

Informant: Blandina Barwari (ʔɛn-Nune)

(1) *xa-bàxta-ʔiθwa, ʔ xa-bràta. ʔ mǎra ʔdyo šàbθela, ʔ šáləx l-nèra, ʔ qú-šla màšla ʔ margálta-w qése ʔu-mándi t-ódət míya šaxíne ta-t-xèpəx. ʔ qímtela šlíθela mušléθela masrəqta-w júlle-w mǎndi, ʔ muttəθa margálta ʔla-yǝmma díya, ʔ qa-t-xèpi.* (2) *θiθela ða-qarəkke, ʔ šqiltəlla masrəqta díya ʔu-murəqtəlla. ʔ ay-ríqtela bàθra-w ʔ ríqta-w ʔ ríqta, ʔ ay-káza qràya.*ʔ

(3) *qarəkke qarəkkənti ʔ*
hállila masrəqθənti ʔ
t-la-maxyáli dekənti ʔ

(4) *ʔay har-là-yawəlla. ʔ mǎla qarəkke l-xá-qašra gòra. ʔ síqla l-gàre, ʔ qəm-zadyála b-xa-kàwe. ʔ masrəqθa díya šléla gu-bèθa. ʔ šléla gu-bèθa, ʔ ay-túwəla bxèla, ʔ bxèla, ʔ bxèla.* (5) *ʔanna ʔiθwa táma šawwə xonǎwəθa, ʔ gu-d-ò-bəθa. ʔ ʔanna mǎra xóni holaràya dúnye. ʔ mǎre hé b-álaha holaràya. ʔ plítla xá-mənnə qam-tǎra, ʔ θéle mǎre là, ʔ dúnye lèla-rya, ʔ šəxwəla. ʔ dǝmmət ʔəna.* (6) *b-é-ga qíme síqe gǎre, ʔ xázýəlla ʔáyən bráta l-gǎre. ʔ mǎra hólə ða-bráta làxxa. ʔ qíme šqiləlla, ʔ mušəlyəlla. ʔ mǎra há mùt wáðə láxxa. ʔ mǎra ʔána qǎššət díyi hǎtxəwa. ʔ qarəkke qəm-ganwála masrəqθi, ʔ qəm-daryála b-ay-káwe diyəxun.* (7) *mǎra ʔú háy puš-xáθa ʔlǎlən. ʔ mǎra là, ʔ là-pəšən. ʔ nǎbluli. ʔ yǝmmi yǎni ʔána ða-bratən, ʔ yǝmmi bǎxya. ʔ mǎra léðəx ʔəkəla, ʔ yǝmməx ʔəkəla. ʔ qarəkkela muθéθəlləx. ʔ puš-xáθa ʔlǎlən.*ʔ

(8) *ʔay-píšla xáθa ʔlǎləyən. ʔ ʔyya ʔ har-píšla táma xòðə, ʔ ʔanna y-azíwa šèda, ʔ xòðə, ʔ xòðə. ʔ qǎtu kribla, ʔ qəm-jerála gu-núra, ʔ qəm-mačəmyále núra díya. ʔ píšla t-là-nura.* (9) *ʔáyya qímila plítla xzèla xa-núra ràba rǎhqa. ʔ mǎra bǎ-ázən xázýən ʔáwən-nura ʔəkəle, ʔ mátyən tá-t ʔ-ódən ʔixála ʔla-xonǎwəθi. ʔ zilla-w ʔ zilla ʔ mǎla l-xá tanúra núra ràba. ʔ xa-hambišəya ʔ hólə táma dmíxa.* (10) *xa-báxta xámθa xámθa xámθa tíwəta pláya qálme díye. ʔ ay-šqilla m-ò-nura, ʔ θèla. ʔ iθwa xa-gúttə hǎtxa t-əzla ʔ gu-jéba díya npilla. ʔ npilla mǎnna díya gúttə ʔ m-gu-jéba díya. ʔ líqla b-tǎra, ʔ u-θéla gúttə píšla mən-d-áw hambišəya ʔ hal-tǎrət bəθəy.*ʔ

A34 THE GIRL AND THE SEVEN BROTHERS

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(1) There was a woman and a daughter. She said (to her daughter) ‘Today is Saturday, let’s go down to the river. Come, bring down a pan, wood and so forth to make hot water for us to wash’. She went down and brought down a comb, clothes and so forth and set up a pan for her mother so that they could wash. (2) A crow came, took her comb and stole it away. She ran after it, ran and ran. She tried (to persuade it to come back by) calling:

(3) Crow, my little crow
Give me back my little comb
so that my mother does not beat me

(4) It still did not give it back. The crow came to a big palace. It went up onto the roof and threw it into a window. Her comb went down into the house. It went down into the house and she sat and wept and wept and wept. (5) The people who were there in that house were seven brothers. They said ‘My brother, it is raining’. He said ‘Yes, by God, it is raining’. One of them went outside and came back saying ‘No, it is not raining, it is fine’. It was the tears of her eyes. (6) Then they went up to the roof and saw that girl on the roof. They said ‘There is a girl here. They took her and brought her down. They said ‘Hey, what are you doing here?’ She said ‘This is my story. A crow stole my comb and put it through your window’. (7) They said ‘Come, become a sister for us’. She said ‘No, I shall not stay. Take me back. My mother—I am an only daughter and my mother is weeping’. They said ‘We do not know where she is, where your mother is. The crow brought you. Become a sister for us’.

(8) She became a sister for them. She always remained there by herself while they went hunting, all alone. The cat was angry and urinated in the fire and extinguished her fire. So she did not have a fire. (9) She went outside and saw a fire far off. She said ‘I shall go and see where that fire is. I shall go there to make food for my brothers’. She went a long way and arrived at an oven with a large fire. (10) A giant was asleep there. A very beautiful woman was sitting removing his lice. She took some of the fire and returned. There was a ball of thread in her pocket and it fell. The ball fell from it, from her pocket. It became attached to the door and the ball ran from that giant up to the door of their house.

(11) 'áw qəm-marám̐la-w θéle θéle.¹ m̐téle gu-tárat 'ó-bəθa t-íla-wirta gàwe¹ wírele tálba diya.¹ kút-yom paštáwa 'íða diya,¹ kút-yom mayáswa xa-sabòta.¹ píšla ràba zábbun.¹ là-y galyáwa,¹ là-y šabráwa.¹ (12) y-ámri xáθi mà-ləx.² tla-mòt zábbun.² là-y galyáwa.¹ móra xàθi,¹ 'áxni šeráxxe 'íθ xa-tanúra gòra,¹ t-yápəx ləxma.¹ šerəxle,¹ dərəx núra gàwe¹ 'u-čəme,¹ (13) máttəx xa-došákka gòra¹ tàma.¹ kút-dana t-àθe,¹ 'áti déryət 'íðəx hátxa gu-ləša.¹ múr hon-lyàša.¹ 'áw t-àθe,¹ múr hon-lyàša,¹ pərqən¹ 'u-t-yawánnux šabóti mùšla.¹ tú xacča-mányəx ləxxa.¹ (14) 'aw-əθya wírele,¹ 'ay-dríθa 'iθáθa gu-ləša t-ləšəwa.¹ móre hálla šabóta zórta mēšənnə.¹ móra tú-xanči š-d-əy došákka.¹ 'ay-m̐túšyella xonāwàθa.¹ móra 'ána pərqən,¹ b-yawánnə šabóti əllux.¹ (15) 'aw-wírele,¹ mirtela tu-tiwa.¹ 'aw-əθya max-t-ile tíwa,¹ šályele biye b-došákka¹ gu-d-ó tanúra.¹ gòra-wewa rába.¹ šlele-tàma,¹ xonāwàθa diya,¹ šawwà xonāwàθa,¹ ripe b-réše diye¹ b-mère¹ q̐lille,¹ q̐šifille.¹ (16) 'ay-píštela xòða,¹ 'áti m-əkət.² móra 'àna¹ hátxa xonāwàθi riqe-wewa.¹ móra 'áxni 'áti xàθən-iwət¹ dūs.¹ 'o-qə́tma qəm-šaq̐lile xonāwàθa,¹ móra xáθi garpátte qə́tma.¹ šaq̐látte daryátte bar-šawwà t̐uráne,¹ b-xa-guniya t-óya t̐əməz.¹ (17) 'ay-mò-widla.² qím̐la qəm-daryále gu-xa-guniya¹ šətta diya n̐l̐ta.¹ kəma-jw̐jla,¹ 'úrxa 'úrxa bizle.¹ kəma-jw̐jla,¹ 'úrxa 'úrxa bizle.¹ qlábtə diya qlibla,¹ 'u-külle b̐rya¹ y-amráxxe xa-kerápso 'u-g̐lla táza ta-'ixála.¹ (18) móra knéle 'áwwa g̐lla ta-'ixála táza.¹ qəmən-náblən xánči ta-xonāwàθi.¹ t-odánna yàrqə-lley¹ t-axlile.¹ bašlānne.¹ 'ay-šl̐θela,¹ wíðtela 'o-g̐lla¹ muθéθalle mbušálta.¹

(19) 'əθye xonāwàθa diya,¹ šawwa xonāwàθa,¹ m-šəda.¹ 'əθyela xilela.¹ móra 'ə dyo hon-wíðtəlləxu yárqa rába basima.¹ xile.¹ max-t-ila xile čámča qaməθa,¹ kúlla píše pàrela,¹ 'ərwe.¹ kúlla píše 'ərwe.¹ (20) píše 'ərwe.¹ 'áy kút-yom mpaltáwala māřòyella.¹ baxyàwa,¹ jannàwa,¹ baxyàwa,¹ baxyàwa.¹ xa-yóma θéle xa-nàša,¹ xa-nàša, xa-dərweša.¹ θéle tàma,¹ móre má-ləx bráta t-it-hátxa bxàya¹ qam-d-ánna 'ərwe?² (21) móra 'ánna ləwa 'ərwe,¹ xonāwàθi wéwa.¹ hál 'u-qəššátte diye 'əyya-wawa.¹ wíðten yárqa ta-d-ánna xonāwàθi¹ 'u-xiléla píše 'ərwe.¹

(11) He picked it up and came (after it). He reached the door of the house in which she had entered and he entered searching for her. Every day she would stretch out her hand and every day he would suck a finger. She became very weak. She did not reveal this (to her brothers). She did not dare. (12) They said 'Sister, what is the matter with you? Why are you weak?' She did not reveal it. They said 'Sister, we shall stoke it'—there was a large oven—'in order for us to make bread. We shall stoke it, we shall set fire to it and then it will go out. (13) We shall put a large mattress there. Every time he (the giant) comes, you put your hand like this in the dough. Say "I am baking". When he comes back say "I am baking. When I finish, I shall give you my finger to suck. Sit and rest awhile here"'. (14) He came in and she put her hands in the dough that she was kneading. He said 'Give me the little finger for me to suck'. She said 'Sit awhile on that mattress'. She hid her brothers. She said 'When I finish, I shall give my finger to you'. (15) He came in. She said 'Sit down'. He came and when he sat down, he went down together with the mattress into the oven. He was very large. He went down into it and her brothers, her seven brothers, attacked his head with spades, killed him and cut him to pieces. (16) She remained alone. 'Where are you from?' She said 'My brothers ran away'. They said 'You are really our sister'. Her brothers took the ash and said 'Sister, sweep up the ash. Take it and scatter it behind seven mountains, in a sack that is clean'. (17) What did she do? She put it in a sack the bottom of which was torn. As she walked, it spilt along the way. As she walked, it spilt along the way. When she returned, it had all grown into (the plant) we call *kerabso*, a herb that was pleasant to eat. (18) She said 'How pleasant this plant is to eat. I shall take some for my brothers. I shall make it into vegetable stew for them to eat. I shall cook it'. She went down, picked that plant, brought it back and cooked it.

(19) Her brothers came back, her seven brothers, from hunting. They came back and ate. She said 'Today I have made you a delicious vegetable stew'. They ate it. When they had eaten the first spoonful, they all turned into lambs, sheep. They all turned into sheep. (20) They turned into sheep and she took them out every day to pasture them. She wept, wailed, wept and wept. One day a man came, a vagabond. He came there and said 'What is the matter with you girl that you are weeping so much in front of these sheep?' (21) She said 'These used not to be sheep, they used to be my brothers. The story of what happened is this. I made vegetable stew for these brothers of mine and, when they ate it, they turned into sheep'.

(22) *móre 'ána 'anna xonāwáθax mbasmə́nna, ' bas-goràtli. ' mirtela ' bas-'anna xonāwáθi bàsmi, ' gorə́nnux. ' móre de-séga 'áti bár d-āwàha-tura. ' 'ána kút-xonə́x maxónne šawwà-qese, ' pèšì. ' lá-'amrət kóre xàθux. ' 'ən-mə́rəx kóre xàθux, ' la-dèrì. ' (23) máxyəlle 'o-qamáya šáwwa qèse, ' barbərwa. ' zìnəle, ' píšəle nàša. ' máxyəle l-o-trè, ' hátxa máxyəle l-o-ḥlāθa, ' hátxa 'o-t-'àrba, ' hátxa 'o-t-xə́mša, ' 'o-t-'ə́šta. ' (24) 'o-t-šáwwa biš-zòra-wewa. ' 'ə́wwele xə́zyəlla b-gáre. ' 'aw-mburə́brele, ' mburə́bra. ' móra 'óx kóre xàθux. ' píšəle pálge nàša ' 'u-pálge pàra. ' 'aw-mə́re ' ta-mò mə́rəx kóre xàθux. ' móra xéna qidle lábbi, ' xóni zòra-wewa, ' mə́ri kóre xàθux. ' (25) 'aw-qíməle gwírəlla. ' 'anna zìle, ' qíməle gwírəlla. ' 'áw t-íle píša pálge pàra pálge nàša mùθyəlle mánna díya. ' (26) 'o-nàša rába zə́ngin-wewa. ' zə́ngin-wewa, ' dwíqəlle bèθa. ' xa-yóma, ' móre 'ána doqə́nnəx xa-xadə́mθa. ' móra lá-bayə́nna xadə́mθa. ' móre là, ' dóqə́nnəx xadə́mθa, ' dá qā́rčḗθa. ' xa-yóma dwíqəlla, ' móre t-áθya t-óya 'áxxa kə́sləx. ' móra là, ' là. ' móre hè ' ta-t-lá-pə́lxət 'áti ' 'ə́y-ila t-pálxa. ' (27) 'áni xá-yoma šə́lye xyàpa-wewa. ' šə́lye xyàpa, ' 'iθwa ḏa-béra hátxa gotèy-wawa ' 'amùqta. ' 'áni šə́lye xyàpa-wewa, ' 'ə́y-mòdi wíḏta. ' qímtela 'á qā́rčḗθa ' dríθəlla gu-d-a-bə́ra. ' 'ə́y-lwíštəlla júlle d-a-bràta ' 'u-sìqtela. ' (28) sìqtela, ' 'o-pàra ' hóle mbarbòre, ' har-mbarbòre, ' léle klàya. ' 'ə́y-màrəla ' mà-lux. ' ta-mòt mbarbóre. ' móre mà-ləx. ' 'ə́y-là mgalóyəlla páθa ta-t-xazéla 'áw. ' har-mkusèθəlla páθa. ' har-hóla bxàya ' tṵwáya lábbi l-d-áwwa-xoni 'u-bxàya, ' dūgle. ' (29) xá-yoma móre xázə́n mò t-áwəḏ 'áwwa pàra. ' kút-yom dawə́qwala 'úrxe b-'iḏe ' šaléwa b-a-dúkθa. ' xayə́rwa gu-d-a-bə́ra, ' baxə́nwa. ' mo-'òḏə́n. ' lá-mə́şən t-ásqən xazyə́nnux, ' doqə́nnux. ' litli 'iθáθa. ' lá-mə́şən t-ásqən doqə́nnux. ' dúkθi 'amùqtela. '*

(22) He said 'I shall cure these brothers of yours, only will you marry me?' She said 'Only if you cure these brothers of mine, shall I marry you'. He said 'Go beyond that mountain over there. I shall strike each brother of yours with seven lashes of a stick and they will turn (back to humans). Do not say "Your poor sister".¹ If you say "Your poor sister", they will not return'. (23) He beat the first one with seven lashes of a stick. He was bleating. He stood up, he turned into a man. He beat the second one, likewise beat the third, likewise the fourth, likewise the fifth and the sixth. (24) The seventh was the youngest. It was he who saw her on the roof. He bleated and bleated. She said 'Oh, your poor sister!' He became half man and half lamb'. He said 'Why did you say "Your poor sister"?'. She said 'My heart yearned for him.² He was my young brother, so I said "Your poor sister"'. (25) He married her. They (her brothers) went off and he married her. He took with them the one that had become half lamb and half man.

(26) That man was very rich. He was rich and took a house. One day he said 'I shall take a servant girl for you'. She said 'I do not want a servant girl'. He said 'No, I shall take a servant girl for you, a gypsy'. One day he took her on, he said 'She will come and be with you here'. She said 'No, no'. He said 'Yes, so that you will not work. She will work'. (27) One day they went down to bathe. They went down to bathe, there was a deep well by them. They went down to bathe. What did she do? The gypsy girl put her in that well. She put on the clothes of that girl and went up (to the house). (28) She went up, while the lamb bleated and bleated, incessantly. She said 'What is the matter with you? Why are you bleating?' He said 'What is the matter with you?' She did not reveal her face so that he saw her. She kept her face covered. She constantly wept 'My heart burns for this brother of mine and I weep'³—it was all lies. (29) One day he said 'I'd like to see what this lamb is doing. Every day he went the same way⁴ and would go down to that place. He would look into the well and weep. 'What should I do? I cannot go up and find you and hold you. I have no hands. I cannot go up and hold you. The place here⁵ is deep'.

¹ I.e. Your sister is sad over the fact that you are being beaten.

² Literally: My heart burnt.

³ Literally: with weeping.

⁴ Literally: He held his way in his hand.

⁵ Literally: My place.

- (30) *qímela šálye báθre báθre xəzyəlle¹ 'ína 'aw-wáða hədəx.¹ xíre 'ína 'ay-tàma.¹ mára màto?¹ mára 'áy xadəmθela dríθəlli láxxa.¹ qíməle šqíləlla mpúlɬəlla sìqe.¹*
 (31) *síqe bəθa,¹ mùsqəlla.¹ múθyele trè susăwáθa.¹ xa-múxləlle məlxə.¹ 'u-xá har-múšətyele miya,¹ léle múxləlle ču-ixàla.¹ 'u-dəryəlla bəθra.¹ kut-qəttə d-á qărăčəθa wíðəlle 'ax-nəθa díya.¹ de-sà!¹ 'ay-píšta bəxtəla¹ 'u-'áwwa píša xóna mánna dīya.¹*

(30) They went down after him and saw that he was doing this. He looked and saw she was there. They said 'How (has this happened)?' She said 'That servant girl put me here'. He went and took her, took her out and went up. (31) He went up to the house and brought her up. He brought two horses. He fed one salt. One he only gave water to drink and did not feed it any food. He put her behind them. They made every piece of the gypsy girl like her ear. 'Begone!' She became his wife and he became a brother for her.