

Neo-Aramaic and Kurdish Folklore from Northern Iraq

A Comparative Anthology with a Sample of Glossed Texts

VOLUME 1



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In collaboration with Lourd Habeeb Hanna,
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NORTHERN KURDISH OF KHIZAVA

Text 7: §1-19

Masoud Mohammadirad

Speaker: Ahmed Abubakir Suleiman

Audio: <https://kurdic.ames.cam.ac.uk/audio/247/>

(1) *nāv-ē mən[|] ʾAhmad ʾAbūbakər Səlēmān[|]*
name-EZ.M 1SG.OBL PN PN PN

My name [is] Ahmad Abubakir Sleman.

az xalk-ē gund-ē Xīzavā=ma[|] ʾašīr-ā Gulīā[|]
1SG.DIR people-EZ.M village-EZ.M PN=COP.1SG tribe-EZ.F PN.PL.OBL

I come from the village of Khizava, (from) Guli tribe.

ū az žə dāyəkū-yē həzār-ū
and 1SG.DIR from mother.born-EZ.F thousand-and

nahsad-ū šēst-ū həšt-ē=ma[|]
nine.hundred-and sixty-and eight-OBL.F=COP.1SG

I was born in 1968.

ʾamā dərəstāhī-yā mən dā tārīx=əm xələt=ən[|]
but reality-EZ.F 1SG.OBL POST date.DIR.PL=1SG wrong=COP.3PL

But in reality ... my date [of birth] is wrong.

šēst-ū dū=ma[|]
sixty-and two=COP.1SG

I was born in 1962.

- (2) *zanbîlfêrôş*[|] *du* *goř-ēt* *zanbîlfêroš* *yêṭ*
 basket.seller two tomb-EZ.PL basket.seller EZ.PL
hay=n *əl* *davar-ā* *kurd-â* *dā*,[|]
 EXIST=COP.3PL in region-EZ.F Kurd-PL.OBL POST

The basket seller—there are two tombs of [associated with] the basket seller in Kurdish regions:

- êk* *lə* *Kurdəstān-ā* *Bākòr*,[|]
 one in PN-EZ.F north

one in northern Kurdistan,

- êk* *lə* *Kurdəstān-ā* *Bāšòr*.[|]
 one in PN-EZ.F south

one in southern Kurdistan.

- yē* *Bākòr*,[|] *yē* *lə* *Vārqîn-ē* *lə* *qazā*
 EZ.M north EZ.M in PN-OBL.F in county.EZ.F
Səlīvā *lə* *vîlāyat-ā* *Diyārbakər*.[|]
 PN in province-EZ.F PN

The one in the northern Kurdistan is located in Farqin in the Sil-iva county, Diyarbakir province.

- (3) *ʾamā* *yē* *av-ē* *haçko* *lə* *Kurdəstān-ā*
 but EZ.M DEM.PROX-EZ.M that.is in PN-EZ.F
Bāšòr[|]
 south

But, as for the one in southern Kurdistan,

- ava* *tə-kat* *sar* *jà'dā* *nāvbayn-ā*
 DEM.PROX.SG IND-fall.PRS.3SG on road.EZ.F in.between-EZ.F
Bātîfē *ū* *Zāxo* *dā*.[|]
 PN.OBL.F and PN POST

the tomb is located on the road between Batifa and Zakho.

əl-sàr *ja'dē=ya*[|] *bə-řax* *gund-ē* *Sirkotkī-yē-da*
 on-top road.OBL.F=COP.3SG to-side village-EZ.M PN-OBL.F- POST

It is on the road next to the Sirkotki village.

taqriban *rošāwā-yē* *nāhiyā* *Bātifā* *pēñj*
 approximately west-EZ.M region.EZ.F PN five

kilomītr-ā.[|]
 kilometer-PL.OBL

It [is located] approximately less than five kilometres west of the Batifa region.

(4) *āv* *zanbīlferoš-a* *wak* *hakāyat-ā* *wī*
 DEM.PROX basket.seller-DEM.SG as story-EZ.F 3SG.OBL.M

hāt-ī-Ø *gotən-ē*[|]
 come.PST-PTCP-3SG say.INF-OBL.F

As for the basket seller—the way his adventure has been told

yēt *xalk-ē* *ma=ū* *bāv=ū* *bāpīr-ēt*
 EZ.PL people-EZ.M 1PL.OBL-and father-and grandfather-EZ.PL

ma *ēk* *bo* *ēk* *yē* *gòt-ī*[|]
 1PL.OBL one to one EZ.M say.PST-PTCP

[and] from what our ancestors have passed on to each other:

lə-sar *vē* *kalhā* *šābānī-yē* *ṭ-in-ən*,[|]
 from-top DEM.PROX.OBL.F castle-EZ.F PN-OBL.F IND.bring.PRS-3PL

av *kalh-ā* *šābānī-yē*.[|]
 DEM.PROX castle-EZ.F PN-OBL.F

his story comes from the citadel of Shabani, this citadel of Shabani.

(5) *ava* *yē* *ko* *lə-daf* *ma* *nāv-ē*
 DEM.PROX.SG.DIR EZ.M REL at-side 1PL.OBL name- EZ.M
wī *mīr* *Məhsən* *kuř-ē* *mīr* *Avdulaziz-ē*
 3SG.OBL prince PN son-EZ.M prince PN-EZ.M
mīr-ē *Müsəl-a,* *yē* *vē* *kalh-ā* *Müsəl.*
 prince-EZ.M PN=COP.3SG EZ.M DEM.PROX.3SG.OBL.F castle-EZ.F PN

He (the basket seller) was called Mir Muhsin in our region. [He is] the son of Mir Avdulaziz, the prince of Mosul, [at] this citadel of Mosul.

mīr *Məhsən* *kuř-ē* *mīr* *Avdulaziz-ē* *mīr-ē*
 prince PN son-EZ.M prince PN-EZ.M prince-EZ.M
Müsəl-a.
 PN=COP.3SG

Mir Muhsin (the basket seller) was the son of Avdulaziz, the prince of Mosul.

tab'an *wak* *ava* *wak* *həkāyat-ā* *wī*
 evidently as DEM.PROX.SG as story-EZ.F 3SG.OBL.M
ət-bēž-ən
 IND-say.PRS-3PL

Evidently, his story was like this:

zanbūlfəroš *kuř-ē* *mīr-î* *bî-Ø.*
 basket.seller son-EZ.M prince-OBL.M be.PST-3SG

the basket seller was the prince's son.

(6) *'ənsān-aḱ-î* *lāw-aḱ-î* *jahēl* *yē* *barkatî*
 human-INDF-EZ.M boy-INDF-EZ.M young EZ.M handsome
bî-Ø.
 be.PST-3SG

He was a handsome young man.

garhā-Ø *nāv* *jahēl-ā* *dā=ū*
 wander.PST-3SG among youth-PL.OBL POST=and

He would wander around with other youths.

pāra *lā-bar* *dast=ī* *zàḥəf* *bī-n=ū.*¹
 money in-front hand=3SG a.lot be.PST-3PL=and

He had a lot of money at his disposal.

aṭ-bēž-an *waxt-aḳ-ī* *kas-ak* *šə* *māl-ā*
 IND-say.PRS-3PL time-INDF-OBL.M person-INDF from house-EZ.F
mīr-ī *mər-Ø.*¹
 prince-OBL.M die.PST-3SG

It is said that a member of the prince's family once passed away.

(7) *waxt-ē* *mər-ī-Ø* *tab'an* *xalk-ē*
 when-OBL.F die.PST-PTCP-3SG evidently people-EZ.M
davar-ē *lē* *kòm* *bī-n=ū.*¹
 region-OBL.F at.3SG.OBL group be.PST-3PL=and

When he died, the people of the region obviously gathered around him,

bərən-ā=(a)ν *zīyārat-ē=ū.*¹
 take.INF-EZ.F=DRCT tomb.visiting-OBL.F=and

took [him] to the cemetery,

aw *goř* *kolā=ū.*¹
 DEM.DIST tomb dig.PST=and

dug a grave,

ḳər *ṭē* *da=ū.*¹ *va-šārt=ū.*¹
 do.PST in.3SG.OBL POST=and TELIC-hide.PST=and

put [him] in it, and buried [him].

awī žī got=ē,
3SG.OBL.M ADD say.PST=3SG.OBL

He (Muhsin) said,

‘mā dē ava hamā lə-vê-dē b-ē!?’¹
EXCM FUT DEM.PROX.SG EMPH in-DEM.PROX.3SG.OBL.F-POST be.PRS-3SG

‘Is he going to rest in this grave forever?’

got=ē, ‘ava dē lə-vē
say.PST=3SG.OBL DEM.PROX.SG FUT in-DEM.PROX.3SG.OBL.F

Ø-b-ē hatā qīyāmat-ē.¹
SBJV-be.PRS-3SG until resurrection-OBL.F

They (the people at the funeral) said, ‘Yes, he will stay here until the resurrection.

(8) *‘qīyāmat kangî-ya?’ gotî-û.¹*
resurrection when=COP.3SG say.PST.PTCP=and

When is the resurrection?’, [he said].

‘čo qīyāmat-ē-va řā čo šə hē
no resurrection-OBL.F-POST POST none of yet

dīyānat-ē nə-zān-a,¹ čo dīyānat-ā.¹
religion-OBL.F NEG-know.PRS-3SG no religion-PL.OBL

[They said to him], ‘No religion knows for sure about [when] the resurrection [happens], no religion!’

ťars-ē xwa lə dəl-ī dā.¹
fear-EZ.M REFL at heart-OBL.M give.PST

Fear took hold of him (Muhsin).

gotī, ‘ava dē t-nāṽ vē
 say.PST.PTCP DEM.PROX.SG FUT in-middle DEM.PROX.OBL.F
 āx-ē řā-b-ət?’[|]
 soil-OBL.F PRV-be.PRS-3SG

He said, ‘Is he going to get out from under the soil [at the resurrection]?’

got-ē ‘ā. bə šāv-ē-ū bə rož-ē
 say.PST=3SG.OBL yes at night-OBL.F=and at day-OBL.F

Yes, day and night,’ they said.

go māmāmər lə-vē-dē b-ē
 say.PST.3SG continually in-DEM.PROX.OBL.F-POST be.PRS-3SG

‘He will stay here day and night continually.

ava xəlās.’[|]
 DEM.PROX.SG over

It is finished [for the dead].’

(9) řā-bī wak awadī-aḵ-ē bə sār-ī
 PVB-be.PST.3SG like thing-INDF-OBL.F to head-OBL.M

kat-Ø[|]
 fall.PST-3SG

[Upon seeing this scene] something came to his mind

malā-yāḵ hāt-Ø bo āxāft řož-ak
 mullah-INDF come.PST-3SG for speak.PST day-INDF

du sē čār.[|]
 two three four

A mullah came to talk to him for one, two, three, four days.

har řo dā bēž-ē,
each day AUX say.PRS-3SG

Every day, he would say,

‘malē war-a bo mən bə-āxav-a.’[†]
mullah.OBL come.IMP-2SG for 1SG.OBL SBJV-speak.PRS-IMP.2SG

‘Mullah! Come [and] talk to me [about religion].’

hatā bahs-ē dīyānat-ē bo ī k̄ar.[†]
even talk-EZ.M religion-OBL.F for 3SG.OBL.M do.PST

Mullah talked to him about the religion.

(10) *‘dīyānat husā=na-ū[†]*
religion such-COP.3PL=and

[The mullah said] ‘Religion is like this.

dīyānat-ā masihî yā hay,[†]
religion-EZ.F Christian EZ.F EXIST.3SG

There is the Christian religion.

dīyānat-ā əslāmatî yā hay.[†]
religion-EZ.F Islamic EZ.F EXIST.3SG

There is the Islamic religion.

har dīyānat-ak̄=ā ha-b-ət’ tab’an ʕrf=ū
EMPH religion-INDF-EZ.F EXIST-SBJV.be.PRS-3SG naturally custom=and

‘ādāt=ū ʾawādî-yēṭ manhaṣ-ē dīyānat-ē.[†]
tradition.PL=and INTJ-EZ.PL way-EZ.M religion-OBL.F

Each religion has a set of liturgies and customs.’

aw lə-sar əslāmatî-yê bî-Ø[†]
DEM.DIST on-top Islam-OBL.M be.PST-3SG

He (Muhsin) had Islamic faith.

əslāmatī *nīšā* *dā.*¹
Islam showing give.PST

[The Mullah] showed him the principles of Islam.'

(11) *mā-Ø*¹ *bə* *čand* *hayv-aḵ-ā* *mā-Ø*¹
rest.PST-3SG by some month-INDF-EZ.F rest.PST-3SG

Things remained [like this] for a couple of months.

gotī *ʔā* *az* *ḵò* *bə-ḵə-m.*¹
say.PST.PTCP EXCM 1SG.DIR what SBJV-do.PRS-1SG

He (Muhsin) said, 'What shall I do

az-ē *žə* *vē* *ʔawādī* *xalās*¹
1SG.DIR-EZ.M from DEM.PROX.OBL.F thing relieved

to be relieved of this thing,

žə *wī* *qabl-ī*¹ *ṭang-ū* *ṭārī-yā*
from DEM.DIST.OBL.M grave-OBL.M tight-and darkness-EZ.F

vī *qabl-ī* *xalās* *Ø-b-əm.*¹
DEM.PROX.OBL.M grave-OBL.M relieved SBJV-be.PRS-1SG

[to be relieved] of this dark narrow grave?'

(12) *got-ē,* *ʔə-vē-t* *ṭū*¹ *ēh* *tu*
say.PST=3SG.OBL IND-should.PRS-3SG 2SG.DIR INTJ 2SG.DIR

nəvèž-ēt *xwa* *bə-ḵē!*¹
prayer-EZ.PL REFL SBJV-do.PRS.2SG

'He (the Mullah) said, 'You, eh, you should recite your prayers!

tu *taʔat-ū* *ʔbādāt-ēt* *xwa* *bə-ḵē!*¹
2SG.DIR obedience-and praying-EZ.PL REFL SBJV-do.PRS.2SG

You should perform your worship!

tu hārikār Ø-bē ləgal xalk-aḵ-ē-ū^l
 2SG.DIR helper SBJV-be.PRS.2SG with people-INDF-OBL.M=and

You should help people.

tu yē bə-řàhm Ø-bē-ū,^l
 2SG.DIR EZ.M with-mercy SBJV-be.PRS.2SG=and

You should be merciful.

tu zolm=o zordārī lə xalk-aḵ-ē nà-kē.^l
 2SG.DIR injustice=and tyranny to people-INDF-OBL.M PROH-do.PRS.2SG

and should not do any injustice nor cruelty to people.

hagār tu zolm-ē bə-kē^l
 if 2SG.DIR injustice-OBL.F SBJV-do.PRS.2SG

If you're unjust [to people],

tā^cat-ū ʾibādat-ē ta qabūl nà-b-əṭ.^{ʾl}
 obedience=and praying-EZ.M 2SG.OBL acceptance NEG-be.PRS-3SG

your obedience and prayer will not be accepted [by God].'

(13) *ʾbāš-a pānē bāv-ē mən-ē tə-kēt^l*
 well-COP.3SG EXCM father-EZ.M 1SG.OBL=EZ.M IND-do.PRS.3SG

[Muhsin said], 'Isn't it so that my father does [injustice]!

az-ē wē xwārən-ē də-xo-m.^{ʾl}
 1SG.DIR=EZ.M DEM.DIST.3SG.OBL.F food-OBL.F IND-eat.PRS-1SG

I'm living off him.'

got-ē, ʾwəla ā bāv-ē ta zolm-ē
 say.PST=3SG.OBL by.God INTJ father-EZ.M 2SG.OBL injustice-OBL.F
bə-kə-t^l
 SBJV-do.PRS-3SG

He (the Mullah) said, 'By God if your father does injustice [and you live off him],

*taʿat=ū ʾibādat-ē ta qabiil nā-b-ət.*¹
 obedience=and praying-EZ.M 2SG.OBL acceptance NEG-be.PRS-3SG

your prayers will not be accepted.'

ʿpā az kò bə-kə-m
 EXCM 1SG.DIR what SBJV-do.PRS-1SG

[Muhsin said], 'What shall I do

az-ē žə vē zolm=ū zordāri-yē
 1SG.DIR=EZ.M from DEM.PROX.OBL.F injustice=and tyranny-EZ.M
*bāv-ē xwa?*¹
 father-EZ.M REFL

[to be relieved] of the injustice caused by my father?'

(14) *həndī go bāv-ē xwā.*¹
 so.much say.PST father-EZ.M REFL

He talked so much to his father.

bāv-ē wī řāzī nā-bī-Ø vī
 father-EZ.M 3SG.OBL.M content NEG-be.PST-3SG DEM.PROX.OBL.M
*təšt-ī bə-hēl-ēt.*¹
 thing-OBL.M SBJV-let.PRS-3SG

[But] his father did not agree to abandon this thing.

got, ʿagar tu kad-aḵ-ē bə dast-ē
 say.PST if 2SG.DIR tailor-INDF-OBL.F with hand-EZ.M
*xwa bə-kē*¹
 REFL SBJV-do.PRS.2SG

The Mullah (lit. he) said, 'If you do a job with your own hands,

*ū tu xwa xwadān bə-kē=ū*¹
 and 2SG.DIR REFL owner SBJV-do.PRS.2SG= and

take care of yourself

ʿayâr-ā xwa xwadān Ø-kē[|]
 standard-EZ.F REFL owner SBJV-do.PRS.2SG

and manage to live by your own means

dē hāngē taʿat-ū ʿibādat-ē ta qabûl
 FUT then obedience-and praying-EZ.M 2SG.OBL acceptance

də-b-əṭ.[|]
 IND-be.PRS-3SG

then your prayers will be accepted.’

(15) rā-bi-Ø dār-kat-Ø,[|] dar-kat-Ø žə māl
 PVB-be.PST-3SG PVB-fall.PST-3SG PVB-fall.PST-3SG from home

dar-kat-Ø
 PVB- fall.PST-3SG

He rose [and] left [the house].

bə-žə žənk-âḱ ha-bi-ū du bəčēk.[|]
 in-of woman-INDF EXIST.be.PST-and two baby.DIM

He had a wife and two babies.

got žənk-ā xwà,[|]
 say.PST wife.DIM-EZ.F REFL

He said to his wife,

ʿaz-ē Ø-čə-m bo mǎ šûl Ø-kə-m.[|]
 1SG.DIR-FUT SBJV-go.PRS-1SG for 1PL.OBL work SBJV-do.PRS-1SG

‘I will go and make a living (lit. work) for us.’

- (16) *řā-bī-Ø* *hāt-Ø[|]* *daṣṭ* *əp̄* *zanbīl-ā-w*
 PVB-be.PST-3SG come.PST-3SG hand to basket-PL.OBL-POST
čē-ḵarən-ē *ḵar.[|]*
 good-do.INF-OBL.F do.PST
 He rose, came [and] started making baskets.

zanbīl-ēt *kurdawāri-yē* *bo* *fēqī* *bə* *ḵār*
 basket-EZ.PL Kurdish.region-OBL.F for fruit to work
t̄-in-a *xalk-ē* *ma.[|]*
 IND-bring.PRS-3SG people-EZ.M 1PL.OBL
 Our people use the Kurdish baskets for fruit.

əṣ *šəfḵāt* *hāt-Ø* *čē-ḵarən-ē.[|]*
 from stick come.PST-3SG good-make.INF-OBL.F
 They are made of sticks.

lə *hāt-Ø* *ba* *rübār-ā=ū*
 in come.PST-3SG to river-PL.OBL=and
 He came to the river

zanbīl *čē-ḵar-ən.[|]*
 basket well-do.PST-3PL
 and made baskets.

ma *gòt[|]* *wī* *sardam-ì* *žiyān* *əṭ*
 1PL.OBL say.PST DEM.DIST.OBL.M period-OBL.M life in
kalh-ā *dā* *bī-Ø[|]*
 citadel-PL.OBL POST COP.PST-3SG
 We said that back then people would live in citadels.

û hāt-Ø=û hāt-Ø=û mantaqa hatā
 and come.PST-3SG=and come.PST-3SG=and region until
hātī-Ø kalh-ā šābānī-yē.¹
 come.PST.PTCP-3SG citadel-EZ.F PN-OBL.F

He (i.e. Muhsin) kept coming until he arrived at the gate of the Shabani citadel.

(17) *hāt.¹ waxt-ē lə darok-ē*
 come.PST.3SG when-OBL.F at small.gate-EZ.M
dargah-ā hawā katī-Ø=û¹
 gate-PL.OBL air fall.PST.PTCP-3SG=and

He arrived. When the [lock of the] gate of the citadel flew open,

zēřavān-ā go, tē kò Ø-čē?¹
 guard-PL.OBL say.PST 2SG.OBL.FUT where SBJV-go.PRS.2SG

the guards asked, ‘Where are you going?’

got-ē tab‘an zanbīlk-ē māl-ī-và
 say.PST=3SG.OBL naturally basket.DIM-OBL.F shoulder=3SG-POST
bī-Ø¹
 COP.PST-3SG

He (the basket seller) said—well he had baskets on his shoulders—,

go, ‘az-ē Ø-čə-m zanbīl-ā
 say.PST(3SG) 1SG.DIR=FUT SBJV-go.PRS-1SG basket-PL.OBL
Ø-fəroš-am.¹
 SBJV-sell.PRS-1SG

‘I’m going to sell baskets.’

əl kolān-ēt bāžēr-ē hāt-Ø=o čo-Ø.¹
 from alley-EZ.PL city.OBL-OBL.F come.PST-3SG=and go.PST-3SG

He strolled from street to street in the city.

- (18) *əṭ-bēž-ən awādi hačko kəč-ā mīr-ī*
 IND-say.PRS-3PL INTJ as.for daughter-EZ.F prince-OBL.M

It is said that the prince's daughter_

- əṭ qasr-ē əṭ panjarē dā*
 from palace-OBL.F from window.OBL.F POST
aw kuř-à lāw-ē barkatī dī-ū
 DEM.DIST.DIR boy-DEM youth-EZ.M handsome see.PST=and
*zanbīl-ā Ø-fəroš-ət.*¹
 basket-PL.OBL IND-sell.PRS-3SG

saw the handsome man, that is the basket seller, who was selling baskets, through the windows of the palace.

- kuř-ē mīr-ī-a=w*
 son-EZ.M prince-OBL.M=COP.3SG=and

He was the prince's son.

- lāw-aḳ-ī barkatī-ya.*¹
 youth-INDF-EZ.M handsome=COP.3SG

He was a handsome young man.

- (19) *ṣhēdā vīyān-ā kuřk-ī kat-Ø*
 immediately love-EZ.F boy.DIM-OBL.M fall.PST-3SG

- dəl-ē kəčk-ē.*¹
 heart-EZ.M girl.DIM-OBL.F

Immediately, she (the prince's daughter) was filled with love for the boy.

- got ṣārī-yā xwà.*¹
 say.PST maid-EZ.F REFL

She said to her maidservant,

'hař-a *Ø-bēž-a* *wī* *zanbīlfəroš-î*
 go-IMP.2SG SBJV-say.PRS-2SG DEM.DIST.OBL basket.seller-OBL.M
bālā *b-ət* *vē-dê.*¹
 HOR SBJV-come.PRS.3SG DEM.PROX.3SG.OBL.F-POST

'Go and ask the basket seller to come here.'

čū-Ø *got-ē,*
 go.PST-3SG say.PST-3SG.OBL

She (the maidservant) went and said to him (the basket seller),

'war-a! *àm-ē* *zanbīl-ā* *žə* *ta*
 come.IMP-2SG 1PL-FUT basket-PL.OBL from 2SG.OBL
*Ø-kəř-în.*¹
 SBJV-buy.PRS-1PL

'Come here. We would like to buy baskets from you.'