

Neo-Aramaic and Kurdish Folklore from Northern Iraq

A Comparative Anthology with a Sample of Glossed Texts

VOLUME 1



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CHRISTIAN ARAMAIC OF DURE

TEXT 8: §1–9

Geoffrey Khan

Speaker: Dawid Adam

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(1) *gu Zàxo[|] bnaya wε-wa xa gəšra[|]*
in Zakho build.INF COP.3PL-PST one bridge

In Zakho, they were building a bridge.

gəšra y-amr-əx-le gəšr-ət Dalàle[|] b-zon-ət
bridge IND-say-1PL-O.3SG.M bridge-of Dalale in-time-of

‘Abbasiye.[|] kəmət ban-í-wa-le ta-t qaṭər-Ø-wa
Abbasids how.much build-3PL-PST-O.3SG.M to-SBR arch-3SG.M-PST

We call the bridge the bridge of Dalale. [This was] in the time of the Abbasids. However much they built the bridge in order for its arch to be completed,

’o gəšra[|] là qaṭər-Ø-wa.[|] ya’ni la
that.M bridge NEG arch-3SG.M-PST it.means NEG

maxe-Ø-wa l-ğəðàðe.[|]
hit-3SG.M-PST to-each.other

its arch was not completed, it was not put together.

(2) *xa yòma[|] ʔo gòra[|] ʔàga[|] xze-le*
 one day that.M chief agha see.PFV-3SG.M

b-xàlm-e[|]
 in-dream-his

One day, the chief, the agha, saw in his dream

ʔaw zàngîn=we-wa[|] xelàn-a[|] ʔîθ-wa-le šawwà
 he rich=COP.3SG.M-PST powerful-SG.M EXIST-PST-3SG.M seven

ʔarxaθa[|] ʔîθ-wa-le šawwà kalaθa[|] ʔîθ-wa-le
 mills EXIST-PST-3SG.M seven daughters.in.law EXIST-PST-3SG.M

šawwà susyaθa[|]
 seven mares

that he was rich and powerful. He had seven water mills. He had seven daughters-in-law. He had seven mares.

malaxa mār-e ʔall-e dîye[|] ʔmən kul xa
 angel say.PFV-3SG.M to-him OBL.3SG.M from every one

mən danna[|] lazəm xa mbàtl-ət[|]
 from OBL.these necessary one eliminate-2SG.M

An angel said to him (in the dream), ‘You must get rid of one of each of these.

mən kalaθ-ux ða kalθ-ux qàtl-ət[|]
 from daughters.in.law-your one.F daughter.in.law-your kill-2SG.M

mən susāwaθ-ux xa susta qàtl-ət[|]
 from mares-your one mare kill-2SG.M

mən ʔarxaθ-ux xa ʔarxe màkl-ət[|]
 from mills-your one mill stop-2SG.M

You should kill one of your daughters-in-law. You should kill one of your mares. You should stop one of your water-mills.’

(3) *ʿanna malaxa mār-e ʿall-e diye ta*
 these angel say.PFV-3SG.M to-him OBL.3SG.M to
ṭ-awəd-Ø-la¹ ta-t ʿo gəšra¹ maxe-Ø l-ğəðəðe,¹
 SBR-DO-3SG.M-O.3PL to-SBR that.M bridge hit-3SG.M to-each.other
qəṭər-Ø.¹
 arch-3SG.M

The angel told him to do these things, so that the bridge would come together and its arch would be completed.

mara ʿo gəšra¹ b-šənnē,¹ b-šənnē,¹ šurye-la
 say.INF that.M bridge for-years for-years begin.PFV-3PL
bnaya ta-t maṭe-Ø l-ğəðəðe,¹
 build.INF to-SBR reach-3SG.M to-each.other
lēle məšy-a.¹
 NEG.COP.3SG.M be.able.PTCP-SG.M

Indeed, they had started building the bridge (and had been working on it) for years and years in order for it to come together, but it could not (be completed).

(4) *qim-ε=le¹ xa ʿarxe*
 rise.PTCP-SG.M=COP.3SG.M one mill
mbūṭl-ə=l-la.¹ ʿu xa mən susyaθ-e
 stop.PTCP-SG.M=COP.3SG.M-O.3SG.F and one from mares-his
qṭil-ə=l-la.¹ ʿu Dalàle,¹ kalθ-e
 kill.PTCP-SG.M=COP.3SG.M-O.3SG.F and Dalale daughter.in.law-his
diye zur-ta šəmm-a Dalàle-we-wa,¹
 OBL.3SG.M small-SG.F name-her Dalale=COP.3SG.M-PST

He went and stopped a water-mill and killed one of his mares. Now, Dalale—his youngest daughter-in-law was called Dalale—

ʔε *Dalàle*[|] *qím-ε-le* *mšùdr-a*[|] *mənn-a*
 that.F Dalale rise.PTCP-SG.M=COP.3SG.M send-PTCP-SG.M with-her
 ʔixala *ta-t* *nábl-a* *ta-palàxe*[|] *t̤-ila* *plàxa*[|]
 food to-SBR take-3SG.F to-workers SBR-COP-3SG.F work-INF
rəš *gəšr-ət* *Dalàle*[|]
 on bridge-of Dalale

he sent food with Dalale for her to take to the workers who were working on the bridge of Dalale.

(5) ʔanna *mìr-ə-l-la*[|] ʔku *nəšma*[|]
 they say.PTCP-SG.M=COP.3SG.M-O.3SG.F every soul
t-màty-a[|] *rəš* *gəšr-ət* *Dalàle*[|] ʔε *nəšma*
 SBR-arrive-3SG.F on bridge-of Dalale that.F soul
bəd-pèš-a[|] *prìm-ta*[|] *qṭil-ta*[|]
 FUT-become-SG.F slaughter.PTCP-SG.F kill.PTCP-SG.F

They said to her, ‘Any soul that comes onto the bridge of Dalale—that soul will be slaughtered, killed.’

ʔit-la *kalba* *mənn-a*[|] ʔən *hawe-Ø-wa* *kalba*
 EXIST-3SG.F dog with-her if be-3SG.M-PST dog
zìl-a *qāmày-a*[|] *qaṭl-i-wa* *kàlba*[|]
 go.PTCP-SG.M first-SG.M kill-3PL-PST dog

She had a dog with her. If the dog had gone first, they would have killed the dog.

là *qaṭl-í-wa-la* *Dalàle*[|]
 NEG kill-3PL-PST-O.3SG.F Dalale

They would not have killed Dalale.

qím-e-la[|] *kalba* *šqil-le* *rìxa*[|] *t-xa* *kàlləš*[|]
 rise.PTCP-PL=COP.3PL dog take.PFV-3SG.M smell of-one carrion

But the dog picked up the scent of carrion.

kallāš yāḏ-əṭ mōdi-la?| xa ʿərba mīθ-a.|
 carrion know-2SG.M what=COP.3SG.F one sheep dead-SG.M

Do you know what a carrion (*kallāš*) is? It is a dead sheep.

(6) *zil-le kalba rāš dē kallāš.|*
 go.PFV-3SG.M dog on OBL.that.F carrion

The dog went to the carrion.

ʿayya Dalale piš-la qam-èθa.| zīl-la,|
 this.F Dalale become.PFV-3SG.F first-SG.F go.PFV-3SG.F

Dalale became the first one. She went,

mṭe-la l-gəšra,| qəm-dawq-ì-la.|
 arrive.PFV-3SG.F to-bridge PFV-seize-3PL-O.3SG.F

she reached the bridge and they seized her.

qəm-parm-ì-la.| matt-i-la gu gəšra.|
 PFV-slaughter-3PL-O.3SG.F place-3PL-O.3SG.F in bridge

and slaughtered her. They put her in the bridge.

gəšra qṭir-re,| mxe-le l-gəḏāḏe.|
 bridge arch.PFV-3SG.M hit.PFV-3SG.M to-one.another

The arch of the bridge was completed. It came together.

benā y-àmr-ì.|
 so IND-say-3PL

So, they say:

(7) *Dalal, Dalal, Dalale,*
 Dalal Dalal Dalale

Dalal, Dalal, Dalale,

gəšr-ə Zaxo raman-a
 bridge-of Zakho high-SG.M

The high bridge of Zakho

sel-ət xoθ-e milan-a
 river-SBR under-it.M blue-SG.M

The river under it is blue (with grief).

Dalle dwiq-a l-xəmyan-a.
 Dalle seize.PVF-3SG.F by-father.in.law-her

Dalle (= Dalale) has been seized by her father-in-law.

(8) *gəšr-ət Zaxo daqiq-a*
 bridge-of Zakho narrow-SG.M

The narrow bridge of Zakho,

ʔu sel-ət xoθ-e raqiq-a
 and river-SBR under-it.M narrow-SG.M

The river under it is narrow.

ʔu Dalle l-xəmyan-a dwiq-a.
 and Dalle by-father.in.law-her take.PFV-SG.F

Dalle has been seized by her father-in-law.

(9) *m-o kalb-ət pərruš we-le*
 from-that.M dog-SBR treacherous be.PFV-3SG.M

On account of that dog which was treacherous.

šle-le rəš kalləš kle-le
 go.down.PSV-3SG.M upon carrion stand.PFV-3SG.M

It went down and stood over carrion.

xəmyan-ət Dalle bxe-le.
 father.in.law-of Dalle weap.PFV-3SG.M

The father-in-law of Dalle wept.