

Neo-Aramaic and Kurdish Folklore from Northern Iraq

A Comparative Anthology with a Sample of Glossed Texts

VOLUME 1



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NORTHERN KURDISH OF DURE

Text 20: §1-13

Masoud Mohammadirad

Speaker: Herish Rashid Tawfiq Beg

Audio: <https://kurdic.ames.cam.ac.uk/audio/249/>

(1) *nāv-ē* *mə* *Hêrəş-a.*[|]
name-EZ.M 1SG.OBL PN=COP

My name is Herish.

az *kuř-ē* *Řařid* *Bag-ē* *Barwārî=ma=û*[|] *az*
1SG.DIR son-EZ.M PN PN-EZ.M PN=COP.1SG=and 1SG.DIR

Barwārî=ma,[|]
PN=COP.1SG

I am the son of Rashid Bag Barwari, and I am from Barwari.

nāvî-yē *Tawfîq* *Bag-ē* *kuř-ē*
grandson-EZ.M PN PN-EZ.M son-EZ.M

hajî *Řařid* *Bàg-ē* *Barwārî.*[|]
PN PN PN-EZ.M PN

[I am] the grandson of Tawfiq Bag Barwari, [who is] the son of
Haji Rashid Bag Barwari.

az=ē bo wa čiròk-ā[|] haşp-ē mālbât-ē
 1SG.DIR=FUT for 2PL.OBL tale-EZ.F horse-EZ.M family-OBL.F

b-ēž-əm

SBJV-say.PRS-1SG

I am going to tell you the story of ‘the family horse’,

wakî bāb-ū bāpîr-ā bo mā
 like father-and grand.father-PL.OBL for 1SG.OBL

và-gaŕyā-yî.[|]

TELIC-turn.PST-PTCP

the way I have been told it by the elders.

(2) *t̤-bēž-ən ha-bū-Ø na-bū-Ø,[|]*
 IND-say.PRS-3PL EXIST-COP.PST-3SG NEG-COP.PST-3SG

It is said that there was and there was not,

kas šə xodē mǎž-tər na-bū-Ø,[|]
 person from god.OBL.M big-CMPR NEG-COP.PST-3SG

[but] there was nobody greater than God,

kas šə banî-yā žî dərawîn-tər na-bū-Ø[|]
 person from human-PL.OBL ADD liar-CMPR NEG-COP.PST-3SG

and no bigger liar than man.

zamān-aḵ-î[|] wē davar-ê[|] xalk-ê čə
 period-INDF-OBL.M DEM.DIST.OBL.F region-OBL.F people-OBL.F what

t̤-ḵər?[|]

IPFV-do.PST

What did the people in this region do once?

har bənamāl-aḵ-ē[|] hāşp-aḵ-ē makən-ē,[|] jəhēl-ē[|]
 each family-INDF-OBL.F horse-INDF-EZ.M solid-EZ.M young-EZ.M

Each family had a young, reliable horse

galà gala gala gala lāv ha-bū-Ø[|]
 very very very very strong EXIST-be.PST-3SG

that was very, very strong.

(3) *tə-bēž-ən àv ḥaṣp-ē hanē har*
 IND-say.PRS-3PL DEM.PROX horse-EZ.M DEICT.PTCL each
tə-nāv-ē bənamāl-ē ət-hāt-Ø=a nīyās.[|]
 in-middle-EZ.M family-OBL.F IPFV-come.PST-3SG=DRCT knowing

It is said that this [particular] horse (i.e. the horse of a certain family) was known in every family.

ya'nī xalk-ē av ḥaṣp-a bənamāl-ē
 that.is people-OBL.F DEM.PROX horse-DEM family-OBL.F
t-nīyāsī[|]
 IPFV-know.PST

That is, people knew this horse as the 'family horse'.

kas lə vī ḥaṣp-ī sīyār
 per- at DEM.PROX.3SG.OBL.M horse-OBL.M rider
 son
nà-t-bū-Ø.[|]
 NEG-IPFV-become.PST-3SG

Nobody would mount this horse.

sāl-ē jār-ak-ē av ḥaṣp-a darē t-xəst[|]
 year-OBL.F time-INDF-OBL.F DEM.PROX horse-DEM out IPFV-throw.PST
nīšā xalk-ē ət-dā[|]
 showing people-OBL.M IPFV-give.PST

Once a year, they (i.e. the family) would bring [the horse] out for people to see it.'

û xalk-ê madhâ pē t̤ə-k̤ər-ən.[|]
 and people-OBL.M praising to.3SG.OBL IPFV-do.PST-3PL

And people would praise it (i.e. the horse)

û xalk-ê haşp-ê xo bə wā
 and people-OBL.M horse-EZ.M REFL to DEM.PL.OBL

haşp-ā t̤ə-šəbəhānd-ən.[|]
 horse-PL.OBL IPFV-compare.PST.3PL

and compare their horses to those [family] horses.

(4) *haşp-ê bənamāl-ê yē čāwā bū-Ø?*[|]
 horse-EZ.M family-OBL.F EZ.M how COP.PST-3SG

[But] what was the family horse like?

bāb-ê haşp-î yē bənamāl-ê bū-Ø,[|] *Pəxîñê.*[|]
 father-EZ.M horse-OBL.M EZ.M family-OBL.F COP.PST-3SG PN

Its father, Pekhine, also belonged to this family.

kûr-ê wî haşp-î žî bə wē
 son-EZ.M DEM.DIST.OBL.M horse-OBL.M ADD with DEM.DIST.OBL.F

bənamāl-ê t̤-mā-Ø.[|]
 Family-OBL.F IPFV-stay.PST-3SG

Its colt also stayed with the same family.

kas-ê lə vî haşp-î žəbar
 person-EZ.M at DEM.PROX.OBL.M horse-OBL.M because.of

qîmāt-ā wî lē sîyār na-bū-Ø[|]
 value-EZ.F 3SG.OBL.M at.3SG.OBL rider NEG-COP.PST-3SG

Because of its value, nobody would mount the [family] horse.

tənē darē t̤ə-xəst bo jānî[|]
 only out IPFV-throw.PST for grandeur

It was only brought out of the stable for people to see its grandeur,

*ū va-šārt-ava tə gov-ē dā.*¹
and TELIC-hide.PST-TELIC in stable-OBL.F POST

and then hidden again in the stable.

(5) *t-bē-n sāl-aḳ-ēḥ ḥašp-ē bānamāl-aḳ-ēḥ*
IND-say.PRS-3PL year-INDF-OBL.F horse-EZ.M family-INDF-OBL.F
*ko gala gala galak yē barnīyāz bū*¹
COMPL very very very EZ.M known COP.PST.3SG

It is said that the horse of [a] family became so famous

ū xalk-ē hamī, ‘ya‘nī nāv-ū dang-ēt
and people-OBL.M all well name-and voice-EZ.PL
*vī ḥašp-ī čə bū-n?*¹
DEM.PROX.OBL.M horse-OBL.M what COP.PST-3PL

that everybody [said], ‘Well, what is [so] special about this horse?’

*ēḳ hāt-Ø=a dəzī-ēt ḥašp-ī.*¹
one come.PST-3SG=DRCT robbery-EZ.PL horse-OBL.M

A [certain] person came to steal the horse.

*xo āvēt=a tə gov-ē-va*¹
REFL throw.PST=DRCT in stable-OBL.F-POST

He went into the stable

*ū xo āvēt=a sar pəšt-ā ḥašp-ē wā.*¹
and REFL throw.PST=DRCT on back-EZ.F horse-EZ.M 3PL.OBL

and mounted the family horse.

*vā ḥašp-ē wā řavānd.*¹
DEM.PROX.3SG horse-EZ.M 3PL.OBL abduct.PST

He stole the horse.

(6) *zaqlām žīl xodān-ē ḥaṣp-ī pē*
 man add owner-EZ.M horse-OBL.M at.3SG.OBL

hasā-Ø.[|]
 understand.PST-3SG

The man, the owner of the horse found out [about the robbery].

dīt ēk-ī ḥaṣp-ē wā bār.[|]
 see.PST one-OBL.M horse-EZ.M 3PL.OBL take.PST

He saw that a person had taken their horse.

got-a kūr-ēt xo,[|]
 say.PST=DRCT son-EZ.PL REFL

He said to his sons,

‘həlū-n vē řā-bə-gah-ən[|]
 get.up.IMP-2PL DEM.PROX.OBL.F PVB-SBJV-arrive.PRS-2PL

‘Get up, go and reach the thief,

hatk-ā ma čū-Ø[|]
 honour-OBL.F 1PL.OBL go.PST-3SG

for we are disgraced.

ēk-ī ḥaṣp-ē ma bār,[|] *yē bənamāl-ē.*[|]
 one-OBL.M horse-EZ.M 1PL.OBL take.PST EZ.M family-OBL.F

Someone has taken our horse—the family horse—

av-ē bāb-ē ḥaṣp-ī əv bāb-ē
 DEM.PROX-EZ.M father-EZ.M horse-OBL.M DEM.PROX.3SG father-EZ.M

bənamāl-ē.[|]
 family-OBL.F

[Both] the horse’s father [and] the father of the family [said so].

- (7) *ya'nī žə bāb-ū kāl-ā-va ḥaṣp-ū*
 that.is from father-and elder-PL.OBL-POST horse-and
bənamāl pēkvà bū-n^l nažāt bo nažāt-ī.^l
 family together be.PST-3PL generation by generation-OBL.M

From the days of old (lit. from fathers and grandfathers), from one generation to the other, the horse and the family had lived together.

- gotī^l àv^l zaḷām-ē xodān-ē ḥaṣp-ī*
 say.PTCP DEM.PROX.3SG man-EZ.M pwner-EZ.M horse-OBL.M
čū-Ø
 go.PST-3SG

It is said that the owner of the family horse went

- lə ḥaṣp-ē xwa siyār bū-Ø.^l*
 at horse-EZ.M REFL rider COP.PST-3SG

and mounted his [other] horse.

- ū kuř-ēt wī žī dā dīv.^l*
 and son-EZ.PL 3SG.OBL ADD give.PST after

And his sons followed him.

- kat-n-a dīv ḥaṣp-ī^l kat-n-a dīv.^l*
 fall.PRS-3PL=DRCT after horse-OBL.M fall.PRS-3PL=DRCT after

They went after the [family] horse, they went after it.

- ū ḥaṣp řā-gər-ən čārgāvā.^l*
 and horse PVB-grab.PRS-3PL galloping

They galloped on their horses off [to the thief].⁷

- (8) *kuř-ēt wī žī ēḵ bə-dīv-va^l*
 son-EZ.PL 3SG.OBL.M ADD one in-after-POST

The sons [went] behind their father,

û bāb-ē bə-dīv dəzīkar-î-va.[|]
and father-EZ.M in-after thief-OBL.M-POST

and the father went after the thief.

dəzīkar-ē lə haşp-ē bənamāl-ē siyār-a.[|]
thief-EZ.M at horse-EZ.M family-OBL.F rider-COP.3SG

The thief was riding the family horse.

bāb ži lə haşp-ē xo siyār-a.[|]
father ADD at horse-EZ.M REFL rider-COP.3SG

The father was on his [other] horse.

har du kuř ži av dā wař-ēt
each two son ADD DEM.PROX.3SG give.PST thus-EZ.PL
wā-y dî[|]
3PL.OBL-EZ.M other

Similarly, his two sons followed each other.

kā kî žə bāgîr ha-ya lē lē
EXCL who at windy PTC=COP.3SG but at.3SG.OBL
siyār bûy-n.[|]
rider COP.PST.PTCP=COP.3PL

Even though it was [extremely] windy, they were riding their horses.

(9) *ta-bēž-ən bāb gahəşt-a dəzīkar-î.*[|]
IND-say.PRS-3PL father arrive.PST.3SG=DRCT thief-OBL.M

It is said that the father reached the thief.

dast-ē xwa hāvēt, dā gah-ət pātk-ā wî[|]
hand-EZ.M REFL throw.PST AUX reach.PRS-3SG scarf-EZ.F 3SG.OBL.M

He stretched out his hand to grab the thief's scarf

nà-gahašt-ē[|] *dast-ē* *xwa* *zəvəřānd-avā.*[|]
 NEG-arrive.PST.3SG=3SG.OBL hand-EZ.M REFL turn.PST-TELIC

[but since] his hands did not reach it [the thief's scarf], he withdrew them.

ū *havsār-ē* *ḥaṣp-ī* *bə* *laxāv-va* *kēšā*[|]
 and halter-EZ.M horse-OBL.M with bridle-POST pull.PST

He (the father) pulled the reins of his horse

ū *ḥaṣəp* *řā-wəstānd.*[|]
 and horse PVB-stop.PST

and made it stop.

dəzīkar *žī* *žē* *faləti-Ø.*[|]
 thief ADD from.3SG.OBL run.away.PST-3SG

The thief rode away (lit. the thief scaped from him).

(10) *hatā* *ḵūř-ēt* *wī* *gahišt-ən-ē*[|]
 until son-EZ.PL 3SG.OBL.M arrive.PST-3PL=3SG.OBL

When his sons caught up with him,

got-ē, *‘bāb-o!* *ta* *čə* *māl-ā* *ma*
 say.PST=3SG.OBL father-VOC 2SG.OBL why home-EZ.F 1PL.OBL

xərā *ḵər?*[|]
 ruined do.PST

they said, ‘Dad, why did you ruin our home?’

wē *gāv-ē* *dastē* *ta*
 DEM.PROX.3SG.OBL.F time-OBL.F hand-EZ.M 2SG.OBL

tə-gəhəšt-ē[|]
 IPFV-arrive.PST=3SG.OBL

A while ago you could have reached the thief!

ta *bûčî* *na-gərt?*¹
 2SG.OBL why NEG-grab.PST

Why didn't you grab him?'

got-ē, *'rûn-ən,*¹
 say.PST-3SG.OBL PVB.sit.PRS.IMP-2PL

The father said, 'Calm down! (lit. Sit down!)

mə *'aql* *xarəj* *kə̀r.*¹
 1SG.OBL wisdom consumption do.PST

I acted wisely.'

(11) *go* *'waxt-ē* *az* *gahəştî=m*
 say.PST time-OBL.F 1SG.DIR arrive.PST.PTCP=COP.1SG

həşp-ē *bənamāl-ē,*¹
 horse-EZ.M Family-OBL.F

He (the father) said, 'When I approached the family horse—

av-ē *hənda* *sāl=a* *am* *əb* *bāb=ū*
 DEM.PROX.3SG-EZ.M so.many year=COP.3SG 1PL.DIR with father-and

bāpîr=va *madh-ā* *pē* *tə-ka-yn*¹
 grandfather-POST praise-PL.OBL to.3SG.OBL IND-do.PRS-1PL

the one which we have been praising for so long

ū *tə-ba-yn* *nāv* *xalk-ē*¹
 and IND-take.PRS-1PL into people-OBL.M

and which we take around for people to see

tu *Ø-žān-ī* *čə* *hāt-Ø* *sar-ē* *mən?*¹
 2SG.DIR IND-know.PRS-2SG what come.PST-3SG head-EZ.M 1SG.OBL

—do you know what I thought of?'

- (12) *gotī*, 'waxtē mē dītī^l mē dastē xwa
 say.PST.PTCP when 1SG see.PTCP 1SG.OBL hand-EZ.M REFL
dā hāvē-m^l pātək-ā dəz-ī dā gēr-əm^l
 AUX throw.PRS-1SG scarf-EZ.PL thief-OBL.M AUX grab.PRS-1SG

He (the father) said, 'When I saw that I could stretch out my arms and grab the scarf of the thief.

dā xalək hamī zān-īt-ən^l
 AUX people all know.PRS-3PL-NA

[I thought that] people would figure out

dəzīkar-aḵ hāt-Ø ḥaṣp-ē mē dəzī^l
 thief-INDF come.PST-3SG horse-EZ.M 1PL.OBL steal.PST

that a thief had come to steal our horse

yē bənamāl-ē^l av-ē sar-ē həndasāl-a
 EZ.M family-OBL.F DEM.PROX.SG=EZ.M on-EZ.M so.many.year=COP.3SG
nāv-ū dang-ēt wī čūy=n.^l
 name=and voice-EZ.PL 3SG.OBL.M go.PST.PTCP=3PL

—the family horse— the one which has been famous and well-known for so many years.'

- (13) *dā bēž-ən ēḵ-ī ḥaṣp-ē wa dəzī^l*
 AUX say.PRS-3PL one-OBL.M horse-EZ.M 3PL.OBL steal

[The father continued] '[Later] people would say, "Someone stole your [family] horse.

ū hīn bə ḥaṣp-ēt xwà^l yēt siyārī-ē^l bə
 and 2PL.DIR with horse-EZ.PL REFL EZ.PL riding-OBL.F to
ḥaṣp-ē bənamāl-ē řā gahəšt-ən.^l
 horse-EZ.M family-OBL.F POST arrive.PST-3PL

And you could reach the family horse with your riding horses.

bəlā ḥàṣəp bo wī Ø-b-it^l
 HOR horse for 3SG.OBL.M SBJV-be.PRS-3SG

[So instead,] let the [family] horse be the thief's,

bas bəlā madh-ēt ḥaṣp-ī bə-mīn-î.^l
 just HOR praise-EZ.PL horse-OBL.M SBJV-stay.PRS-3SG

but let the praise of the [family] horse remain with us!'