

# Neo-Aramaic and Kurdish Folklore from Northern Iraq

A Comparative Anthology with a Sample of Glossed Texts

VOLUME 1



**Geoffrey Khan, Masoud Mohammadirad,  
Dorota Molin and Paul M. Noorlander**  
In collaboration with Lourd Habeeb Hanna,  
Aziz Emmanuel Eliya Al-Zebari and Salim Abraham



<https://www.openbookpublishers.com>

© 2022 Geoffrey Khan, Masoud Mohammadirad, Dorota Molin and Paul M. Noorlander, in collaboration with Lourd Habeeb Hanna, Aziz Emmanuel Eliya Al-Zebari and Salim Abraham.



This work is licensed under an Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0). This license allows you to share, copy, distribute and transmit the text; to adapt the text for non-commercial purposes providing attribution is made to the authors (but not in any way that suggests that they endorse you or your use of the work). Attribution should include the following information:

Geoffrey Khan, Masoud Mohammadirad, Dorota Molin and Paul M. Noorlander, *Neo-Aramaic and Kurdish Folklore from Northern Iraq: A Comparative Anthology with a Sample of Glossed Texts, Volume 1*. Cambridge Semitic Languages and Cultures 12. Cambridge, UK: Open Book Publishers, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.11647/OBP.0306>

Copyright and permissions for the reuse of many of the images included in this publication differ from the above. Copyright and permissions information for images is provided separately in the List of Illustrations.

In order to access detailed and updated information on the license, please visit, <https://doi.org/10.11647/OBP.0306#copyright>

Further details about CC BY-NC licenses are available at, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

All external links were active at the time of publication unless otherwise stated and have been archived via the Internet Archive Wayback Machine at <https://archive.org/web>

Updated digital material and resources associated with this volume are available at <https://doi.org/10.11647/OBP.0306#resources>

Every effort has been made to identify and contact copyright holders and any omission or error will be corrected if notification is made to the publisher.

Semitic Languages and Cultures 12.

ISSN (print): 2632-6906

ISSN (digital): 2632-6914

ISBN Paperback: 9781800647664

ISBN Hardback: 9781800647671

ISBN Digital (PDF): 9781800647688

DOI: 10.11647/OBP.0306

Cover images:

Cover design: Anna Gatti

# JEWISH ARAMAIC OF DUHOK

## TEXT 16: §1-11

*Dorota Molin*

---

### Speaker: Sabi Avraham

Audio: <https://nena.ames.cam.ac.uk/audio/184/>

(1) ʾəθ-wa xa beθa d-ʿāyāš-Ø-wa...<sup>1</sup>  
EXIST-PST one house SBR-live-3SG.M-PST

*bab-ət beθa d-ʿāyāš-Ø-wa mən šīwe.*<sup>1</sup>  
father-of house SBR-live-3SG.M-PST from wood.PL

There was a household who used to live on... whose father used to make his living by woodcutting.

*g-ezəl-Ø-wa go tūra,*<sup>1</sup> *q-qāte-Ø-wa šīwe.*<sup>1</sup>  
IND-go-3SG.M-PST in mountain, IND-cut-3SG.M-PST wood.PL

He used to go to the mountain and cut pieces of wood.

*g-meθè-Ø-wa-lu,*<sup>1</sup> *dāré-Ø-wa-lu*  
IND-bring-3SG.M-PST-O.3PL, place-3SG.M-PST-O.3PL

*rəš xmarā dīde,*<sup>1</sup>  
on donkey his

He would bring them, place them on his donkey.

(2) *g-ewəðð-Ø-wā-lu kārta,<sup>1</sup>*  
 IND-make-3SG.M-PST-o.3PL bundle

He would bind them in a bundle.

*g-dārē-Ø-wa-lu kārta<sup>1</sup> rəš xmara dīde.<sup>1</sup>*  
 IND-place-3SG.M-PST-o.3PL bundle on donkey his

He would put them [as] a bundle on his donkey's back.

*u-g-nābəl-Ø-wa-lu šūqa,<sup>1</sup> gə-mzābən-Ø-wa-lu.<sup>1</sup>*  
 and-IND-take-3SG.M-PST-o.3PL market, IND-sell-3SG.M-PST-o.3PL

He would take them to the market and sell them.

*k-eθē-Ø-wa,<sup>1</sup> g-meθe-Ø-wa ʾīxala*  
 IND-come-3SG.M-PST IND-bring-3SG.M-PST food

*ta yalunke dīde.<sup>1</sup>*  
 to children his

Then, he would come back home and bring food for his children.

*u-k-eθe-Ø-wa k-əxl-i-wa g-ʿeš-i-wa*  
 and-IND-come-3SG.M-PST IND-eat-3PL-PST IND-live-3PL-PST

*bət ʾanna,<sup>1</sup> mən mzabon-ət šīwe.<sup>1</sup>*  
 in those from selling-of wood.PL

When he came, they would eat and live on this, on the money from wood selling.

(3) *xā yoma zəl-le l-tūra,<sup>1</sup>*  
 one day go.PFV-3SG.M to-mountain

*b-qəṭe-Ø šīwe,<sup>1</sup> xze-le xa gūrğa.<sup>1</sup>*  
 FUT-cut-3SG.M wood, see.PFV-3SG.M one wolf

One day he went to the mountain to cut trees and he saw a wolf.

ʾaw gurga g-emər-Ø ʔa-le  
 that.M wolf IND-say-3SG.M to-him  
 mǎ wət ʾəθy-a?<sup>1</sup>  
 what COP.PRS.2SG.M come.PTCP-SG.M

This wolf said to him, 'Why have you come?'

g-emər-Ø ʾana g-əb-ən...<sup>1</sup>  
 IND-say-3SG.M I IND-want-1SG.M  
 g-ʿeš-ən bət qatʾ-ən šīwe.<sup>1</sup>  
 IND-live-1SG.M in cut-1SG.M wood.PL

He said, 'I want to... I make my living by woodcutting.'

gə-mzabn-ən-nu go šuqa  
 IND-sell-1SG.M-o.3PL in market  
 u-máʿā-yəš-ən yalunke dīdi.<sup>1</sup>  
 and-sustain-1SG child my

I sell it in the market and provide for my children.

bə-dè ʾana g-ʿeš-ən.<sup>1</sup>  
 in-OBL.this.F I IND-live-1SG.M

In this way I make my living.'

(4) g-emər-Ø ʾana b-yāw-ən-nox kud-yom  
 IND-say-3SG.M I FUT-give-1SG.M-o.2SG.M every-day  
 xǎ lira kurkamàn-a.<sup>1</sup>  
 one coin golden-SG.F

He replied 'Every day, I will give you one golden coin.'

si maṣrəf-Ø ta yalunke didox.<sup>1</sup>  
 go.IMP.SG.M spend.IMP-SG to children your.SG.M

Go, spend it on your children.'

*g-emər-Ø*, <sup>K</sup>*xera xudè<sup>K</sup>-la*,<sup>1</sup>  
 IND-say-3SG.M <sup>K</sup>God's favour<sup>K</sup>=COP.PRS.3SG.F  
<sup>K</sup>*xera xude<sup>K</sup>* *bət kərmànji g-əmr-i*.<sup>1</sup>  
 It is God's favour in Kurmanji IND-say-3PL.

He said, 'It is God's favour, God's favour!' They said it in Kurmanji.

(5) *šqəl-le* *lira kurkamana dide mən gùrga*<sup>1</sup>  
 take.PFV-3SG.M coin golden his from wolf  
*u-θe-le* *l-šùqa*.<sup>1</sup>  
 and-come.PFV-3SG.M to-market.

He took his golden coin from the wolf and came to the market.

*u-zun-ne* *ta gyane ʾixala u-julle ta*  
 and-buy.PFV-3SG.M to himself food and-clothes to  
*yalunke dide*,<sup>1</sup>  
 children his.

He bought food for himself and clothes for his children.

*u-mabsuṭ mər-re ta bāxt-e*<sup>1</sup>  
 and-pleased say.PFV-3SG.M to wife-his  
*walla ʾana xze-li xa xùra*<sup>1</sup>  
 indeed I meet.PFV-1SG one friend  
*go ṭura*<sup>1</sup> *bāle gùrgā-le*.<sup>1</sup>  
 in mountain but wolf=COP.PRS.3SG.M.

And pleased, he told his wife 'Indeed, I met a friend on the mountain, but he is a wolf.

(6) *kud-yom g-emər-Ø*  
 every-day IND-say-3SG.M

"Every day"—he said—

*ʾana b-yāwən-nox xă kurkamàna.<sup>1</sup>*  
 I FUT-give-1SG.M-O.2SG.M one golden

“I will give you one golden coin.”

*ʾūd-le =li ʾədyo kurkamàna.<sup>1</sup>*  
 make.PFV-3SG.M =O.1SG today golden

He has given me a golden coin today.’

*kud-yom g-ezəl-Ø l-tura u-g-ewəð-Ø*  
 every-day IND-go-3SG.M to-mountain and-IND-make-3SG.M

*šīwe<sup>1</sup> u-k-eθe-Ø gurga g-yāwəl-Ø-le*  
 wood and-IND-come-3SG.M wolf IND-give-3SG.M-O.3SG.M

*kurkamàna.<sup>1</sup>*  
 golden

So every day, he goes to the mountain, cuts wood and the wolf comes and gives him a coin.

(7) *pəš-le xă yarxa,<sup>1</sup> trè,<sup>1</sup> t!àha,<sup>1</sup> xă šàta.<sup>1</sup>*  
 stay.PFV-3SG.M one month two, three, one year

One month went by, then two, three, one year.

*baxt-e g-əmr-a wa!la*  
 wife-his IND-say-3SG.F indeed

*hatxa xòš naša,<sup>1</sup> bəš=ile.<sup>1</sup>*  
 such good.SG.M man good.SG.M=COP.PRS.3SG.M

His wife said, ‘What a kind man! He is good.

*ʾana g-əb-an ʾoð-an-ne qàðdre,<sup>1</sup>*  
 I IND-want-1SG.F make-1SG.F-O.3SG.M dishes

I want to make some dishes for him,

*qaḏr-an-ne*      *u-ʿazm-ax-le*      *kəs-lan*    *l-bèḡa.*<sup>1</sup>  
 treat-1SG.F-O.3SG.M    and-invite-1PL-O.3SG.M    by-us      to-house

I shall treat him, we shall invite him for a feast at our house.

*ʾoḏ-ax-le*      *xa*      *ʾixala*    *basim-a*<sup>1</sup>    *u-məstaʿən-Ø*  
 make-1PL-O.3SG.M    some    food    good-SG.M    and-enjoy.oneself-3SG.M

*go beḡa*    *kəs-lan*    *u-doq-ax*    *qàḏre.*<sup>1</sup>  
 in house    by-us      and-hold-1PL    banquet

We shall prepare some good food for him, he will enjoy himself at our house and we will feast together.’

(8) *g-emər-Ø*    *ta-la*    *šùq-Ø-le.*<sup>1</sup>  
 IND-say-3SG.M    to-her    leave.IMP-SG-O.3SG.M

He says to her ‘Leave him alone.

*gùrgā-le.*<sup>1</sup>      *ḥèwan-ile.*<sup>1</sup>  
 wolf=COP.PRS.3SG.M.    animal=COP.PRS.3SG.M

He’s a wolf. He’s an animal.

*mā*    *b-aḡe-Ø*      *go naše?*<sup>1</sup>    *naše*    *b-zàdʾ-i.*<sup>1</sup>  
 what    FUT-come-3SG.M    in    people?    people    FUT-fear-3PL

What does it mean “He will come among people?” People will be afraid.

*mbàrbəʿā-Ø-lu*    *gurga*    *yaʾal-Ø*    *go maḡa.*<sup>1</sup>  
 alarm-3SG.M-O.3PL    wolf    enter-3SG.M    in city

A wolf that enters the city will alarm them.’

*g-əmr-a*      *lā,*<sup>1</sup>    *lā,*<sup>1</sup>    *mar-Ø-re.*      *ʾàḡe-Ø.*<sup>1</sup>  
 IND-say-3SG.F    no,    no,    say.IMP-SG-O.3SG.M    come-3SG.M

She said, ‘No, no, tell him to come.’



- (9) *zəl-le*            *g-emər-Ø*            *ṭà-le,*<sup>1</sup>  
 go.PFV-3SG.M    IND-say-3SG.M    to-o.3SG.M  
*g-emər-Ø*            *ʾana*            *l-èb-i*            *ʾaθ-ən.*<sup>1</sup>  
 IND-say-3SG.M    I            NEG-can-1SG    come-1SG.M

So he went and told the wolf, but he said, 'I can't come.

*gùrga*            *=wən,*            *k-əxl-ən*            *nàše.*<sup>1</sup>  
 wolf            =COP.PRS.1SG.M    IND-eat-1SG.M    man

I am a wolf. I eat people.

*b-aθ-ən*            *go*            *maθa*            *kull-u*            *mbàrbə<sup>c</sup>-i.*<sup>1</sup>  
 FUT-come-1SG.M    in            city            all-them            alarm-3PL

If I come to town, everyone will be alarmed.'

- (10) *zəl-le*            *mər-re*            *ta*            *baxta*            *hàtxa*  
 go.PFV-3SG.M    say.PFV-3SG.M    to            wife            such  
*g-emər-Ø*            *gurga.*<sup>1</sup>  
 IND-say-3SG.M    wolf

So the man went and told his wife, this is what the wolf said.

*ʾaz*            *g-əmr-a*            *šud*            *ʾaθe-Ø*            *b-lèle,*            *xàška.*<sup>1</sup>  
 so            IND-say-3SG.F    let            come-3SG.M    at-night            darkness

So she said, let him come at night, when there is darkness.

*bə-daw*            *wàxt<sup>1</sup>*            *l-əθ-wa*            *beherùθa<sup>1</sup>.*  
 in-OBL.that.M    time.SG.M    NEG-EXIST.PST    light

At that time, there were no lights.

*l-əθ-wa*            <sup>A</sup>*anṭariq<sup>A</sup>*            <sup>H</sup>*menoròt<sup>H</sup>.*  
 NEG-EXIST-PST    by.way.of            lamps

<sup>A</sup>*kahraba<sup>A</sup>*            *l-əθ-wa.*<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>A</sup>electricity<sup>A</sup>            NEG-EXIST-PST

There were not, for instance, lamps. There was no electricity.

*xəṣka wewa.*<sup>1</sup>  
darkness COP.PST.3SG.M

It was dark.

*u-pāyəṣ-Ø-wa xəṣka,<sup>1</sup> kull-a maṯa xəṣka*  
and-stay-3SG.M-PST darkness all-3SG.F city darkness  
*wawa.*<sup>1</sup>  
COP.PST.3SG.F

When it got dark, the whole city would be dark.

(11) *g-əmr-a dammæt payəṣ-Ø*  
IND-say-3SG.F when stay-3SG.M  
*xəṣka,<sup>1</sup> šud 'aṯe-Ø,<sup>1</sup>*  
darkness let come-3SG.M

She said, 'Let him come after it gets dark.

*beθ-an wele bə-dumāḥik dət maṯa.<sup>1</sup>*  
house-our COP.DEIC.3SG.M in-outskirts of city

Our house is situated on the outskirts of town.

*b-aṯe-Ø kəs-lan beṯa u-b-āzəl-Ø.<sup>1</sup>*  
FUT-come-3SG.M by-us house and-FUT-go-3SG.M

He will come straight to our house and go back.

*čū-xa la k-xāzè-Ø-le.<sup>1</sup>*  
no-one NEG IND-see-3SG.M-O.3SG.M

No one will see him.'

*g-emər-Ø baxt-i b-oḏ-a-lox xa 'azime bāš.*  
IND-say-3SG.M wife-my FUT-make-3SG.F-O.2SG.M some banquet good

So he told the wolf, 'My wife will make you a great banquet.'

*mər-re      ʔa-le      b-àθ-ən,<sup>1</sup>      g-emər-Ø      b-àθ-ən.<sup>1</sup>*  
 say.PFV-3SG.M    to-him    FUT-come-1SG.M    IND-say-3SG.M    FUT-come-1SG.M

He replied to him. 'I will come,' he said, 'I will come.'

*g-emər-Ø,    <sup>H</sup>ʔov<sup>H</sup>,    b-àθ-ən.<sup>1</sup>*  
 IND-say-3SG.M    well,    FUT-come-1SG.M

[The wolf] said, 'Well then, I will come.'