

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

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François Rabelais¹ signed his books on Gargantua et Pantagruel² with pen-names. The gematric³ 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 π , 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

¹ François Rabelais, 1494?—1553, French satirist, monk and medic.

² *Pantagruel*, 1533, by Alcofribas Nasier. *Gargantua*, 1535, by Nasier. *Pantagruel*, 1545, by M. Alcofribas.

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.

⁴ Kurent, T., *Rabelaisova anagrama NASIER in M. ALCOFRIBAS*. — *Zbornik ljubljanske šole za arhitekturo 1987*, Ljubljana, 1987.

— id., *Matematični izvor povesti o triglavem zmaju, pesmi o Pegamu, zveri v Apokalipsi in druge zveri iz Rabelaisovih anagramov*. — *Slavistična revija*, 35, 3, 1983.

— id., 666—999. — *Kulture istoka*, V., 15, 1988.

— id., *Arhitekturna numerologija po Rabelaisu. Architectural Numerology after Rabelais*. Raziskovalna skupnost Slovenije, Ljubljana, 1987.

— id., *La signature gematrique de Rabelais par les Nombres 66 et 99*. — *Acta neophilologica*, XIX, 1986.

⁵ Revelation, 13 : 11.

⁶ Lalek Bakgtiar, *Sufi. Expressions of the Magnificent Quest*. — Thames and Hunson, 1979.

⁷ The Science of Letters, *Ilm-i-abjad*.

— Kurent, T., *Gematricni ključi*. — *Zbornik LSA 1988*.

⁸ Kurent, T., Vidmar, A., *The Dimensional Composition of the Dervish-Pasha Mosque in Travnik, Bosnia*. — In preparation.