

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.

One 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 funereal,
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.