

Neo-Aramaic and Kurdish Folklore from Northern Iraq

A Comparative Anthology with a Sample of Glossed Texts

VOLUME 1



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TEXT 6: §1–13

Dorota Molin

(1) ʾaw brət mālka wewa.¹
that.M son.of king COP.PST.3SG.M

He was the son of a king.

brət mālka wewa.¹
son-of king COP.PST.3SG.M

He was the son of a king.

ʾawa u-beθa lā-θe-le l-ʾuxḏaḏe.¹
he and-house NEG-come.PFV-3SG.M to-each.other

He did not get along with his family.

šqe-le b-dānye xəš-le.¹
go.PFV-3SG.M in-world go.PFV-3SG.M

He wandered in the world, he went.

šqe-le b-dānye qam-xaze-Ø-le wə-re
travel.PFV-3SG.M in-world PFV-see-3PL-O.3SG.M pass.PFV-3SG.M

gu xa ʾaθra xəna,¹ xa xayatuθa xəna.¹
in some land other some life other

He travelled around and they saw him enter another country and
[begin] a new life.

*qam-dawq-i-le, dar-i-le gu sàjən.*¹
 PFV-seize-3PL-O.3SG.M put-3PL-O.3SG.M in prison

They arrested him and put him in prison.

(2) *malka mà xze-le b-xulm-e?*¹
 king what see.PFV-3SG.M in-dream-his

What did the king see in his dream?

har malka b-gan-e xze-le b-xulm-e
 also king in-self-his see.PFV-3SG.M in-dream-his

The king himself saw in his dream:

*ʔəštá tawraθa zābun¹ xala əštá ʔriṣ-e.*¹
 six cows skinny eat.INF six healthy-PL

six skinny cows were devouring six healthy cows.

*u-mà xze-le b-xulme diyye har ʔawu b-gan-e?*¹
 and-what see.PFV-3SG.M in-dream-his his also he in-self-his

What did [Joseph] see in a dream?

ʔawu b-gan-e mà xze-le
 he in-self-his and-what see.PFV-3SG.M

*b-xulm-e ^Anaḥs əl-lele^A?*¹
 in-dream-his same DEF-night

What did he see in his dream the same night?

xze-le b-xulm-e,¹ hole xzada dàxla,¹
 see.PFV-3SG.M in-dream-his COP.DEIC.3SG.M harvest.INF wheat

He saw in his dream that they were harvesting wheat.

*ʔəšta baqaθa d-daxla sahd-i lbaq-e diyye.*¹
 six bundles of-wheat bow.down-3PL to-his his

Six bundles of wheat worshipped his bundles.

(3) *mər-e* *ʿana* *yið-ən-na* *māndi-la,*¹
 say.PFV-3SG.M I know-1SG.M-O.3SG.F what=COP.3SG.F
bas *l-è-maxk-ən-na.*¹
 but NEG-IND-tell-1SG.M-O.3SG.F

He said ‘I know what it is [about], but I won’t tell.’

mər-e *‘māndi-le?’* *māxke-Ø-le* *māndi-le!’*
 say.PFV-3SG.M what=COP.3SG.M tell.IMP-SG.M-O.3SG.M what=COP.3SG.M

They said ‘What is it? Tell us what it is!’

mər-e *l-è-maxk-ən-na,*¹ *l-è-hane-Ø-li.*¹
 say.PFV-3SG.M NEG-IND-tell-1SG.M-O.3SG.F NEG-IND-please-3SG.M-O.1SG

‘I won’t tell, I am not comfortable telling,’ he said.

ʿana *u-xunwàθ-i-wax.*¹
 I and-brothers-my=COP.1PL

‘It is about me and my brothers.

t-aθe-Ø *yoma* *ʿan* *xunwaθ-i*
 FUT-come-3SG.M day these brothers-my
p-sàhd-i *ʿall-i,*¹ *bas* *qam-ṭard-ì-li.*¹
 FUT-bowndown-3PL to-me but PFV-expel-3PL-O.1SG

A day will come when my brothers will kneel down before me,
 but they have expelled me.’

(4) *mər-e* *ʿla,* *ʿad* *ʿawa* *b-yiðè-Ø-le*
 say.PFV-3SG.M no SBR he FUT-know-3SG.M-O.3SG.M
xulm-ət *dawa* *mālka,*¹ *m-nabl-àx-le.*¹
 dream-of OBL.that.M king FUT-take-1PL-O.3SG.M

They said ‘He will be able to interpret the king’s dream, let’s take
 him [to the king].’

xəš-le kəs-le diyye
go.PFV-3SG.M to-him his

He went to him.

mər-e mândi=la qəşəttə,¹ faqîra?'
say.PFV-3SG.M what=COP.3SG.F story poor.man

He said 'What is the story, poor fellow?

mândi=le qəşətt-ət
what=COP.3SG.F story-of

'əštá tawraθa zābun 'axl-i trîş-e?'
six cows skinny eat-3PL healthy-PL

What is the story of six skinny cows devouring fat ones?'

mər-e 'pt-aθe-Ø-lux 'əštá šanne xa xâððə,¹
say.PFV-3SG.M FUT-come-3SG.M-to.you six years some famine
xa garàni,¹ 'ajebùθa.¹
some starvation wonder

He said 'You will have six years of famine, a rise in prices, something astonishing.

(5) *m-daha mhàm-i,¹ mli-le gunîye,*
therefore believe.IMP-SG.M fill.IMP.SG.M-O.3PL sacks
'anna maxazən diyyux xətte u-dàbra,¹
these store.houses your.SG.M grains and-wheat
b-bary-a garani b-xèla,¹ ya'ni xelàn-ta.¹
FUT-happen-3SG.F famine in-strength I mean strong-SG.F

Therefore, believe [me], you need to gather wheat and fill your sacks, your storehouses with wheat and corn, because a severe famine will come, I mean.

ʾāštá šanne garani pt-awy-a.¹
 six years famine FUT-be-SG.F

There will be a terrible famine for six years.'

ʾawa mjume^c-le mjume^c-le mjume^c-le
 he gather.PFV-3SG.M gather.PFV-3SG.M gather.PFV-3SG.M
 mjumè^c-le.¹
 gather.PFV-3SG.M

[The king] began to store wheat, more and more.

(6) ʾayya baxte diyye dre-la ʾena ʾall-e
 this.F wife-his his put.PFV-3SG.F eye on-him
 diyye.¹
 his

[Meanwhile,] his (the king's) wife began to look at him with desire.

ʾaz-a-wa bàθr-e,¹ bàθr-e,¹
 go-3SG.F-PST after-him after-him
 ʾamr-a hayyu l-beθa xōl-Ø u-štì.¹
 say-3SG.F come.IMP.SG to-house eat.IMP-SG and-drink.IMP.SG.M

She would follow him and say 'Come, eat and drink.'

hal hādax qam-awð-a-le,¹
 until such PFV-do-3SG.F-O.3SG.M
 mār-a b-y-an-ne tāj mālka ʾta-lux.¹
 say.PFV-3 FUT-give-1SG.F-O.3SG.M crown king to-you.SG.M

She did this: she told him 'I'll give you the king's crown.'

(7) mār-e ʾana ^KZambil Fròš^K =iwen,¹
 say.PFV-3 I basket seller =COP.1SG.M

He said 'But I am a basket-seller.'

y-zaqr-ən *zanbire* *u-haqq-i* *b-y-at-te*
 IND-weave-1SG.M baskets and-right-my FUT-give-2SG.F-O.3SG.M

xa *lîra,*¹ *pt-àz-ən.*¹
 one lira FUT-go-1SG.M

I weave baskets for which I earn one lira, and then I leave.

’àw *wele* *šuli,*¹ *’ana* *l-è-peš-ən*
 that.M COP.DEIC.3SG.M work-my I NEG-IND-become-1SG.M

malka *’ana.*¹
 king I

This is my profession. I will not become a king.

l-è-haw-ən *malka.*¹
 NEG-IND-be-1SG.M king

I will not be a king.’

wele *šul-e* *diyye* *hadax.*
 COP.DEIC.3SG.M work-his his thus

This was his job.

u-malka *qam-kābe-Ø-le* *u-mān-ne* *mānn-e.*¹
 and-king PFV-like-3SG.M-O.3SG.M and-help.PFV-3SG.M O-3SG.M

u-’ap *’awa* *mān-ne* *mān* *dāwa.*¹
 and-even he help.PFV-3SG.M O-3SG.M OBL.that.M

The king liked him and helped him, and he in turn helped him.

(8) *θe-la* *xa* *zawna* *xunwaθa* *diyye*
 come.PFV-3SG.F certain time brothers his

*hîr-e,*¹
 distressed-PL

A time came when his brothers were in distress.

*šme'lu gu flan dawla 'əθ dabra mزابòne.*¹
 hear-PFV-3 in a.certain country EXIST wheat sell.INF

They heard that in such-and-such a country there was wheat for sale.

*xəš-le xa b-xa mənne-e.*¹
 go.PFV-3SG.M one with-one of-them

They all went to him, one by one.

mà wed-le 'awa?
 what do.PFV-3SG.M he

What did he (Zambil Frosh) do?

(9) *'awa-le kyala 'àn xətte*¹
 he-COP.3SG.M measure.INF these grain

*u-dráyə-lla tə-lehi.*¹
 and-place.INF-O.3SG.F to-them

It was] he [who] measured the grain and put it in their sacks.

šqəl-le xa kas-ət dehwa 'əθ-wā-le
 take.PFV-3SG.M one cup-of gold EXIST-PST-3SG.M

He took out a golden cup which he had.

*y-dar-i p-kas-ət dèhwa,*¹
 IND-put-3PL in-cup-of gold

They used to put [the grain] in a golden cup.

*qam-dare-Ø-le gu ten-et xa mənne-e.*¹
 PFV-put-3SG.M-O.3SG.M in load-of one of-them

And he put it in the sack of one of them.

*xəšle,*¹ *rxəq-le t-maṭ-e l-mḏita.*¹
 go.PFV-3PL go_far.PFV-3PL SBR-arrive-3PL to-city

They went back to their [home] city.

*xəš-le har jēš baθr diyye.*¹
 go.PFV-3SG.M even army after them

An army went pursuing them.

(10) *mər-e har ʾawa,¹ mər-e ta malka*
 say.PFV-3SG.M even he say.PFV-3SG.M to king
ʾana hāt̤xa pt-awð-ən,¹
 I thus FUT-do-1SG.M

[Zambil Frosh] said, he told the king ‘This is what I am going to do.

*qam-ganw-i-la ʾayya ʾamana dīyyux.*¹
 PFV-steal-3PL-O.3SG.F this.F cup your.SG.M

They have stolen your cup.’

*ʾanna xunwaθa diyye-le.*¹
 these brothers his=COP.3PL

They were his own brothers.

*xəš-le baθr-e hal qurbət mð̄itey,*¹
 go.PFV-3SG.M after-him until near-of city-their

They chased them outside their city.

*yaʿani wàra,¹ qam-dawq-ì-le,¹ meθ-ì-le.*¹
 I mean outside PFV-seize-3PL-O.3PL bring-3PL-O.3PL

I mean, [they were] outside when they captured them and brought them [back].

(11) *mər-e ʾqày,¹ màx wið-e?*¹
 say.PFV-3PL how how do.PTCP-PL

They said ‘But how, what have we done?’

čù mändi,¹ l-èx wið-e 'axni.¹ 'mər-e lā,¹
 no thing NEG-COP.1PL do.PTCP-PL we say.PFV-3SG.M no

Nothing, we have done [nothing].'

wutu gniwə-lla taz-ət dèhwa.¹
 COP.2PL steal.PTCP.SG.M-O.3SG.F cup-of gold

You have stolen the gold cup.'

'daxxi, 'axni mätu b-gónw-ax-la?¹
 how we how FUT-steal-1PL-O.3SG.F

'How, how could we steal it?!

yalla yalla mte-la dabra 'all-an
 quickly quickly arrive-PFV-3SG.F wheat to-us

The wheat has barely arrived in our city.

u-naše kull-a mət-la m-kupna t-mamṭ-ax
 and-people all-them die.PFV-3PL of-hunger SBR-bring-1PL
 l-mðita.¹
 to-city

Our people were dying of hunger before we would bring [it] to the city!'

mər-e 'pθux-u gùniyat-exu.¹
 say.PFV-3SG.M open.IMP-PL sacks-your.PL

He said 'Open your sacks.'

har 'awa qam-paθax-Ø-le 'ay guniya.¹
 even he PFV-open-3SG.M-O.3SG.M this.F sack

He himself opened the sack.

mər-e də-mbarb-i 'àxxa.¹
 say.PFV-3SG.M SBR-empty-3PL here

He told them to empty it here.

*płət-la kas-ət dehwa tàmā.*¹
 come.out.PFV-3SG.F cup-of gold there

The golden cup fell out.

(12) *ʿanna mà wəd-le?*¹
 these what do.PFV-3PL

What did they do?

*qam-šaqł-i-le ʿaw xon-e.*¹
 PFV-take-3PL-O.3SG.M that.M brother-their

They took [one of] their brother[s].

*yaʿāni yðe-le ʿəbb-e diyye.*¹
 I mean know.PFV-3PL with-him his

I mean, they recognised him.

qam-šaqł-i-le xunwaθa diyye ʿaw t-ile
 PFV-take-3PL-O.3SG.M brothers his that.M SBR-COP.3SG.M

*kəs mālka.*¹
 with king

[Then] they took him with them, the brother who was with the king.

(13) *xəš-le ʿabb-e b-dabra diyye.*¹
 go.PFV-3SG.M with-them with-wheat their

They went away with their grain.

*kut-māndi t-āwèð-Ø-wa, l-əθ-wa laʿa.*¹
 every-thing SBR-do-3SG.M-PST NEG-EXIST-PST no

There was no objection to anything he did.

ʾəštá šənnē y-sahd-i-wa ʾəll-e diyye.¹
 six years IND-bow.down-3PL-PST to-him his

y-ʿabd-ì-wa-le.¹
 IND-worship-3PL-PST-O.3SG.M

They would kneel before him for six years, they worshipped him.

u-hul ʾegət t-ile piš-e gor-e
 and-until when SBR-COP.3SG.M become.PTCP-PL grown.up-PL

u-gwir-e kùll-e,¹ ʾaw xona rayyās
 and-married.PTCP-PL all-them that.M brother chief

diyyehi wèwa.¹
 their COP.PST.3SG.M

Until they all grew up and got married, that brother was their chief.

ʾana ʾo mändi tnàyə-llax.¹
 I this.M thing tell.INF-O.2SG.F

This is what I am telling you.