

Illegitimate Means of Reuniting with a Beloved: Description of Five Love Spells

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Context

Magic is defined as the practice of obtaining beneficial, protective, or harmful outcomes by establishing a connection with metaphysical powers or by using objects believed to possess hidden powers.¹ Magic, believed to have been taught to humanity by two angels named Harut and Marut, is employed to eliminate human will, reunite with a beloved, and transform people into various forms.² In the tradition of classical Turkish poetry, magic and enchantment are motifs that effectively contribute to the initiation of the adventure between the lover and the beloved. The act of enchanting the lover by the beloved serves as a kind of catalyst for the development of their relationship. Although the beloved is portrayed as a bewitching woman with elements of beauty such as hair, eyes, etc. in classical Turkish poetry, poets themselves have occasionally enchanted their beloved and made them fall in love with them through their poems. In the following couplet, as expressed by Sānī (d.?), he claims to have enchanted his beloved with his heartfelt poems. This experience leads him to lose faith in the power of magic, attributing the act of bewitchment, which is typically associated with the beloved in classical Turkish poetry, to the poet in this particular instance.

Şi'r-i dil-sūzumla teshīr ettim āhīr ol mehi

İ'tikādım kalmadı sihre de efsūna da³

In the end, I enchanted the beloved with my heartrending poems.

I have no belief in magic or enchantment.

However, in real life, it is not as easy for a lover to enchant their beloved with words alone. Therefore, lovers have resorted to love spells that involve various rituals, specific letter symbols, and the use of different materials in order to reunite with their

¹ Hikmet Tanyu, "Büyü", <https://islamansiklopedisi.org.tr/buyu> (Accessed April 12, 2024) Magic is also considered to be the first belief of mankind, the source of art and religion. Orhan Hançerlioğlu, *Dünya İnançları Sözlüğü*, (İstanbul: Remzi Kitabevi, 2010), 93.

² İskender Pala, *Ansiklopedik Divan Şiiri Sözlüğü*, (İstanbul: Kapı Yay., 2004), 404.

³ Hüseyin Cöntürk, *Divan Şiiri Üstüne Denemeler*, (İstanbul: YKY, 2012), 412.

beloved or attract them towards themselves. This study includes five love spells prepared using materials such as pigeon blood, chicken egg, ash, and paper. Four of these love spells involve letters with different numerical values in the abjad system. One of them, on the other hand, is a spell that includes the names of the Ashab al-Kahf⁴ and the 16th verse of the Surah Al-Qiyamah. In the first part of the spell that mentions the names of the Ashab al-Kahf, a verse from Surah Al-Qiyamah is quoted, which means, “Move not your tongue concerning (the Qur‘ān, O Muhammad) to make haste therewith.”⁵ “لَا تُحَرِّكْ بِهِ لِسَانَكَ لِتَعْجَلَ بِهِ”. The expression *lā tuḥarrik* لَا تُحَرِّكْ in the first part of the verse is written as *lā merake* لَا مَرَك.⁶ This seems to be the result of either a mistake on the part of the copyist or a deliberate change of the verse by the compiler.

This *mecmū‘a*, found in Dr. İsmail Bayer’s private library, has dimensions of 12*9 cm and consists of 122 pages. The compendium, which has missing pages, has a varying number of lines, and some folios are left blank. Except for later-added folios, the manuscript utilizes watermarked paper with a six-pointed star shape and the inscription "SANSA" on it. This small *mecmū‘a* contains prayers, invocations, talismans, and spells related to topics such as protection from dogs, swords, and firearms, attracting the beloved, protection from accidents and misfortunes, enhancing milk yield in animals, acquiring wealth, and attaining intercession through the Prophet Muhammad. There is no record indicating when the compilation was written and the identity of the compiler. The presence of numerous errors in the spelling of words and affixes suggests that the compiler may not have been well-educated. All of the

⁴ “This is the name given in the Kur’an, and further in Arabic literature, to the youths who in the Christian Occident are usually called the “Seven Sleepers of Ephesus”.

<https://archive.org/details/volume-5/Volume%201/page/691/mode/2up> (Accessed May 28, 2024)

⁵ *The Translation of the meanings of The Noble Qur’an*, By Muhammad Taqī-ud-Dīn Al-Hilālī ann Muhammad Muhsin Khān (Madinah: King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Holy Qur’an), 800.

https://dn790006.ca.archive.org/o/items/UploadWay2sona_20161017/The%20Holy%20Quran%20Translation%20By%20Hilali%20and%20Khan.pdf (Accessed May 28, 2024)

⁶ This expression is quoted from the 16th verse of Surat al-Qiyamah. However, the first phrase of the verse has been misspelled or changed. The expression written as *lā merake* لَا مَرَك is لَا تُحَرِّكْ in the original verse.

talismans transcribed in this study were written to make the beloved fall in love with the spell caster.

Transcription

Bāb

İki ḥelāl⁷ arasında muḥabbet için yaza üzerinde götürüresin tılsım budur

ب و م ال ا ه ال مر ح
م ا ن ۱۱ د غ ی ج ب و ن
ه م ل ا م ب ال ا ه و ل
و ح ی ز ال ذ ی ف ظ ه ل
م و ال ا ص د ر ن ال ا ن ا
ر ا ب ال ف د ن ل ال ا ه
ع ا ف ا ن ' ج س م
ال ا ه ش و ی د ال ع ن م ا ن⁸

Translation

It should be written for the love between a married couple. (Person) should carry it.

Here is the talisman.

b v m a l ā h e l m r ḥ
m a n u d ḡ y c b v n
h m l ā b a l ā h v l
v ḥ y z ā l z y f z h l
m v a l ā ṣ d r n e l a n ā
r a b e l f d n l a l ā h
'ā f e n ' c s m
A l ā h ṣ v y d e l ' n ü m ā n

⁷ This spell refers to the husband and wife using the term “halal,” which means “lawful” in Islamic context.

⁸ The letters provided in these spell descriptions are the equivalent numerical values of Arabic letters in the Abjad system. The Latin alphabet equivalents are not provided in this section in order to ensure a clear understanding of the numerical values of the letters.

Transcription

Muhabbet için

*eger dilerseñ bir kişiyi kendüye ‘āşık kılsuñ bu tılsımı yazgıl üç bāre kâğıda yaz birisini
odda bıraķasuñ birin de şuya atasuñ birini işigüniñ altına gömesüñ ğāyet mücerrebdür
tılsım budur*

۲۷۶۱۱۱ ۱۱۱ م م م و

۱۱ ۱۱۸۴۶ و م و

۱۱۱۱۱ م م و ط م م

Ġāyet şınanmışdur ğaflet olunmaya.

Translation

For the sake of love,

if you want to make someone fall in love with you, write this talisman. Write it on three pieces of paper. You should throw one into the fire, one into the water. The third one should be buried at the doorstep of the beloved. It has been tried many times.

Here is the talisman.

111672vmm111

11vv64811

11111mmvç

(This spell) has been performed many times. One should be cautious.

Transcription

Bāb

Muhabbet için yaza

*Birisini odđa bıraķa birisini şuya ata üç nüşha ide birisini dađı kapusunuñ öñüne şuyın
şacalar ğāyet mücerrebdür tılsım budur*

ه ١١١١ الا ه ن ٥ ١١١١
 ك ن ل م و س و ت
 د ل م ن ه و و م م ١١١ ١١١١
 س ع ١١١١١١١ م ء ١١١١ ان و ر
 ر م و و و و و و و ٩١
 و و و ح د د م ٤ ح ر م

Translation

It should be written for the sake of love.

One should throw one copy into the fire and throw one into the water. Three copies should be written. One should also sprinkle its water in front of the door of the beloved. It has been tried many times. Here is the talisman.

111115 h 1111 a lā h n
 k n l m v s v t
 111 d l m n h v v m m 111
 s ' 11111 m ' 111 n v r
 1 9 r r m v v v v v v
 v v v ḥ d d m 4 ḥarem

(This spell) is completed.

Transcription

Bāb

Muḥabbet için yazalar

Ḳara tavuḳ yumurṭasına yazalar küle göme bir sā 'at ḳarārı ḳalmaya yanına gele ḡāyet mücerredür tercübe olunmuşdur

م ك ث ل ی نام و دش
 ویز ترش ش ل ی نا
 و دن و ش د و ز تدش
 ش ذ ن و ش ك ت ن

ل ی نام حا صام صاه
دمی عام ل ل ی حا
ش ذن و ش ک ن ت
طا عای و ش ف ط م ی ل
لا لا لا لا لا لا

Tamām olunmuşdur

Translation

It should be written on the black hen's egg and buried in ash. Within one hour, the steadiness of the beloved disappears and she will come to your side. It has been extensively experimented with. It has been experienced.

m k s y nā m v d ş
vī z ter ş ş l y nā
v d n v ş d v z ted ş
ş z n v ş k t n
l y nām şā şā m şā h
d mī 'ām l l y hā
ş z n v ş k n t
tā 'āy v ş f t m y l
lā lā lā lā lā lā

(This spell) is completed.

Transcription

Bāb

Muḥabbet için yazalar

Gögercin(i) kaniyla yaza şol koluna bağlaya kaḅı 'avrat gö[r]se 'āşık olur du 'ā budur

Yā Rabbi Yā Rabbi Yā Rabbi

*Hā yehebu lā merake bihi lisānike lita ‘cele bihi elā seylenā yem ‘ahun⁹ kuhuf Yemlihā
Mekselinā Mislīnā Mernūş Debernūş, Şāzenūş, Kefeştetāyūş, Kīţmīr*

İtmām olunmuşdur

Translation

It should be written for the sake of love.

They should write (this spell) with pigeon's blood and tie it to their left arm. Any woman who sees (the person carrying the spell) will fall in love with them. Here is the prayer.

My God, My God, My God,

Hā yuhibbū lā marake "(Messenger!) Do not move your tongue quickly to hasten it."

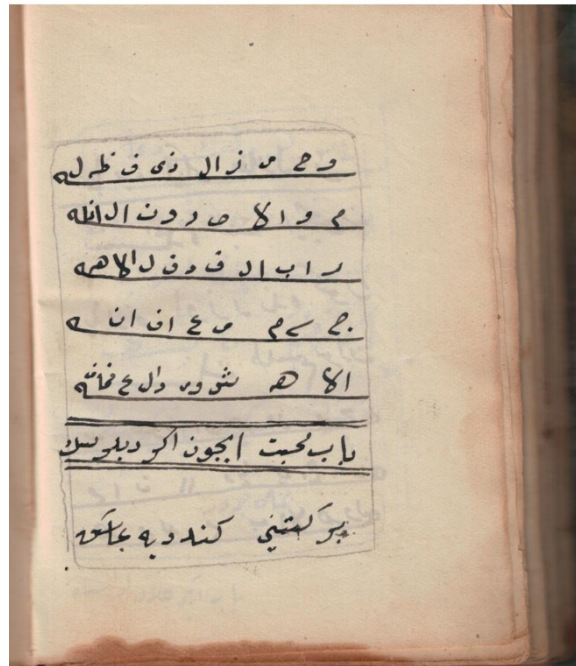
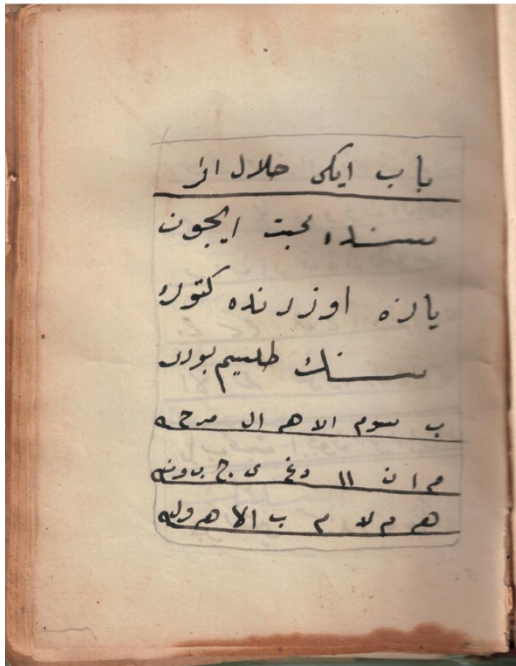
This is the verse. *seylenā yem ‘atun caves*. *Yemlihā Mekselinā Mislīnā Mernūş
Debernūş, Şāzenūş, Kefeştetāyūş, Kīţmīr*

(This spell) is completed.

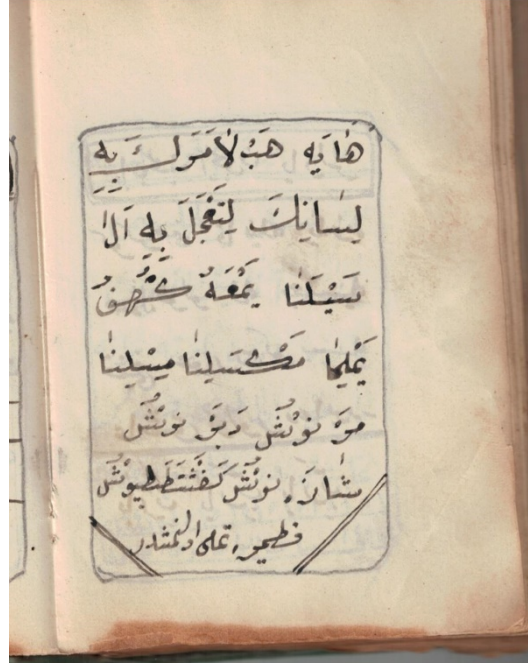
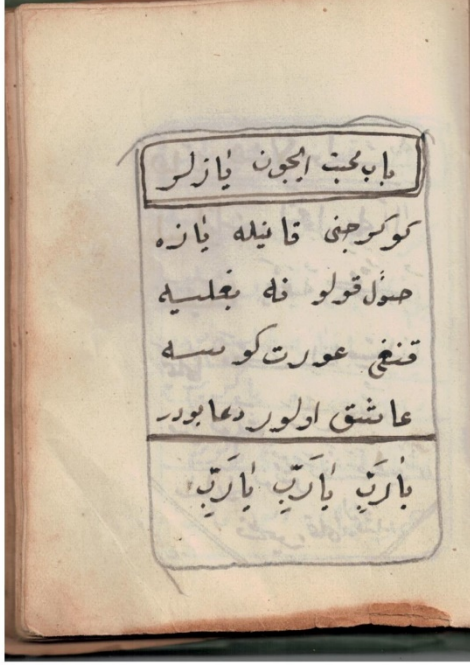
⁹ Non-italicised words have no exact equivalent in Arabic. These expressions were probably misspelled when the text was copied.

Facsimilia

Spell 1:



Spell 5:



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