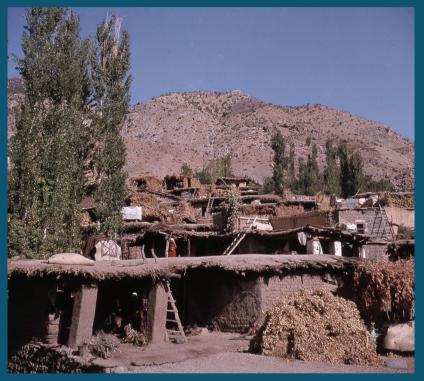# Neo-Aramaic and Kurdish Folklore from Northern Iraq

A Comparative Anthology with a Sample of Glossed Texts

VOLUME 2

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Cover images:

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23. THE POOR GIRL AND HER HORSE

Geoffrey Khan

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Audio: https://nena.ames.cam.ac.uk/audio/252/

Summary

A girl was expelled by her brother from her house. Along with her horse, she got herself hired as a prince's servant, pretending to be a man. The prince began to suspect that she was a woman and tried to find out through various means. The girl's horse, however, always warned her and helped her find a solution to ensure that she was not found out. Meanwhile, the prince fell in love with her. In the end, she was found out and they married.

(1)   *xa bàxta⌐ gălak dzwằn꞊wawa.⌐ ʾə̀twala⌐ yàʿni⌐ xà susa.⌐ ʾăya꞊š ʾàtxa⌐ ʿaynan ʾatxa gu dè̀⌐ ʾàdya,⌐ ʾaxonaw qam-ṭarə̀dla⌐ la čằdan.⌐ ʾăya꞊š bàxtu,⌐ mən baxtu t-čə̀dla⌐ la čan mày꞊wawa.⌐ là čădăna gălak ʾăya.⌐*

(2)   *qam-ṭarə̀dla.⌐ psela ʾizə̀la⌐ ʾăya꞊š ʿaynan rəš xa ʾilana ʾisə̀qla.⌐ susa mə̀naw⌐ susa qam-yasṛale l-xà dukta⌐ l-ḥarùqta꞊w⌐ ʾisəqla rəš ʾilàna.⌐*

(3)   *dìsan⌐ xà bronət malka ʾitele.⌐ qam-xazèla.⌐ ʾàmər̶gùre,⌐ dzŭlət gùre lwəšwala ʾăya,⌐ dzŭlət baxyata là̶qam-xazela ʾàmər,⌐ 'mà꞊ila?' ʾamər,⌐ mə̀ra,⌐ 'la mhèmən.'⌐*

(4)   *ʾăya xaḍṛàwa,⌐ xaḍṛawa ʾamràwa,⌐ 'ġlama là gbitun?⌐ ġlama là gbitun?'⌐*

(5)   *xa brunət malka ʾàmər,⌐ 'bằ⌐ ʾana ġlàma k-əbən.⌐ tàlax⌐ puš ġlām dìdi.⌐ yaʿni ġlàmi.⌐ yaʿni gu bèti⌐ šùla wud qati.'⌐ ʾaya꞊š qə̀mla⌐ ʾamra bàs,⌐ 'ʾana šula k-ùdan qatux.'⌐*

(6)   *mux gùre maḥkyawa.⌐ la mux bàxta.⌐ yaʿni la yăde bàxte꞊la.⌐ mux gùre maḥkyawa.⌐ ʾaya꞊š ʾàmra,⌐ 'ʾana k-udan qatòxən⌐ kŭle mə̀ndi⌐ bas ʾana k-əban sùsi⌐ b-jani ʾixala yằwan qatu⌐.*

(7)   *ʾadga k-ùdan⌐ xəzmətət susi꞊w sùsox.⌐ tsə məndí xət là k-udan.⌐ tsə məndí xət là gban.⌐ bas xəzmət susi꞊w susox k-ùdan꞊u⌐ ʾàxtsi.'⌐ ʾamər, 'bằš꞊ila.'⌐*

(1)   A woman was very beautiful. She had a horse. She was thus, in this [situation], her brother drove her away. I don't know [why]. This was [because of] his wife, because she had fallen out with his wife. I don't know what [it was]. I don't know all that.

(2)   He drove her away. She went away. She climbed up a tree. Her horse was with her. She tied her horse somewhere, in a distant place, and climbed up a tree.

(3)   Then[1] a son of a king came. He saw her. He said—she had put on men's clothes, not women's clothes—he saw her and said, 'What is the matter?' She said 'I do not believe (anything is the matter).'

(4)   In fact, she was wandering around [looking for a job], wandering around saying, 'Do you need a servant? Do you need a servant?'

(5)   A king's son said, 'Yes, I need a servant. Come and be a servant of mine, I mean my servant. I mean work for me in my house.' She says 'Yes, I will work for you.'

(6)   She spoke like men, not like a woman, so that he would not know that she was a woman. She spoke like men. So she said, 'I shall do for you everything, but I would like to feed my horse by myself.

(7)   So I will attend to both my horse and yours. I shall do nothing else. I want nothing else. I will attend to my horse and your horse, and that is all.' He said 'That is fine.'

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[1] Lit. again.

(8)   ʾamər, ꜥbắš=ila.ꜞ ʾay kabreta xa ʾòda wəllə qataw,˺ wəlle qàtu,˺ bròne=le,˺ gùre=le.˺ ʾaya=š l-xodu k-axəl ʾixala=w štàya.˺ ʾaw naša=š xa ʾòda ʾətwale.˺ xa ʾòda ʾətwale.˺

(9)   ʾaya=š har kud yum… dzwān pyàše=la=w˺ ṣuṛataw bəṛwàye=na=w˺ ʾènaw bəṛwaye=na=w˺

(10)   mare=le qa ʾodu ꜥʾòda!ʼ k-əmra, ꜥmà=ile?ʼ˺ k-amər, ꜥʾàya˺ k-mdamen maytarwàni˺ bàxte=la,˺ bràte=la.ʼ˺ ꜥwòluxꜞ bratət mà quṭmaw gu rèšaw!˺ ʾatən ma lewət bəxzaya ʾən là?ʼ˺

(11)   ʾamər, ꜥdməxwala gu ʾòda=š˺ ʾatxa pằlaw qam-paštawàlu.ʼ˺ ʾamər, ꜥbràte=la.ʼ˺ ʾamra, ꜥằgar brata hàwya,˺ čằdət mà ʾawdət?ʼ˺ ʾamər, ꜥmà?ʼ˺

(12)   ʾàmra,˺ ꜥʾizul ʾàdya.ʼ˺ ʾamər, ʾax sùsaw˺ ʾizəla yawiwa qa sùsta˺ … sùsaw.˺ sùsaw˺ là ʾixəle.˺ ʾàmra,˺ ʾamər, ꜥqa mà lēt bixala?ʼ˺ ʾàmər,˺ ꜥʾaškằra pešat.ʼ˺ ʾaya=š ʾamra, ꜥqa mà?ʼ˺

(13)   ʾamər, ꜥbas màre=wən qatax:˺ tre dəsqət warde wòd˺ tre dəsqət warde wòd,˺ mằtu xut rèšax.˺ ʾằgar m-xuška hàya˺ qulax hallu qati ʾàni,˺ xa dəsqa xòna˺ ʾət là sməqta.ʼ˺

(14)   ʾamər, ꜥằgarʼ˺ ʾadya ʾòdaw məra qatu˺ ʾòdaw,˺ ʾodu ʾamra, ꜥằgar ʾà…˺ brata hàwya,˺ dəsqət wàrde˺ mằtu xut rèšaw.˺ ʾằgar bràta hawya,˺ warde k-sàmqi.˺ brata là [ha]way,˺ warde là k-msamqi.ʼ˺

(8)　He said 'That is fine.' The guy gave her a room, I mean he gave him—she was a young man, a man. So, she ate by herself, eating and drinking [by herself]. He had a room [of his own]. He had a room.

(9)　She grew more and more beautiful every day. Her cheeks were growing and her eyes were growing.

(10)　He said to his mother, 'Mother!' She said, 'What is it?' 'I think my horse groom is a girl, she is a woman.' 'What damned girl are you talking about?! Can you see her or not?'

(11)　He said, '[I saw her when] she had gone to sleep in the room and had stretched out her limbs like this.' He said, 'It is a girl.' She said, 'If it is a girl, then do you know what you should do?' He said: 'What?'

(12)　She said, 'Go!' It is said, her horse—she went, they used to give [food] to the mare, her horse, but her horse would not eat. She said, he said 'Why aren't you eating?' It said: [Because if I do,] you will be discovered.' She said, 'Why?'

(13)　It said, 'But I say to you: make two bunches of flowers. Make two bunches of flowers and put them beneath your head. When it is early morning, get up and give them to me and another bunch that has not yet become red.'

(14)　He said, 'If'—now his mother said to him, his mother— his mother said, 'If it is a girl, put a bunch of flowers under her head. If it is a girl, the flowers will become red. If it is not a girl, the flowers will not become red.'

(15)   ʾằya₌š qə̀mle.ˈ ʾadya sùsa ʾamərˈ qàtaw,ˈ ʿʾāt ʾaškằra
pyaše₌wat.ʾˈ qə̀mleˈ tre dəsqət warde wə̀dle.ˈ ʾaga lə̀twala ʾằya.ˈ qam-
matulu xùt rešaw.ˈ kằbra gorin,ˈ yàla gorin.ˈ

(16)   ʾawa₌š ʾizə̀la.ˈ susa bas mə̀re qataw,ˈ ʿbằyani qùˈ ʾan wàrdeˈ
màxləplu.ˈ k-awi wìše,ˈ warde bəš gaš wùdluˈ matulu xut rèšax.ʾˈ

(17)   ʾaya ʾizə̀laˈ bằyani qə̀mlaˈ ʾan warde qam-ʾawdàlu,ˈ qam-
matwàluˈ warde xən wə̀dle,ˈ wə̀dla,ˈ mutula xut rèšaw,ˈ dmə̀xla.ˈ yaʿni
ʾaga lə̀ta ʾəl ʾùmrət dunye.ˈ

(18)   ʾitèleˈ warde labə̀lu qa ʾòdu.ˈ warde qam-labə̀lu qa ʾoduˈ
ʾodu₌š ʾàmra,ˈ ʿha bròni,ˈ hàʔ?ʾˈ məre, ʿbəxzayat wardaw ma gaš₌u
jwằn₌ina?ʾˈ ʿʾằya bròne₌leˈ brata lèwe.ˈ ʾè ̣ˈ ləbux là xaru.ʾˈ

(19)   ʾamər, ʿè ̣.ʾˈ mà ʾawəd? qə̀mle ʾamə̀ra,ˈ ʾamər xa tre yomata
xət ṭlaha ʾizə̀le₌wˈ kābra ʾàmər, ʿʾana har šə̀k byadewən ʾe bràte₌la,ʾˈ
qa yə̀mu.ˈ ʿwəlux yə̀mu bratət mà ʾəl ʾurxət ʾalaha qurbanux ʾòdux,ˈ
bratət mà?ʾˈ

(20)   ʾàmra,ˈ ʿčằdət mà awdət?ʾˈ ʾamər, ʿmà awdən?ʾ ʾàmra,ˈ ʿʾizừlˈ
ṣxìmən.ˈ wudla bi ʾàtyaˈ d-azax ṣàxəx,ˈ ṣàxəx.ˈ ʾe ga ʾaškə̀ra peša.ˈ
ʾằgar brata hàwya,ˈ là k-ətya mənux,ˈ là k-ətya mənux.ʾˈ

(15)   He got up. Now the horse said to her, 'You will be re-vealed.' He got up and made two bunches of flowers. She was not conscious. He put them beneath her head—the guy, the boy.

(16)   So, he went, but the horse told her, 'Get up early in the morning and replace the flowers. They will be dry, pick some redder flowers and place them under your head.'

(17)   She went out early in the morning and picked the flowers and put them… He picked other flowers, she picked, she put them under her head and went to sleep, I mean she was dead to the world.[2]

(18)   He came back and brought the flowers to his mother. He brought the flowers to his mother and his mother said, 'Yes, son, what is it?' He said, 'Do you see how red and beautiful her flowers are?' [His mother said] 'This is a young man, not a girl. Let not your heart be misled.'

(19)   He said, 'Yes.' What else could he do? He said to her, he said, [after] one or two days, three days, he went, and the guy said, 'I still suspect that it is a girl,' [he said] to his mother. [His mother said] 'My son, what girl for God's sake?! My dear,[3] what girl [are you talking about]?'

(20)   She said, 'Do you know what you should do?' He said, 'What should I do?' She said 'Go and swim together. Convince her to come so that we may go to swim, to swim. Then she will be recognised. If she is a girl, she will not come with you, she will not come with you.'

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[2] Lit. She was not aware of the age of the world.
[3] Lit. May your mother be your sacrifice.

(21)   *bas susaw mǝre qàtaw,ˈ ʾàmraˈ susaw ʾàmǝr,ˈ 'k-azitun ṣaxìtunˈ ʾat=u ʾàwa.ˈ mur "dăbi sùsiˈ qam-sùsux yasṛ̀ǝne."ˈ ʾana ʾe gǝt mšurelox̌ǝn gu šmàṭaˈ ʾana balutǝt susu g-dawqǝ̀na.ˈ ḥatta ʾawa là [a]teˈ là g-maṛmǝ̀na.ˈ ʾe ga bàṭraˈ bărabar ʾāt pèšat=uˈ ʾaškǝra là k-pešat.'ˈ*

(22)   *ʾaya=š qǝ̀mlaˈ qǝmle ʾizǝ̀leˈ ʾàmǝr,ˈ ʾàmǝr,ˈ 'maytarwǟn.'ˈ ʾamǝr, 'mà=ila?'ˈ ʾamǝr, ''ana k-ǝbǝn ʾana=w ʾāt ʾazǝx ṣàxǝx.ˈ qalbi gǎlak pìs=ile.ˈ mhemǝn ʾamǝr d-ana mǝn tǝ̀mmal=u la tǝmmal k-ǝbǝnwa ʾamrǝn qatux.ˈ ʾazǝx xantsa ṣàxǝx.ˈ bàsˈ bàržan la xzeli.'ˈ*

(23)   *ʾaya ʾàwa=šˈ ʾizǝlu rubār ṣàxi. hatta ʾàwaˈ qam-naše xàṣu qam-šareleˈ ʾàyaˈ šǝṛwàlaw=uˈ qabàyaw=uˈ mǝ̀ndi=wˈ xàntsa mǝndèlaˈ xantsa jǝ̀le,ˈ qam mǝn dàwa,ˈ hǎta šǝk là [a]wǝd gawaw.ˈ*

(24)   *ʾawa ʾizǝ̀leˈ ʾàyaˈ ʾabìwaˈ ʾabiwa šǎmṭi,ˈ susa ʾizǝ̀le paqartǝt susa qam-dawǝ̀qla,ˈ susǝt daw nàša.ˈ ''ay hawǟr!ˈ ʾay hawǟr!ˈ sùsaˈ paqartu qam-dawǝ̀qla!'ˈ*

(25)   *ʾàmǝr,ˈ 'là k-awe.'ˈ hǎta qam-ʾawdile, 'băsi băsi' grǝšlu rešǝt sùsaˈ qam-parqilu mǝ-ġdàde.ˈ ʾe=š pǝ̀šla.ˈ ʾàmǝr ʾàmra,ˈ ʾodu ʾitela ʾamra, 'hàˈ ma=iwawa?!'*

(26)   *ʾamǝr, 'wǝ̀lax,'ˈ ʾamǝr, 'ḥatta ʾànaˈ gòryi qam-šamṭǝnuˈ ʾaya kalakaw goryu qundǝ̀ruˈ qam-šamṭàlu,ˈ qam-šamǝ̀ṭlu.,ˈ k-ǝ̀mra,[4]ˈ 'là k-ǝmran qatux broni lewe bràtaˈ... ?'ˈ*

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[4] The speaker apparently meant *k-amǝr* 'he (i.e. the son) said.'

(21)   But her horse said to her, she said, it said, 'Go swimming, you and him, but say "I must tie my horse in front of your horse." When you both begin to get undressed, I will grab his horse by the neck and will not allow it to go[5] until he comes. Then you will be behind it and you will not be recognised.'

(22)   So she got up, he got up and went, he said, he said, 'Horse groom!' He said 'What is it?' He said, 'I want the two of us to go swimming. My body is very dirty. To be honest, since yesterday and the day before, I wanted to tell you to go out and swim together, but I did not have the courage to tell you. I did not.'

(23)   She went out with him to the river to swim. By the time he loosened his waist belt, she took off her trousers, waist coat and the like. She took off some of her clothes before he did, so that he would not have doubts about her.

(24)   He went…, she… they wanted to get undressed, but the horse went and grabbed the horse's neck, I mean the man's horse. [She shouted,] 'Help! Help! The horse has grabbed its (i.e. the horse's) neck!'

(25)   He said, 'This is not allowed.' While they shouted, 'Steady, steady,' they led the horse away and separated them, she stayed [where she was]. He said… she said, his mother came and said, 'Ah, what has happened?!'

(26)   He said, 'Look,' he said, 'By the time I took off my socks, she had taken off her working shoes, her socks and shoes, [I mean] he had taken them off.' He said 'Am I not telling you that it is not a man, but it is a girl, it is not a man?'

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[5] Lit. to rise.

(27)   *disanăkà,⸾ ʾizə̀la⸾ har꞊š ʾe yàla⸾ har ʾàdya wədle⸾ har dzwān
pešàwa⸾ har har ləbu pə̀le.⸾ ləbu pə̀le.⸾ xa yoma xzèle⸾ ʾe baxta npəlta
ʾàtxa⸾ gu ʾoda dmə̀xte꞊la,⸾ qədle bìya⸾ dedawataw maxwòye꞊na.⸾*

(28)   *ṣrəxle l-òdu,⸾ 'ʾòda!⸾ ʾòda!' ʾamər, 'ʾita lăxa xùr.⸾ hàr
mare꞊wən brate꞊la⸾ hàr mare꞊wat lewa brata.⸾ hàr mare꞊wən brate꞊la,⸾
hàr mare꞊wat lewa brata.⸾ ʾayat ʾità⸾ xzì [i]ta.'⸾*

(29)   *ʾamra, 'na kay ha tăṛa paθxə̀tte.'⸾ ʾàmra, 'ʾə̀t⸾ ʾăgar ʾə̀t brón
malke꞊wət,⸾ ʾàna brón… brāt màlke꞊wan.'⸾ ʾamra, 'nà kay.'⸾*

(30)   *bas ʾamra, 'gu daw ʾašt꞊iš k-mbaṛxə̆̀nux⸾ ʾàmra⸾ har ʾana
xəzmətət sùsi ʾawdan,⸾ xəzmətət sùsi ʾawdan.'⸾ mhaymən ʾe ga꞊š pəšla
ʾaškăra⸾ qam-barə̀xla.⸾ ʾay꞊š xlə̀sla.⸾*

(27)   Once again, she went, that man made… she grew more and more beautiful and he fell in love with her.[6] One day he saw the woman lying in the room asleep. He fell in love with her. Her breasts were showing.

(28)   He shouted to his mother, 'Mother! Mother!' He said, 'Come here and look. I keep telling you it is a girl and you tell me it is not a girl. You come, look, come!'

(29)   She (i.e. the horse groom) said, 'Don't open the door, all right!' She said, 'If you are the son of a king, then I too am the daughter of a king.' She said 'Don't (open the door).'

(30)   But she said, 'I will marry you on condition that I may still attend to my horse, attend to my horse.' So, believe me, she was then revealed [as a woman] and he married[7] her. It (the story) is over.

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[6] Lit. his heart fell.

[7] Lit. blessed.