

Tawusi Melek and Mother Nature

By Narin Ismail

December 4, 2016

Narin Ismail is a Yazidi artist and film producer. In this text, which was originally posted on Facebook, Ismail describes elements of the Yazidi creation myth, as well as the relationship between Tawusi Melek, God's chief angel, and Mother Nature. Ismail's account highlights the importance of nature in Yazidi religion, cosmology, and history.

For over 7,000 years and more, Yazidis [have] believed [themselves] to be the first people of the Earth. Before God created the Earth, he created Seven Angels: Azrael, Jbrail, Mekail, Drdael, Shmaqel, Asravel and Azazel. One of the Seven Angels was chosen to be God's right-hand creator, Azazel, known as Tawusi Melek, "Peacock Angel," or "King Peacock," who joined with God to birth planet Earth for the first time.

Yazidis also believe [themselves] to be the first people of the four elements: Fire, Air, Earth, and Water. When Tawusi Melek created the Earth, he embodied the power and wisdom with love, so the equations of his mind, body, and soul [could] remain on Earth. He ensured that all four elements represent the survival of humanity, nature, and animals in the making.

Tawusi Melek was easily able to know and carry out his mission within seven days of work and with that he established a living life on Earth. When he completed his work on a Wednesday's dawn, he traveled to the Garden of Eden where he continued to grow life for a man without a soul, Adam. Adam was the first human being on Earth.

Yazidis are also known to be spiritual beings for nature. They pray by facing the Sun, saying, "Ya Xode u Tawusi Melek"; it means, "God and King Peacock." The true meaning of this phrase is, "God is for all, and Tawusi Melek is for the Earth."¹

Nature is highly respected in Yazidism. When Tawusi Melek fabricated his heart on Earth, he obeyed and embraced his love for the growth of Mother Nature. Mother Nature may not be a person, but in spirit she provides love, care, shelter, and desires for humanity, animals, and plants. So, Tawusi Melek's soul remains unchanged but fair to all his creations.

Mother Nature is a female, a beautiful living life filled with growth, richness, and goodness between our hands. Yazidis also believe that when Tawusi Melek created the Earth, he created it

¹ God in Yazidism is monotheistic and is an omnipotent, omnipresent force. However, He is not active in earthly affairs. He created Tawusi Melek and the Seven Angels to manage His affairs on Earth and interact with humanity.

without colors. After years of birth and development of life for humanity and animals, “death” was at [the center of] the questioning.

How can there be life without death?

Once again, Tawusi Melek’s creation was incomplete. He had asked the God of the sea and the God of the sky for the burial of the human body. However, both refused his avowal. So, after time, Tawusi Melek came down to the Earth, this time as a peacock. When he met with Mother Nature with the same proposal, both agreed to a compromise of yearning spring. Tawusi Melek granted her a wish of beauty in exchange for burial in her ground. Now, every spring, Earth is a beginning of a new year for Yazidis [and] for every living life on Earth, including Mother Nature. Spring is the recreation of birth, and with that, Tawusi Melek separated his feathers and made the Earth a beautiful, endless colored home to all.