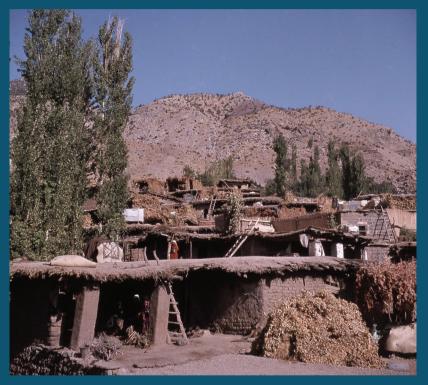
Neo-Aramaic and Kurdish Folklore from Northern Iraq

A Comparative Anthology with a Sample of Glossed Texts

VOLUME 2



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In collaboration with Lourd Habeeb Hanna,
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15. A MAN AND A SNAKE

Dorota Molin

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Audio: https://nena.ames.cam.ac.uk/audio/227/

Summary

A poor man used to go into the wild to cut wood. He would play his flute (*zurna*) and a snake would appear and dance for him. In the end, the snake would always give the man two coins from its hidden treasure. After some time, the man became greedy and decided to kill the snake in order to get all of its money at once. He tried to kill the snake with a rock, but could not. Instead, the snake attacked the man, killing him on the spot with his venom as a punishment for his betrayal.

- (1) 'ana Yawsəp 'Eliša 'Isḥaq mən Dùhok=iwən. 'yəmmi našət Mar Yàqu=la, šəmmaḥ Maryam Toma Jubrà'əl. 'ətti xa maθalŭke gəbən 'amrənna táloxun, 'an wằfa dət barnaša=w xùwe.
- (2) k-əmray xà yoma, xa făqira k-izəlwa l-qàyse. băθər mət xaleṣwa m-qàyse, qayèmwa, yătuwa reš kartət qayse dìyeḥ. 'u mapəqwa maṣula dìyeḥ, zùrna. 'u maxèwa.
- (3) xà xuwe g-napòqwa g-raqòðwa ṭaleḥ. mà raqoðwa ṭale ḥèl xaləṣwa mən mxayət zùrna. xuwe g-'awerwa l-nùqbeḥ. mapəqwa trày lire ṭaleḥ, ta 'àbu l-zurna, dàw făqira.
- (4) zəlle yoma, θèle yoma, kùd yom k-izəlwa-w pəšle šùleḥ. har b-aθe b-xaləş b-awədlay qàyse. b-àθe b-yatu rəš qayse 'u màxe, hənna, zùrna. 'u xuwe b-nàpəq b-raqəð ṭàleḥ. băθər mət xàləş, xuwe g-'awer mapəq trày lire b-yàwəl taleh.
- (5) xà yoma 'ay făqira k-ìmər, 'ma 'ana, là, hàtxa b-awðən. xùwe, kud yom b-aθe mapəqli trày lire. hatxa là k-awe. xăzənta kulla šaqlənna! 'ana, mà kud yom tre lire yawəlli? har qaṭlənne 'u kulla dìyi-la.'
- (6) hàm 'awa zèlle 'u muḥðere gyàneḥ wədle xa kepa 'ădùla ta gyane gəm-mătule kartèḥ, 'è. băθər ma də-xlèṣle xuwe m-rqàða, qəmle zale maθe lìre. 'u awa šaqəl kèpa, g-màxe gaweḥ. g-màxe gàweḥ 'u là gəm-qaṭəlle. xuwe rá 'san θele 'u gəm-mna 'èsle. gəm-mna 'əsle 'u pəšle zòpeke tama.

- (1) I am Yawsep Elisha Ishaq, from Duhok. My mother is from Mar Yaqo, her name is Miryam Toma Jubrail. I have a tale to tell to you, about trust between a man and a snake.
- (2) They say that one day, a poor man went to cut wood. After he had finished, he would sit on top of his load of wood, would take his flute out, his *zurna*, and play.
- (3) A snake would come out and would dance for him. He would dance for him until he finished playing the flute. [The snake would then] go into its hole, get two coins for him, for the man with the flute, the poor man.
- (4) Many days passed. [The poor man] would go every day, it became his job. He would come and, after finishing his woodcutting, he would come, sit on top of his wood and play the flute. The snake would come out and dance for him. After finishing, the snake would go in, bring two coins out and give them to [the man].
- (5) One day, that poor man thought, 'No, [this is what] I shall do. The snake brings me [only] two coins every day. This is not right. I shall take the entire treasure! I... why should he give me two coins every day? As soon as I kill him, it is all mine.'
- (6) So that man went and got ready. He prepared a flat rock for himself and put his bundle on, yes. After [the snake] finished dancing, he went to get the coins. The man seized the rock and hit him with it. He hit him with it, but did not kill him. Immediately, the snake went and bit [the man]. He bit him and the man fell dead on the spot.

(7) nəhàye, İ tămă ʿuθət barnàša, İ xzi hàtxa=yla. İ ya ʿni ʾawa kud yoma b-yawəllux trày lire İ ʾu šwaqa labole qàysux. İ ʾe, tămă ʿùθa İ gəbe, hənna, šaqəlwala xăzəntət hənna, e. İ ya ʿni ʾay tāmà ʿhum qatəllu, İ dàx k-əmrila. İ ʾe naqla ʾay qeṣəttət xuwe=w barnàša İ ʾày=ila. İ

(7) In the end, see what man's greed is like. This is to say, he gives you two coins every day and [even] lets you take some wood. Indeed, [this is] greed: he wanted to take the whole treasure. That is, it is their own greed that kills [people], as they say. This is the tale of the man and the snake.