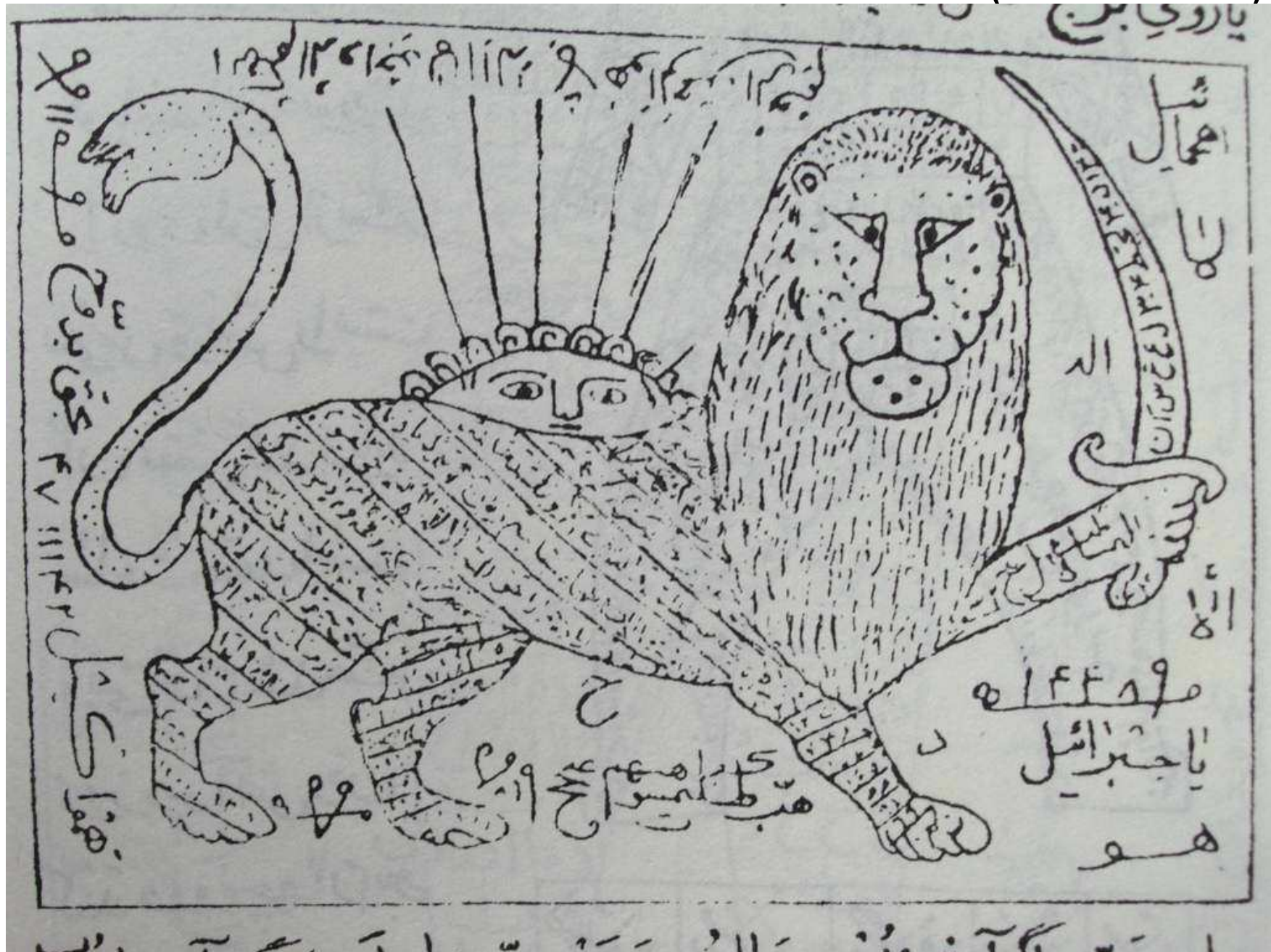


FIFTY CHARMS (IRAN)



FROM PIOUSNESS TO SUPERSTITION

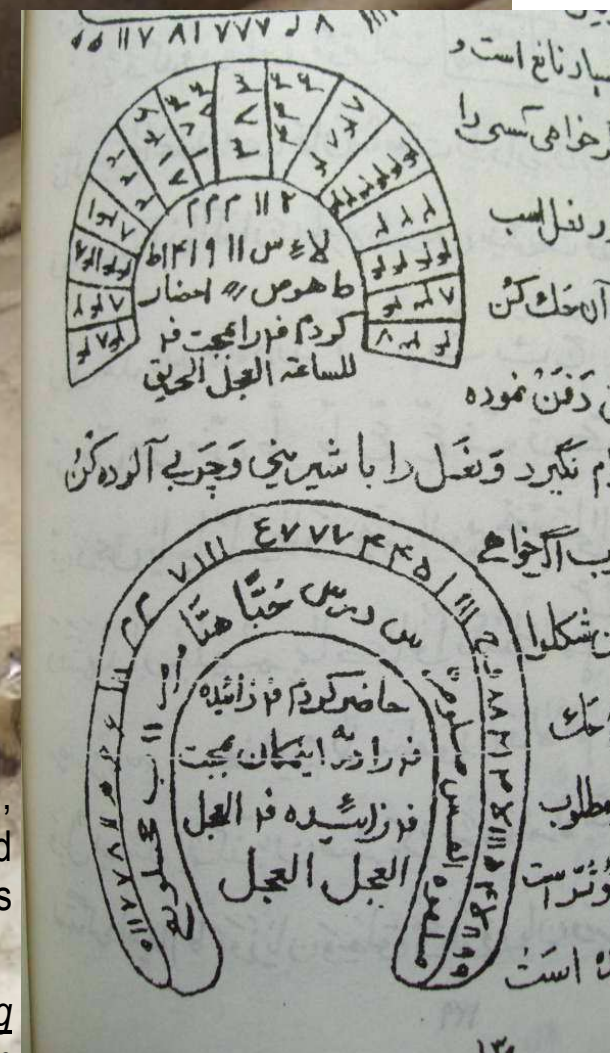
1. CHARMS OF PRE-ISLAMIC TIMES



ARAB GEOMANCY

Very near the hindu Temple in Bandar Abbas, several arab deviners operate arab magics. This one performs the geomancy, that is a deviners art according to the position of tiny stones.





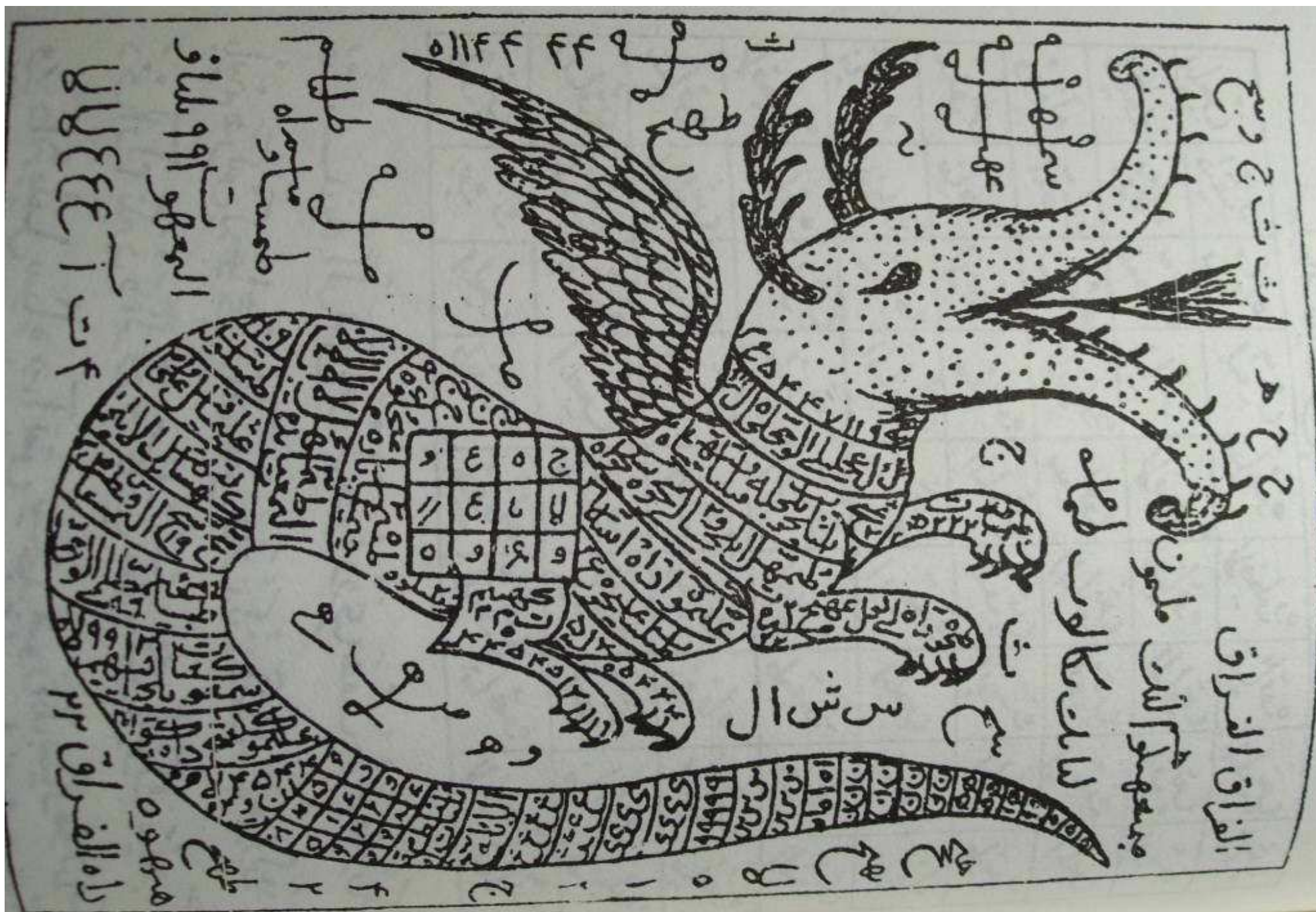
FATE KNOCKS YOUR DOOR In the doorway of a rural shop in Masouleh, Gilan, this mighty nailed horseshoe is a benevolent pagan talisman for Fate of inhabitants and visitors. Many shops feature the same in Tehran (left) **Abjad** enchiffred enhanced variants exist (right).

« "One of the widespread belief in the turkish folk culture is that Hizir [Khizr], (...) is riding around on a horse in the sky and that he runs to help people who are in trouble. the anatolian people, who hammer a horseshoe to their doors so that Hizir will stop by their houses and will save then from difficult situations. The horseshoe is pounded in an apparent place or threshold of the houses or places of employment so that the evil eye doesnt strike and so that this brings good luck. (...) To see a horseshoe in a dream is a sign that you will have a good luck." »

[OGUZ, 2008]



ANTIQUE RURAL TALISMAN (pork tooth) : Nomad Iori tribesmen used to wear such talismans : ibex hair, teeth, beads. Each carry luck and



SEDUCTION TALISMAN DESIGN

feat. preislamic chimera, dragon. Here associated with islamic blesses

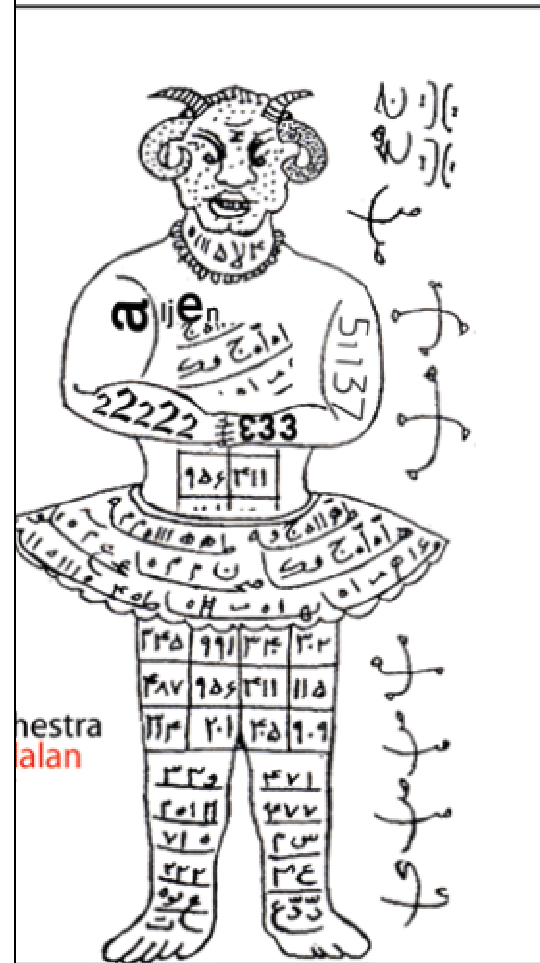


BLOODBATH FOR SEASONAL REBIRTH VOW About sixty sheeps & beefs are slaughtered in the occasion of the Pir-Shahliyar birthday, on 4th february, in Hawraman-Takht, Kordestan. The spurring blood is supposed to return to the earth and regenerate so the deity MITHRA for resurrection / rebirth purpose.



SYMPATHY FOR THE DEVIL

Unlike most islamic countries, figurative representations of SHAYTAN (Satan) were usual in the talismanic art of the contemporary islamic Iran.



nestra
alan



'DIVS' INHABIT CHARMS

The Iranian talismanology is composite, as this merges advanced numerology, zodiac, judaica, quran, islamic demonology and basics of mithraic wicca.

The modern talisman beside is a copper plate that illustrates **Divs** (Iranian version of the Quran's **Ghul** spirits of desert). Unlike **Djinns**, **Divs** are usually held as *Genii loci*. Charm holder is supposed to use this for blessing.

In « La musique et la mystique en Iran » Jean DURING reported remnant beliefs in two mighty possessive **Div** :

- a black , six-headed **Div**, a.k.a. the **Bala**.
- a white, hairy **Div**, a.k.a. **Sefid**, who used to rapt victims .

(collected Sanandaj, 2007)



OLD 'DIV' - FACED CHARM

In the Tabriz area, dozens of such **Div**-faced charms are attached by the fellows in the emamzadeh for propriatory vows, just like fabric-made vows. This item was found in Sanandaj, Kordestan, 2007. Alexander FODOR collected a very similar amulet in Hazrat ABBAS ' mausoleum in Najaf, Iraq, and propose alternate explanations :

« According to the vendor, people buy these plaques to obtain protection from ABBAS, using them as a kind of ex-voto offered to the tomb, while they pray for a cure. (...) (IBN BATTUTA) reports that when a person falls ill, he makes a votive offering to the Shrine (...) Such an offering consists of a golden or silver head from a person whose head is acheing, or of a golden or silver hand or foot if the illness concerns that part of the body (...) thus, this plaque which is an ex-voto, may well be a reference to the religious substratum of the solar cult. However it may also stem from a different religious tradition, which used the image of the Divine face for apotropaic purposes. This usage is attested by several passages in the old Testament... »

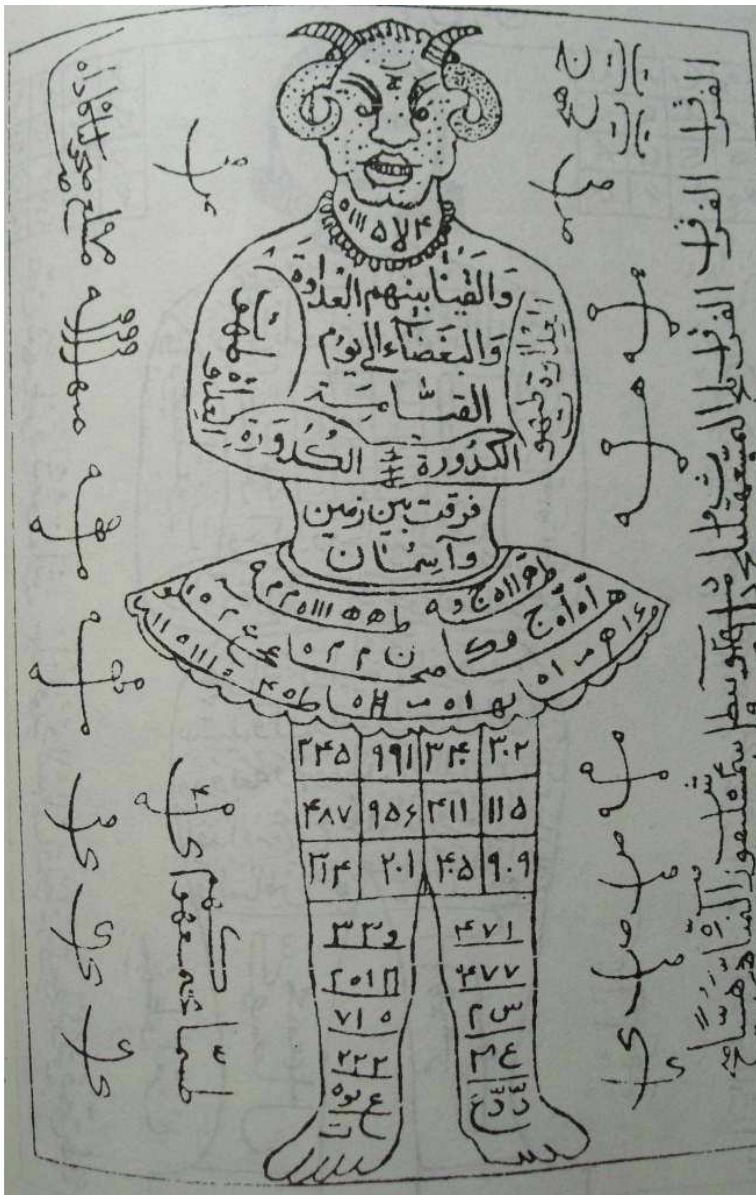
INVOKING

DJINNS

IN

SEDUCTION

TALISMANS

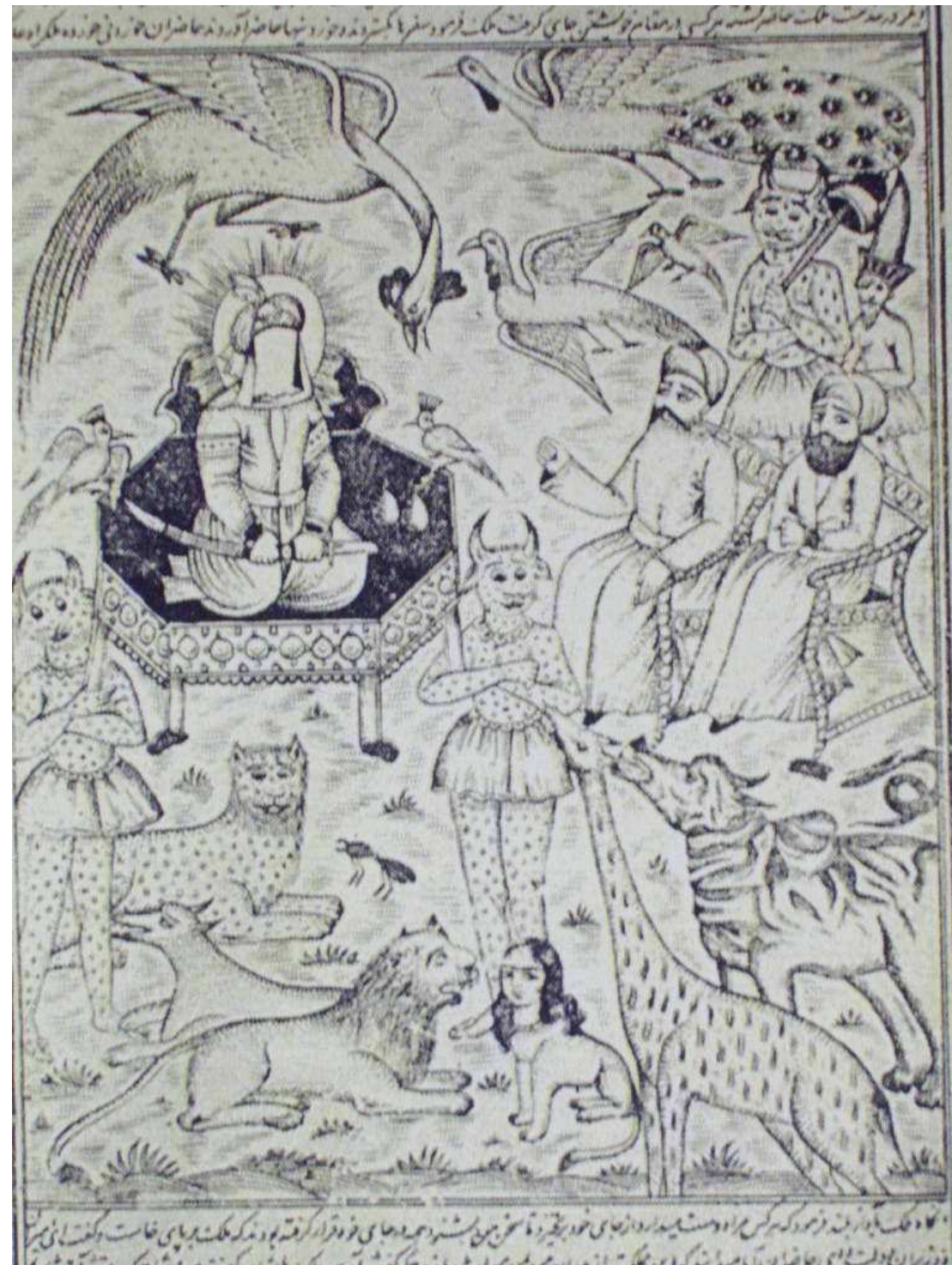


Djinns are illustrated as mighty auxiliaries in quranic talismanology , featuring enchiffred formulas (***Taweez***, read below)

DJINNS ACCORDING TO QURAN ?

About ***Djinns***: the holy Quran only mentions existence and various attributes of their way to be. Many later saint's hagiographies then associated mighty fellows with feats and mastership over ***Djinns***.

All over the Middle East, King SOLOMON (right side) is notoriously mighty over every Djinn. In many adorcist worships of arabs, persians, swahilis & arabo-malagasyans, SOLOMON is held as the ruling king of ***Djinns*** or their merciful Master.






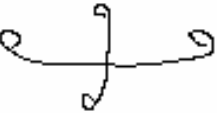

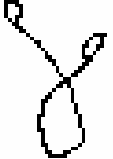
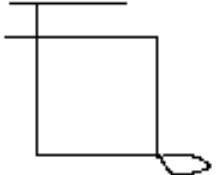

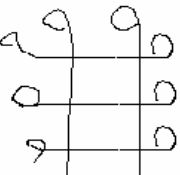

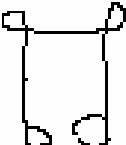

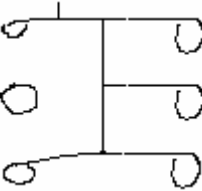
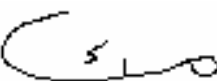
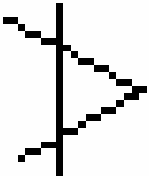

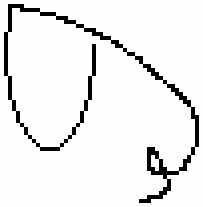


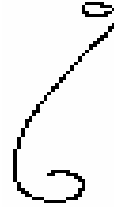
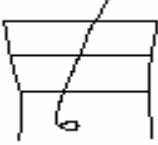
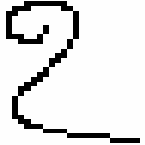
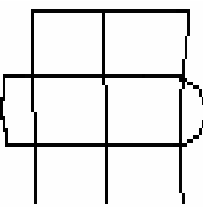



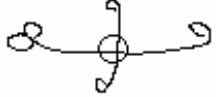
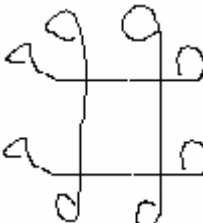
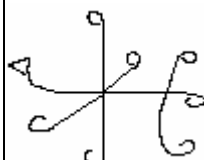
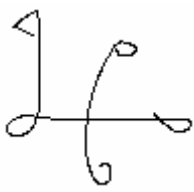
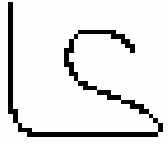
« **OBEYING TALISMAN** » **INHERITED FROM ARABIC DJINNOLOGY** White magic records (see bibliography) describes how influential is holder of this upon surroundings.



« **DEVINER TALISMAN** » **INHERITED FROM ARABIC DJINNOLOGY** White magic records about talismans (see bibliography) describes how mighty this one makes potion drinkers : so they get inspired deviners.

RUNIC ALPHABET OF CHARMS (ANTIQUUE ABJAD)

[GILANI & AL ; 1975]

Ra / Re	Dhal (j)	Dal	Kha	Ha	Djim (i)	Tha	Ta (ü)	Ba	Alif (l)
									
Fa	Ghain (ǧ)	‘Ain (ʕ)	Za (b)	Ta (b)	Dad	Sad	Shin	Sin (𐤃)	Zay (j)
									
	Ya (i / e)	La (y)	Ha (θ)	Waw	Nun	Mim	Lam (𐤋)	Kaf (𐤊)	Qaf (ʕ)
									

PUPPETS FOR WHITE MAGIC (1)

Propiatory talismans represent the victim, very much like voodoo puppets. Talismans are made of copper sheet, and carved with quranic surat scriptures. Such charms invoke mighty Jinns, most for beloved affection, sometimes fertility.

(collected Sanandaj, Kordestan 2007)

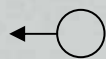


PUPPETS FOR WHITE MAGIC (2)

Below : featuring jafari-type magic formulas.

(collected Tehran, 2009)





PUPPETS FOR WHITE MAGIC (3)

charms for love attraction
(collected Tehran, 2009)





WISHES : an old belief claims that making a knot (fars. *mand*) initiates the completion of a wish, til the knot to vanishes. Hawraman, Kordestan.



WISHTREE PERPETUATES YOUR WISHES :

In Iran, most wishtrees originate in zoroastrian Era. Dehrakeh greens, Tehran. But [OGUZ, 2008] explains that trees embody resurrection in the turkic religion of Altaï mountains, as they revive on every springs. For that reason, settlers of Anatolia have perpetuated trees as burial places, and used to celebrate seasonal semestrially seasonal ritual around it. The mythological tree of the turkic gave 9 branches and each of them gave 9 persons , that embody the 9 turkic nations.

" Sometimes an animal is sacrificed at the foot of the wish tree and distributed to the poor. it is hoped that the wish will be realized"

[OGUZ, 2008]



DRIVER'S SPELL: such islamic blessing are usual for good luck when driving.

**PAGANISM IN
EMAMZADEH :
MIRACULOUS
WATERSOURCES
HEAL GENEROUS
FELLOWS**

After the miraculous
watersource in Mecca,
most Shrines have
their own miraculous
watersources.

*In most cases, local
watersources
worshipping is an
ante-islamic custom.*

Fellows leave some
offerings and may
benefit so the
benevolent mightiness
of the sources. The
same was observed in
sunni **ziyara**
pilgrimage places.



Zamzam watersource at
Emamzadeh e Ebrahim, Saveh




Zamzam watersource at Emamzadeh e
Hosen, Qasvin

2. N A Z A R , E S F A N D



E V I L E Y E , B A D F A T E



ESFAND (SYRIAN ROE) SMOKE REPELS EVIL EYE : burning esfand coals as a repellent is a widespread custom in Iraq, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Iran (here in Khorasan). In Iran, beggars used to burn some for protection of the passer-by. « *Aspand* » retained the name.

« **Harmal** (*peganum harmal*) is a plant with leaves and white flowers with its fruits in a capsule. the seeds of this plant are strung on a string and hung in an house. The belief is widespread that the harmal seeds hung in an house prevent the entrance of bad spirits into that house. It is believed that the illness caused by the evil eye would be cured by making incense from the harmal seeds and holding it to the face of children and persons, whom it is believed that the evil eye has struck. It is believed that the evil eye would also depart from the sound of seeds, which produces a sound when burning."

[OGUZ. 2008]



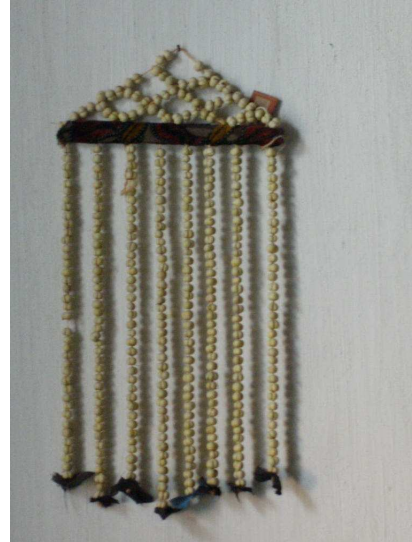
ATTENDEES BLOW *ESFAND* SMOKE TO PASSING-BY PARADERS OF ASHURA (ARDESTAN, IRAN)

« ASPAND » : HOME PROTECTIVE BEADS AMONG NOMADS

TENT « ASPAND» BEADRUG (LORI)



« NAZAR » WALLBEADS (ANKARA)



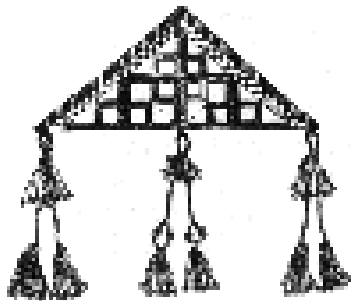
« NAZAR » WALLRUG (ANATOLIA)



EVIL EYE BEADS (BEDOUINS)



« MUSHQAH » AMULETS
ON HORSE HARNESSSES (IRAN)



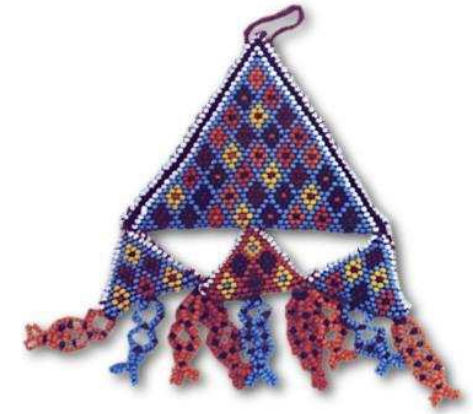
WALL AMULET (UZBEKISTAN)



WALL BEADRUG (ANATOLIA)



TENT BEADRUGS (BEDOUINS)



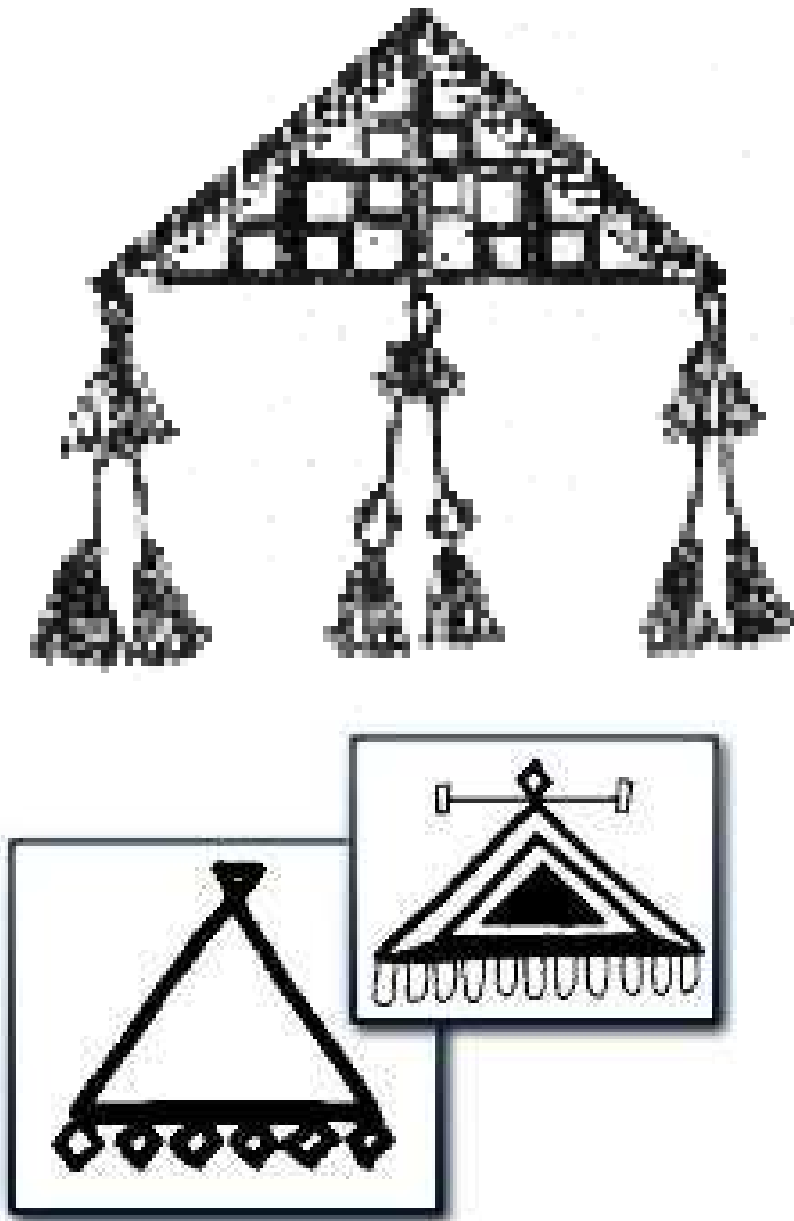
Shape and colour historically resembled a deformed eye. Jinn-repellant rugs are hung on the wall or horses for domestic protection . They are supposed

« The evil eye can also be detrimental, and even fatal, to livestock and their offspring.

The source is a person who is jealous, covetous or greedy. »

(Aref ABU-RABIA)

GRAPHICS OF MUSHQAH (NAZAR) AMULET IN TRIBAL ARTWORK



The graphic pattern of *Mushqah* wards off evil eye and is omnipresent in the geometrical in traditional design rug.



TURKMEN NOMADS WEARING AMULET BAGS

NAZAR BONJUK: EVIL-EYE WARDING BEADS



Nazar eye is an alleged continuation of « **Aspand** » among turks and persians. The blue colour is the evil-eye global repellant factor of the 'Nazar' or 'Nazar Bonjuk' beads. This superstition is much visible among Turks in Turkey and Iran.

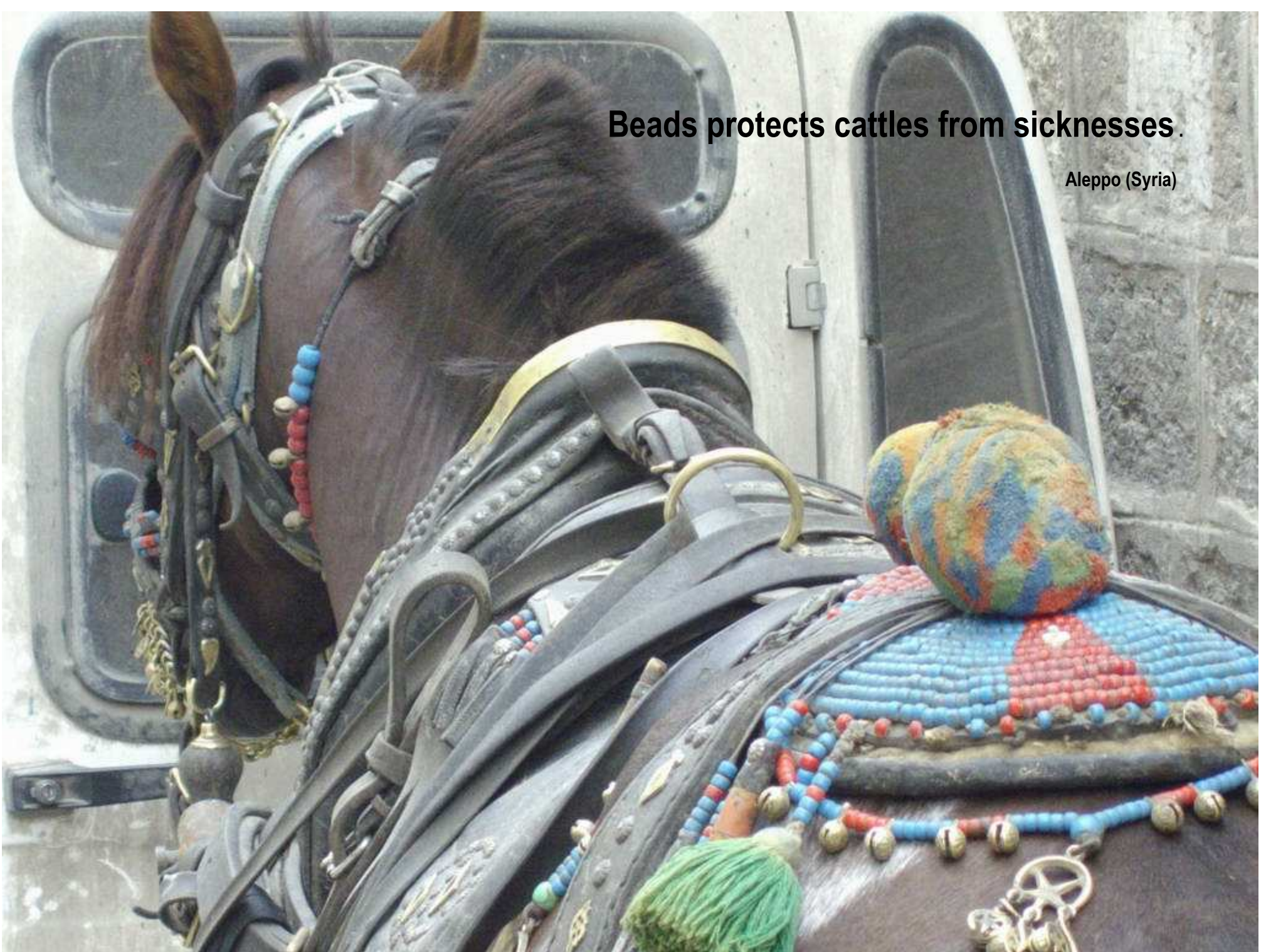
BISMILLAH & BLUE BEADS PROTECT BABIES VS EVIL EYE



REPELLANT BLESS Blue beads ward-off the Evil Eye. Many tin-made “*bismillah*” plates are used sometimes in one and same necklace as a protection of the children. (Museum of Luristan, Khorammabad)

Beads protects cattles from sicknesses .

Aleppo (Syria)



3. V O T I V E P A D L O C K S :



D I S M I S S I N G U N S O L V E D P R O B L E M S



Masjid Hajj Fakri, near Sheikh Safi shrine, Ardabil:

Fellows write their wishes and attach them on the outer altar of the mosque.





KNOTS, IRON KEYS & PADLOCKS have a special deep meaning of unsolved problems, so that some keys (ex: *tchehel kelid*) are held as mighty talismans. Various beliefs consist in making a knot with fabric or locking a padlock until the related problem to be solved. In this regard, Iranian fellows attach locks in the religious shrines, that is actually widespread custom in China, too. Pictures: ex-voto, Shiraz. Right: locks at **Nasir Ol Molk mosque**, Shiraz.



BRIDES THROW LOCK KEYS TOWARDS SUITORS: a custom surviving in Yazd. On Fridays, it happens single women wear locked chador and throw lock keys from top of the minarets of Jameh mosque. Suitors who collect the related key from basement may supposedly be elected then as the matching husband.



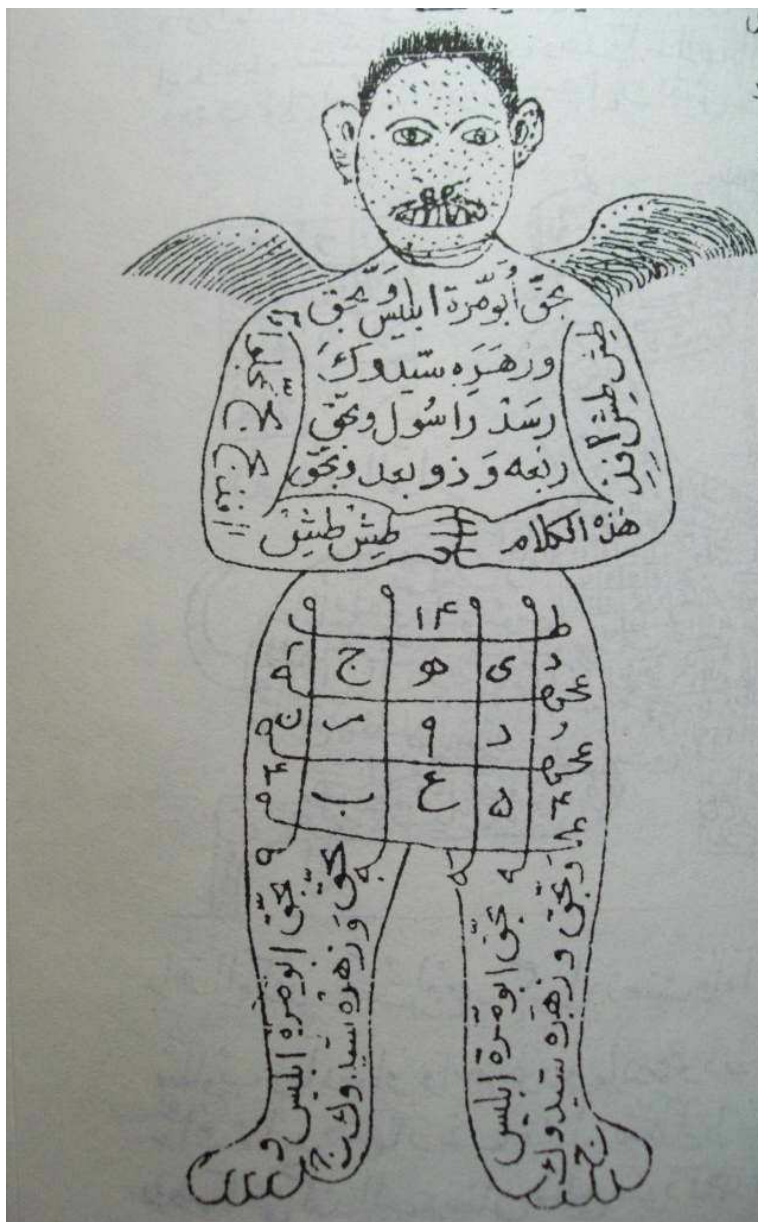
COLLECTING BLESS : paraders of **Ashura** exhibit votive locks , hanging on their pierced breast (Qajar period)

4. M I G H T Y B L E S S

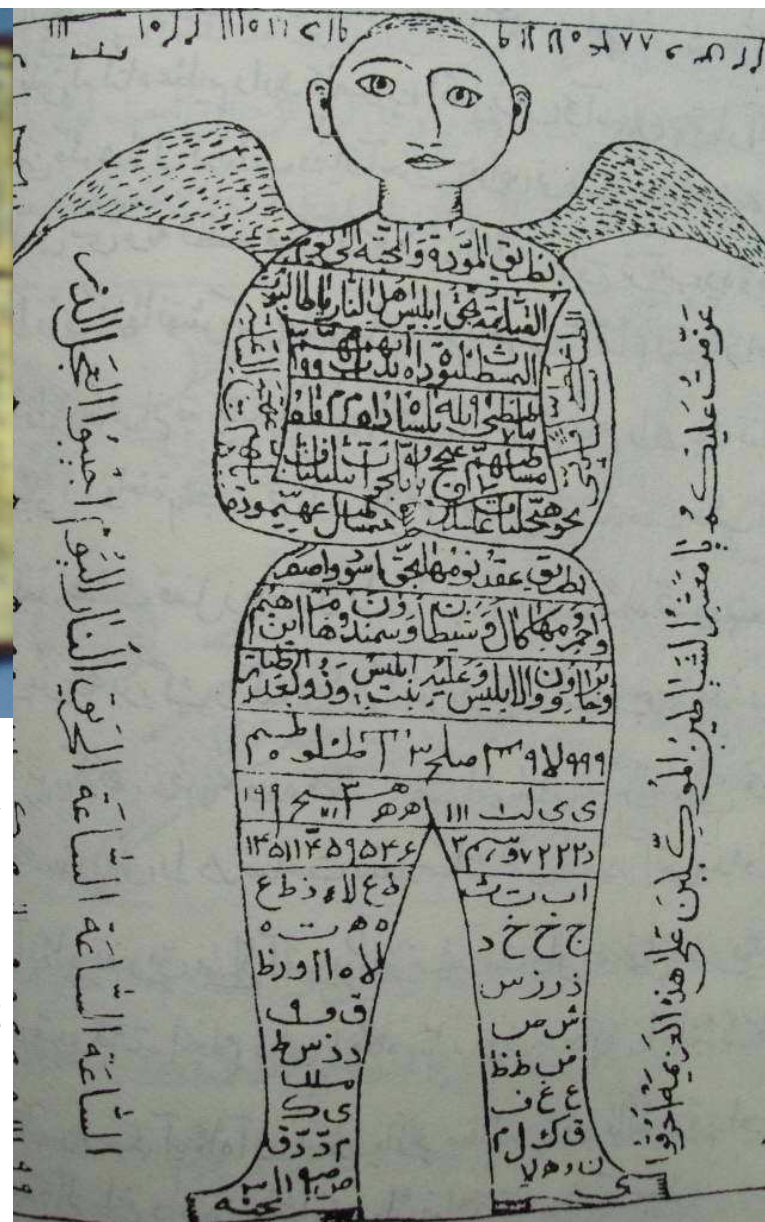


I S L A M I C T A L I S M A N S

ANGELS AS MIGHTY ALLIEDS : « HAFT HAN », « TCHEHELTAN »

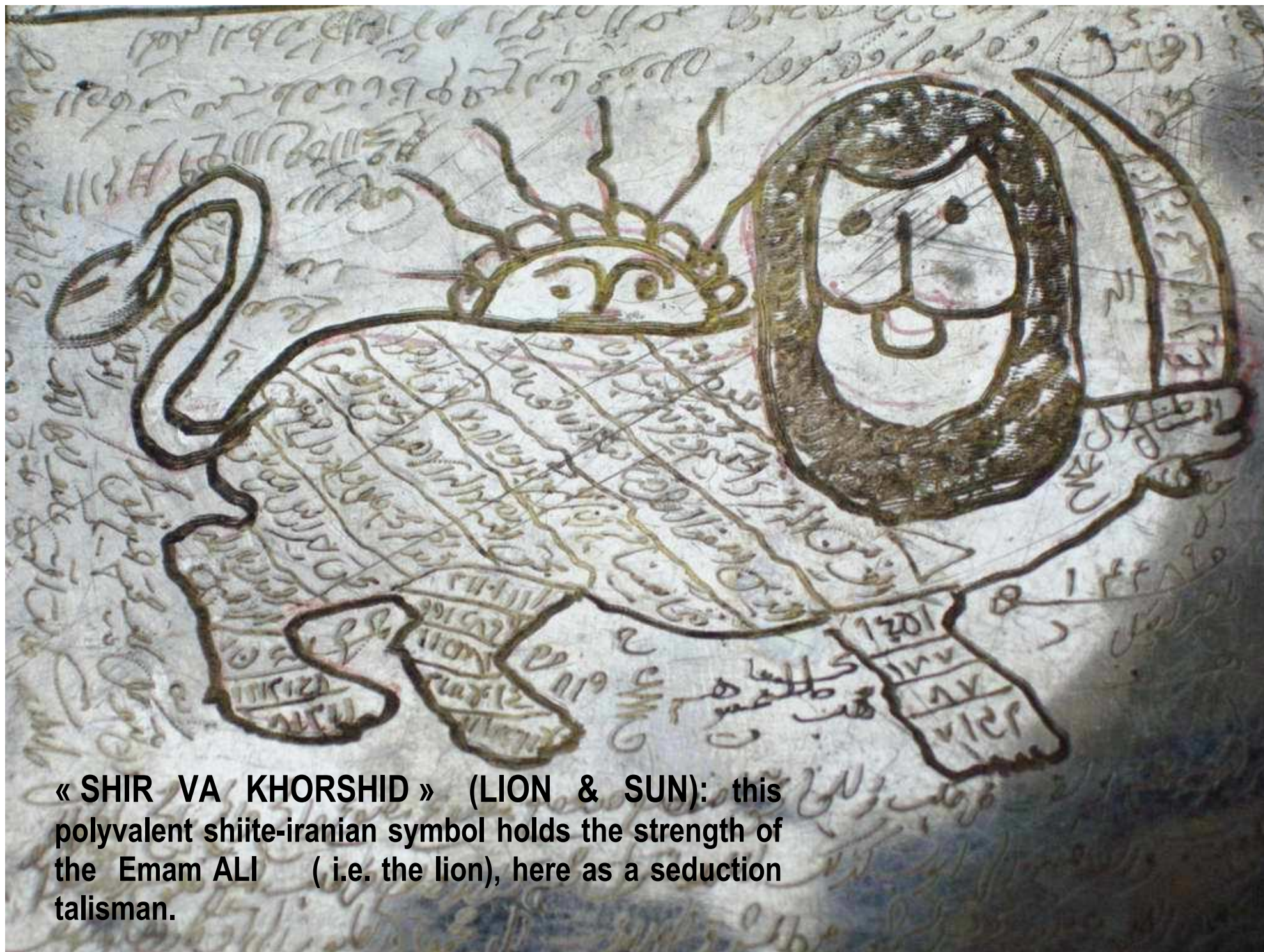


Hierarchy of the angels – not to be mistaken with desert **Divs** - has a very central role in Yazdani religions (**Alevis, yarsans, yezidis**) but in persian talismanology as well. Mighty **Haftan** (« the Seven ») feature prominent angels, incl. Ezraël, Michaël, Raphaël and Jibril. **Tcheheltan** (« the Forty ») group feature many secondary foreign angels of the Yazdanism.





BLESSING CHILDREN DURING 'ASHURA' PARADES : Fellows attract blessing on their babies by seating them in the symbolic cradle of ALI ASHGAR – youngest child of imam HOSEIN - during *Ashura* parade, Taft, near Yazd.



« SHIR VA KHORSHID » (LION & SUN): this polyvalent shiite-iranian symbol holds the strength of the Imam ALI (i.e. the lion), here as a seduction talisman.

MIGHTINESS OF HOLY WORDS

BISMILLAH

(*"in the name of God"*)

The esoteric significance of calligraphy and surat was raised to hidden messages & proper powers according to speculative theories by Fazlallah ASTARABADI (hurufizm) . This lens-shaped graphic is omnipresent from the **Alam** flagmast end among the Shi'a. Several of such **bismillah** are used some-times in one and same necklace as evil-eye protective bless.



‘TAWEEZ’ , OR QURANIC CHARMS VS EVIL EYE invocations and praises to mighty emams Ali, Hosein, and Reza are benevolent blessings. Reza's sister Fatmah Masumeh , and Hosein's brother Abbas « Abolfazel » are usually held as equivalent mightiness.

(collect. Sanandaj, 2007)

SHI'A PRAISE

-*"Al-rahim
Ya Hossein
"*

*"O Hosein
the merciful"*

Quranic talismanology shifts on the mightiness of the 99 names of Allah as magical formulas.

"Rahim" is one of them .



(collected Tehran,
2007)



VILLAGE HEALER (TURKEY): uses *surat*, **Nazar**, Fatmah's hand, salt for protective spell vs Evil Eye.

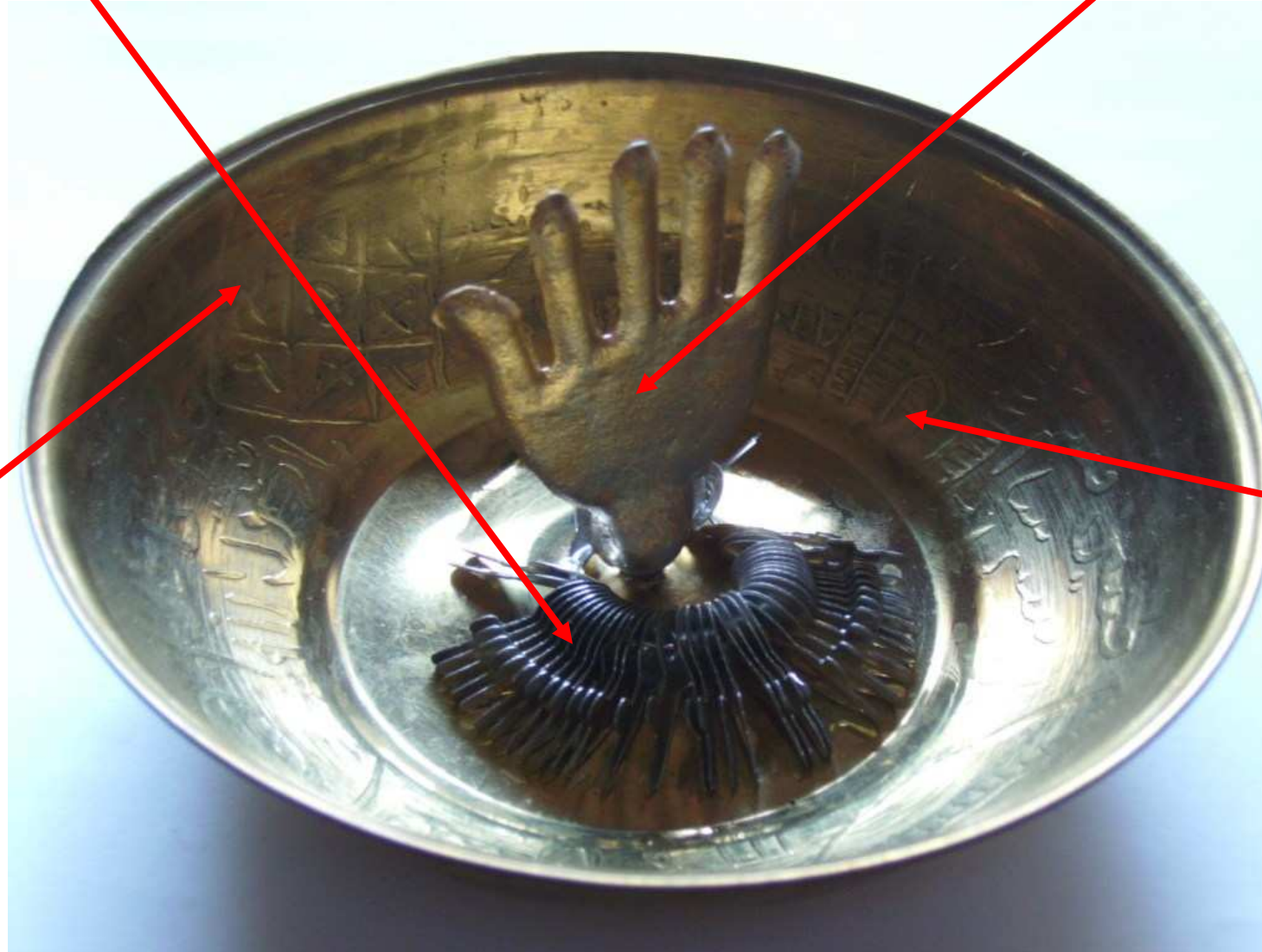
« TCHEHEL KELID»: A SYNCRETIC BLESS OF BIRTH

ZOROASTRISM :

The original zoroastrian talisman is a 40 keys set (**tchehel kelid**) that preexisted the islam. After islamization, each key is now supposed to be carved the name of Allah. See earlier explanation about votive locks.

QURANIC NUMEROLOGY

Scriptures include numerological table, a pagan relief. According to REGOURD, makers used to mention the soonest astral event on the making day.



SHIITE

“**KHAMSAH**”: After islamization, the added hand reminds the cut hands of ABBAS in Kerbala, and each finger is given for a member of the family: Emam ALI, emam Hosein, FATMAH, ABBAS MASUMEH, emam REZA.

QURAN: Scriptures are carved quran Surat (surat 84 & 71 , usually). In the Maghreb, scriptures also inventories user's instructions and therapeutical properties of the cup, such as snake bites, stomeaches, childbirth, etc... (read Annette ITTIG)

« *The Fatiha (sura) is a cure to everything except Es-Sam, and Es-Sam is death* »
(excerpt from Hadith)



“Tchehel Kelid” (Forty keys) is a holy water cup. Drinking this water is reported to be heal fellows and pilgrims.

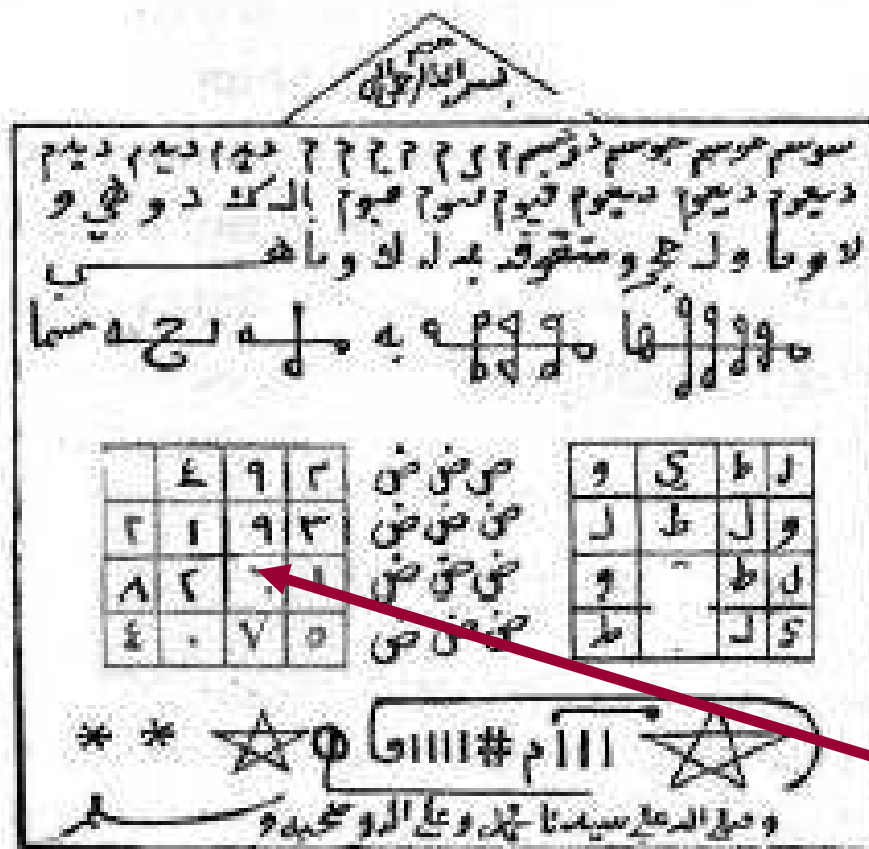
The cup is usually used during traditional rituals of birth and circumcision for cares of after pregnancy of both the mother and child. Drinking so is believed to be safe for their health. Anne REGOURD reports the Yemeni women to drink vegetable stock in similar magical bowls for the same purpose / occasion. Yemeni items don't feature nor molded Hand, nor key set. For stomach aches or colic, this is held as fighting out the related possessive jinn

A R A B T H A U M A T U R G I C A L C U P W A S A D O P T E D

« The square of three was known as early the fourth century B.C. in China, where it was designated **Lo-shu**. One of the myriad symbolic meanings attributed to **Lo-Shu** was that it represented universe, with its middle number signifying the cosmic axis at the center of the world. Such squares first appears in arabic litterature about 900 AD, (...) the square 3x3 cells was presented as a charm for easing the pains of Childbirth. (...) Most probably it was introduced into western asia by arab and persian merchants who had visited chinese port towns

By 989 AD, the 3x3 square had been given a religious interpretation (...) the Brethen [manuscript] developped continuous squares in which the motion was perpetuated after passing through the middle number.

NUMEROLOGICAL ENCODING : **BUDUH** MAGIC SQUARES



Such scriptures are encoded Surat, benevolent dates or even names of the appropriate mighty jinns.

To Sufi Mystics, such squares referred to Life in endless flux, constantly being regenerated by a source of energy at the heart of the universal plan. In a desire to confuse the uninitiated and to prevent recopying, the order of the numbers of the square was sometimes varied so that the sums were not always equal to fifteen, (...) A variant of the magic square was produced in which letters were substituted for the numbers. This was accomplished in accordance with the **abjad** system, whereby the letters of the alphabet are given numerical equivalents. The square of three known as buduh because these letters (or their numerical equivalents) are distributed in the four corners of the square... »
(Annette ITTIG)

Magical numerology is based upon the science of calligraphy and the numerological alphabet, or **Abjad**.

ط	ح	ز	و	د	ج	ب	ا	
Alif	Ba	Dschim	Dal	Ha	Waw	Zay	Ha	Ta
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
ف	ع	س	ن	م	ل	ك	ي	
Ya	Kaf	Lam	Mim	Nun	Sin	'Ain	Fa	
10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	
خ	ث	ت	ش	ر	ق	ص		
Sad	Qaf	Ra	Schin	Ta	Tha	Kha		
90	100	200	300	400	500	600		
غ	ظ	ض	ذ					
Dhal	Dad	Za	Ghain					
700	800	900	1000					

“ le carré aux 3 cases a le pouvoir d’attirer , de rallier, de donner du courage, de consoler, et d’exercer une influence sur tout nom commençant par la letter “djim” =J “.

“ le carré aux 4 cases a le pouvoir de faire perséverer dans la foi et d’exercer une influence sur tout nom commençant par “dal” = D“

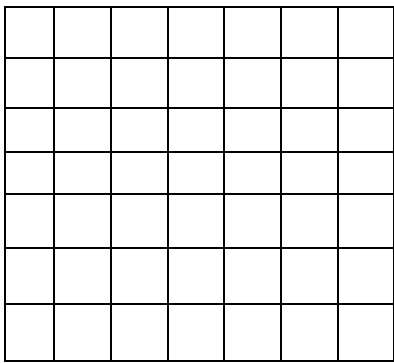
“ celle aux 4 cases est utilisable pour se protéger des maladies, éloigner les maux, atteindre les etres distants, se réjouir , faire oublier ses peines, etre cheri, se faire accepter, avoir une bonne reputation, etre écouté. “

“ Le carré aux 5 cases a le pouvoir de faire naître le respect, la passion, l’agitation, de faire apparaitre les dons, etc...”

“celle aux 5 cases sert a faire augmenter la connaissance et l’intelligence, à éloigner les désastres, améliorerles moeurs des enfants et les protéger des maux, atteindre ses buts, être accepté, être bon, avoir des clients, obtenir le silence des autorités et accabler les ennemis. “

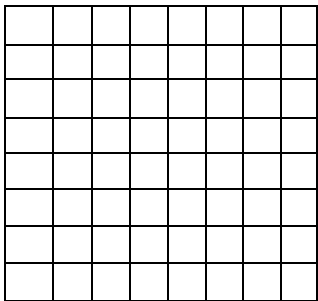
“ Le carré aux 6 cases a le pouvoir de dominer, de render sincère, de protéger, etc “

“celle a 6 cases sert entre autres à devenir riche et éloquent ”



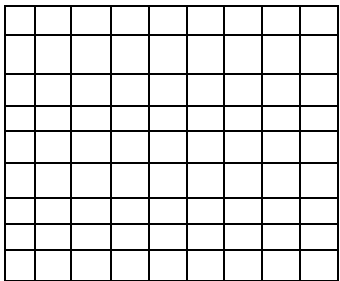
“ le carré a 7 cases a [le pouvoir] de permettre une vie ascétique, de bénir, de faire gagner de l'argent, d'aider au mariage de donner de la prété au coeur par l'amour, de rendre cordial, etc... ”

“celle aux 7 cases sert à acquérir le savoir, le droit, etc...”

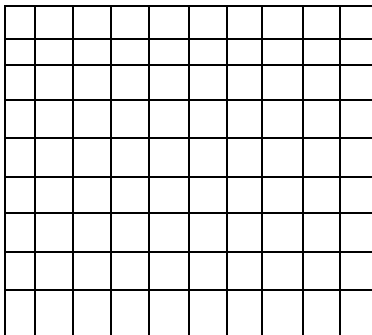


“ Le carré aux 8 cases rend attentive, clement, de bonne grace , chaste dans l'âme et aide à trouver le droit chemin, etc...”

“celle aux 8 cases éloigne toute maladie des homes ou des animaux, arrête la fièvre ou les démangeaisons, améliore les mauvaises moeurs, guérit de la bêtise, etc. “



“celle aux 9 cases vainc les ennemis et convainc les têtus”

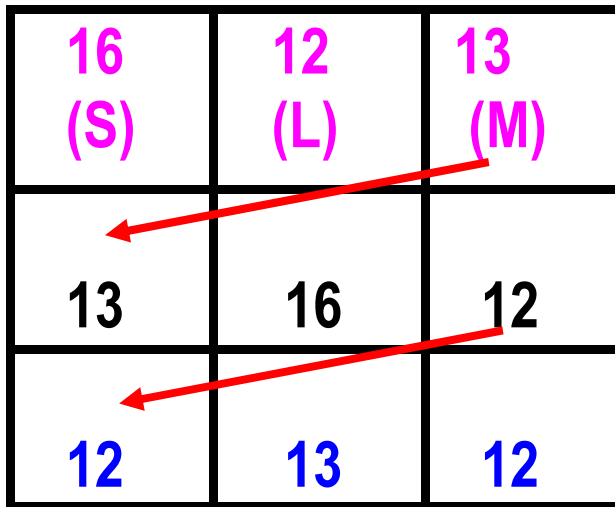


“ Le carré aux 10 cases aide à gagner la richesse, à garantir la fidélité aux serments, la force physique, le travail, etc...”

“celle aux 10 cases fait chérir, guérit du poison, rend sûr et gai”

ANAGRAMS

16 (S)	12 (L)	13 (M)
13	16	12
12	13	12

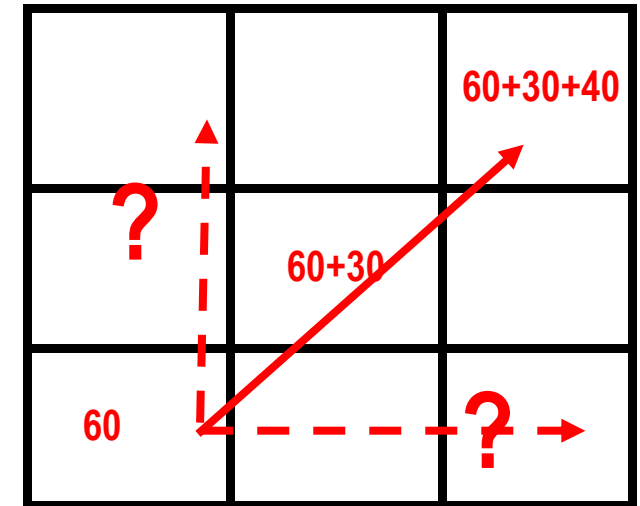


BASIC 'ABJAD' CODING

16 (S)	12 (L)	13 (M)
60 (S)	30 (L)	40 (M)

ADDITION (RANDOM DIRECTION)

		60+30+40
?	60+30	
60		?



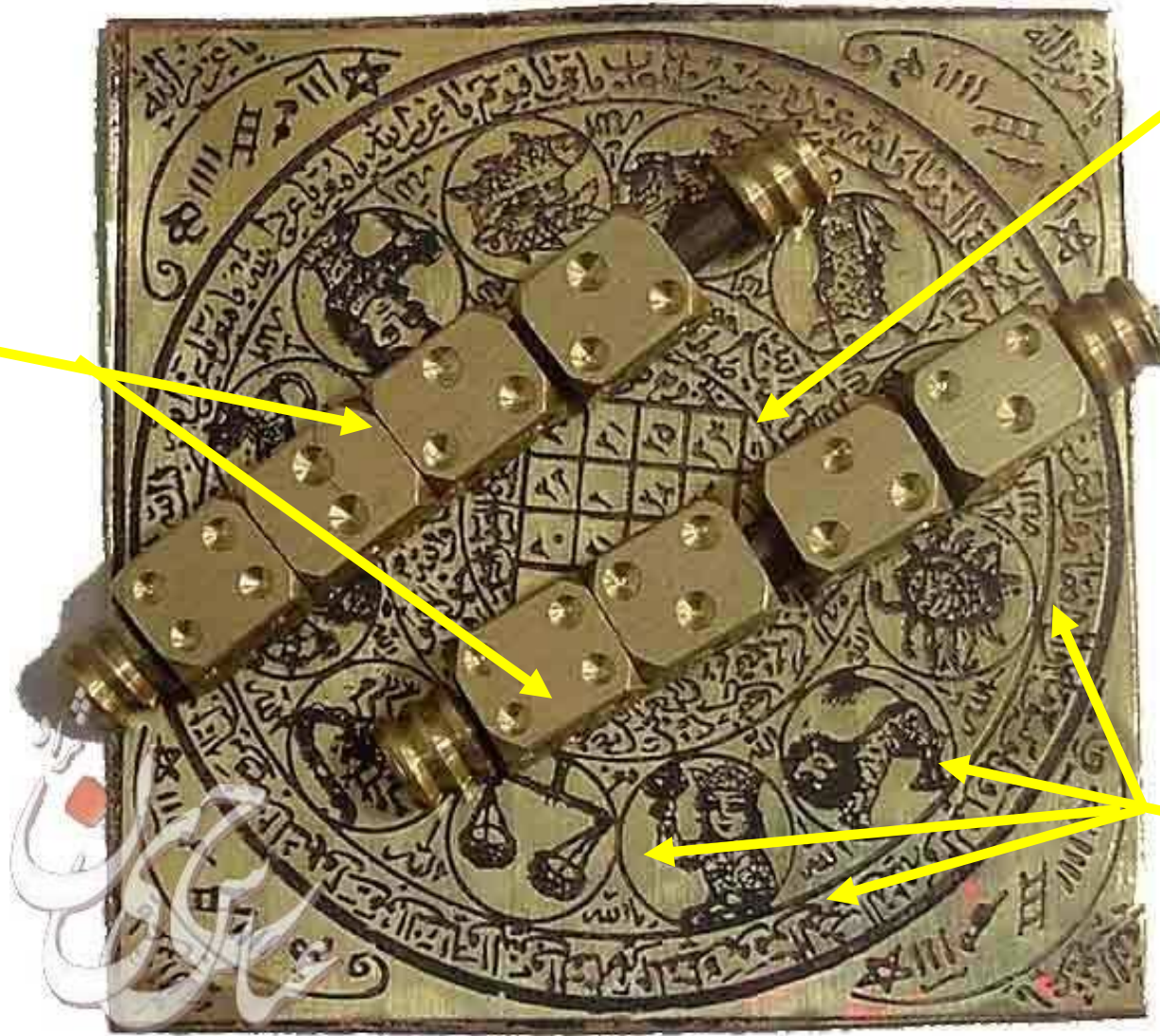
'ABJAD HAVAZ' CODING

Ex: “ SaLaam ”

4 WIDESPREAD ENCODING ARTEFACTS . Each table is an hidden message and complies with the encoding technic of his vower. Such secret message is held then as a mighty quranic charm.

'RAML'

Roll of pierced dices. They are still in use for divination among traditional fortune tellers in Afghanistan.



**"BUDUH" FOR
"TAWEEZ" USE**

Small table is a numerological encoding of a quran sura (= esoteric interpretation of letterings and symbols of Quran). Such tables are usually held as quranic charms (: *taweez*)

ZODIAQUE

**FORTUNE TELLING ACCORDING QURANIC
NUMEROLOGY** the small carved table (centre) is a numerological encoding of a quran sura (= esoteric understanding of the Quran sura).

QURANIC NUMEROLOGY

Scriptures
include
numerological
table, a pagan
relief.



SHI'ITE KHAMSAH:

the hand is a
central symbol
of the Shia , as
it reminds the
cut hands of
ABBAS in
Kerbala, and
each finger is
given for a
member of the
family: emam
ALI, emam
Hosein,
FATMAH,
ABBAS
MASUMEH,
emam REZA.

SHIA TALISMANOLOGY

$\frac{33}{7}$ 613338

وزیر امور اقتصادی و دارائی رئیس کل

The banknote was manually blessed by a famous seyyed.

***“ Truth is with Ali
and Ali is with the Truth”***

کے ہزار سال

4. “ N I N E T Y - N I N E V I R G I N S ”



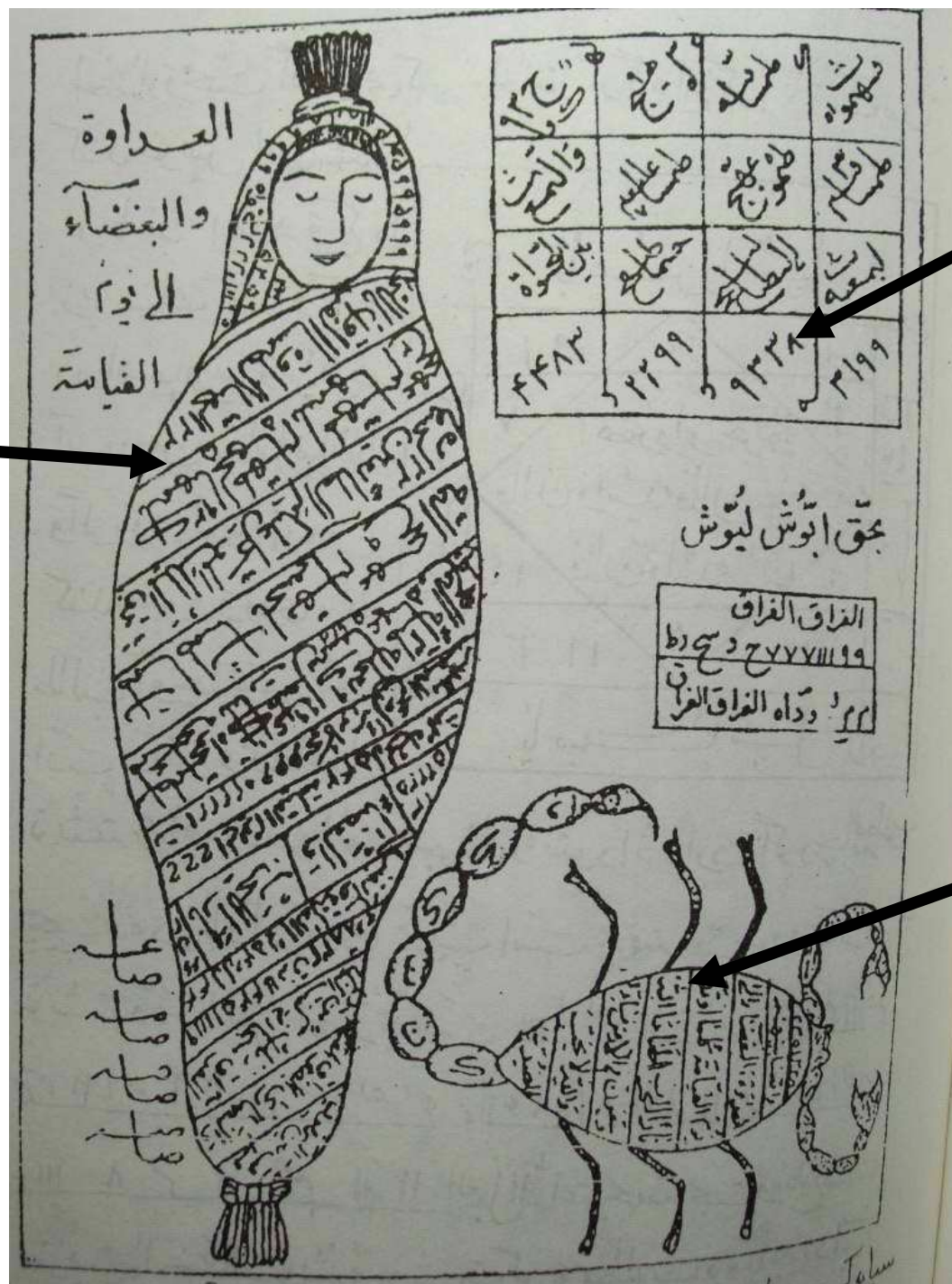
B L E S S I N G T H E D E P A R T E D



QURAN READER IN EMAMZADEH-E-IKZAK, SAVEH : visitors wash and flourish tomb of relatives .



SHARING FRIDAYS & MEALS WITH DEPARTED: I observed also that departed relatives used to offer datefruits and sweets after Mourning period.



“BUDUH” FOR
“TAWEEZ” USE
encoding of a quran
sura ,usually held
as quranic charms
(: *taweez*)

DEPARTED

SEDUCTION TALISMAN INVOKING DEPARTED' S POWERS

the talisman is efficient
with departed shroud
pieces and charcoal
ashes.

ZODIAQUE

Scorpio is a
frequent symbol in
hurufi-like designs
of the quranic
formulas. Each
cell of its end
symbolizes stages
(*silsila* lineages,
or anagrams of
formula, so on)

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