THE ISLAMIC CONNOTATION
IN THE GEMATRIC PEN-Names OF FRANÇOIS RABELAIS

Tine Kurent

François Rabelais\(^1\) signed his books on Gargantua et Pantagruel\(^2\) with pen-names. The gematric\(^3\) value of his pseudonyms, NASIER, M. ALCOFRIBAS, and ALCOFRIBAS NASIER, are 66, 99 and 152, respectively.

With numbers 66 and 99, Rabelais identified himself as the Apocalyptic beast,\(^4\) according to the report by St, John the Divine: And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had horns like a lamb.\(^5\) The ram's and buck's horns are indeed similar to the Indian figures 66 and 99.

Besides, number 66 is the gematric sum of the divine name of ALLAH,\(^6\) written with Arabic letters.\(^7\) Numerals 99, turned upside down, look like ciphers 66.

The presence of the divine name in the number 66 resulted in the building of domes above mosques, 7 modules in diameter. Before the introduction of the Greek \(\pi\), the ratio circumference: diameter was approximated with the ratio 22:7. The small Dervish-Pasha mosque, Travnik, Bosnia, is crowned with a dome, 7 modules of 3 Byzantine feet in diameter. The dome's circumference is therefore 66 feet.\(^8\)

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\(^1\) François Rabelais, 1494?—1553, French satirist, monk and medic.


\(^3\) About gematria, see Kurent, T., Gematrija v merah arhitekture na Slovenskem. — Zbornik za zgodovino naravoslovja in tehnike, 10, Slovenska matica, Ljubljana, 1989. Summary: Gematric Writing with Numerals in Dimensions of Some Slovenian Architectures.


\(^5\) Revelation, 13 : 11.


\(^7\) The Science of Letters, \(\text{Ilm-i-abjad}\).


\(^8\) Kurent, T., Vidmar, A., The Dimensional Composition of the Dervish-Pasha Mosque in Travnik, Bosnia. — In preparation.
The anagram ALCOFRIBAS NASIER has an Islamic connotation too. Gematically, it is equal to number 152, or $8 \times 19$. The point is that number 19 is the preferred number in Koran.\(^9\)

Allah admonition »Into Sekar I will throw him«\(^10\) ends with the statement »Let not be nineteen above him«.\(^11\)

The meaning of number 10 has not been explained by the Prophet, and exegetes speculate that the number could mean 19 meleks (angels), or 19 pillars, or 19 human traits, etc.

Number 19 appears in Koran more frequently than all other numbers together.\(^12\)

The first sentence of the Book, e.g., written in Arabic, consists of 19 letters. Its transliteration reads BISMILLahi-RAHMANI-RAH1M. It means In the Name of God, Merciful and Compassionate.

The word ISM (the Name) appears in Koran 19 times, the name ALLAH 2698 times, the word AR-RAHMAN (the Merciful) 57 times, and the word AR-RAHIM 114 times. The common factor in the above numbers is 19.

\[
\begin{align*}
19 \times 1 &= 19, \\
19 \times 142 &= 1698, \\
19 \times 3 &= 57, \\
19 \times 6 &= 114.
\end{align*}
\]

Besides, Koran consists of 114 or 11×19 suras.

Ninety-sixth sura Al-Alaq was published the first. Counting from behind, it is the 19th sura. It is composed of 19 ayets and written with 285, or $3 \times 5 \times 19$ letters.

Similar computations can reveal the omnipresence of number 19 in Koran — and also in ALCOFRIBAS NASIER.

Besides the Apocalyptic beast, Allah and Islam were considered since Crusaders the archenemy of Christianity. Rabelais could not find a stronger ridicule against the Church.

ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Gematria of anagrams NASIER, M. ALCOFRIBAS and ALCOFRIBAS NASIER.
2. Numerical equivalent of Arabic letters. (Drawing by my student Ahmed Olgoni.)
3. The magic square 66 implies the name of Allah.
4. The first ayet in sura Al-Alaq, BISMILLAHU-RAHMANI-RAH1M, In the Name of God, Merciful and Compassionate, consists of 19 letters. (Drawing by my student Aziz Amir.)
5. The last ayet in sura Al-Muddassir, ALEYHA-TISAATE-ASHERE, Let not be nineteen above him. (Drawing by my Student Ebrahem Rebwar.)
6. The dome of the Dervish-Pasha mosque in Travnik, Bosnia. Its diameter equals 7 moduls of 3 Byzantine feet and its circumference is equal to 22 modules or 66 feet.

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\(^{10}\) Koran, sura Al-Muddassir, 26.

\(^{11}\) Koran, 74 : 30.

\(^{12}\) Hajrudin Dubravac, op. cit.
<table>
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<th>OGENJ</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>40</th>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>90</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>600</td>
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Fig. 1

Fig. 2
DERVİŞ PAŞINA DŽAMİJA
TRAVNIK, YUGOSLAVIA
MODUL 1gäz

\[ \frac{C}{D} = \frac{22}{7} \approx 3.14 \]

1 gäz = 0.95 m

D = 7 M1gäz

C = 22 M1gäz

= 66 M1

\[ \text{Total} = 66 \]

Fig. 6