Neo-Aramaic and Kurdish Folklore from Northern Iraq

A Comparative Anthology with a Sample of Glossed Texts

VOLUME 1

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JEWISH ARAMAIC OF ZAKHO
TEXT 25: §2–7, 9

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Audio: https://nena.ames.cam.ac.uk/audio/226/

(2) *ʾəs-wa* *xa* *ᴴbaḥùrᴴⵌ,*
 EXIST-PST one young.man

ᴴmeʾód *meʾód* *yăfè̀ᴴ* *we-le.*ⵌ
very very beautiful.SG.M PST.COP-3SG.M

There was [once] a young man, he was very, very handsome.

*ᴴmuxšàr,*ⵌ *ṭòv,*ⵌ *yăfè̀ᴴ.*ⵌ
gifted.SG.M good.SG.M beautiful.SG.M

[He was] talented, good, handsome.

kull-u *ʿalam* *g-žăġl-i*ⵌ
all-their world IND-work-3PL

u-mparnəs-i *gyàn-u,*ⵌ *g-oz-i* *šoʾàle.*ⵌ
and-sustain-3PL self.SG.F-their IND-work-3PL works

Everybody else worked to support themselves, doing their work.

ʾawa *g-ēr-∅,* *'la',* *là* *g-be-wa.*ⵌ
he IND-say-3SG.M no NEG IND-want-3SG.M-PST

[But] he said no, he did not want to.

(3) *bab-e*   *yəmm-e*   *mjozè-lu*ǀ   *mən*   *maḥkòye*ǀ
    father-his   mother-his   tire.PFV-3PL   from   speak.INF

*ʿkappàr-ox*ǀ   *si*   *žǧòl-∅*ǀ   *d-gòr-ət*ǀ
sacrifice-your.SG.M   go.IMP.SG.M   work.IMP-SG   SBR-marry-2SG.M

dəd   *yàtw-ət*ǀ   *dət*   *haʾ…,*
SBR   dwell-2SG.M   SBR   oh

His parents exhausted themselves discussing [this with him].
'Please, go to work so that you can marry, so that can you settle
down.'

ma   *p̂-awe-∅*   *bəd*   *bèsa?!*ǀ
what   FUT-be-3SG.M   in   house

Why should he stay at home?

*mà-l-ox?!'*ǀ   *la*   *g-žàǧl-ən*   *g-ēr-∅.*ǀ
what-to-you.SG.M   NEG   IND-1SG.M   IND-say-3SG.M

'What is it with you?' 'I shall not work,' he said.

la   *g-žàǧəl-∅*   ᴴ*ʿaṣlắn*ᴴ.ǀ   *là*   *g-žaǧəl-∅.*ǀ
NEG   IND-work-3SG.M   lazy   NEG   IND-work-3SG.M

He does not work, the lazy [one]! He does not work.

*kaṣlằn.*ǀ   *hè*ǀ,   ᴴ*ʿaṣlắn*ᴴ   *kaṣlằn,*
lazy   yes   lazy   lazy

Lazy. Yes, [he is] lazy, lazy.

hile   *dmìxa*   *xa*   *teʾna.*ǀ
DEIC.COP.3SG.M   sleep.PTCP-M.SG.   one   fig.tree

He is sleeping under a fig tree.

(4) *ʾèha,*ǀ *ḥakoma* *day*   *bàžər,*ǀ *ʾət-le*   *ṭlaha*
     this.F   ruler   OBL.DEF.SG.F city   EXIST-3SG.M   three

*bnàsa.*ǀ   *mutw-i-le*   *kut-ṭla-hùn*ǀ
daughters   seat.PFV-O.3PL-3SG.M   all-three-their

The king of that city had three daughters. He sat them down.

g-emər-∅,   *ʿsà-wun*ǀ   *bnàs-i,*ǀ
IND-say-3SG.M   go.IMP-PL   daughters-my

măni   *bəž*   *g-əbè-∅-li?*ǀ
who   more   IND-love-3SG.M-O.1SG

He said 'Come, my daughters, which [of you] loves me the most?'

(5) *ʾay*   *rab-sa*   *g-əmr-a*   *ʿbàb-i,*ǀ
     DEF.SG.F   big-FS   IND-say-3FS father-my

g-əb-an-nox   *qčīn*   *məlk-əd*   *dùnye.*ǀ
IND-love-1SG.F-O.2SG.M   like   king-of   world

The oldest said, 'My father, I love you like the king of the world,
as much as I love him.

kma   *g-əb-an-ne*   *ʾe*   *bohora-ət*   *dùnye,*ǀ
how.much   IND-love-1SG.F-O.3SG.M   DEF.SG.F   light-of   world

ʾahət   *g-əb-an-nox*   *ᴴʾòtoᴴ.*ǀ
you.SG.M   IND-LOVE-1SG.F-O.2SG.M   same

As much as I love the light of the world, so I love *you.*'

*ʿg-əb-àt-ti.*ǀ
IND-love-2SG.F-O.1SG.M

[The king said: 'Indeed] you love me.'

ʾay   *xet*   *g-ēr-∅-ra*
DEF.SG.F   other.INV   IND-say-3SG.M-O.3SG.F

The other one—[the king] said to her,

ʿbrat-i   kma   g-əb-àt-ti?ʾ|
daughter-my   how.much   IND-love-2SG.F-O.1SG.M

'My daughter, how much do you love me?'

g-əmr-a   ʿmad   mər-ra   xàs-i.|
IND-say-3SG.F   like   say.PFV-3SG.F   sister-my

She said, 'Whatever my sister has said.

qčīn   bohora-ət   ʾèn-i|
like   light-of   eyes-my

u-ᴴbriyutᴴ   didi   g-b-àn-nox.ʾ|
and-health   my   IND-love-1SG.F-O.2SG.M

Like the light of my eyes and my health I love you.'

g-ēr-∅,   ʾʾay   trè.ʾ|
IND-say-3SG.F   DEF.SG.F   two

He said… [That was] the second one.

(6)   məse-le   ʾay   zùr-ta,|
      bring.PFV-3SG.M   DEF.SG.F   little-SG.F

He brought the youngest one.

ʿbrat-i   ʾāt   kma   g-əb-àt-ti?ʾ|
daughter-my   you.SG.F   how.much   IND-love-2SG.F-O.1SG.M

My daughter, and you, how much do you love me?'

g-àmr-a| bàb-i| g-əb-àn-nox| qčīn   məlxa
IND-say-3SG.F   father-my   IND-love-1SG.F-O.2SG.M   like   salt

dət   g-dare-∅   ʾəl   qə̀zra
SBR   IND-put-3PL   on   dish

She said, 'My father, I love you like the salt they put in cooked food,

ṃaṭo	*p̂-oy-a*	*basəm-ta,*	*ʾoto*	*g-əb-àn-nox.*
how	FUT-be-3SG.F	tasty-SG.F	same	IND-love-1SG.F-O.2SG.M

the way it makes [the food] delicious, so I love you.'

(7)   *ʾʾowà!*   *mux*   *məlxa*   *g-əb-at-ti*   *bàs?!*

         aha   like   salt   IND-love-1SG.F-O.SG.M   only

'Oh! You love me only this much?!'

g-ēr-∅,	*ʾahat*	*la*	*g-nafʾ-at*	*ṭà-li.*
IND-say-3SG.M	you.SG.M	NEG	IND-suffice-2SG.F	to-me

'You are not [good] enough for me.

šqol-∅	*čaṇṭa*	*didax*	*u-s-è.*
take.IMP-SG	bag	your.SG.F	and-go.IMP-SG.F

take your bag and go [away].

la	*g-yaw-ən-nax*	*čù-məndi.*
NEG	IND-give-1SG.M-O.2SG.F	any-thing

I shall not give you anything.

ʾanya	*trè*	*bnas-i-lu,*
these	two	daughters-my=COP.3PL

ʾahat	*le-at*	*bràt-i,*	*wiii!*
you.SG.F	NEG-COP.2SG.F	daughter-my	oh

Those two are my daughters, you are not my daughter, you!'

(9)   *ʾe*   *šqəl-la*   *čaṇṭa*   *dida.*

         she   take.PFV-3F.SG   bag   her

She took her bag.

èka	*b-ᴴʾazᴴ-a*
where	FUT-go-3SG.F

Where could she go [now]

ʾəla   daw   ^Hkerem^H   dət   bàb-a?[|]
except   OBL.DEF-SG.M   vineyard   of   father-her

if not to her father's vineyard?

ʾət-le   ^Hkerem^H   rùww-a,
EXIST-3SG.M   vineyard   big-SG.M

He had a large vineyard.

g-əmr-a   g-b-an   yatw-an   tàma
IND-say-3SG.F   IND-want-1SG.F   sit-1SG.F   there

She said [to herself], 'I want to stay there.

b-oz-an-ni   xa   ^Hpinà. ^{H|}
FUT-make-1SG.F-O.1SG.F   one   corner

I will make [there] a place for myself.

k-xazy-an   hil   doq-an   gyàn-i,[|]
IND-see-1SG.F   until   collect-1SG.F   self.SG.F-my

ma   ʾòz-an   ma   la   ʾoz-àn.[|]
what   do-1SG.F   what   NEG   do-1SG.F

I will wait there until I collect myself, [decide] what to do and what not to do.'