

Informant: Bənyamən Bənyamən (ʔEn-Nune)

(1) *xa-tuníθa t-íla θáya l-bàli¹ y-amríwala Rustámo ʔu-Zàlo.¹ Rústam brón-t Zāl-wewa.¹ ʔánna xákma náše gabbàre-wewa¹ xelàne.¹ paxrèy¹ xelàne-wewa¹ ʔu-gòre-wewa.¹ gabbàre.¹ ʔáp-xa lá-mšaya biyèy.¹*

(2) *ʔè-ga¹ Rustámo mtáne mánne y-ámri ʔé-gət danəxwa,¹ tlaθà yomáθa¹ ʔu-tlaθà lelāwáθa háwe dmíxa,¹ là qayómwa,¹ là rayósθa.¹ bábe diyè,¹ Zāl,¹ ʔíθwale xà-naša¹ maqrótwa káwse diyè¹ y-amríle hallàqa.¹ tíwale Zàlo¹ qam-tárət qásre diyè¹ ʔo-hallàqa¹ hóle múthyalla xa-semálta¹ múttalla baθrət rušáne diyè.¹ (3) ma-t-wéwa gòra,¹ hallàqa là matyáwa ʔíde gu-résət Zàlo.¹ mattúwa semálta gu-xáse diyè ʔu-y-asəqwa¹ gu-résə semálta¹ maqrótwa káwsət Zàlo.¹ qəm-qayósle káwse diyè¹ xírre gu-résət Zàlo¹ ʔíθwa šaqyàθa¹ brinàne,¹ gòre rába.¹ (4) móre tla-Zàlo.¹ Zàlo¹ ʔánna mòdila gu-réšux,¹ ʔánna šaqyàθa.¹ módila ʔánna brinàne.² mərə¹ hadíya quš-kàwsi.¹ ʔaw-lèle šúlux.¹ (5) móre là-b-alaha.¹ ʔm-lá galíli ʔánna šaqyáθa módi gu-réšux,¹ ʔánna brinánət mòdila w-ʔáti hátxa gabbàra,¹ ʔu-éni hátxa twíra rəšux¹ wíða brináne gu-réšux,¹ móre ʔm-lá galíli,¹ ʔána lè-qəšənnə káwsux.¹ (6) zədyále maqáste diyè¹ móre lá qəšənnə.¹ kəze.¹ qúšli rəš.¹ gúda máre nathyàθele.¹ móre là-b-alaha,¹ lá qəšənnə rəšux,¹ ʔm-qatlətli.¹ là qəšənnə káwsux,¹ ʔílla t-amrətli ʔánna ma-brinànela gu-réšux.¹ mərə¹ t-amrənnux¹ de-həyyo¹ tu-tíwa.¹*

(7) *móre ʔána bəyónwala xa-bràta,¹ brátət ʔAprəsyàw¹ t-fəllən ʔáθra,¹ xa-ʔáθra rəhqa-wewa.¹ móre y-azónwa meθoyəlla,¹ lè yawíwala ʔílli.¹ y-azónwa b-xéla meθoyəlla¹ palšəxwa.¹ ʔíθwaley ʔáp-ʔani náše ferəsse ʔu-gabbàre.¹ palšəxwa.¹ (8) ʔu-ʔánna brináne kúlla d-ən šarrāwáθa¹ t-maxəwa¹ murzāwáθa gu-réš.¹ ʔu-ríqən ʔəθya.¹ bráta làn-məšya t-in-múthyalla.¹ (9) Rustámo bróne diyè¹ hóle gu-béθa ríšle,¹ qəm-šəmèla ʔáyya šáwθa.¹ ʔimə-šmíyále kríble rába.¹ sab-ʔáp-ʔaw rába ferəssa-wewa¹ ʔu-xelàna.¹ čú-naša gu-d-o-ʔáθra là-məše bíye.¹ (10) móre námu ʔíθ xa-náša ferəssa máše táwə rəšət bəbi.² ʔu-plítele b-kərba.¹ ʔimə t-ile plíta kríba kríba,¹ rúše diyè qíθele b-yašílət tára,¹ tlixle gúda.¹ ma-t-wéwa zəxma,¹ gúda tlixle.¹*

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(1) A story that comes to my mind is called Rustam and Zāl, Rustam was the son of Zāl. These were mighty heroic warriors, their bodies were strong and huge. (They were) heroic warriors, nobody could defeat them.

(2) Now, they say of Rustam that when he slept, he would be asleep for three days and three nights, without getting up, without waking. His father Zāl had a person who used to cut his hair, called a barber. Zāl sat before his palace. The barber brought a ladder and placed it behind his shoulders. (3) Since he was so large, the barber's hand could not reach the head of Zāl. He would place a ladder on his back and climb up the ladder to cut the hair of Zāl. He cut his hair and looked at the head of Zāl. (He saw) that there were scars of enormous wounds. (4) He said to Zāl 'Zāl, what are these scars on your head? What are these wounds?' He said 'Now cut my hair! It is not your business'. (5) He said 'No, by God. If you do not reveal what these scars on your head are, what these wounds are from, when you are such a heroic warrior, and who broke your head, made wounds on your head...', he said 'If you do not reveal this to me, I shall not cut your hair'. (6) He threw his scissors down and said 'I shall not cut it'. He tried (to persuade him and said) 'Cut (the hair on) my head! The wall has ears'. He said 'No, by God. I shall not cut (the hair on) your head, even if you kill me. I shall not cut your hair, unless you tell me what these wounds are on your head'. He said 'I'll tell you. Come, sit down'.

(7) He said 'I used to love a girl, the daughter of Aprəsyaw, of such-and-such a place, which was a distant place'. He said 'I used to go to bring her back, but they did not give her to me. I used to go to bring her by force and we would fight. They also had warriors and heroic people. We used to fight. (8) These wounds are all from those battles, in which they struck iron balls on my head. I fled and came back. I could not bring back the girl'. (9) Rustam, his son, who was in the house, woke up and heard this conversation. When he heard it he became very angry, since he also was a strong warrior. Nobody in that land could defeat him. (10) He said 'Is there a warrior who could break the head of my father?' He went out in anger. When he went out in great anger, his shoulder hit the side of the door and the wall was demolished. Since he was so huge, the wall was destroyed.

(11) *plitle.*¹ *Zálo máre tla-halläqa*¹ *xzèlux!*¹ *lá-məri gúda máre naθyàθele?*² *hóle šmíyalla Rustámo,*¹ *t-áwəð fətné.*¹ *Rustámo máre tla-bábe diye*¹ *gǎrəg*¹ *ámrat*¹ *ay-bráta*¹ *ʔékela.*¹ *námu*¹ *íθ xa-náša máše táwər réšət*¹ *Zálo*¹ *ʔu-Rustámo sàxi?*² (12) *máre bábi hál*¹ *ʔu-qóššət hátxela.*¹ *kúlla tunìθa*¹ *d-ε-bráta qəm-mtanèla*¹ *ʔu-ʔáθra*¹ *ʔékéle,*¹ *ʔu-ʔèni-wewa twírælle réše diye.*¹ *Rustámo kríbéle ràba-w*¹ *qiméle,*¹ *plìtèle.*¹ (13) *ʔóθyèle zàla-w*¹ *šqílælle súsé diye*¹ *ʔu-dóryælle sárga l-xàše-w*¹ *gürza.*¹ *ʔé-ga*¹ *íθwa gürza m-geb-sèpa.*¹ *xa-qésá rixéle,*¹ *gu-réše diye güttéle,*¹ *qiréle.*¹ *y-ámriwala gürza.*¹ *ʔáy-ži šqílælla.*¹ (14) *čú-naša lá-mšewa taqólwala*¹ *ʔa-gürzət Rustámo.*¹ *ʔarbi batmáné yúqra diya-wewa.*¹ *yáni záwda m-əmmà-kilo?*² *yúqra d-ε-gürze diye-wawa.*¹ *qimlé zàla,*¹ *zìlle*¹ *tíwa xās-súsa,*¹ *zàla plìtè m-màθa.*¹

(15) *ʔitwale xa-xurzàya,*¹ *béθe diye šəttət màθa-wewa.*¹ *šəmme diye Bèžəm-wewa.*¹ *qəm-xazéle xále diye Rustámo zàla.*¹ *máre xáli lèket zàla?*² *máre ʔáw lèle šúlux.*¹ (16) *Bèžəm módile wàða?*² *hóle diwáqælle réšət xórta makyòpælle,*¹ *yalúnke zóre hola-θáya*¹ *ʔu-sáqa b-à-xorta,*¹ *marpòyælle réšət xórta,*¹ *xórta hóla zyàna,*¹ *ʔan-yalúnke zóre kùt-xa hóle zdáyælle bar-ðá-gotət dúnye.*¹ (17) *Rustámo mərə*¹ *xwàrza!*¹ *lá-wuð hátxa*¹ *qtúl*¹ *ʔanna-bnónə náše kúlla.*¹ *máre lítla xám*¹ *lèket zàla?*² *máre ʔána t-ázən*¹ *ʔitli šùla.*¹ *ʔati si-bèθa!*¹ *máre là xáli.*¹ *t-áθən mənnox.*¹ (18) *káze qlúb*¹ *máre là.*¹ *hár t-áθən mənnox.*¹ *qiméle šlixælla xórta*¹ *múttælla rəš-rúše-w zìlele.*¹ *xírre Rustámo*¹ *qəm-xazéle*¹ *ʔa-xórta šlixælla múttælla rəš-rúše.*¹ *máre ʔáwwa balàyéle*¹ *yan-ʔáwwa dáwəq wàjju.*¹ *ʔu-ʔáwwa təfl-zòra-wewa b-šəmme.*¹ (19) *ʔu-zìlela.*¹ *zìlela xá-yoma tré*¹ *ʔu-ʔlàθa,*¹ *zìle dmíxela xà-dukθa.*¹ *čèlay,*¹ *dmíxlay xa-dúkθa.*¹ *béna Rustámo*¹ *ʔé-gət dàməx*¹ *ʔlaθà yomáθa*¹ *ʔu-ʔlaθà ləlāwáθa y-áwe dmíxa lε-ràyəš.*¹ *máre tla-Bèžəm xwarzàye diye*¹ *ʔati də-la-dàmxeṭi,*¹ *ʔána dàmxeṭ ləxxa*¹ *t-lá-ʔaθi genàwe*¹ *ganwile súsá.*¹ *máre spày.*¹

(11) He went out and Zāl said to the barber ‘You see! Didn’t I say that the wall has ears? Rustam has heard and he will make trouble’. Rustam said to his father ‘You must tell me where that girl is. Is there somebody who can break the head of Zāl while Rustam is alive?’ (12) He said ‘My dear, the story is like this. He related all of the story about that girl, told where the place was and who had broken his head. Rustam became very angry. He got up and went out. (13) He came back and took his horse. He put the saddle and the club on its back. At that time the club (*gurza*) was in use¹ rather than the sword. This was a long piece of wood, with a ball at its end, which was tar. It was called a *gurza*. He took this. (14) Nobody could lift that club of Rustam. Its weight was forty batmans,² that is the weight of that club of his was more than one hundred kilos. He went off and sat on the back of the horse. He went off and left the village.

(15) He had a nephew, whose house was at the bottom of the village. His name was Bežəm. He saw his uncle Rustam going off. He said ‘Uncle, where are you going?’ He said ‘That is not your business’. (16) What was Bežəm doing? He was holding the top of a poplar tree and bending it down, young children were coming and going up the poplar, he was letting the top of the poplar go, the poplar was springing up and he was flinging the young children in all directions.³ (17) Rustam said ‘Nephew, don’t do that and don’t kill all those people’. He said ‘There’s nothing to worry about. Where are you going? He said ‘I am going (since) I have a job. You go home!’ He said ‘No, uncle. I will come with you’. (18) He tried (to persuade him and said) ‘Go back!’ He said ‘No. I will come with you’. He pulled up a poplar, put it on his shoulder and set off. Rustam looked and saw him pull up the poplar and put it on this shoulder. He said ‘Either he will be a problem or he will be outstanding’. He was a young child in name (only). (19) They went off. They travelled for two or three days, they went and slept in a certain place. They were tired and they slept in a certain place. Now, when Rustam slept, he would be asleep for three days and three nights and not wake. He said to Bežəm, his nephew ‘You must not sleep—but I shall sleep here—lest thieves come and steal the horse’. He said ‘Fine’.

¹ Literally: There was the club.

² Unit of measure varying between 2 and 10 kilos.

³ Literally: each one to one side of the world.

(20) *Béžəm hóle tūwa¹ h́aras-ile t-xále dīye,¹ ʔu-ʔá-xorta hó-b-ʔíde dīye,¹ hóle zála-w θàya,¹ m̄tawóle b-a-xòrta,¹ ʔáy ʿal-ʔasás kupále dīyela¹ là xòrta.¹ xá-bena píšle lèle¹ qəm-xazéle xa-mándi θàya¹ ráqa xāš-sùsa,¹ ʔax-lháya,¹ ʔax-bórqa lháya bèra,¹ mónne dīye nàše,¹ léðax mòdi.¹ (21) ʔu-θéle ʔo-bèra¹ ʔo-núra,¹ ʔo-mónndi la-ðíle sùsa-weewa¹ náša-weewa l-xàše.¹ b-lèle-weewa.¹ xzéle ʔax-núra béra-w síqle síqle¹ wírre gu-xa-gəppa gu-d-o-túra t-wéwa báθər xašəy.¹ hóle tãma.¹ ʔáwewa là-mšele čú-məndi bíye.¹ (22) klèle¹ hal-tímila t̄láθa yomàθa¹ Rustámò ríšle.¹ ríšle Rustámò¹ móre ha-xwarzáya Bèžəm¹ líθ wíya čú-məndi,¹ genáwe hále.² móre he-b-álaha¹ xáli háł ʔu-qəššət hátxela.¹ (23) móre xa-núra ʔóthyale b-lèle¹ ʔax-áxxa sàqa.¹ ʔána šqilønne¹ ʔáwewa qatíya m̄xáya ʔille dīye.¹ ʔu-lèle n̄píla čú-məndi,¹ ʔína xákma məndiyáne hóla n̄píle tãmáha mazlòqe,¹ lan-ðáʔa mòdile.¹ hole-síqa wírre gu-d-wàha gəppa.¹ (24) ʔáwewa mərə¹ mòdi.² zille xzéle ʔína kúlla dāwe¹ ʔu-m-ánna mujawharāt¹ t-wéwa tólye b-qđálə d-ε-bràta,¹ n̄píle l-àra.¹ móre há ʔáyya¹ l̄itlux šúla¹ klí díya t-ásqəx xázəx módile tãma.¹*

(25) *hadíya qiməle Rustámò¹ síqa l-tárət gəppa.¹ Béžəm móre lá xáli ʔána t-ásqən táma.¹ káze kli-ʔati¹ móre lá ʔana-t-ásqena¹ ʔati tu-làxxa.¹ ʔána t-ásqena.¹ hátxa rəqqiyána-weewa,¹ yalúnka zòra-weewa b-šm̄ma¹ ʔína ʔáp-aw ferəssa-weewa.¹ (26) qiməle síqa síqa gu-d-áw gəppa,¹ ʔína ʔáw xázyalle xa-nàša¹ dm̄ixa¹ réše díye múttəlle gu-xánət ða-bràta,¹ ða-bràta rába xàmθa.¹ ʔa-bràta mərə¹ ʔati mùt wáða láxxa.² ʔóθyən ʔati mašlənnəx,¹ nablənnəx.¹ (27) móra ʔille dīye¹ qu-qíma!¹ sigən ʔati!¹ šl̄igena,¹ t-lá-ɾayəš ʔáwewa.¹ ʔáwewa náša ʔən-ríšle¹ ʔáwewa ferəssele¹ ʔati-qatəllux.¹ móre lá b-álaha,¹ ʔilla mašlənnəx ʔána.¹ ʔən-ʔíle ʔúrza gáwɾa xoš-qəyəm,¹ m̄jarbənne.¹ (28) ʔaw-ríšle.¹ ʔiman-t ríšle qəm-xazéle.¹ káze xoš-šl̄igəm¹ yalúnka ʔati zòrəwət.¹ la-hanéli qatlənnux¹ móre lá b-álaha.¹ ʔən-qatlənnux ʔáyya bráta šaqlənna¹ ʔən-la-pálən m-àxxa.¹ (29) píšle májbur ʔáp ʔaw-náša t-wéwa múrqəlla ʔa-bràta.¹ ʔáp-aw ferəssa-weewa rába.¹ ʔáyya báxta bāyéwala Žálo.¹ twíra twéra réše díye m-rəš-d-áyya-waewa¹ ʔáwewa ferəssa-weewa¹ zila šqiləlla mən-bába-w yəmma-w¹ jl̄iwəlla mùθyalla.¹ múrəlla gu-d-o-gəppa¹ m̄t̄ušyalla.¹*

(20) Bežəm sat as the guard for his uncle, with the poplar tree in his hand, going back and forth, playing with the poplar tree, as if it were a walking stick, not a poplar tree. Then, when night fell, he saw something coming, rushing along on the back of a horse, as if ablaze, like lightning blazing with light, and people and we don't know what were with it. (21) That light, that fire, that thing appeared. He did not know whether it was a horse or whether there was a man on its back. It was night. He saw what seemed to be a fire, a light, and it went up and entered a cave in the mountain that was behind their backs. He (Bežəm) was there, but he could not oppose it. (22) He stood until when three days had passed, Rustam awoke. Rustam awoke and said 'Hey, nephew Bežəm, has anything happened? Thieves or the like?' He said 'Yes, uncle, the situation is like this'. (23) He said 'A light came in the night, coming up right here. I took this stick to strike at it, but nothing fell down, except for a few things that fell over there shining, I don't know what it is. It went up and entered that cave over there'. (24) He said 'What is it?' He went and saw that it was all gold and that some of the jewels that were hung around the neck of the girl had fallen on the ground'. He said 'Ha, you have no business with this. Stay here now. This is not your business. Stay here now while we go to see what it is.

(25) Now Rustam went up to the entrance of the cave. Bežəm said 'No, uncle, I will go up there with you'. He tried (to persuade him saying) 'You stay'. He said 'No. I will go up. You stay here. I will go up'. He was so obstinate. He was a young child, in name, but he was also a great warrior. (26) He went up to the cave. He saw a man asleep. He had put his head in the lap of a girl, a very beautiful girl. The girl said 'What are you doing here?' I have come to bring you down and take you away'. (27) She said to him 'Get up and go away, go down, lest he wakes up. If this man wakes—he is a great warrior—he will kill you'. He said 'No, by God. I shall take you down. If he is a brave man, let him get up and I shall challenge him'. (28) He woke up. When he woke up, he saw him. He tried (to persuade him to go) 'Go down, you are a young child. I have no inclination to kill you'. He said 'No, by God. Either I shall kill you and take this girl or I shall not go out from here'. (29) The man, who had kidnapped the girl, was forced (to act). He also was a great warrior. The girl was the one that Zāl loved. It was because of her that his head was all broken. He was a great warrior. He went and took her from her father and mother, he kidnapped her and carried her off. He brought her to that cave and hid her.

(30) *hadíya 'áw fer'assa' qíma dwiqalle Bézəm, ' síralla 'áqle w-iθàθe, ' zádýalle b-tárət gəppa. ' zádýalle b-tárət gəppa-w šəlyele, ' m'çonáglā m'çonáglā. (31) xírre' Rustámō 'ína xwarzáya m'čangòle, ' máxyalle qáple biye' dwiqalle. ' dwiqalle' 'u-š'ryalla 'aqláθe w-iθáθe m'ère' ha-mòdi.?' m'ère hál 'u-q'ššət hātχela. ' m'ère kli-'aw-lèle šúlux, ' t-ásqən 'ána b-gàni. (32) qímēle Rustámō' 'u-siqele. ' gu-d-o-gəppa xírre 'ína-'o-náša tāmā. ' 'áwewa 'ε-dánət qəm-xazèle, ' qəm-yāðèle, ' ðíle t-ile-Rustámō. ' yāðéwa xa-náša gabbàrele, ' fer'assa, ' lá-mše bíye diye. (33) káze wáða hìwi m'ónne' 'ána xulámux. ' sigən, ' šúqlí' 'u-'áyya hon-múθyalla 'ána, ' diyila. ' m'ère b-réšux' b-réšət bábux, ' 'áyya bráta la-péša biyux. (34) qíma' máxyalla gúrza gu-réšət d-ó-naša q'ílalle. ' 'u-'a-bráta šqílalla. ' šqílalla, ' mušəlyalla, ' múttəlla báθre diye xāš-súsa' 'u-zílele t-ázəl 'áθrət bábə d-ε-bráta.'*

(35) *bábə d-á-brata 'ile 'áp-'aw gabbàra-w' 'itle náše rábe gabbàre, ' ta-'áθra xrēna, ' šəmme diye 'Aprəsyáw. ' Bézəm m'ère' ləkəx zála xáli.?' 'áy maqəlbəχla' nabləχla' 'áyya tla-səwi, ' tla-sáwi Zəlo. (36) m'ère là. ' t-ázəm nablənna kəs-bába diya. ' talbənna m'ónne diye. ' m-lèle yawólla, ' qačlənne, ' šaqłənna b-xèla-w' xaráye maqəlbənna. ' sab-hátχa gabbàra-wewa, ' lá-bāye t-awəðwa lèbe. ' 'u-zílele ha-t-ázi máfi l-'áθrət... d-áw... bábə d-a-bráta.'*

(37) *hadíya Rustámō' šqílale bráta' muttále xāš-súsa báθre diye' 'u-zílla b-'úrxa. ' m'ère tla-xwarzáye diye Bézəm' t-ázəχ l-'áθrət 'Aprəsyáw bábət bráta. ' 'áθre diye rəhqele, ' zílla b-yomàθa. (38) Bézəm xwarzáye diye m'ère' xáli, ' bərəχla 'əllux' 'áyya t'ləlux' m'ère' là xwárza, ' là. ' 'áyya t'libtət bábila. ' nablənna tla-bəbi. ' bas-t-əzəxi' talbəχla m-bába diya. (39) sab-'ánna 'as'irəttela, ' náše gabbàrela, ' là-barya' gənwi' 'ən-səlbi. ' t-ázəl taləbla m-be-bába diya. ' xaráye məθəla' nabálla tla-bábe diye. ' b-rəš-d-əyya bráta' réšət bábē diye t-Zəlo' θéle twíra rábe gáye. (40) zílele yomàθa, ' xá-yoma-w tré 'u-t'làθa, ' há-t-ila mátye 'áθrət bába d-a-bráta. ' mátyela ða-mđíta. ' qímela máxyela kwinəy, ' xá-dukθa qúrbət... d-à mđíta. (41) m'ère tla-Bézəm, ' xwarzáye diye, ' 'áti tú-tiwa ləxxa. ' 'u-súsi páyəš ləxxa' 'u-'ána bráta masqónna be-bába diya. ' qímēle' dwiqalla 'id-bráta' 'u-síqa síqa. ' mbúqrele, ' moxázyalle 'an-náše béθət bábə d-a-bráta. ' m'ára 'áwwele.'*

(30) Now, that warrior seized Bežəm. He tied his legs and hands and threw him from the entrance of the cave. He threw him from the entrance of the cave and he went down, rolling over as he went. (31) Rustam looked and saw his nephew rolling over. He put out his hands and caught him. He caught him and released his legs and hands. He said ‘What is it?’ He said ‘The situation is like this’. He said ‘Stay here, this is not your business. I shall go up myself’. (32) Rustam went up to the cave. He looked and saw that that man was there. When he (the other) saw him, he recognized him. He knew that he was Rustam. He knew that he was a hero, a great warrior, whom he could not defeat. (33) He tried to beg him (saying) ‘I am your servant. Go, leave me! It is I who have brought her. She is mine’. He said ‘(I swear) by your head and by the head of your father, this girl will not stay with you’. (34) He struck his club on the head of the man and killed him, then took the girl. He took the girl and brought her down, put her behind him on the back of the horse, set off and went to the land of the girl’s father.

(35) The father of the girl was also a heroic warrior and he had many warriors—(they went) to another land. His name was Aprəsyaw. Bežəm said ‘Where are we going uncle? Let’s take her back to my grandfather, to my grandfather Zāl’. (36) He said ‘No. I shall go and take her to her father. I shall ask him for her hand. If he does not give her, I shall kill him and take her by force, then finally I shall take her back’. This was because he was such a heroic warrior and did not want to play tricks. They travelled until they reached the land of girl’s father.

(37) Now Rustam took the girl, put her on the back of the horse behind him and set off on the road. He said to his nephew Bežəm ‘Let us go to the land of Aprəsyaw, the girl’s father’. His land was far away. They travelled for days. (38) Bežəm, his nephew, said ‘Uncle, have her wedded to you, she is for you’. He said ‘No, nephew, no. She is betrothed to my father. I shall take her to my father. But let us go and ask her father for her hand’. (39) This is because they are tribes, they are heroic warriors, they cannot steal or plunder. He should go and ask her father’s family for her hand and then finally bring her back to his father. On account of this girl, the head of his father Zāl was broken many times. (40) They travelled one day, two, three, until they reached the land of the girl’s father. They reached a town. They pitched their tents, in a place near the town. (41) He said to Bežəm, his nephew ‘You stay here and my horse will stay here, while I take the girl up to the house of her father. He held the hand of the girl and went up. He asked and the people showed him the house of the girl’s father. They said ‘It is this one’.

(42) *síqle xábra l-bábət bràta¹ mára brátux mùḥya.¹ móre 'éni muḥyàle?¹ mára xa-naša hóle mùḥyàlla¹ 'u-léðəxle 'áwwa náša m-əkəle,¹ xa-ferəssa.¹* (43) *bábət bráta plítle qámḥe diye qəm-xazèle,¹ mguzgózla lášše diye zdíle.¹ móre 'o-t-íle múrqəlla bráti rába gabbára-wwə.¹ kúlla 'askarwáḥi ləwə másyə biye.¹ 'áwwa mətə xóde diye másyə šqílle 'e-bráta mən-d-áw,¹ lázəm 'awwa-rába ferəssele.¹* (44) *zdíle.¹ qíma síqe.¹ dóryele šláma-ʔəlle,¹ wíra tíwa gu-díwən¹ 'u-ʔəḥyela gurəne¹ d-o-náša-w ferəsse diye¹ kúlla tíwe gu-díwən-íla.¹ 'u-bráta múrəlla gu-xa-mánzəl.¹* (45) *'ánna léla mbaqórəlle m-ükəwət¹ 'an-náše le-y-mbáqri mən-ʔərxa 'áti m-ükəwət.¹ tíwela múḥye 'ixála-w¹ xílela.¹ 'aw-bába d-é-brata šomme diye 'Aprəsyəw.¹* (46) *hóle móre tla-xá xuláme diye¹ móre 'a-dánət méḥeti qəwə,¹ mpələti,¹ mattátla 'áqlux rəš-qalúnka d-áwwa náša torətle,¹ torətle qalúnke diye.¹ sab-ʔáni garšíwa qəlúnka,¹ jígára lítwa.¹ qalúnka małéwa tütun¹ 'u-garšíwa.¹* (47) *Rustámo qalúnke diye gríšle.¹ rzígle,¹ qəm-mattúle hátxa l-ʔára.¹ múḥye qəwə¹ yáwi 'əlle diye.¹ šqílle qáwa tla-šəte,¹ 'o-qəwəci qəm-mattúla 'áqle rəš-qalúnka¹ qəm-tawərre.¹* (48) *Rustámo 'e-dána xzèle qalúnke twíra,¹ brikəwa rəš-bərke,¹ dóryəlla 'ide diye l-d-ə-qawəci,¹ tqíləlle,¹ máxyəlle l-ʔára.¹ mīḥele 'o-náša.¹ 'e-dána t-íle wíðəlle 'áwwa šúla,¹ 'o-góra d-à-maḥa,¹ d-à-mđita,¹ 'Aprəsyəw,¹ t-amrəxle rəyyəs,¹ mguzgázətəla lášše diye,¹ zdíyele rába.¹* (49) *móre 'áwwa ferəssele,¹ 'áwwa lá-mən biye diye.¹ t-áwəð baláye biyūni.¹ 'u-ʔəp-xa léle mšúḥa-w¹ qíməle 'ó-naša šqíləlle nūbləlle.¹ tíwəle təma.¹ tíwəle təma,¹ 'o-léle dmíxele Rustámo¹ kəs-d-əni,¹ 'ərxa diyəyile.¹ dóryəlle šwíḥa gu-xə-manzəl,¹ dmíxele.¹ 'áw 'i-dáməx tlaḥə yomáḥa la-qəyəm.¹ w-ánna lə-šbara t-ázi mərəšile.¹*

(50) *Béžəm hóle šəttət máḥa mōdile wáda.¹ hóle zəla¹ ḍa-gótət məḥa¹ mxáyəlla 'é-xórta¹ gu-d-an-bəte,¹ kúlla tləxəlla,¹ b-lúle¹ b-rəš-nəše,¹ 'u-ráqa ḥəyēle.¹ qəm-páyəš yóma ḥáya dmáxa gu-čádre diye.¹* (51) *xábra mḥéle l-málka.¹ mára ḍa-gótət məḥa hola-tlíxta.¹ šléle təya¹ 'ūnile tlíxəlla 'áyya.¹ kúlla 'askarwáḥa¹ 'əḥye talbūni¹* (52) *'u-mára lúle-xəzya cū-náša¹ bas-yáðəx hóla tlíxe 'ánna bəte¹ 'u-lúla-xəzye 'askarwáḥa.¹ 'ó-yoma zille.¹ yómə trə¹ zille Béžəm xa-góta xéta d-a-mđita.¹* (53) *'ap-ʔo-yóma 'a-xórta t-íla b-ʔide diye¹ mxáyəlla gu-d-ánna bəte tləxəlla,¹ 'ap-a-məḥálle tlíxəle.¹ 'u-ríqle zille¹ dmíxele gu-čádre diye.¹*

(42) Word got to the girl's father. They said 'Your daughter has been brought back'. Who has brought her back? They said 'A man has brought her back, but we do not know where the man is from, he is a great warrior'. (43) The girl's father went out to meet him. When he saw him, his body trembled and he was afraid. He said 'The person who kidnapped my daughter was a great warrior. All my armies could not defeat him. How could he by himself take the girl from him. He must be a heroic warrior'. (44) He was afraid. He (Rustam) went up and greeted him, then entered the reception room. The courtiers of the man and all his warriors were sitting in the reception room. They took the girl into a room. (45) They did not ask him where he was from. Those people did not ask a guest 'Where are you from?' They sat and they brought food, and they ate. The name of the girl's father was Aprəsyaw. (46) He said to one of his servants, he said 'When you bring coffee and you distribute it, put your foot on the pipe of that man and break it, break his pipe'. This was because they used to smoke a pipe, there were no cigarettes. They would fill a pipe with tobacco and smoke it. (47) Rustam smoked his pipe. He finished it and put it on the floor. They brought coffee and gave it to him. He took the coffee to drink. The man serving the coffee put his foot on the pipe and broke it. (48) When Rustam saw that his pipe was broken, he knelt down on his knees, put his hand on that coffee server, lifted him up and slung him onto the floor. The man died. When he did this, the chief of the land, of the town, Aprəsyaw, let's call him the 'headman',—his body trembled and he was very afraid. (49) He said 'He is a great warrior. I cannot defeat him. He will wreak havoc with us'. Nobody spoke. The man took him (Rustam) away and he lodged there. He lodged there and that night Rustam slept in their home. He was their guest. They laid for him bedding in a room and he slept. He slept for three days without getting up. They did not dare go and wake him.

(50) Bežəm was at the bottom of the village. What does he do? He goes to one side of the village and batters the houses with the poplar tree and destroys them all, at night, on the heads of the people, then he runs back. Before daybreak, he went to sleep in his tent. (51) Word got to the king. They said 'One side of the village is destroyed. He went down to investigate who had destroyed it. (They said) 'Where are the armies that have attacked us?' (52) They said 'Nobody has been seen, but we know that the houses have been destroyed and no armies have been seen'. On that day (he) had gone out. The next day Bežəm went to another side of the town. (53) Also on that day he battered the houses with the poplar tree that was in his hand and destroyed them and he destroyed the district. He then ran off and slept in his tent.

(54) síqle xábra m̄tèle l-málka,¹ m̄ra¹ ða-gótət m̄ða,¹ t-m̄ðita,¹ hola-tl̄ixta.¹ 'áwewa z̄d̄ile r̄aba¹ m̄re 'ánna—'èñile w̄ádðalle 'áwewa š̄ula.² la-ð̄ila 'èñile.¹

(55) xaràye¹ r̄iše Rustāmo.¹ r̄iše,¹ 'ó-malka m̄re t̄la-Rustāmo¹ hāl 'u-q̄əššət h̄atxa¹ m̄di q̄əššət.² 'áyya m̄ çadr̄éla gu-d̄ášta.² bálki t̄-ila m̄n-t̄ama tráša 'ánna x̄ráwe.¹ (56) Rustāmo m̄re 'ána l̄e-y-yāðən m̄díle b̄arya¹ t̄l̄iyənwa.¹ ql̄ible málka m̄šod̄arre 'àskar¹ qam-d-à-čadra.¹ š̄l̄ele¹ t̄la-t-x̄áze m̄di gu-d-a-čadra.¹ B̄éžəm pl̄it̄le¹ q̄əm-šaq̄alle 'o-qat̄iye d̄iye¹ 'aw-qat̄iya x̄ortela.¹ kr̄ele gu-d-a-'àskar¹ q̄əm-m̄pat̄p̄at̄la¹ kút-xa q̄əm-xaš̄ille ða-gòta.¹ (57) málka z̄d̄ile.¹ m̄re 'áwewa š̄ula m-áxxele tráša.¹ m̄re t̄la-Rustāmo¹ 'èñile 'áwewa.² m̄re 'áwewa x̄warz̄âyile.¹ t̄la-mò š̄láya pl̄áša m̄nne d̄iye.² m̄re madám t̄-ile x̄warz̄âyux¹ t̄la-módi tíwa t̄ama¹ léle θ̄áya l̄axxa,¹ bálki t̄-ile-'áwewa tl̄áxalla 'ánna b̄áte.¹ (58) m̄re léle 'áw.¹ 'm-'itlux fer̄sse b̄áyət p̄alš̄ət,¹ had̄iya 'ána hon-'əθya¹ t̄lába br̄atux,¹ b̄áyət yaw̄ətla,¹ b̄áyət p̄alš̄ət k̄əfux!¹ m̄re là b-álaha.¹ 'ána br̄ati l̄e-y-yaw̄ənna-llux.¹ le-y-yāð̄nnexu m-ek̄utu.¹ (59) m̄re l̄e-y-yāð̄tli.² m̄re là.¹ š̄əlyele¹ 'áni q̄ári q̄ábux l-ḡòðe.¹ š̄əlyele gu-d̄ášta¹ m̄re kú-t-ile fer̄ssa 'áθe 'áxxane,¹ m̄jar̄əbla ḡáne.¹ (60) málka m̄šad̄or̄elle¹ fer̄sse d̄iye¹ t̄la-ḡðála.¹ kú-t-ile š̄láya t̄ama¹ l̄èla m̄šáya b̄iye d̄iye¹ hóle q̄t̄al̄alla.¹ Rustāmo fer̄ssese.¹ (61) z̄ála-w pl̄àta¹ m̄re t̄la-x̄ále d̄iye¹ m̄re x̄ali¹ š̄úqla 'ánna t̄l̄ali,¹ 'an-yal̄inke z̄ore.¹ š̄úqla t̄l̄ali.¹ Rustāmo m̄re là¹ si-dm̄ux gu-čadra,¹ 'ánna k̄áwa x̄əm̄mi.¹ (62) b̄éna xaràye¹ piše m̄jbur¹ kúl 'askarw̄áθa d-o-málka q̄əm-taȳəmla,¹ l̄èla m̄šáya b-Rustāmo.¹ málka z̄d̄ile r̄aba¹ m̄šod̄arre b̄əθre¹ w̄idle š̄óloh m̄nne d̄iye.¹ w̄idle š̄óloh m̄nne,¹ m̄re 'ána b̄áyən t-yāð̄en 'áti 'èñiw̄ət.¹ (63) m̄re 'ána 'iw̄əm Rustāmo br̄on-t-Z̄àlo,¹ t-y-aθ̄éwa t̄l̄ábəlla br̄atux¹ 'u-t-max̄it̄uwale¹ 'u-r̄éše d̄iye tor̄it̄uwale,¹ br̄ináne gu-r̄éše.¹ hon-'əθya t̄l̄ábəlla br̄atux,¹ nabl̄inna t̄la-b̄abi.¹

(54) Word got to the king. They said 'A side of the village, the town, has been destroyed'. He was very afraid and said 'Who has done this?' They did not know who it was.

(55) Finally Rustam woke up. He woke up and the king said to Rustam 'The situation is like this. What is happening?'⁴ What tent is that in the field? Perhaps it was from here that all this devastation is being wrought'.

(56) Rustam said 'I don't know what happened. I was asleep'. The king returned and sent an army to that tent. He went down to see what was in the tent. Bežəm came out. He took his stick, the stick was a poplar tree. He smote the army, he tore them apart and threw them in all directions.⁵ (57) The king was afraid. He said this business is being done from here'. He said to Rustam 'Who is he?' He said 'He is my nephew. Why are they going down to fight with him?' He said 'If he is your nephew, why is he camped there and does not come here? Perhaps it is he who is destroying the houses'. (58) He said 'It is not him. If you have warriors and you want to fight—now, I have come to ask for the hand of your daughter, whether you want to give her or whether you fight is up to you'. He said 'No, by God. I will not give my daughter to you. I do not know where you are from'. (59) He said 'Do you not know me?' He said 'No'. He came down, they challenged one another to fight.⁶ He went down to the field and said 'Whoever is a warrior, let him come here and test out his mettle'. (60) The king sent his warriors to wrestle with him. All those who went down there could not defeat him and he killed them. Rustam was a mighty warrior. (61) (Bežəm) was going back and forth. He said to his uncle, he said 'Uncle, leave them to me, those young people, leave them to me'. Rustam said 'No! Go and sleep in your tent. Let them be my concern'. (62) In the end, he was forced (to concede), since Rustam finished off all the armies of the king, nobody being able to defeat him. The king was very frightened. He sent after him and made a truce with him. He made a truce with him and said 'I want to know who you are'. (63) He said 'I am Rustam son of Zāl, who used to come to seek the hand of your daughter and whom you beat and whose head you broke, (leaving) wounds in his head. I have come seeking the hand of your daughter, in order to take her to my father'.

⁴ Literally: What is the story?

⁵ Literally: each one he threw to one side.

⁶ Literally: They called a battle cry to each other.

(64) 'Aprəsyàw¹ ləš-ile mšáya t-ámər çü-məndi.¹ lèle mšáya bíye díye.¹ ferəssele.¹
 'u-'askarwáθa díye kúlla pálga qtilile.¹ móre 'áxni t-yawóxla 'ína t-làlux.¹ móre là.¹
 (65) 'ána hon-yəmya¹ 'áyya bráta hon-'əθya nablənna¹ 'ən-b-našùθa,¹ 'ən-b-xèla,¹
 nablənna t-la-bàbi.¹ bənta xaráye píšle məjbur¹ málka qəm-yawólla 'ille díye.¹ móre
 'ána hiwàli,¹ báyət nábəlla t-la-gənu¹ báyət nábəlla t-la-bəbux.¹ (66) qiməle,¹ múttəlla
 xāš-sùsa,¹ 'u-muφáštəlla 'an-nàše¹ 'u-tlibela xátər mənnəy,¹ 'u-zilele.¹ zilele¹ xá-yoma-w
 tré-w t-làθa.¹ 'əθyele mətyele 'áθrət bábə díye.¹ (67) 'u-núbləlla 'a-bràta,¹ híwəlla
 t-la-bábə díye.¹ wiðela xlúla¹ šawwà yomáθa-w¹ šawwà ləlāwəθa-w¹ dáwla-w zòrna.¹
 'u-qəm-magwərra l-bábə díye¹ 'a-bràta.¹ 'u-'ána šiwiqáli tàma¹ 'u-θéli làxxa.¹

(64) Aprəsyaw was not able to say anything. He could not oppose him. He (Rustam) was a mighty warrior. He had killed half of all his armies. He said 'We shall give her, but to you (not to your father)'. (65) He said 'No. I have taken an oath. I have come to take this girl either humanely or by force to my father'. In the end he was forced (to concede) and the king gave her to him. He said 'I have given her, whether you wish to take her for yourself or whether you wish to take her for your father'. (66) He put her on the back of the horse and the people escorted them (out of the town) and bade them farewell, then he went on his way. He travelled for one day, two, three, and reached the land of his father. (67) He took the girl and gave her to his father. They held a wedding for seven days and seven nights, with drum and pipe. He wedded the girl to his father. I have left it there and come here.