Translation of MS 469 (BAR)

1. Authority over the Animals

Before the trespass, Adam was in paradise. And many things were according to his will and happened according to his will. That is, many things were according to his will in paradise.

2. Dream of Adam about Abel’s Death

And after he was expelled from paradise, he sat in Eden before the gate of paradise and saw in a dream how Cain and Abel would be born and the year in which Cain would kill Abel, his brother. And the angel advised him not to tell Eve.

3. Adam’s Illness

And there he spent nine hundred and seventy years. And he fell into a heart illness and he did not know what illness was. And all, small and big, gathered around and wondered. And they said to Eve: “O, our mother, Eve! You know everything about him. Tell us what our father is ill of.” And there were 6000 men around Adam.

4. Portions of Adam and Eve

And Eve said: “I will tell you, my children! When God made paradise and the whole world and created your father, Adam, and me, and gave us the paradise and all the animals and the wild beasts and the birds, Adam watched the eastern and northern sides and I watched the western and southern sides. God gave all of these to us. And he told us: ‘From all that are in paradise you can eat, but from one tree you should not eat.’ And he showed us the tree. And God ascended back to heaven. And we commanded everything that was in paradise. And all the animals and the beasts and the wild beats did not dare move without my say and Adam’s or did not dare graze until we told them to.

5. Encounter with Satan

Then the devil came, luminous like an angel, and told us: ‘What did God tell you to eat or not to eat from paradise?’ Adam said: ‘From everything he told us to eat, but from one tree he told us not to eat.’ The devil said: ‘I am very sorry for you that you do not understand that, if you ate from that tree, you would be gods.’

6. Satan’s Encounter with the Serpent

The devil said this and left. And he met the serpent. The serpent, seeing the devil, also believed that he was an angel.
7. Eve’s Temptation by the Serpent
And the serpent came to me and showed me a fruit from a tree. And I, seeing this and knowing that the serpent is the most beloved by God out of all the creatures, took the fruit from him and ate it. And after I ate my heart was violently troubled and all the leaves of the trees fell on my side (of paradise). I went under the tree from which I had eaten.

8. Temptation of Adam
And I called to Adam and said: ‘Adam, come here and see a very strange thing.’ And my mouth opened and my tongue spoke that Adam should also eat. And Adam too took (the fruit) and tasted. And our eyes were opened and we saw ourselves naked and uncovered. And our hearts burned with desire. And it so happened that all the leaves fell from all the trees that were in paradise. Only those of the fig tree did not fall. And we sewed some of its leaves and made garments and covered ourselves.

9. Entry of God into Paradise
Then we heard a voice from heaven, the angel speaking and calling all the angels and saying: ‘Come, for God told us to go down to paradise because Adam sinned.’ Thus the Lord came down with all his angels. And God’s throne was set in the center of paradise and God called with a loud voice: ‘Adam, Adam, where are you?’ And he answered and said many things.

10. Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise and the Plea for Mercy
And the angels took us and beat us terribly and drove us from paradise. Adam prayed that maybe God will be merciful with us to forgive us and leave us. And archangel Ioil prayed incessantly to the throne of the Master for us. And so he expelled us from paradise and left us.

11. Quest for Food
And, as he left us, we sat in Eden like strangers. Adam lay down on the ground and cried and we spent 15 days there. And so my soul weakened in me from hunger. I said to Adam: ‘Get up, my husband, and go and seek some nourishment for us, for my heart diminished from hunger and my soul shriveled.’ Adam sighed and said: ‘O, Eve, if only I did not look! I think a little bit in my heart to break your face, but I have no one else to be with and I fear God, because my heart cannot part from you.’ And we stood and we traveled around the whole earth. And we could not find anything but thistles, a wild grass, and we came back to Eden. And crying we shed tears.

12. Cheirograph
And Adam said: ‘Lord, send us down a flower from heaven so that I may praise you.’ Then God sent him incense and libanum and laudanum. And Adam took them and offered praises to God. Then God had mercy and archangel Ioil took a seventh part from paradise and gave it to us. And first we shared from the fruits of the thorn for 10 days. After that we took wheat and honey, and we ate and we were satiated. And he took all the wild beasts and the animals and all the beasts from paradise and he gave them to Adam. Adam separated them and made some of them wild, some domestic, and for food, and named all of them. And the same (he did) with the ones that fly. And God said to Adam: ‘Thorns and thistles will come forth from your hands.’ And Adam took the oxen and plowed and the devil came and stood in front of the oxen. And he did not let Adam plow and told Adam: ‘I will not let you till the earth, for the earth is mine, and God’s are the heavens and paradise. Therefore, if you wish to be mine, till the earth; but, if you want to belong to God, go to paradise.’ Adam said: ‘To God belong the skies and the earth and the whole world.’ And again the devil did not let Adam plow, but said to Adam: ‘Write a contract in your own hand and give it to me and then you will plow the earth.’ Adam said: ‘To whomever belongs the earth, to him belong both I and my boys.’ For Adam knew that God will descend on earth and will be born from the holy and most pure virgin Mary. The devil rejoiced greatly and said: ‘Write it for me.’ And Adam took a tablet of stone and wrote such writing and said: ‘To whomever belongs the earth, to him belong both I and my boys.’ For he knew. And the devil took the inscription from Adam and kept it in the banks of the Jordan, in a place hard and hidden. And four hundred devils protected that inscription.

13. Penitance and Second and Third Temptations

And I said to Adam: ‘My lord, let us repent so that maybe God will deliver us from this devil.’ Adam said that we fast 40 days. I said to him: ‘Lord, you fast 40 days, and I will fast 44.’ And he told me: ‘Enter into the water of the Tigris and hold a stone on your head and another under your feet and enter into the water up to the neck. And do not listen to anyone so that no one will trick you again.’ ‘Make me a hidden sign.’ And he told me: ‘Do not come out of the water until I will come to you.’ And he stood up and went to the Jordan to make penitence. There gathered all the animals and the birds and multitudes of angels to cry for Adam. Adam immersed himself completely in the water of the Jordan and there he spent 40 days. And the devil came to me, luminous like and angel, and was shedding tears all the way to the ground. And he told me: ‘O, Evve! God heard your prayer and he heeded us, his angels, praying for you and, lo, God sent me
now to you so that you may come out of the water.’ And I did not believe him. And he came back on the third day, as luminous as before. And he made himself into Adam’s image. And he tried so much to trick me, but I did not come out of the water until I saw the sign that Adam made for me. If Adam spent the 40 days, he emerged from the Jordan and, on his way to me, met the devil heading my way and he was very afraid, thinking that the devil had duped me. But seeing me in the water he was very glad. When he came, I did not believe he was my lord until he showed me the signed that he made for me. Then I emerged from the water and believed that he was my lord. And then God saved us from that devil.

14. Birth of Cain and Abel and Death of Abel
And we stood in Mediam and there we gave birth to Cain and Abel. And both were tending our flocks. One day Adam rose from his bed and said to me: ‘O, woman, 14 years have passed since Abel was born and it is the time of Cain’s murder. It is today. Give me my donkey to go and find him.’ And, hearing that, my heart burned within me. Adam went and found Abel murdered and did not say anything to Cain, as the angel commanded him. And he brought Abel to the place that is called Rion.

15. Birth of Seth
There I bore Seth and said to Adam: ‘Do not be sorry, my lord, for, behold, I bore another in Abel’s place.’ And they called him Seth. Then Adam shouted and said: ‘Be silent, woman, for my soul is diminishing within me.’”

16. Command to Retrieve the Oil
And Seth said: “My lord, I will go to paradise and I will bring something that I will see from there and you will rest.” Adam said: “O, son, how are you going to enter into paradise? Not so, not so. But go the other way and cry. Maybe God will give us from the olive tree so that I may see, so that my disease may lessen.”

17. Adam’s Story of the Fall
His son Seth said: “What is your sickness, o, my father?” Adam said: “O, son, I have a great sickness. When your mother and I sinned God said: ‘Your sighs will multiply and you will spend your time in worry for ever. I will inflict on you 72 diseases, one of heart, one of vision. After these, all the other.’ And to your mother he said: ‘Always your man will overwhelm you. And when you will bear, it will brood over with death.’”

18. Encounter with the Beast
And Seth rose and went to paradise with his mother. And Eve saw a horrifying beast, called Gorgoniea (горгониѧ), hounding her son, Seth. She stood and said to the beast: “O, beast, don’t you remember how I fed you with my own hands? How do you dare to open your mouth against the man who is made in the image of God? Or how can you bare your teeth against him?” Then the beast answered Eve and said: “O, Eve, it all began with you. How did you dare to open your mouth for the food that God told you not to eat? On account of this I will also eat your son, if I wish so.” Eve started crying. Her voice was heard from the rising of the sun to its setting. And Eve said: “O, woe to me, from now on all generations will curse me forever.” And she started crying in front of the paradise with her son, Seth. And she sprinkled her head with dust.

19. Reply of the Angel
Behold the angel came to them and said: “Why are you crying?” Seth said: “Lord, my father is ill and wishes to taste from the delights of the paradise and to see the fruit of the olive tree, so that maybe his sickness may be eased.” And the angel said: “O, Seth, your father Adam has no cure, because his days of death have drawn near and his end has come.” And he took from the tree from which Adam had eaten, on account of which he had been expelled from paradise, and gave to Seth. Seth took it to Adam. Adam saw and knew and sighed deeply and twisted a wreath and put it on his head.

20. Death of Adam and Angelic Liturgy
And saw God’s hand taking his soul. And Eve saw a censer censing Adam’s body with laudanum. And she saw three angels holding lit candles in their hands. And Seth looked up to heaven and saw Adam’s soul standing near God. And multitudes of angels were praying for Adam. And when the archangel Michael arose, all the angels became quiet.

21. Burial of Adam
Then God had mercy and stretched forth his hand and took Adam’s soul and taught Seth to take his body and carry it to the place called Gherosia Plata. And when he dug the grave, the angel marked the grave. And a voice came from heaven saying: “Adam, Adam!” He said: “Yes, Lord?” God said: “Believe now what I told you, that you are earth and to earth you will return.” And the earth said: “Your own from your own, to you we bring all.” Thus they buried Adam with the wreath that was on his head.

22. Death and Burial of Eve
Eve prayed to God with a humble voice and said: “Lord, my father, receive my soul.” And thus, on the sixth day after Adam, she bowed her head and gave her soul to God. And they buried Eve there, next to her son Abel. And there grew a tree, from the wreath that was on Adam’s head.