

A30 THE CRAFTY HIRELING

Informant: Mišayel Barčəm (ʔĕn-Nune)

(1) ʔiθwa liθwa¹ biš-m-álaha góra čú-mđi liθwa.¹ ʔiθwa xà-naša,¹ ʔiθwale trè-bnone.¹ rába píšle taqšīr-hāl.¹ lās-iyewa mšáya xāyewa.¹ móre ta-bnóne diye¹ bābi¹ de-sóga tóləxu xa-šúla ta-t-xāyitu biye.¹ ʔəni mənəxu t-ázəl.² (2) mára t-ázəl ʔo-góra.¹ biš-yāde mtagbàrra.¹ ʔāti ʔo-zóra lá ʔazəti,¹ tá d-o-zóra.¹ zille bróne diye tǎya šúla gu-đa-màθa.¹ móre ʔəni báye palāxa.² ʔəni báye xulāma.² móre hé ʔəna bāyən xulāma.¹ (3) θəle¹ kásle diye¹ qəm-mapləxle.¹ móre t-amrənnux xà-məndi.¹ bāyət pālaxət.² móre hē!¹ móre pālaxət kásli hal-d-o-yómə qárya tǔkə.¹ har-qréla tǔkə¹ párəq šúlux.¹ móre litla-xam.¹ (4) móre mǔdi šúla.² móre m-léle¹ mǔpālǎtta tǎwre¹ nablǎtta ta-ʔawáha tūra.¹ w-áyya tulləkθa,¹ tulləkθa zórta mənux,¹ kálba zóra mənux t-əwe.¹ ʔəka šàtqa¹ tǎma zǎréti.¹ (5) ʔu-mattənnux jarréta ləxma zəðəye.¹ ʔu-mattənnux mǎsta.¹ zəðəye¹ ʔáxlət mənna t-là-qšaya.¹ ʔu-mǎsta¹ ʔáxlət mənna qrúšta díya t-la-xàrwə,¹ qrúštət páθa díya.¹ (6) w-ašórta məθəlli¹ xá-qapla qəse¹ t-lá-hawə b-qəlpe,¹ t-áwa xwáre t-la-qəlpe.¹ móre rába spəy.¹ (7) m-léle qimele,¹ ʔo-xuláme diye¹ tǎwre mpúltəlla-w nubləlla¹ ʔu-tulləkθa mənne-diye,¹ ʔu-bzára mənne-diye,¹ ʔu-mǎsta-w¹ zəðəye,¹ ziléle ta-t-zǎre.¹ (8) mátyele tla-túra,¹ tulləkθa síqta š-xà-ʔisarəwə,¹ tǔwta tǎma.¹ kǎze¹ háyyo šla-làxxa.¹ ʔəna ʔəxxa bāyən zǎréna.¹ mǔt síqta tǎma.² là šléla.¹ hǔrre b-gáne diye.¹ (9) tǎwre masóqəlla b-o-kəndála,¹ sáqa zǎre b-o-kəndála,¹ tǎwre léla-mšaya šále qlába šlāya¹ ʔu-qarqáre diyela.¹ (10) m-léle hal-ʔašórta məskéna blíga tǎma¹ léle mšaya zǎre.¹ ksǔrre,¹ kǎixle rába.¹ tulləkθa léla šlāya,¹ síqta b-o-ʔisàrela.¹ ʔətxele,¹ kəpa.¹

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(1) There was once¹—nothing is greater than God—there was a man, who had two sons. He was in very straitened circumstances. He could no longer make a living.² He said to his sons ‘My dears, go and search for a job for yourselves by which you may make a living. Which of you will go?’ (2) They said ‘The older one will go. He knows better how to manage things. You, the younger one, don’t go’, (speaking) to the younger one. His son went searching for a job in a town. He said ‘Who wants a workman? Who wants a servant?’ (Somebody) said ‘Yes, I want a servant’. (3) He went to him and he employed him. He said ‘Let me tell you something. Do you want to work?’ He said ‘Yes!’ He said ‘Work with me until the *toke* bird sings.³ As soon as the *toke* bird has sung, your work will finish’. He said ‘All right’. (4) He said ‘What is the job?’ He said ‘Early in the morning take out the oxen and take them to that mountain over there. This hound, small hound, small dog, will be with you. Wherever she squats down, it is there that you should plough. (5) I shall provide you with a food-box of pitta breads. I shall provide you also with yoghurt. You should eat the pittas without breaking them and should eat the yoghurt without the crust being spoilt, the crust of its surface. (6) In the evening bring me a bundle of pieces of wood that are without bark, that are white without bark.’ He said ‘Very good’. (7) That servant of his got up early in the morning. He brought out the oxen, took them (with him) and went to plough together with a hound, a plough, and also yoghurt and pitta breads. (8) He reached the mountain and the hound went up onto a rock and sat there. He tried (to persuade her down saying) ‘Come down here! I want to plough here. Why have you gone there?’ But she did not come down. He was confounded. (9) He took the oxen onto the slope, he went up to plough on that slope, but the oxen could not manage and came back down. The plough squeaked (on the rock). (10) The poor man was busy there from morning until evening, but could not plough. He was shattered. He was very tired. The hound did not come down but went up onto the rock, that is the stone.

¹ Literally: There was, there was not.

² Literally: live.

³ The song of this bird is the sign of the beginning of Spring.

(11) *hadíya báye t-áxal mándi kpínèle.*¹ *b-xyára b-zeðàye,*¹ *t-la-qşàya*¹ *dàx t-axállà.*² *ma-zāl qaşè-llèy.*¹ *màsta*¹ *lázəm qurúšta díya là xárwa.*¹ (12) *píşá kpína.*¹ *la-xála xille*¹ *’u-zeðàye şwíqile b-şawpèy.*¹ *’aşórta báye qèse.*¹ *’táyè ’átxa qèse,*¹ *qèse t-la-qálpè liθena.*¹ *’óθya bèθèle.*¹ (13) *’óθya bèθèle:*¹ *’a-mu-wídlux?*² *lá-mşeli zríli.*¹ *tullákθa síqta ş-xà-’isara,*¹ *lá-mşeli zríli.*¹ *’u-láxma t-la-qşáya là-mşən t-axlánwale.*¹ *másta hot-màra*¹ *t-la-xráwa qurúšta díya,*¹ *fa-míθa m-kəpna.*¹ (14) *móre ’àti*¹ *la-dóqət wájju mənni.*¹ *qəm-maxèlè*¹ *’aşrà-jalde*¹ *’aşrà-qèse gu-xáşe díye,*¹ *’u-tarədle.*¹ *sí ’at-là-nəfətli.*¹ *zille məşkəna*¹ *bxàya.*¹

(15) *há bàbi!*¹ *mòdi wídlux?*² *hāl u-hāwāl ’u-qşşət hātxa-wawa.*¹ *lá-mşeli plíxli kəsle-díye*¹ *hátxa wídle b-rèşí.*¹ *xóne ’o-şedána móre ’ána t-azéna.*¹ *kóra la-’azət.*¹ *qaţəllux.*¹ *’áwwa kapòrele.*¹ *’ána ’aşrà-jalde məxyállí.*¹ *’áwwa qaţəllux!*¹ *là,*¹ *’ána t-azéna.*¹ (16) *zille xóne ’o-şedána.*¹ *’éni báye xulamwàθa?*² *’éni báye xulamwàθa?*² *qúrbət bèθèle xđára,*¹ *şràxa*¹ *’éni báye xulamwàθa?*² *móre hayyo-làxxa*¹ *’ána báyyən xulamwàθa.*¹ *há báyyət pàlxeti?*² *móre hè.*¹ (17) *hàyyo,*¹ *t-amrənnux xà-məndi.*¹ *báyyət pàlxət?*² *móre hè.*¹ *móre pàlxət kəsli ’àxxa*¹ *hál-o-yomət qáre tðke.*¹ *qréle tðke*¹ *páraq şúlux.*¹ *mòdi şúlux?*² (18) *móre ’ánna táwre mpalţótta m-lèle,*¹ *nablítla tura.*¹ *’éka şátqa ’áyya tullákθa,*¹ *’áyya kálba ’éka şàtəq,*¹ *tàma zăréti.*¹ *’ánna zeðàye*¹ *’áxlət mánna t-là-qşaya.*¹ *’áyya màsta*¹ *’áxlət mánna qurúšta díya t-la-xàrwa.*¹ *’aşórta məθətli xa-qápla qèse*¹ *t-là-hawè b-qálpè,*¹ *xwàre.*¹ *móre rába şpày.*¹

(19) *qímele m-lèle,*¹ *zıla núbla táwre díye,*¹ *bzàre xáşe díye,*¹ *tullákθa mánne-mənne díye,*¹ *jarréta mánna zeðàye-u màsta-w*¹ *zilele.*¹ (20) *tullákθa síqta ş-isàrele.*¹ *káze şla-làxxa!*¹ *’ana-’àxxa báyyən zărèna.*¹ *şla-làxxa!*¹ *la-şlèla.*¹ *síqele şqille xa-kəpa*¹ *múttəlla ’àxxa*¹ *kaləbθa,*¹ *qţiləlla,*¹ *dəryəlla,*¹ *mquləbzəlla-ži.*¹ *gríşəlla,*¹ *móre ’àxxa t-óyət.*¹ *zríyele táma.*¹ *zríyele,*¹ *’áyya qţiləle.*¹

(11) Now he wanted to eat something, since he was hungry. He looks at the pitta breads, how can he eat them without breaking them? He must break them. As for the yoghurt, its crust could not be spoilt. (12) So he remained hungry. He did not eat and left the pitta breads where they were.⁴ In the evening he seeks wood, searches for wood, but there is no wood without bark. He went back home. (13) He went back home and he (his master) said 'Well, what have you done?' 'I could not plough. The hound went up onto a rock and I could not plough. I could not eat the bread without breaking it. You told me not to spoil the crust of the yoghurt. So, I am dying of hunger'. (14) He said 'You have no use for me'. He struck him ten strokes, ten strokes of a stick on his back and drove him away. 'Go away, you are no use to me'. The poor man went away weeping.

(15) (His father said) 'My dear, what have you done?' 'This is what happened. I could not work with him. He did such-and-such to me'. His crazy (younger) brother said 'I'll go'. 'Don't go my lad. He'll kill you. He is a scoundrel. He beat me with ten strokes. He will kill you'. 'No, I'll go'. (16) That brother of his, the crazy man, went on his way. (He cried) 'Who wants servants? Who wants servants?' He went wandering near his house, crying out 'Who wants servants?' He said 'Come here. I want servants. Well, do you want to work?' He said 'Yes'. (17) 'Come, I'll tell you something. Do you want to work?' He said 'Yes'. He said 'You will work with me here until the day the *toke* bird sings. When the *toke* bird sings, your work is finished. What is your job?' (18) He said 'Take these oxen out in the early morning and take them to the mountain. Where this hound crouches, where this dog crouches, it is there that you should plough. You should eat these pitta breads without breaking them. You should eat this yoghurt without its crust being spoilt. In the evening bring me a bundle of wood, white, without bark'. He said 'Very good'.

(19) He got up in the early morning and went and took his oxen, with his plough on his back, together with the hound and a food-box containing pitta breads and yoghurt. He went off. (20) The hound went up on a rock. He tried (to persuade it down saying) 'Come down here! I want to plough here. Come down here!' It did not come down. He went up and took a stone, put the dog here, killed it and turned it upside down. Then he dragged it and said 'You will be here'. He ploughed there. He ploughed. He had killed it.

⁴ Literally: in their place.

(21) *θèle¹ t-áxal m̀ndi.¹ zed̀àye¹ t-la-q̀sàya¹ de-m̀àto hóya?² hóla sḱnta m̀nne.¹ xaràtla zed̀àye¹ be-pálga dìya.¹ tráθna zed̀àye xarət̄l̄ɛy.¹ m̀asta,¹ b̄z̄èla,¹ b̄z̄èla jullákθa m-xòθa.¹ b̄z̄èla,¹ m̀asta plítla m-xóθa dìya,¹ s̄-zed̀àye,¹ ʔu-xálele l̄xma,¹ ʔu-zed̀àye ʔu-m̀asta xille.¹ (22) ʔas̀rta mùt t-áwəð.² b̄áye q̀èse,¹ q̀ése xwáre t-la-q̀àlpa.¹ x̀irele,¹ m̀óre b-xšáwən har-ʔánna bz̀àre¹ q̀émən torənnɛy,¹ nablənnna ʔalle-diye.¹ ʔánna t-la-q̀àlpele.¹ q̀imele bz̀àre tẁirelele-w¹ níre-diye tẁirelele,¹ k̀ulla wíðəlla q̀ətt̄àte,¹ q̀mítəlla xáse ʔu-z̄ilele.¹ ʔáw mírewa táwre morítla b-k̀àwe.¹ ʔána lé-y-awən b̄èθa.¹ ʔána tára xalq̀ənnə t-ázən xa-dúkθa.¹ ʔáti derátla b-k̀àwe k̀ulla,¹ lá morítla b-t̀àra.¹ (23) z̄ilele qam-tárət g̀òma.¹ k̀àwe,¹ ʔéka t-áwər táwra b-k̀àwe?² ya-ʔálaha mo-ʔódən b-g̀əni?² ʔíθwa xá-n̄ara t̄ama.¹ kut-táwra m̄oxyəlle xá gu-réše diye,¹ gu-be-ʔéne diye.¹ d̄oryəlle l-ára táwra.¹ mqudəqdəlla k̀ulla.¹ b-o n̄ara¹ ʔan-táwre diye¹ mqudəqdəleleɛy.¹ k̀ulla d̄oryəlla b-k̀àwe,¹ d̄oryəlla gu-g̀òma.¹ m̄ar-b̄éθa ʔəθyele s̄iqele.¹ m̀óre ʔan-táwre mo-wíðlux?² dr̄eli gu-g̀òma.¹ ʔó q̀ése... ʔánna níra bz̀ára mùt tẁirilux?² ʔána m-éka m̄əθənnux q̀ése xwáre t-la-q̀àlpe?² m-éka t̄əyənwalux ʔána?² (24) k̀óra mu-wíðlux?² x̄r̄w-diyára tẁirilux bz̀àre!¹ tẁirilux m̄əšáne k̀ulla!¹ k̀ulla tẁirilux!¹ m̀óre h̄atxela.¹ zed̀àye?² lan-q̀əsyəlla.¹ hóla zed̀àye.¹ jullákθa hóla hár q̀rúšta r̄əša.¹*

(25) ʔáwwa léle ðiya t-íla táwre diye p̄ime.¹ l̄èðe.¹ dm̄ixele.¹ m-l̄èle¹ šm̄iyele qálət q̀àte.¹ q̀àte narnart̄y gu-g̀òma.¹ ʔəθye l-b̄sra k̀ulla.¹ q̀àte,¹ šárrət q̀àte gu-g̀òmela,¹ parp̄àtt̄ela.¹ (26) báxta m̀ára x̄z̄i gáwra módila wáða ʔánna q̀àte!¹ m-éka píšla l̄áxxa?² l̄iθwalən q̀àte ʔáxni.¹ k̀ulla q̀àtə máθa k̄p̄íše t̄ama q̀àte.¹ ʔáyya módila?² narnártət q̀àtela.¹ (27) p̄θixəlle t̀àra,¹ k̀ulla táwre mqudəqde d̄orye l-ʔ̀ara.¹ ʔé-ga k̀àrəb¹ mùt t-áwəð b-r̄əše?² m̀óre mùt wíða?² táwre d̄oryənnna b-k̀àwe!¹ m̄orux darátla b-k̀àwe.¹ qanáne léwa p̄šàta,¹ ʔap-qanáne tẁirəlleɛy.¹ z̄illa.¹

(21) He came to eat something. 'Pitta bread without breaking it, how could that be?' He had a knife with him. He scored the pittas in their middle. He scored both the pittas. He pierced the yoghurt. He pierced the vessel from below. He pierced it, the yoghurt came out from underneath onto the pittas and he ate the bread. He ate the pittas and the yoghurt. (22) In the evening what did he do? He searched for pieces of wood, white pieces of wood without bark. He looked and said 'I think it is only this plough (that has white wood). I'll break it up and take it to him. They are without bark'. He broke up the plough. He broke up its yoke. He reduced it to pieces. He tied them on his back and went off. He (his master) had said 'You should bring the oxen in through the window. I shall not be at home. I shall lock the door and go somewhere. You put them all through the window, don't bring them in through the door'. (23) He went up to the door of the basement stable. 'A window, where could an ox enter in a window? By God, what should I do with myself?' There was an axe there. He struck each ox a blow on its head, on its forehead and put it on the ground. He chopped them all up. He chopped the oxen up with the axe. He put them all through the window and put them in the basement stable. The landlord came back. He said 'What did you do with those oxen?' 'I put them in the basement stable'. 'These pieces of wood... why have you broken the yoke of the plough?' 'From where can I fetch white wood without bark? From where could I seek this for you?' (24) 'Wretch, what have you done! You have broken the plough! You have broken all the beams (of the plough). You have broken everything!' He said 'That's how it is'. 'And the pittas?' 'I have not cut them. Here are the pittas. As for the bowl (of yoghurt)—here, its crust is still on it'.

(25) He did not know that his oxen were slaughtered. He did not know. He went to sleep. In the early morning he heard the sound of cats. The cats were hissing in the basement stable. They had all come for the meat. Cats, it was a cat fight in the basement stable. They were pulling each other's hair out. (26) The wife said 'Husband, see what those cats are doing. Where have they come from? We did not have any cats'. All the cats of the village were gathered there. What was it (that they heard)? It was the hissing of cats. (27) He opened the door (and saw that) all the oxen were chopped up and put down on the floor. Then he got angry. What will he do to him (the servant)? He said 'What have you done?' 'I have put the oxen through the window! You said "You should put them through the window"'. The horns did not fit, so he brought also the horns. They were all dead.

(28) mò-²awəð b-gáne?¹ móre béna zilla báxta mò-²oðxi?¹ ²áwwa šedànele.¹ ²áwwa pṛīt-dína ²àp-²aw.¹ ²u-²tòke!¹ ²iman qárya ²tòke?¹ ²tòke lá-qarya díya b-díya.¹ qimle,¹ móre béna xázəx mò-²oðəx.¹

(29) ²itla bráta gwírta xa-dúkθa rəḥqa.¹ bratéy gwirtela,¹ xa-béθa xèna.¹ móre de-nábəl sáma díya.¹ ²èbele,¹ t-àmra,¹ tré-tre táwre pṛíməle bəbi¹ lá muθéle sàmi.¹

(30) xa-šaḡòlele!¹ mkùlčele!¹ ²u-xa-xèna¹ ða-²àtma¹ hóla sàxi.¹ móre ²áyya ²àtma¹ nablátla ²əlla-díya.¹ móre litla xám.¹ síqe,¹ ²àtma múttəlla qúrbət bəθa.¹ ²u-múrele šaḡòla¹ kúlle klīčə.¹

(31) móre ²áwwa sámat təwra¹ bábəx mšudərre-lləx.¹ móra m-kúlle d-o-təwra ²áwwa šaḡòla mšudərre!¹ la-bəyànne.¹ si-nàbəlle!¹ maḡləble.¹ (32) qlíba šəlyele.¹ móre mò-wiðle?¹ lèla bəyalle?¹ móre là.¹ móre másəq ²è-bena.¹ ²ən-lá bəla¹ maxótla b-pəlgət be-²əna díya.¹ móre litla xám.¹ (33) síqele bənət-tərtə.¹ ²àtma górtə múttəlla ²ap-²áy qam-tàra¹ múwrele šaḡólət təwra.¹ móra har-²əwwele.¹ móre sáma díyəx ²əwwele.¹ là bəyànne.¹ maḡləble.¹ lá bəyàtte?¹ patəlle šaḡólət təwra¹ b-pəlgət be-²əna díya,¹ mḡkan-dórra l-ərə.¹ ²awódla tarəkka šəwpa díya.¹ (34) qlíba šəlyele.¹ móre har-lə-wela rázi.¹ ²áwwa là-yəðe módi bórya,¹ ²áwwa hole-qṭilla ²áy.¹ móre yá-²alaha sùqla.¹ hadíya hírra b-ganəy¹ mó-²oði b-o-nəša.¹ rába híre b-gànele.¹

(35) ²tòke lá-qarya di-b-díya.¹ hadíya,¹ bráte díye ²iθwala bráta zòrta,¹ móre ²əsqət m-léle jàlde¹ š-d-áwwa tíθa qəryati¹ ²u-²oðət túke tük,¹ túke tük,¹ ²áwwa qa-t-marəpəxle¹ t-əzəl.¹ (36) bráte díye síqtəla š-tùθa¹ héš xúya xúyele,¹ wiðtəla túke tük.¹ ²áwwa móre ²áyya ²tòke b-áwwa héwən, m-əka ²tòke díya?¹ díya dánət ²tòke díya?¹ (37) móre ²arbə-yarxe,¹ xamšə-yarxe pyásəla.¹ m-əka ²tòke?¹ móre bába díya mparṭənne mo-²tòkəla ²áyya?¹ šqílele xa-šəndòxa¹ tṛipəlle l-gota-díya.¹ m-táma npiltəla miθta šópa díya.¹ pšiqtəla¹ miθtəla.¹

(28) What could he do with himself? He said ‘Well, they are dead, wife, what should we do?’ He is mad. He is also a damned scoundrel.⁵ Now, when will the *toke* bird sing? The *toke* bird will not sing right now. He said ‘Let’s see what we can do’.

(29) They had a married daughter in a distant place. Their daughter was married in another house. He said ‘Take her portion (of the meat). She will say that “It is shameful. My father has slaughtered several pairs of oxen and has not brought my share.”’ (30) One (piece) was a shank, which was stripped (of its meat). Another was a thigh, which was in good condition. He said (to the servant) ‘Take this thigh to her’. He said ‘All right’. He went up and put the thigh near to the house and brought the shank which was all stripped. (31) He said ‘This is your share of the ox. Your father has sent it to you. She said ‘From all the ox he has sent this shank! I don’t want it! Go and take it away! Take it back!’ (32) He went back down. He (the master) said (to himself) ‘Now what has he done?!’ (He said to him) ‘Doesn’t she want it?’ He said ‘No!’ He said ‘Take it up again. If she does not want it, hit her with it in the middle of her forehead’. He said ‘All right’. (33) He went up a second time. He put down the large thigh outside and brought in the shank of the ox. She said ‘Is this all?’ He said ‘This is your portion’. ‘I don’t want it. Take it back’. ‘Don’t you want it?’ He twists the shank of the ox in the middle of her forehead and caused her to roll on the ground. He made her into a corpse. (34) He went back down (to the house). He said ‘She was still not satisfied’. He (the master) did not know what had happened. He had killed her. He (the master) said ‘Leave her’. Now they were perplexed as to what they could do with that man. They were very perplexed.

(35) The *toke* bird would not sing right now. Now, his daughter—they had a small daughter—he said ‘Early in the morning go up onto that mulberry tree and call out, make a *tuke tuk, tuke tuk* sound, so that we can get rid of him, so that he will go away’. (36) His daughter went up onto the mulberry. It was still very dark. She made a *tuke, tuk* sound. He (the servant) said ‘Is this a *toke* bird in this season? Where has a *toke* bird come from at this time? Is it the time of the *toke* bird?’ (37) He said ‘Four months, five months are left (before the time of the *toke* bird). Where is the *toke* bird from?’ He said ‘I’ll bray her father. What kind of *toke* bird is this?’ He took a small stone and threw it at her. She fell off from there and died on the spot. She fell flat and died.

⁵ Literally: screwed in religion.

(38) qimεle¹ 'ina 'ay-bráte diye miθta.¹ móre mð-wiðlux?¹ móre tðke,¹ 'ána dréli b-tðke.¹ qráyεwa tðke gu-d-áwwa tùθa.¹ 'ap-bráte qtilále.¹ ya-'álaha 'o-náša mód t-óði biye?¹

(39) b-lèle¹ móre 'áwwa yalúnka brónən zóra mpaltátte majirátte b-lèle.¹ móre litla-xam.¹ mpalətwale,¹ çayókwa xmáta b-šərme diye,¹ y-amárwa bàssi,¹ bàssi.¹

(40) hádax 'árba xámša gáye.¹ móre léle jyàra,¹ šāyátte b-gùda.¹ bənət təlθ mpultəlle,¹ čkəlle b-xmáta b-šərme diye,¹ bàssi!¹ bàssi!¹ móre básux bàssux?¹ bábux mpartənne.¹ šyéle l-gùda.¹ tarəkka hírra b-gàna¹ béθa muxrúle.¹

(41) báyi t-àrqí.¹ móra maqððxle béθa¹ bəd-'áwwa náša tálxəx.¹ har-máxxəx b-dìnye,¹ 'áwwa b-tayəmleni.¹ móra b-t-àrqexi.¹ de-ədyo,¹ qu-pégən kàde.¹ də-mjáməxlən jarrèta.¹ 'ázəx xá-mðita xəta.¹ marpáxxe bèθa.¹ 'u-šóqəx t-àraq t-àzəl.¹ 'u-bár t-àzəl,¹ déřəx l-bèθa.¹ (42) hadiya b-lèle,¹ 'áw hole-šmà'a módila mára.¹ hóle l-ε-gòt-hòdəx,¹ dórya ða-kúlla,¹ dmíxa tàma,¹ mutəlyə-gáne diye.¹ 'áni hóla wáða təgbir.¹ (43) péla kàde.¹ wídla jarrèta,¹ muttála gu-ðà-guniya.¹ hàtxa kàde,¹ qa-t t-ázi b-lèle,¹ b-léle qémi jəwji.¹ 'áwwa b-léle mòdile wída?¹ hóle 'əθya wíra gu-juwálat kàde.¹ kàde dóryəlla b-rése diye,¹ hole-xəpya gu-d-a-juwála¹ (44) 'ánna b-lèle,¹ müršəlla baxte diye.¹ baxta qú!¹ dánəla jəwji.¹ hóle tliya.¹ hédi hédi lá-wuð qála.¹ móra là.¹ táyəmla xáse diye¹ móre rəba yaqúrtəla.¹ móre hola-kàde¹ rəba kádela,¹ yaqúrela.¹ (45) zilela,¹ zilela,¹ zilele¹ qúrbət ðà-maθa.¹ 'əθyela kálwe talbèy.¹ 'əθyela kálwe talbèy,¹ móre xóni xóni qəm-nesíli kálwe.¹ he-kálba brət-kálba,¹ hon-mára yaqúrtəla.¹ (46) béna 'urxa-urxa,¹ qəm-jayərwala.¹ šləla¹ jòre.¹ móre məšxəne!¹ kàde məšxəne!¹ šləla b-júlle diye,¹ šqáləlla məšəyəlla.¹ móre 'ánna kàde,¹ mù-t wídta b-ánna kàde?¹ kúlla məšxa šəpyəla.¹ kúlla xáse píšle məšxa.¹ (47) móra məšla,¹ məšla.¹ hóla mxálla 'ide l-jóre d-ò-naša,¹ 'áw xšwə məšxəle šláya mən-kàde.¹ wa-l-hásəl móre hóle gu-juwála kálba brət-kálba!¹ léka šártəx mónne diye?¹

(38) He got up (and saw) that his daughter was dead. He said ‘What have you done?’ He said ‘I threw (a stone) at the *toke* bird. The *toke* was singing in this mulberry tree’. So, he even killed his daughter. By God, what will they do with that man?

(39) ‘At night’, he said, ‘Take out this young boy, our young son and make him pass water at night’. He said ‘All right’. He took him out and pricked a needle into his buttocks. He (the boy) said ‘That’s enough! That’s enough!’, four or five times. (40) He (the master) said ‘(If) he does not pass water, throw him against the wall’. The third time, he took him out, pricked him with a needle on his buttocks ‘That’s enough! That’s enough!’ He said ‘Is that enough? Is that enough? Damn⁶ your father’. He flung him against the wall. (Their son was) a corpse and they were confounded ‘He has destroyed the home’.

(41) They wanted to escape. They said ‘Let’s burn the house and get rid of this man. Let’s go away. He will finish us off’. They said ‘Let’s flee. Today bake *kade* cakes. Let’s put together a food-box for ourselves. Let’s go to another town. We shall abandon the house and let him go away. After he has gone away, we shall return to the house’. (42) Now, at night, he was listening to what they were saying. He was on the other side. He had put up a mosquito net and was lying there, pretending to be asleep, while they were making a plan. (43) They baked *kade* cakes. They made a food-box and put it in a sack. (They made) *kade* cakes, so that they could go at night, get up in the night and go on their way. What did he do at night? He came and got into the sack of *kade* cakes. He put *kade* cakes on top of himself. He crouched down in the sack. (44) In the night he woke his wife ‘Wife, get up. It is time for us to go. He (the servant) is asleep. Quietly, don’t make a noise’. She said ‘No (I won’t make a noise)’. He loaded it (the sack) on his back. He said ‘It is very heavy’. He said ‘It is (full with) many *kade* cakes. They are very heavy’. (45) They went a long way and came close to a village. Dogs came towards them. Dogs came towards them. He (the servant) said ‘Brother, brother, the dogs have bitten me’. ‘Hey, you dog, son of a dog, I thought it was heavy’. (46) Now, on the way, he had urinated. The urine flowed down. He said ‘They’re oily! The *kade* cakes are oily. It ran down onto his clothes. He took it and licked it. He said ‘What did you put in these *kade* cakes? They are all pure oil’. All his back became (covered with) oil. (47) She said ‘Lick it, lick it’. He put his hand on the urine of the man, thinking that oil was running down from the *kade* cakes. In the end he said ‘Look here is the dog, son of a dog in the sack! Where can we escape from him?’

⁶ Literally: tear up.

(48) *móre t-amrännax xà-məndi.*¹ *t-ázax rəš-gəšra,*¹ *dámxəx rəš-gəšra,*¹ *rəš-’áwəwə gəšrat nərə.*¹ *b-léle,*¹ *’áw xšíwa léle šmáya.*¹ *móre mqaləbzəxxe gu-šàtta.*¹ *derəxle gu-šàtta.*¹ (49) *’áw hole-šmáya.*¹ *’áw xšíwa la-šəme.*¹ *zilela,*¹ *báyyi sóri xa-šàtta.*¹ *móra dāmxxəx š-gəšra,*¹ *biš-sālāmət-ile.*¹ *’áxxa xuwwáwə ma-xuwwáwə lə-y-aθe l-d-áwəwə gəšra.*¹ *’áxxa damxéxi.*¹ *káze lá-damxxəx ’áxxa,*¹ *móra dāmxxəx ’áxxa.*¹ (50) *móre ’át dāmxxət b-gàwəy.*¹ *qá-t... t-la-mqaləbzəti*¹ *šálat ’ati.*¹ *báxta dmíxta b-áy-gota*¹ *’u-gáwəwə m-áy-gota*¹ *’u-xuláma doryalle gawəye*¹ *qa-t-b-léle šaqlile zadéle.*¹ (51) *hadiya,*¹ *zilela rəš-d-ə-gəšra.*¹ *móra dāmxxəx rəš-d-ə-gəšra.*¹ *dámxxəx rəše biš-spəy,*¹ *t-lá-’aθa xuwwáwə məndiyáne ’áxxa biš-sālāmət-ila.*¹ *máx gəšrə Žəwa d-o-diyən.*¹ *móra ’ati derəxlux l-gàwəy*¹ *t-là-nəpleti b-léle.*¹ (52) *dmíxe rəš-gəšrela.*¹ *’áw doryalle gəwəy,*¹ *gáwəwə m-áy-gota*¹ *báxta m-áy-gota,*¹ *qa-t-b-léle šaqlile zadéle gu-šàtta,*¹ *gu-nərə,*¹ *gu-Žəwa.*¹ *’áwəwə yəðe módila qəššət,*¹ *hóle ríša biyèy.*¹ (53) *’áwəwə b-léle qimele.*¹ *gáwəwə diya mquləbzəlle doryalle gawəya*¹ *’áw piša b-áy-gota xètele.*¹ *badláθa jàlde heš-xíya xúya*¹ *móre bəxta*¹ *dànela.*¹ *qímta báxta m-áy-gota*¹ *’áwəwə xuláma m-áy-gota,*¹ *gáwəwə diya mquləbzəlle*¹ *zədyəlle gu-Žəwa.*¹ (54) *móra mò-widlux?! móre ’áwəwə,*¹ *móre gáwəwəx zille.*¹ *mò-widlux bíyi?! qəm-šaṭmətle bəθi.*¹ *’ána nṭarənnəx kəma-dána.*¹ *báyyən ’ati pəšət diyi*¹ (55) *hadiya*¹ *gáwəwə diya qəm-zadéle gu-Žəwa,*¹ *piša məjbur*¹ *mò bṭ-óða?*¹ *móre ’ána-w ’áw xət-ix.*¹ *gáwəwəx zille,*¹ *’ána pəšən šəp-gáwəwəx.*¹ *qu-qálbəx bəθa biš-spəy.*¹ (56) *qimla*¹ *qlibla l-bəθa diya.*¹ *’u-qəm-gawórra ’áwəwə xuláma*¹ *’u-zille bar-náše diyə*¹ *kúlla muθéle təma.*¹ *’ánna malləkela*¹ *zanginela.*¹ *’u-pišle xyá’a mən-d-ə-baxta.*¹ *’u-’ána šwiqáli təma*¹ *’ána θéli ləxxa.*¹

(48) He (the master) said (to his wife) 'I'll tell you something. Let's go onto the bridge, let's sleep on the bridge, on this river bridge. At night'—he thought he could not hear—he said 'we'll throw him in the river. We'll put him in the river'. (49) He was listening. He thought he was not listening. They went along and needed to cross a river. They said 'Let's sleep on the bridge. It is safer. Here—snakes and the like will not come onto this bridge. Let's sleep here. He (the servant) tried (to persuade them, saying) 'Let's not sleep here'. He (the master) said 'Let's sleep here'. (50) He said 'You sleep in the middle so that you do not roll down (into the river)'. His wife slept on one side and the husband on the other side. They put the servant in the middle so that they could take him in the night and throw him. (51) Now, they went onto that bridge. They said 'Let's sleep on that bridge. It is better to sleep on it, so that snakes and the like don't come. Here it is safer'. It was like our bridge over the Zab. They said 'We shall put you in the middle so that you do not fall at night'. (52) They slept on the bridge. They put him in the middle, with the husband on one side and the wife on the other, so that in the night they could take him and throw him into the river, into the Zab. He knows what is happening. He was listening to them. (53) He got up in the night. He rolled over her husband and put him in the middle. He came to be on the other side. In the early morning, when it was still very dark, he said 'Wife, it is time'. The wife got up on this side and the servant on the other side, they rolled her husband and threw him into the Zab'. (54) She said 'What have you done?' He said 'It is him'. He said 'Your husband has gone'. 'What have you done to me?! You have destroyed my home'. 'I have been waiting for you for a long time. I want you to become mine'. (55) Now, he had thrown her husband into the Zab. She was forced (to cooperate). What could she do? He said 'He and I are one. Your husband has gone. I'll take the place of your husband. It's better if we return home'. (56) They set off and returned to her home. That servant married her. He went (looking for) her relatives and brought them all there. They were landowners. They were rich. Then he began to live with that woman. I have left it there and come here.