

# Dictionary of Magic



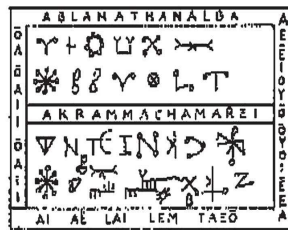
**Ablanathanalba:** A word that means "You are our father," endowed with magical properties and commonly used on Greek amulets and papyri. One on the collection of the National Library of France (n° 177) depicts an armed spirit with serpents for legs and a rooster's head over the palindrome Ablanathanalba on one side. On the opposite side there is a winged god standing on the back of a reclining lion with magical letters. This was all intended to protect the bearer from fear. A Greek papyrus or curse tablet dating from the second to fourth centuries places it at the top of a series of words arranged in a triangle that shrinks one letter every line: *ablanathanalba; actiois; taedophrenemous; ouoites; akrammachamarei.*

The phrase is also used in a reducing formula to combat fever:

ABLANATHANABLANAMACHARAMARACHARAMARACH  
BLANATHANABLANAMACHARAMARACHARAMARA  
LANATHANABLANAMACHARAMARACHARAMAR  
ANATHANABLANAMACHARAMARACHARAMA  
NATHANABLANAMACHARAMARACHARAM  
ATHANABLANAMACHARAMARACHARA  
THANABLANAMACHARAMARACHAR  
ANABLANAMACHARAMARACHA  
NABLANAMACHARAMARACH  
ABLANAMACHARAMARA  
BLANAMACHARAMA  
LANAMACHARAMA  
ANAMACHARAM  
NAMACHARA  
AMACHAR  
MACHA  
ACH  
A

ABLANATHANALBA 7

It can also be found in a Greek charm for obtaining victory in the phrase ABLANATHANALBA AKRAMMACHAMARI PEPHNA PHO'ZA PHNEBENNOUNI NAACHTHIP ... OUNORBA.



A Coptic amulet on papyrus that may date from the fourth century, found in Egypt, bears this phrase: AKRAMMAHAMARI AABLANAPHANALBAA. On a gem intended to inspire love, Ablanathanalba is written in a circle around the first name, Faustina. A curse tablet found in Cyprus shows the compound ABLANATHANALBASISOPETRON. On a phylactery discovered in Germany that was intended to protect several people, we read:

OYDAEAGANFOZL . . . UNI Ia Ia Sabathō Adōnai  
Ablanathanlba Akra[machari Semesilam Sōstgemburpharāngēs,  
io io io

PGM XXXIII, 1-25; XXXVI, 211-30; D. G. Martinez, *PMib 757: A Greek Love Charm from Egypt*, Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press, 1991; A. Mastrocinque, "Metamorfosi di Kronos su una gemma di Bologna"; A. Mastrocinque (ed.), *Gemme gnostiche e cultura ellenistica*, Bologna, 2002, 118.

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