

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

Dorota Molin

Speaker: Samra Zaqen

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

(2) ʾəs-wa xa ^Hbaḥūr^H,
EXIST-PST one young.man

^Hmeʾód meʾód yǎfè^H we-le.[|]
very very beautiful.SG.M PST.COP-3SG.M

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

^Hmuxšār,[|] tòn,[|] yǎfè^H.[|]
gifted.SG.M good.SG.M beautiful.SG.M

[He was] talented, good, handsome.

kull-u ʿalam g-žàgl-i[|]
all-their world IND-work-3PL

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

Everybody else worked to support themselves, doing their work.

ʾawa g-ēr-Ø, ʿlaʾ, là g-be-wa.[|]
he IND-say-3SG.M no NEG IND-want-3SG.M-PST

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

(3) *bab-e yamm-e mjozè-lu[|] mən maḥkòye[|]*
 father-his mother-his tire.PFV-3PL from speak.INF
‘kappàr-ox[|] si žgòl-Ø[|] d-gòr-ət[|]
 sacrifice-your.SG.M go.IMP.SG.M work.IMP-SG SBR-marry-2SG.M
dəd yàtw-ət[|] dət ha’...
 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 p-awe-Ø bəd bèsa?![|]
 what FUT-be-3SG.M in house

Why should he stay at home?

mà-l-ox?![|] la g-žàğl-ən g-ēr-Ø.[|]
 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-žàğl-Ø ^Hcašlân^H! là g-žàğl-Ø.[|]
 NEG IND-work-3SG.M lazy NEG IND-work-3SG.M

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

kašlân.[|] hè[|], ^Hcašlân^H kašlân,
 lazy yes lazy lazy

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

hile dmìxa xa te’na.[|]
 DEIC.COP.3SG.M sleep.PTCP-M.SG. one fig.tree

He is sleeping under a fig tree.

- (4) ʿèha,[|] ḥakoma day bāžər,[|] ʿət-le ṭlaha
 this.F ruler OBL.DEF.SG.F city EXIST-3SG.M three
 bnàsa.[|] mutw-i-le kut-ṭla-hùn[|]
 daughters seat.PFV-O.3PL-3SG.M all-three-their

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

- g-emər-Ø, ʿsà-wun[|] bnàs-i,[|]
 IND-say-3SG.M go.IMP-PL daughters-my
 māni bəž g-əbè-Ø-li?[|]
 who more IND-love-3SG.M-O.1SG

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

- (5) ʿay rab-sa g-əmr-a ʿbāb-i,[|]
 DEF.SG.F big-FS IND-say-3FS father-my
 g-əb-an-nox qčīn malk-əd dūnye.[|]
 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 ʿe bohora-ət dūnye,[|]
 how.much IND-love-1SG.F-O.3SG.M DEF.SG.F light-of world
 ʿahət g-əb-an-nox H^oəto^H.[|]
 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-ət-ti.[|]
 IND-love-2SG.F-O.1SG.M

[The king said: ‘Indeed] you love me.’

- ʿay xet g-ēr-Ø-ra
 DEF.SG.F other.INV IND-say-3SG.M-O.3SG.F

The other one—[the king] said to her,

'brat-i kma g-əb-āt-ti?'¹
 daughter-my how.much IND-love-2SG.F-O.1SG.M

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

g-əmr-a 'mad mər-ra xàs-i.¹
 IND-say-3SG.F like say.PFV-3SG.F sister-my

She said, 'Whatever my sister has said.

qčīn bohora-ət 'ən-i.¹
 like light-of eyes-my

u-^Hbriyut^H didi g-b-àn-nox.¹
 and-health my IND-love-1SG.F-O.2SG.M

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

g-ēr-Ø, 'ay trè.¹
 IND-say-3SG.F DEF.SG.F two

He said... [That was] the second one.

(6) mase-le 'ay zūr-ta.¹
 bring.PFV-3SG.M DEF.SG.F little-SG.F

He brought the youngest one.

'brat-i 'āt kma g-əb-āt-ti?'¹
 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-əmr-a¹ bāb-i¹ g-əb-àn-nox¹ qčīn mālxa
 IND-say-3SG.F father-my IND-love-1SG.F-O.2SG.M like salt

dət g-dare-Ø 'əl qəzra
 SBR IND-put-3PL on dish

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

maṭo *ḥ-oy-a* *basəm-ta,*[|] *ʾoto* *g-əb-ən-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) *ʾowà!*[|] *mux* *məlxə* *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-Ø, *ʾahat* *la* *g-naḥ²-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-Ø *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!*^ʾ
 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^{-H}az^H-a*[|]
 where FUT-go-3SG.F

Where could she go [now]

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

if not to her father's vineyard?

ʿat-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 ʿòz-an ma la ʿoz-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.'