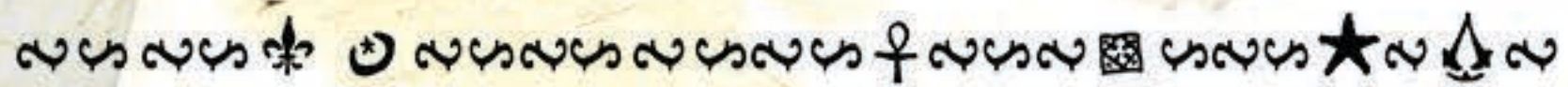


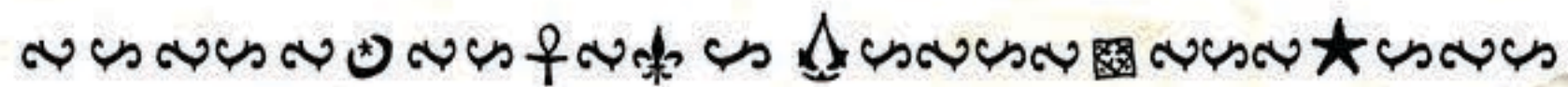
This story appears throughout history in one form or another, it's Eastern in origin, and became popular among Crusaders. This particular version, one of the earliest, was found among ruins in Cappadocia.



THE CITY OF SILENE, LIBYA, WAS MENACED BY A DRAGON. TO APPEASE IT, THE PEOPLE FED IT THEIR CHILDREN, CHOSEN BY LOTTERY. WHEN THE KING'S DAUGHTER SABRA WAS CHOSEN, HE TOLD THE PEOPLE THEY COULD HAVE ALL HIS GOLD AND HALF OF HIS KINGDOM IF IT SAVED HIS DAUGHTER, BUT THEY REFUSED. THE DAUGHTER WAS SENT TO THE DRAGON.

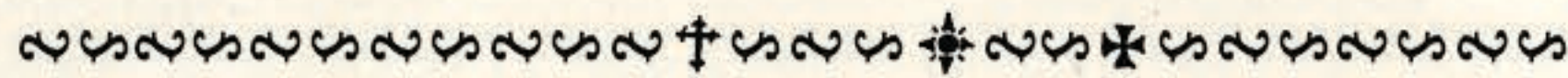
BY CHANCE, A MAN RODE PAST AND SABRA TRIED TO SEND HIM AWAY, BUT THE MAN CHOSE TO REMAIN. THE DRAGON EMERGED AND THE MAN FORTIFIED HIMSELF WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS, CHARGED AT IT WITH HIS ENCHANTED SWORD, CALLED ASCALON, AND WOUNDED IT.

SABRA AND THE MAN LED THE DRAGON BACK TO SILENE. THE MAN SAID THAT IF THEY OBEYED HIS ORDER, HE WOULD SLAY THE DRAGON. THE KING AGREED AND ON THE SITE WHERE THE DRAGON DIED, THE KING BUILT A TEMPLE THAT HOUSED THE MAN'S WONDROUS SWORD, AND FROM ITS ALTAR A SPRING AROSE WHOSE WATERS CURED ALL DISEASE.



Who was this man? What truths did he hide in this text?

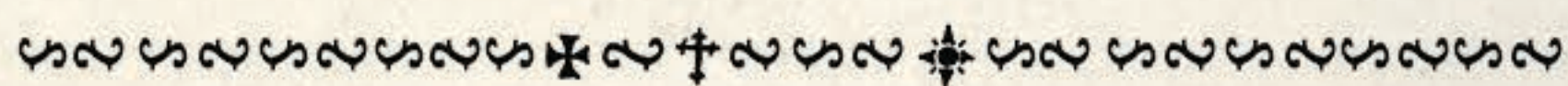
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