

THE THIEF-TAKER

SAÏD JELLAL UD DIN BIN MESSAOUD
Trusted to Allah for his daily food;
And so with favour was the Saint anointed
That never yet had he been disappointed.

On day this pious person wished to shave
His head; a sly and sacrilegious knave
Passed; when the good man would resume his prayer,
Alas! his turban was no longer there.

In rushed Mohammed, Hassan, and Husein:
"See! there he goes, the bastard of a swine.
Hasten and catch him!" But the good man went
With melancholy pace and sad intent.

Unto the burying-ground without the wall;
And there he sat, stern and funerea,
Wrapped in deep thought from any outward sense,
A monument of earnest patience!

"Sire" (a disciple dared at length to say)
"That wicked person took another way."
"Wide is the desert," said the saintly seer:
"But this is certain, that he must come here."

ALEISTER CROWLEY.