

# Neo-Aramaic and Kurdish Folklore from Northern Iraq

A Comparative Anthology with a Sample of Glossed Texts

VOLUME 2



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## 21. A MAN AND HIS DOG

*Masoud Mohammadirad*

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**Speaker: Jalal Sher (CK. Shaqlawa)**

Recording: Lourd Hanna

Audio: <https://kurdic.ames.cam.ac.uk/audio/238/>

### **Summary**

This story is about a certain Uncle Gawro (K. Mām Gawro) and his dog. Once, Uncle Gawro's dog bit the daughter of Gawro's neighbour. The girl was taken to Erbil since it was feared that the dog had rabies. Uncle Gawro also was taken to Erbil along with his dog in order to have the dog examined. It turned out that the dog did not have rabies, and Mām Gawro was set free.

Since he was angry with the dog, Uncle Gawro beat his dog with a stick. Then he left his dog behind and went to the market in Erbil to buy some items for his supermarket in Shaqlawa. He came back home on a bus. On arriving home, he saw that his dog was already waiting there at his house, wagging its tail for him. Uncle Gawro was astonished that his dog could find his way all the way from Erbil to Shaqlawa. He was amazed by his dog's loyalty towards him and regretted beating him.

(1) *Mām Gawro şagàk<sup>y</sup>=î ha-bû. Mām Gawro mašhūr bû, şagàk<sup>y</sup>=î ha-bû. pēšān ‘ālam sāk ba xaw=î da-kərdən bo řūmālāt=û la bar dazî=û aw čētāna.*

(2) *Mām Gawro ... polisak jirānē wān bû. tab‘an mār-yān la gundî bûn aw zamān. řožak aw kətsî mām ... aw polisa a-čû=a qutābxāna, ... aw şayay Mām Gawro pəř=î dā=ya pē=y=û qapārək<sup>y</sup>=î lē dā.*

(3) *qapārək<sup>y</sup>=î lē dā, aw=iš čû=a xastaxāna. bāba got=yān, ‘əhtəmāl haya awa aw şaya hār bî. pāšān d-abî awa řuwānāy awa bə-kre Hawlērē bə-krē ba zabē‘t=û. sāhēbî k<sup>y</sup>ē=ya? aw şaga ē k<sup>y</sup>ē=ya?’*

(4) *‘d-abē bə-grīn bə-bayn=a ... sagay bə-bāyn=a Hawlērē. wa b-čīn=a ... tūš da‘l kalē būbî aw tsətak<sup>y</sup>î wa=ya. almuhīm, hātən Mām Gawro=yān palbast kərd=û gərtî=yān daga! şagakà=y. suwārî musalaḥà=yān kərd=û lo Hawlērē.*

(5) *Mām Gawro=ş galak xafāt=û marāq=î bû. dastî pē da-kāt –aw polis xo dawr=î ha-bû pēšān—baz got=î, ‘hay bāba kar=o lē kām şaya! d-abî la korē xwa=t bə-kam-awà!, tūšî tsə=t kərdəm!’*

(1) Uncle Gawro had a dog. Mam Gawro was famous, he had a dog. In the old days, people would keep<sup>1</sup> dogs for protection from attacks,<sup>2</sup> lootings and so forth.

(2) Mam Gawro had a neighbour who was a police officer. Needless to say, at that time, people used to live in villages.<sup>3</sup> One day when the daughter of Uncle ... er... the police officer was going to school, Uncle Gawro's dog attacked her and bit her on the foot.

(3) The dog bit her. She went to the hospital. They (i.e. people) said, 'It's likely that the dog has rabies: she should definitely be transferred to Erbil. Who is the owner of the dog?'

(4) [People continued] 'We should catch [the owner] and take [him and] the dog to Erbil. Let's go to [Erbil] ... [it's possible that] she has been infected with a dog disease called *dal kal*<sup>4</sup> or something like that.' Anyway, they came, arrested Uncle Gawro and his dog, put him into a police car, and headed towards Erbil.

(5) Uncle Garo felt sad and at a loss. He started [cursing the dog]—earlier he had been surrounded by the police—he said, 'Damn you<sup>5</sup>, dog! I shall get rid of you<sup>6</sup>! [Look] what you've done to me!'

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<sup>1</sup> Lit. raise.

<sup>2</sup> Lit. violence.

<sup>3</sup> Lit. At the time, their houses were located in villages.

<sup>4</sup> Presumably, a dog-transferred disease like rabies.

<sup>5</sup> Lit. May I treat your father like a donkey.

<sup>6</sup> Lit. I shall put you [down] from my shoulders.

(6) *baw garmāyaw bo čūyn—na ‘afwan buhār bū. | čūn čūn fàhs=yān kərd. | şagakà awa dar-čū | hār nà-bū, | sàq bū. | walā got=yān, ... ‘Mām Gawro, xalās=a | tu ‘afū=y-ū | sagaka=t tsə balā=y tēyā [niya].*<sup>1</sup>

(7) *walā Mām Gawro sūrā | tapūčkàk<sup>y</sup>i gawra=y dīt. | la ... aw hār lagarī wī dā bū čūka a=y-nāsī. | sagaka Mām Gawro=y a-nāsī. | walā har handē dīt matraqàk<sup>y</sup>-i lē [dā]*<sup>1</sup>

(8) *tap lē sày=i dā, | ‘hay am la bābaka=t ba karānaway lē bə-kām! | atə bābē mə=t awēy lē kərd. | dzūnī dzūnī, dzūnī pīs dāy=e. | şàk | awa kàt. | kat čoka zarbaka gala qawīn bū.*<sup>1</sup>

(9) *Mām Gawro-š got=i, ‘wara wara hatīmà! | a-čəm nāw bāzārī. | —dəkānàk<sup>y</sup>-i ha-bū, dəkān. | wa bīr-əm dē mən kəčkà būm. | dəkānēk<sup>y</sup>i kəčkà=y ha-bū.*<sup>1</sup>

(10) *čū got, ‘həndē šət=ū māk | šakramanī=ū aw šətānaya da-kəřəm | lo dəkānē. | taqriban sā‘atak awto ta’xīr [pəš] bū. | dūwāyē ba pāsī tomāsī gařā-wa. | pēšān pās bū třombəl na-bū.*<sup>1</sup>

(6) They headed [towards Erbil] in the heat—oh, pardon! It was during the Spring. They went and examined [the dog]. The dog did not have rabies, it was healthy. They said, ‘Uncle Gawro, it is done, you are forgiven. Your dog has no fault!’

(7) Uncle Gawro turned round and saw a big cudgel. The dog was still with him, since it knew Uncle Gawro. The dog knew Uncle Gawro. All of a sudden he beat the dog with the thick cudgel.

(8) He hit the dog [with the stick and started cursing it], ‘Damn you<sup>7</sup>! You have irritated me<sup>8</sup>.’ He cursed the dog using unpleasant words. The dog fell [to the ground]. It fell, since the blow was very heavy.

(9) Uncle Gawro said [to the dog], ‘Come, come [after me], you filth! I’m going to the bazaar [of Erbil].’ He had a shop, a shop. I remember that; I was a little boy [at that time]. He had a small shop [in Shaqlawa].

(10) He went [to the bazaar and] said, ‘I will buy some stuff, sugar and such things for the shop.’ He spent approximately an hour in the bazaar until he finished shopping. Then he took a bus, a Thomas bus,<sup>9</sup> and returned to Shaqlawa. Back then there were no cars, there were only buses.

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<sup>7</sup> Lit. May I treat your father like a donkey.

<sup>8</sup> Lit. You took out my father [out of his grave].

<sup>9</sup> A bus network in the region named after the bus manufacturer.

(11) *gařā-wà<sup>l</sup> wa čə gařā-wa dīt-i řagaka<sup>l</sup> la pēř darkə-yān-a kəlk<sup>ʿ</sup>-i<sup>l</sup> ba [řā awa řīni] bāwařīni bā a-dā lo Mām Gawro.<sup>l</sup> ah got-i, ‘bara bā’ [...]<sup>10</sup>. got-əm awa to piyā<sup>l</sup> la Hawlēre la kū zāni řa bēt-a řaqrāwā<sup>l</sup> bēt-a mārē māt<sup>ʿ</sup> ay wa řāsi got-i baw wafāy řaya, ‘qay nā-kā ‘afū da-kam [bə-mīnē].<sup>ʿ</sup> ā.<sup>l</sup>*

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<sup>10</sup> Speech muffled.



(11) He returned to Shaqlawa and saw that his dog was in front of the door and was wagging its tail for him. ‘Ah,’ Uncle Gawro said, ‘O man! How is it possible that the dog could travel from Erbil all the way to my house [in Shaqlawa]?’ He saw the loyalty of his dog and said, ‘It doesn’t matter [what you did], I forgive you, stay [here]!’ Yes.

