

# Neo-Aramaic and Kurdish Folklore from Northern Iraq

A Comparative Anthology with a Sample of Glossed Texts

VOLUME 2



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## 5. ZAMBILFROSH

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### **Summary**

A son of a king went out hunting one day with some servants. After three days they set off back home. On the way he found a dead man lying on the ground. The boy was very saddened by this and, on his return, told his father that he had no desire to live a worldly life but wished to go away and become a monk. He went away and met a hermit in a cave who was weaving baskets. The boy stayed with him and made his living through weaving baskets and the like. One day he was accosted by the wife of a king, who asked him to weave a basket for her. When the boy delivered the basket to her, she attempted to seduce him and tempt him by sumptuous gifts. He refused her advances and castigated her. She threatened to tell the prince that he had assaulted her. He prayed to God and, through God's intervention, somebody came to the door and the boy ran away.

(1) zambil früş<sup>1</sup> 'è<sup>1</sup> gu xà<sup>1</sup> gawət ya<sup>1</sup>ni hūçita.<sup>1</sup> 'ani g-zamrila<sup>1</sup>  
g-māzidi rēšaw gu zmarta.<sup>1</sup> fa ya<sup>1</sup>ni lāḥən g-matwi 'adya.<sup>1</sup> bas hūçitaw  
'āya=wawa:<sup>1</sup>

(2) k-amər 'ətwə xa malka gu de mātā.<sup>1</sup> 'ətwale xa brōna<sup>1</sup> gālak<sup>1</sup>  
'aqəl=u mar ... 'adya=wewa mar hāwna.<sup>1</sup> xa yōma<sup>1</sup> g-lamata qam-  
madzmēlu,<sup>1</sup> pləṭle<sup>1</sup> 'əl šēda.<sup>1</sup> 'ani .. qāmaya 'è 'ətwə.<sup>1</sup> tsə mändix lətwə  
max 'āta.<sup>1</sup>

(3) pləṭlu l-šēda.<sup>1</sup> k-amər ṭlahə yomata pəšlu gawət ṭūra.<sup>1</sup> xarta  
dərū qa bēta.<sup>1</sup> 'ūrxa xzele xā mita l-'ūrxa.<sup>1</sup> xa mita xzēle,<sup>1</sup> xa npila.<sup>1</sup>

(4) gālak qḥəre gu jānu<sup>1</sup> 'u 'amər, 'bar naša 'atxa k-seḥa 'əlu<sup>1</sup> w  
āla 'amər 'ana ... k-šawqəne beta=w ḥāle<sup>1</sup> 'āmər:<sup>1</sup> k-azən qa jāni<sup>1</sup>  
g-ēšən mux rābāne,<sup>1</sup> madam naša 'atxa seḥa 'əlu.<sup>1</sup>

(5) k-āmər<sup>1</sup> ləbu qəre m-külle mändi.<sup>1</sup> dəre qa beta.<sup>1</sup> dəre 'amər  
qa bābu,<sup>1</sup> 'bābu<sup>1</sup> 'āna<sup>1</sup> lā k-awən gu beta.<sup>1</sup> 'ana k-pəltən.<sup>1</sup> k-azən qa  
jani<sup>1</sup> 'ēšen max dāna 'eḥidaye 'itən gu škāfte<sup>1</sup> 'āna.<sup>1</sup>

(6) 'amər, 'qa ma ma səḥla 'əlux?<sup>1</sup> mdiwənx?<sup>1</sup> ma 'itela b-rēšux  
brōni,<sup>1</sup> 'itela b-rēšux brōni mā<sup>1</sup> qa ma 'atxa?<sup>1</sup>

(7) 'amər, 'bābu,<sup>1</sup> madam metəx xārta,<sup>1</sup> 'atxa k-ətya b-rēšan,<sup>1</sup>  
'ana lā k-əben<sup>1</sup> 'e malkūta la k-əbəna<sup>1</sup> 'e šāḥat la gbən.<sup>1</sup>

(1) Zambilfrosh, yes, is in [the form of] a story. But they also sing it and add to it in the song. I mean they tell it with melody, thus. But this is how the story was:

(2) It is said that there was a king in the village. He had a son who was very wise and clever. One day he (the son) gathered the servants and went out hunting. In the old days it was like that. Nothing was the way it is now.

(3) They went hunting. It is said that they remained in the mountain for three days. Then they returned home. On the way back, he came across a dead man who was lying there on the ground.

(4) He became very sad. He said, 'Is this what happens to a man? By God, I shall leave home and go about living like a hermit, since this is what happens to a man.'

(5) It is said that he lost interest in everything.<sup>1</sup> He returned home. He went up to his father and said to him, 'Father, I am not going to stay at home. I am going to leave. I am going off by myself to live like the hermits who live in caves.'

(6) He (his father) said, 'Why, what has happened to you? Have you gone mad? What has happened to you, my son, what has happened to you? Why are you doing this?'

(7) He said, 'Father, since we die at the end and this is what happens to us, I do not want this kingdom, I do not want this luxury living.'<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Lit. his heart became cold concerning everything.

<sup>2</sup> Lit. this health.

(8) ʾàmər, | ʿbaxta g-matènuḡ. | ʾāta he lèwa. | k-yatwət b-rəš tàxta, |  
pàšxət=u | ben yalux=u bàxtux=u. ʾ | ʿməstahīl ʾ | ʾamər, ʿbaxta-š là g-bən. ʾ

(9) ʾaxtsən baba mat wədle ʾəbu là ʾəbele. | pləṭle | mnunèle gu  
babu | ʿafu ʾawədlu. | xatər šqəle mənū, | pləṭle. | pləṭle. | psele m-bèta. |

(10) ʾizəle. | tḡəqlə gu xa rāban | gu xa škāfte. | rāban ʾitiwe=le qa  
janu qúpu gādəl=u | məndi gādəl=u | g-mzabən=u ʿāyəs gawu. |

(11) ʾàmər, | ʿk-awən jèbux. ʾ | ʾàmər, | ʿm-èka box ʾāt gu de ʿyašta  
ʿèšət? ʾ | ʾamər, ʿmatot ʿèšət | ʾana ʾàtxa g-ʿešən. | gāmox là (ha)we gawi. |  
ʾegət lawlabi ʿèšən | ʾaya ʾè. ʾ

(12) pəšle jèbu. | ʾazəlwa | matewa ʾāna šūw=u | qatèwa=w |  
ʾawədwə=w | qūpe gadəlwa=w | ʾāna məndyàne=š | qāfāš=u | ʾāna  
gadəlwa. | ʾazəlwa ʾəl šūqa | mzabənwalu. | ʾixalta zawənwa | matewala  
qa bèta. |

(13) xa yòma hadax | xa bax malka qam-xazyàle. | ʾaxtsa dzwān  
wewa | yeksar ʾəšəqla ʾəlu. | yeksar yaʿni ləbaw ʾizəle qatu. | šūḡa l-  
šəməx ʾàlaha. | sātana k-àwər gu bar naša. |

(14) ʾamra qātu, | fāqira, | mà k-əbət? ʾ | ʾàmər, | ʿana tsə məndi la  
gbən. ʾ | ʾamər, ʿana ʾāna g-matènu | g-mzabnènu, | pəri šaqlənu. ʾ  
ʾamra, | lèke=wət? ʾ | ʾamər, ʿana l-xa dükte=wən | gu xa škāfte. ʾ

(8) He (his father) said, 'I will bring you a wife. This is not the time to do this. You are going to sit on the throne and be happy with your children and your wife.' 'Impossible!' he said, 'I do not want a wife.'

(9) No matter how hard his father tried to persuade him, he refused. He went out and entreated his father to pardon him. He bade him farewell and left. He set off from home.

(10) He went and came across a hermit in a cave. The hermit was sitting by himself weaving baskets and similar things, which he sold to make a living.

(11) He said, 'I am going to stay with you.' He (the hermit) said, 'But how can you live a life like this?' He said, 'I shall live the way you live. Don't worry about me. If I am unable to live, then...'

(12) He stayed with him. He used to go out and bring wooden canes, which he cut, and fashioned, and wove into baskets and such things as cages and the like. He used to weave things like these. He used to go to the market and sell them, and then buy food and bring it home.

(13) One day, as he was doing this, the wife of a king saw him. He was so handsome that she immediately fell in love with him. She desired him in her heart at once. Glory to God<sup>3</sup>—Satan often tempts man to do evil things.<sup>4</sup>

(14) She said to him, 'Poor man, what do you want?' He said, 'I want nothing.' He said, 'I only bring these, sell them and get my money.' She said, 'Where do you live?' He said, 'I live somewhere in a cave.'

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<sup>3</sup> Lit. to the name of God.

<sup>4</sup> Lit. Satan enters into man.

(15) ʾamra, ʿdana m-xùškunta<sup>|</sup> qati gdúl xa ھاşıra.<sup>|</sup> ʾana bêt mîre-wan.<sup>|</sup> metile qa betət mîra-w<sup>|</sup> ھاqox č-yawan xà lira.<sup>|</sup> lira gələk=ile yawale qatu.<sup>|</sup>

(16) pşəxle.<sup>|</sup> ʾizəle mære qa rāban,<sup>|</sup> ʿxa gələk bāš gdúl.<sup>|</sup> xa baxta marte-la qəti<sup>|</sup> “ھاqox xa lira č-yawāne.”<sup>|</sup> ʾè.<sup>|</sup>

(17) ʾaw dza ʾe gət mzabənwalu ʾāna<sup>|</sup> gu zumara-š daʾərwa qatət škəftu.<sup>|</sup> k-amər daʾərwa gu beta zumāra.<sup>|</sup>

(18) ʾe ... pşəxle<sup>|</sup> m-xúška qādamta qəmle.<sup>|</sup> xa karta wədwale qātu.<sup>|</sup> ʾlaha qupyāta-w<sup>|</sup> xa ʾawa-š qa de baxta xşūši wədwale.<sup>|</sup> k-amər ʾizəle<sup>|</sup> ʾani ʾan ʾlaha qam-zabənu.<sup>|</sup> dəre qa daya yawəle ʾaw xət.<sup>|</sup>

(19) k-āmər<sup>|</sup> ʾāyən<sup>|</sup> qa ma wəre gawāye<sup>|</sup> gu ʾena ʾamra qa xadāmtaw,<sup>|</sup> ʿtāra ʾlūqle!<sup>|</sup> k-āmər<sup>|</sup> tāra qam-ʾalqāle.<sup>|</sup> ʾitūle.<sup>|</sup>

(20) ʾāmra,<sup>|</sup> ʿm-āxa là k-paltət.<sup>|</sup> ʾāmər,<sup>|</sup> ʿqa mà la k-paltən?<sup>|</sup> ʾāt là mərəx qati.<sup>|</sup> matu k-awe ʾatxa?<sup>|</sup> ʾāmra,<sup>|</sup> ʿana k-əbānux.<sup>|</sup> ʾāmra,<sup>|</sup> ʿtsə šək ləba k-əbānux.<sup>|</sup> k-əbānux=u<sup>|</sup> č-yatwət lāxa l-dúkət mîra-w.<sup>|</sup>

(21) ʾāmra,<sup>|</sup> ʿbəš bāsəmta ləwa<sup>|</sup> mən dāna ʿturān=u<sup>|</sup> b-əyaštux b-gələt ʾaywān=u<sup>|</sup> ʾāt gu dāna məndayane ʿəšət?<sup>|</sup> ʾāmər,<sup>|</sup> ʿana là gbən ʾāna məndyane tsə məndi.<sup>|</sup> ʾana rədyə=wən gu ʾāl jāni.<sup>|</sup> là č-yatwən.<sup>|</sup>



(15) She said, 'Tomorrow morning weave me a mat. I am in the house of the prince. Bring it to the prince's house and I'll give you one lira as your wages.' A lira is a lot for her to give him.

(16) He was pleased. He went and said to the hermit, 'Weave one very well. A woman has said to me "I shall give you one lira as your wages."' Yes.

(17) So, when he sold these things, he would return to his cave singing hymns.<sup>5</sup> It is said that he would return home singing hymns.

(18) He became happy. He woke up early next morning. He prepared a load [of baskets] for himself. Three baskets. Besides, he made a special mat for the woman. It is said that he went and sold the three [baskets]. He went back to give the other [item] to her.

(19) It is said that as soon as he entered her house, she made sign with her eyes to her maid telling her, 'Close the door!' It is said that she closed the door. He sat down.

(20) She said, 'You are not leaving this place.' He said, 'Why am I not leaving? You did not tell me. How is this possible?' She said, 'I love you.' She said, 'There is no doubt that I love you. I love you. You are staying here, in place of the prince.'

(21) She said, 'Isn't it better than the mountains, living on grass like animals.<sup>6</sup> Can you live on these things?' He said, 'But I don't like any of these things [that you are telling me about]. I am happy with the way I am. I am not staying.'

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<sup>5</sup> Lit. songs.

<sup>6</sup> Lit. on the grass of animals.

(22) ʾàmra, | ʿitu rəš tàxta. | ʾàmra, | ʿč-yàtwət | šaqləta baxtət mîra. |  
ʾè. | pàşxət | lwúš qābaya gu dāhwa sqira. |

(23) ʾàmər, | ʿana ʾətwali qābaya gu dāhwa sqira. | lèwən ʾəbyu. | là  
k-əbən. | ʾàmər, | ʿbàssa. | ʾàmər, | bāxta | la k-palxən xṭita. | la g-max-  
məşəne marət bəryata. | dax g-maxməşəne? |

(24) ʾàmər, | ʿe məndi là k-udən. | ʾāt ʾeba lèwa qatax? | ʾàmər, | ʿya  
xàtun | ya ʾamanita. | be ḥàya=w | mar pata qṣṭita! | la kudəna ʾāya  
xṭita, ʾàmər. |

(25) ʾàmər | xar dè ga | har qam-maʿiqàle. | ʾizəla dzəle lwəšla=w | ...  
qūlbe drela=w | səhma=w | jana=w msuqlàla=w | ʾitela ʾidu qam-  
dawqàla. |

(26) k-amər qam-garšale l-palgət bəta. | yaʿni mabərale gawàye. |  
gālak ʾəqle. | gālak ʾəqle. | là ydele ma (a)wəd. |

(27) ʾamər qàtaw, | ʿàhat, | ʾamər, ʿya xātu! | šəklax g-mšane, |  
mənax g-mšane. | šəkəl diyyax mənax g-mšane. | malax payəš qa nàše. |  
ʾāt sàpsat gu qawra. | qa mà ʿe məndi biyade-wat? | yaʿni k-ṭawya ʾāt  
ʿe məndi ʾawdat | ʾè k-ətya b-rešax? |

(28) ʾàmra, | ʿhàr k-əbānux | har k-əbānux, | har k-əbānux. | ʾàmra, |  
ʿlebi pàršān mənux. |

(22) She said, 'Sit on the throne.' She said, 'You will stay and take the wife of the prince for yourself. Yes. You will be happy. Put on a waistcoat made of woven gold.'

(23) He said, 'I used to have a waistcoat made of woven gold. But I have not missed it.'<sup>7</sup> 'I don't want that.' He said, 'Enough! Woman, I will not sin. I will not enrage the creator. How could I enrage him?'

(24) He said, 'I will not do such a thing. Isn't it a shame for you.' He said, 'You arrogant woman, without shame, brazen! I will not commit this sin,' he said.

(25) It is said that after that she continued to pester him. She went and dressed up and put on bracelets and silver jewels. She made herself very attractive. She came and held his hand.

(26) It is said that she dragged him to the middle of the house. I mean, she made him enter inside. He got very upset. He got very upset and did not know what to do.

(27) He said to her 'You,' he said, 'Oh Lady, your beauty will go away, it will go away from you. Your beauty will go away from you. Your wealth will be left to other people. You will rot in the grave! Why are you doing this thing? I mean, is it worth doing this when this will befall you?'

(28) She said, 'Still I will love you. I will still love you. I will still love you.' She said, 'I cannot separate from you.'

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<sup>7</sup> Lit. I have not wanted it.

(29) ʔəqlə mà (a)wəd?| t̪ləble mən ʔalaha ʔəmər,| ʔamra, ‘dāna  
 ʔāta,| ʔāta ʔāgar k-ate m̪iṛa,| šakyan ʔəl̪ux,| k-əmran| “atxa hāt̪ki  
 wide=le.”| ʔaw dza mà k-úd̪ət ʔahat?|

(30) ʔe gət ʔatxa m̪əra| ʔamra, ʔəd dāne=la t-k-ate m̪iṛa,| ʔaw dza  
 mà k-úd̪ət ya f̪āqira?| ʔe ga ʔəqlə t̪ləble mən ʔalaha.|

(31) mən xel̪ət ʔalaha,| xúr ʔalaha k-ate gu hanaʔət nāše,| xa naša  
 mxele l-t̪āṛa,| mxele l-t̪āṛa dābi patx̪ile,| ʔāʔāni t̪āṛa qam-patx̪ile=w|  
 ʔawa ʔər̪əql̪e,| xl̪əṣ̪le,|

(29) He was upset and [did not know] what to do. He prayed to God saying... She said, 'Or else, now, if the prince arrives now, I will complain about you and say "He assaulted me thus." So what will you do?'

(30) When she had said this, she said, 'It is time for him to come. What are you going to do, you wretched man!?' Then he was anxious. He prayed to God.

(31) Through the power of God—see, God comes to the rescue of man—somebody knocked at the door. Somebody knocked at the door and they had to open it. They opened the door and he ran away. [The story] has finished.

