seed is healing from seventy-two illnesses. So treat yourselves with it and with frankincense.”’

From Abu ‘Abd Allah al-Sadiq, peace be upon him, that he was asked about wild rue and storax. He said: “As for wild rue, neither its root in the earth nor its branch in the sky is shaken without there being an angel in charge of it until it becomes debris and becomes what it becomes. For Satan avoids seventy houses before the house in which it is, and it is a healing for seventy illnesses, the least of which is leprosy. So do not be heedless of it.”

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