

ABEL AND CAIN 31-37

my mother that she should make her milk as nourishment for me."¹⁴ 32. Because the stone was small he killed him with difficulty; for one hour he slaughtered him violently.

33. Again while he was slaughtering <him>, his brother said, "I have gone out of this world, but you gain the heart of our parents."

34. When he killed his brother, he went away cheerfully. The Lord appeared on the way, fifty cubits above, <and> said to Cain, "Where is your brother?"

35. And he said impudently, "Who made me his guardian, that you should ask it of me?" 36. Because of this God asked him; perhaps he might repent. 37. When the Lord saw that Cain spoke thus, he became angry

¹⁴Perhaps the intent is "lest she should make her milk...", but this translation would require the negative before the verb.

ABEL AND CAIN 37-43

at Cain and gave Cain seven punishments.

38. (1) The first punishment was this; that two horns sprouted upon his head.

39. (2) The second punishment was this; that the one horn cried out and said in a loud voice, "Cain is a brother-murderer." 40. <Then> mountain and rock and valley cried out and said, "Cain is a brother-murderer."

41. (3) The third punishment was this; that with his feet and hands and every single limb he shuddered like a yew-tree.¹⁵

42. (4) The fourth punishment was this; that no matter how much he ate, he was not satisfied.

43. (5) The fifth punishment was this; that his heart would

¹⁵ ^{nln} may also be translated "vine-branch." The author may be using irony to relate Cain's shaking to the instrument used in tying Abel to a tree.

ABEL AND CAIN 43-48

desire something, but he could not eat it, and when he tried to eat it, it would fall to the ground.

44. (6) The sixth punishment was this; that he could not sleep, either at night or during the day.

45. (7) The seventh punishment was this; that God did not allow him to die, rather the Lord said, "Whoever kills Cain, his punishment will fall upon the murderer."

46. And thus he remained for 860 years. Afterwards he remained incurable, and he wished to die, but he did not die. 47. Then he brought a skin of a wild <animal> and covered himself.

y ¹⁶		D		A
48. When Lamech		48. And when		

¹⁶The MSS contain widely divergent readings for vss. 48-49. Y, D, and A are most distinct and are presented in parallel columns, while B and C each contain features of both Y and D, with B most closely following Y and C most closely following D.