Neo-Aramaic and Kurdish Folklore from Northern Iraq

A Comparative Anthology with a Sample of Glossed Texts

VOLUME 1

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CENTRAL KURDISH OF SHAQLAWA
TEXT 19: §9–22

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Audio: https://kurdic.ames.cam.ac.uk/audio/236/

(9) *haqāyat-aka   la   nāw-ī   mař꞊ū   bəzə̀n| yā   xod*
  tale-DEF   by name-EZ.M ewe꞊and goat or REFL

mař꞊ū   dābəřằn-ī   mař-ak.|
ewe꞊and separation-EZ.M ewe-INDF

The tale is called 'ewe and goat', or 'the separation of a ewe'.

a-r-ē   ha-bū-∅   na-bū-∅|
IND-say.PRS-3SG EXIST-be.PST-3SG NEG-be.PST-3SG

It is said that there was [and] there was not

kas   la   xwā-y   gawrà-tər   na-bū-∅.|
person from god-OBL.M big-CMPR NEG-be.PST-3SG

[but] there was no one greater than God.

l-aw   dunyā-ya   p̂ān꞊ū   barằn-a-y| šūwān-àk
in-DEM world-DEM vast꞊and vast-DEM-OBL.M shepherd-INDF

ha-bū-∅.|
EXIST-be.PST-3SG

In this vast world, there was a shepherd.

mēgalàk^y=ī   *galak*   *la*   *mař=ū*   *bəzən=ī*
female.herd=3SG   many   of   ewe=and   goat=3SG

tē-dā   *ha-bū-∅.|*
in-POST   EXIST-be.PST-3SG

He had a sheep flock which contained many ewes and goats.

řož-ak   *la*   *řož-ān*   *la*   *ēwārà-(a)k^y-ī*   *pāyīz-ān|*
day-INDF   of   day-PL   in   evening-INDF-EZ.M   autumn-PL

dərang-ān-àk^y-ī   *šaw-ē|*   *mař*   *lagar*   *barx-ī*   *xo*
late-PL-INDF-EZ.M   night-OBL.F   ewe   with   lamb-EZ.M   REFL

dā-a-bəř-ḕt.|
PVB-IND-cut-3SG

Once, on a late autumn evening, a ewe and her lamb lost (lit. were separated from) the flock.

(10)   *a-gā-t=a*   *dzē-yak^y-ī|*   *tařằš-ī*
       IND-reach.PRS-3SG=DRCT   place-INDF-OBL.M   rock=3SG

lē=ya=w   *mērg=a.|*
at=COP.3SG=and   meadow=COP.3SG

She (the ewe) reached a place which was [full of] rocks and was a meadow.

wāta   *mērg-àk^y-ī*   *dzīyā*   *aw*   *šət-ān-a=ya.|*
that.is   meadow-INDF-EZ.M   separate   DEM   thing-PL-DEM=COP.3SG

That is, it was a separate meadow and so forth.

šaw-ē   *lo*   *xo=y*   *a-mēn-ēt-awà.|*
night-OBL.F   for   REFL=3SG   IND-stay.PRS-3SG-TELIC

She stayed there for the night.

a-kā-t꞊a   *dzḕ-y*   *xo꞊y.*|
IND-do.PRS-3SG꞊DRCT   place-EZ.M   REFL꞊3SG

She made the place her habitat.

hatā *zəstān꞊ū*   *hāwìn꞊īš*   *dē*| *aw*   *mař-a*
until   winter꞊and   summer꞊ADD   IND.come.PRS.3SG   DEM   ewe-DEM

har   *l-aw*   *dzē-y*   *a-mīn-ēt-ò.*|
EMPH   in-DEM   place-OBL.M   IND-remain.PRS.3SG-TELIC

She stayed there the [coming] winter until the [next] summer.

(11) *ya꞉nī*   *kurīt-àkʸ-ī*   *lo*   *xo*   *durust* *a-kā꞊w*
       that.is   shed-INDF-OBL.M   for   REFL   right   IND-do.PRS.3SG꞊and

That is, she made a shed in it for herself

lē꞊y   *a-žē.*|
in꞊3SG   IND-live.PRS.3SG

and lived there.

řož-ak   *la*   *řož-ằn*| *la-nāw*   *sarmā꞊w*   *sora꞊w*
day-INDF   from   day-PL   in-middle   cold꞊and   RDP꞊and

bastalakʸ-ī,| *gurg-akʸ-ī*   *bərsī*   *fērbằz*   *lo꞊y*
frost-OBL.M   wolf-INDF-EZ.M   hungry   cunning   at꞊3SG

d-ēt꞊a   *pēš.*|
IND-come.PRS.3SG꞊DRCT   front

Once, in the middle of cold weather and frost, a cunning hungry wolf came to her.

a-r-ē,   *kʸḕ* *řē꞊y*   *ba*   *to*   *dāy꞊a*|
IND-say.PRS.3SG   who   road꞊3SG   to   2SG   give.PST.PTCP꞊PERF

la-nāw   *murkʸ-ī*   *mən*   *dā-nəš-ì?*|
in-middle   property-EZ.M   1SG   PVB-sit.PRS-2SG

He said, 'Who has let you live on my property!?'

mař=īš	*wã̀q=ī*	*wəř*	*a-mīn-ē.*
ewe=ADD	mood=3SG	perplexed	IND-remain.PRS-3SG

The ewe was astonished (lit. her mind remained dazed) [and said],

'ē	*bāš=a*	*gurg-ò!*|	*ba-xo*	*gurg*	*har*
INTJ	nice=COP.3SG	wolf-VOC	in-REFL	wolf	each

řož-a=w	*la*	*dzēy-ak^y-ì̃=ya.*|
day-DEM=and	in	place-INDF-OBL.M=COP.3SG

'Well, wolf! A wolf is normally in a different place each day.

bařawà=ya=w	*harčē*	*řož-a=w*	*la*
wanderer=COP.3SG=and	every	day-DEM=and	in

mantəq(a)-ak^y-ì̃=ya.|
region-INDF-OBL.M=COP.3SG

It is a wanderer and is in a different region each day.

maᶜqừl=a?|	*'ārd-ī*	*ha-bī*	*amən*
logical=COP.3SG	earth=3SG	EXIST-be.PRS.SBJV.3SG	1SG

nà-zānī-bī=m!'|
NEG-know.PTCP-be.SBJV=1SG

Is it conceivable that a wolf had land and that I had not known about?'

(12)	*aw=īš*	*a-r-ē*	*'pēš-tər*
	3SG.DIST=ADD	IND-say.PRS-3SG	before-CMPR

nà-hātī=ya.|
NEG-come.PST.PTCP=COP.3SG

She said [to herself], 'He had not come earlier [to this place].

bas	*ka*	*mən*	*l-ērà=ma*|
but	since	1SG	in-here=COP.1SG

However, now that I am here,

da=y-hawē   bə=m-xwā̀   tabʿan.|
IND=3SG-want.PRS   SBJV=1SG-eat.PRS.3SG   naturally

he wants to eat us.

handza   [dān=yān   pē   xwāz-īn.]ʾ|
then   seed=3PL   to   want.PST?-1PL

That's why he is creating a trap for us. '

a-r-ē,   ʿšət-ī   wā   nī̀=ya!|
IND-say.PRS.3SG   thing-EZ.M   DEIC   NEG=COP.3SG

She said [to the wolf], 'It is not so!

aw   murk-à   murkʸ-ē   xwā=ya.|
DEM   property-DEM   property-EZ.F   god=3SG

This property belongs to God.

nà   murkʸ-ē   tu-w=a=w   nà   murkʸ-ē
neither   property-EZ.F   2SG-EP=COP.3SG=and   nor   property-EZ.F

mən=īš=a.ʾ|
1SG=ADD=COP.3SG

This is neither your property nor my property!'

(13)   *ʿkū   ato   a-kē-y   ē   xo?*
       how   2SG   IND-do.PRS-2SG   PRON.EZ   REFL

[The wolf said], 'How is it that you claim it is yours?'

a-rē,   ʿmən   šāhēd=ū   ʾəsbā̀t=əm   ha=na,|
IND-say.PRS.3SG   1SG   witness=and   proof=1SG   EXIST=COP.3PL

He said, 'I have a witness

ka   àw   murk-a| murkʸ-ē   mə̀n=a=w|
COMPL   DEM   property-DEM   property-EZ.F   1SG=COP.3SG=and

[who can prove that] this property is mine

la   *bāb=ū*   *bāpīr-ā̀n*   *lo=m*   *māwīy-t-oawa.*ʾ⸗
from   father=and   grandfather-PL   to=1SG   remain.PST.PTCP-3SG-TELIC

and has been passed on to me from my elders (lit. fathers and grandfathers).'

mař=īš   *a-r-ē,*   *ʿbə-řo*   *b-īn-à!*ʾ⸗
ewe=ADD   IND-say.PRS-3SG   SBJV-go.2SG.IMP   SBJV-bring.PRS-2SG.IMP

The ewe said, 'Go and bring him!'

 a-r-ēt   *ʿřā̀z*   *∅-bē=ū*   *la*   *řēga-y*
IND-say.PRS-3SG   correct   SBJV-be.PRS.2SG=and   in   road-EZ.M

šēr-ī̀   *ba!*ʾ⸗
lion-OBL.M   be.PRS.IMP.2SG

[As] the saying goes (lit. it says), 'Say the truth and be courageous! (lit. be in the path of the lion).'

(14)   *mař-aka=š*   *rā̀st=a.*⸗   *gùrg*   *fērbāz=a.*⸗
      ewe-DEF=3SG   right=COP.3SG   wolf   cunning=COP.3SG

[Now] the ewe is right [but] the wolf is being cunning.

da=y-hawē   *məndār-akà=y*   *lē*   *bə-xwā.*⸗
IND=3SG-want.PRS   child-DEF=3SG   from   SBJV-eat.PRS.3SG

He wants to eat her (the ewe's) lamb.

 a-r-ē,   *ʿsəbaynē-kà*⸗   *saʿāt*   *dwāzdà-y*
IND-say.PRS-3SG   tomorrow.OBL.F-DEF   hour   twelve-EZ.M

nīwařwān-ē⸗   *yā*   *xod*   *wàxt-ī*   *ēwārē*⸗   *amə̀n*
noon-PL-OBL.F   or   else   time-EZ.M   evening.OBL.F   1SG

šāhēd=ū   *ʾəsbāt-ī*   *xo=m*   *da-yn-əm.*⸗
witness=and   proof-EZ.M   REFL=1SG   IND-bring.PRS-1SG

He (the wolf) said, 'Tomorrow at noon or in the evening I will bring my witness [here].

d-ē-m   *a-salmīn-əm*   *ka*   *awa*   *mùrk^y-ē*
IND-come.PRS-1SG   IND-prove.PRS-1SG   COMPL   DEM   property-EZ.F

mən=a.'|
1SG=COP.3SG

I will come and prove that this is my property!'

(15) *a-r-ē*   *řož*   *hāt-∅=ū*   *řož*   *řòy-∅.|*
       IND-say.PRS-3SG   sun   come.PST-3SG=and   sun   go.PST-3SG

It is said [that] the dawn broke (lit. the sun came and the sun went).

mař   *hàr*   *pərsyār=ī*   *a-kərd*   *'da-bī|*   *šāhēd-ī*
ewe   EMPH   question=3SG   IND-do.PST   IND-AUX   witness-EZ

gurg^y-ī   *k^yề*   *bī?'|*
wolf-OBL.M   who   COP.PRS.3SG

The ewe kept asking [herself], 'Who is going to be the wolf's witness?'

səba'ynề   *lo=y*   *wa*   *dīyār*   *kat-∅|*   *gùrg=ū*
tomorrow.OBL.F   for=3SG   to   visibility   fall.PST.3SG   wolf=and

řēwī   *pēkawa*   *bū-n.|*
fox   together   be.PST-3PL

One morning the wolf and fox became visible to her [from afar].

wət=ī,   *'ba*   *xwā-y*   *hār=əm*   *šàř=a.|*
say.PST=3SG   by   god-OBL.M   situation=1SG   bad=COP.3SG

She (the ewe) said, 'By God, I'm in a bad situation!

amən   *kừ*   *bār=yān*   *bə-ba-m?'|*
1SG   how   load=3PL   SBJV-take.PRS-1SG

How am I supposed to get rid of them? (lit. how can I load them?)'

čū-∅   hānā꞊y   bərd꞊a   bar   sag^y-ī̀.[|]
go.PST-3SG   refuge=3SG   take.PST=DRCT   front   dog-OBL.M

She went to ask the dog for help.

(16)   *kəsok-àk^y꞊ī   lē   bū-∅,*[|]   *kəsok-ak^y-ī   zor   zor*
    dog-INDF=3SG   at   COP.PST-3SG   dog-INDF-EZ.M   very   very

ba-wàj꞊ū[|]   *ba-wafā̀.*[|]
with-face=and   with-loyalty

There was a dog in it [in the meadow], a respectful, faithful dog.

dīfā̀ʿ꞊īš꞊ī   la   mař-aka-y   a-kərd.[|]
defence=ADD=3SG   at   ewe-DEF-OBL.M   IPFV-do.PST

He would defend the ewe.

got꞊ī,   ʿhār꞊ū   masla꞊m   awà꞊ya꞊w   ba
say.PST=3SG   situation=and   problem=1SG   DEM=COP.3SG=and   to

hānā̀꞊m   ga![|]
aid=1SG   arrive.PRS.2SG.IMP

She said [to the dog], 'The situation is like this, [please] come to my aid.'

got꞊ī   ʿxam꞊ət   nà-bī![|]
say.PST=3SG   sorrow=2SG   NEG-be.PRS.SBJV.2SG

He (the dog) said, 'No worries!

la-nāw   ama   yak   šət   zor   bā̀w꞊a.[|]
in-middle   1PL   one   thing   very   common=COP.3SG

Something in customary among us [the members of the dog family],

aw꞊īš   wədzā̀ġ꞊a,[|]   *wədzā̀ġ-ī   bāb꞊ū   bāpīr-ā̀n,*[|]
3SG=ADD   clan=COP.3SG   clan-EZ.M   father=and   grandfather-PL

[and] that is the clan, that is, the clan passed from elders.

bằš꞊a?ˀ|
nice꞊COP.3SG

All right?

(17) *pē꞊yī   bə-rè̀!|*
     to꞊3SG   SBJV-tell.PRS.2SG

[The dog continued] 'Tell him [the wolf to come]!

amən   a-č-əm   la-pəšt   aw   dār-à-y| xò
1SG   IND-go.PRS-1SG   in-back   DEM   tree-DEM-OBL.M   REFL

a-šār-m-awa.|
IND-hide.PRS-1SG-TELIC

I will go and hide behind that tree.

har   kāt-ak   řēwī   hằt-∅| sừnd-ī   xwārd   ba
each   time-INDF   fox   come.PST-3SG   swear꞊3SG   eat.PST   to

wədzā́ġ꞊ī̀| yān   ba   har   šət-àkʸ꞊ī̀,|
clan꞊3SG   or   to   EMPH   thing-INDF-3SG

Whenever he [the fox] comes over and takes an oath on his clan
or on anything else,

awā   mən   řēk   lat꞊ū   pàt꞊ī   a-ka-m.|
DEIC   1SG   directly   piece꞊and   RDP꞊3SG   IND-do.PRS-1SG

I will tear him to pieces right away.

nè̀-wēr-ən   sond-ī   ba-dro   bə-xo-n.ˀ|
NEG-dare.PRS-3PL   swear-OBL.M   with-lie   SBJV-eat.PRS-3PL

They will not dare to make a fake oath.'

a-r-ē   hamān   xuta꞊yān   dzē-ba-dzè̀   kərd.|
IND-say.PRS-3SG   same   saying꞊3PL   place-by-place   do.PST

It is said that they (i.e. the ewe and the dog) made the same plan.

ṣa-y   xo   šārd-awa   la-pəž   dằr-ī.[|]
dog-OBL.M REFL hide.PST-TELIC in-back tree-OBL.M

The dog hid behind the tree.

ū   gurg=ū   řēwī=š   hāt-ən   lo   šahādadān-ề.[|]
and wolf=and fox=ADD come.PST-3PL to witness.INF-OBL.F

And the wolf and fox came to bear witness.

(18) *got=ī   got=ī,   'awằ=š   šāhēd-ī   mən.'*[|]
      say.PST=3SG say.PST=3SG DEM=ADD witness-EZ.M 1SG

[The wolf] said, 'Here is my witness!'

řēwī ba jəwāb   hāt-∅   zor   ba   murtahì,[|]
fox   to response come.PST-3SG much with comfort

The fox started to speak (lit. came to answer) comfortably.

got=ī,   'amền šāhēdī   a-da-m   ka   aw
say.PST=3SG 1SG   witnessing IND-give.PRS-1SG COMPL DEM

murk-à[|]   *mùrk^y-ē*   *gurg-ī̀=a.*[|]
property-DEM   property-EZ.M wolf-OBL.M=COP.3SG

[and] said, 'I testify that this land is the wolf's

atò   hāt-ī[|]   *la-sar=ət   dā-kotằ=ya,*[|]   *ba-bē*
2SG   come.PST-2SG   on-top=2SG PVB-hit.PST.PTCP=COP.3SG with-no

hàq=ū[|]   *ba-bē   mằf.'*[|]
right=and   with-no right

and that you have come [into this land and] taken it over without
any [legitimate] rights.'

(19) *mař-aka=š   got=ī   'āxər nằ-bī!*[|]
      ewe-DEF=ADD say.PST=3SG well NEG-be.PRS.3SG

The ewe said, 'It does not work like this!

la	*ʿādä̀t=ū*	*ʿurf-ē*	*ma*⌐	*sūnd*	*xwārdə̀n*⌐
in	habit=and	custom-EZ	1PL	swear	eat.INF

aw-ja	*salmāndə̀n.*⌐
DEM-time	prove.INF

In our customs, one first takes an oath, then one proceeds to presenting proof.'

got=ī	*ʹbāš*	*ama*	*sūnd*	*ba*	*čə̀*	*bə-xo-yn?*⌐
say.PST=3SG	all.right	1PL	swear	to	what	SBJV-eat.PRS-1PL

He (the fox) said, 'All right! What should we take an oath on?'

got=ī	*ʿa-bī*	*sūnd*	*ba*	*wədzā̀ġ-ī*	*bāb=ū*
say.PST=3SG	IND-be.PRS.3SG	swear	to	clan-EZ.M	father=and

bāpīr-ān=əm	*bə-xo-y!',*⌐	*mař-akà*	*got=ī.*⌐
grandfather-PL.OBL=1SG	SBJV-eat.PRS-2SG	ewe-DEF	say.PST=3SG

'You should take an oath on the clan of my ancestors!', the ewe said.

(20)	*řēwī=š*	*got=ī,*	*ʿzor*	*ʾaʿtīyādì=ya.*⌐
	fox=ADD	say.PST=3SG	very	normal=COP.3SG

The fox said, 'It is totally fine.

wədzāġ=ət	*la*	*kēndarè=ya*	*tā*	*sūnd=ī*	*pē*
clan=2SG	in	where.OBL.F=COP.3SG	so.that	swear=3SG	to

bə-xo-yn?⌐
SBJV-eat.PRS-1PL

Where is your clan for us to take an oath on?'

got=ī,	*ʿwədzā̀ġ-ē*	*mən*	*la-pəšt*	*àw*	*dār-a=ya.*⌐
say.PST=3SG	clan-EZ.M	1SG	in-back	DEM	tree-DEM=COP.3SG

She said, 'My clan is behind that tree!'

ka   řēwī   dìt꞊ī| sag-àkʸ-ī   gawra| la-pəž
when fox   saw.PST꞊3SG   dog-INDF-EZ.M   big   in-back

dār-akà꞊ya.| har   zərāw꞊ī   čǜ-∅|
tree-DEF꞊COP.3SG   EMPH   gall.bladder꞊3SG   go.PST-3SG

On seeing a big dog behind the tree, the fox was frightened (lit. his gallbladder went).

got꞊ī   'na   ba   xwā̀-y| bak   pīrozī   wədzā̀ġ꞊ət|
say.PST꞊3SG   no   by   God-OBL.M   by   greatness.EZ.M   clan꞊2SG

ato   wədzāġ꞊ət   gala   galak   mubāràk꞊a.|
2SG   clan꞊2SG   very   very   sacred꞊COP.3SG

He said, 'By God, [and] by your clan's sanctity, your clan is very holy.

nə̀-tān-əm   sūnd꞊ī   pē   bə-xo-m.'|
NEG-can.PRS-1SG   swear꞊3SG   to   SBJV-eat.PRS-1SG

I cannot take an oath on it.'

řìwī̀   řoy-∅.|
fox   go.PST-3SG

The fox went away.

(21) *got꞊ī   gurg   got꞊ī   'nā̀-bīt!|*
      say.PST꞊3SG   wolf   say.PST꞊3SG   NEG-be.PRS.3SG

The wolf said, 'It does not count!

řīwī   tərsā̀꞊ya.|
fox   scared꞊COP.3SG

The fox became scared.

aga-nā   qat   qàt   pəšt   la   mən   nā-kā꞊w|
if-not   never   never   back   at   1SG   NEG-do.PRS.3SG꞊and

Otherwise, he would never turn his back on me.

šāhēd   àw꞊a⸢   *ka   awa   murkʸ-ī   mə̀n꞊a.*⸣
witness   3SG꞊COP.3SG   COMPL   DEM   property-EZ.M   1SG꞊COP.3SG

He is the witness that this property is mine.'

got꞊ī   ka   gurg   lē꞊y   nəzīk   bū-∅-w-awa
say.PST꞊3SG   when   wolf   to꞊3SG   near   become.PST-3SG-EP-TELIC

sūnd   bə-xwɑ̀!⸢
swear   SBJV-eat.PRS.3SG

When it was the time for the wolf to take the oath,

got꞊ī   'mən   sūnd   nak   ba   wədzāġ-ē   tò⸢
say.PST꞊3SG   1SG   swear   no.only   to   clan-EZ.F   2SG

ba   hamū   šət-ě̀kʸ-ī   a-xo-m.⸣
to   all   thing-INDF-OBL.M   IND-eat.PRS-1SG

he said, 'I will take an oath not only on your clan but also on anything else!'

(22) *ka   dīt꞊ī   ṣɑ̀gʸ꞊ī   lē꞊ya*⸢
      when   see.PST꞊3SG   dog꞊3SG   in꞊COP.3SG

When he (the wolf) saw that a dog was there [behind the tree],

ṣa   pəř꞊ī   dā꞊ya꞊w   quřk꞊ī   gə̀rt.⸢
dog   movement꞊3SG   give.PST꞊COP.3SG꞊and   throat꞊3SG   grab.PST

the dog jumped on the wolf and seized [him by] his neck.

got꞊ī,   'āmɑ̀n,⸢   amə̀n   hič   nī꞊ma.*⸢
say.PST꞊3SG   EXCL   EXCL   nothing   NEG꞊COP.1SG

He (the wolf) said, 'Please, please! I'm nothing!

aw   murk-a   murkʸ-ī   tò꞊a.⸣
DEM   property-DEM   property-EZ.M   2SG꞊COP.3SG

This property is yours!'

*jā a-r-ề*ˈ   *l-aw   hāḷat-a-y   dā   ūdzāġ*
then IND-say.PRS-3SG in-DEM tale-DEM-OBL.M POST clan

*awanda   pīròz bū=a*ˈ   *la-nāw   komaḷgā-y kurdì*ˈ
that.much sacred be.PST=PERF in-middle society-EZ.M Kurdish

It is said that the clan was so holy in the Kurdish society

*yaˤnī sừnd=ī   pē xor-ā=ya.*ˈ
that.is swear=3SG to eat.PRS-PASS.PST=COP.3SG

that one would take an oath on it.

*har lò=ya=š   a-bīn-īn*ˈ   *haqāyat kurdī-yakằn*ˈ
EMPH why=COP.3SG=ADD IND-see.PRS-1PL tale   kurdish-DEF.PL

*b-aw   amānj-a-y   a-bà-n.*ˈ
to-DEM purpose-DEM-OBL.M IND-take.PRS-3PL

That is why we see that it's referred to in Kurdish tales.

*amn=īš hāt-m-àw*ˈ
1SG=ADD come.PST-1SG-TELIC

I came back [from the events of the story]

*hȉč=əm   pē na-bəř-ā-∅*ˈ
nothing=1SG to NEG-cut.PRS-PASS.PST-3SG

and nothing was given to me [by the characters in the story].

*xalās=ū řòy-∅.*ˈ
over=and go.PST-3SG

It is finished (lit. it is finished and gone).