

4.6.5 *aşl-əm lō fəʔl-əm?* (Instinct or acquired behavior?)

Narrator:

Alwiz Ben-Eliyahu (Xlaşçi)

tāğər,
ʔənd-u bʔazɪn ʔtən.
ʔənd-u bn...
bʔazɪn ʔtən mğabbi.
hāda...
mən yəqʔəd yākəl,
kəll bəzzūna,
yəʔʔi-ha šamʔa,
yəʔʔl-a lʔ-šamʔa wu-təqʔəd...
təntəğ-u ləmman yxalləş ʔl-akʔ.

xallaş ʔl-akʔ,
yəʔʔi-həm ʔlə-həm...
yəʔʔi-ha¹²⁹ lʔ-šmɪʔ wu-yəʔʔi-həm ʔlə-
həm ʔl-akʔ.
fád-ʔnhāğ ġā şadiq-u l... lē-nu,
qa-yʔayyət...
aş...
qal-l-u:
aşkun hāyi lə-bʔazɪn?
wahdi mʔn-hōn wu-wahdi mʔn-hōn
wu-ləzmɪn šamʔ,
wu-šēʔ... wu-šēʔl-a.
qal-l-u:
ana hāyi...
şāğ-l-i snɪn ağəbbi-həm ʔala-hāyi.

qal-l-u:
haqḏōli fəʔl-əm lō aşl-əm?

qal-l-u:
lā!
haqḏōli...
aşl-əm,

A merchant,
 had two cats.
 He had...
 he raised two cats.
 This guy,
 when he sits to dine,
 each cat,
 he gives it a candle,
 he lights the candle, and it sits...
 it waits for him until he finishes
 (eating) the food.
 When he finishes the food,
 he gives them...
 he turns the candles off and gives
 them the food.
 One day his friend came by,
 screaming...
 "What...?"
 He told him:
 What's (going on with) these cats?
 One from this side and one from
 the other and they hold a candle,
 and you light it.
 He told him:
 This...
 I have been training them to (do)
 this for years (now).
 He told him:
 These (cats), is it something that
 they learned to perform or their
 instinct (literally: their origin)?
 He told him:
 No!
 They...
 It's their original behavior,

129 This story was told over the phone, so the quality of the recording is unfortunately not optimal and there are some blackouts. In this case the prefix *y-* of this verb form is inaudible.

m^ʕəllám-əm wu-mǝbbi-həm.

qal-l-u:

zēn,

ana aǵwī-k mani¹³⁰ aʃl-əm wu-mani
faʃl-əm¹³¹.

hāda ʃād-l-u ǵǝǵdīn.

hāda ma ǵā lēzm...

lēzmi-ha l-ʔbzazīn l-ʔʃmī^ʕ wu-qa-
yākəl?

ḥatt l...

l-əl-ʔbzazīn ʔǵ-ǵǝǵdīn.

haḍōli farru l-aku wu-l-māku wu-
rakḍu ʕal-ǵǵ-ǵǝǵdīn.

qal-l-u:

ana aʃ qəlltō-l-ak?

ma qəlltō-l-ak haḍōli aʃl-əm lō fəʕl-
əm.

qāl:

aʃl-əm ma ytiqōn yətf...

yfəǵqū-ha l-əl... l-əl...

ǵǝǵdīn wu...

I taught them and trained them.

He told him:

Okay,

I will show you what is their
instinct and what isn't.

He hunted mice.

(Rhetorically:) didn't he came...

(and see that) the cats held the
candles while he was eating?

He put...

the mice for the cats.

They stopped everything (literally:
the existent and the inexistent) and
ran after the mice.

He told him:

What did I tell you?

(Rhetorically:) didn't I ask

(literally: tell) you if that is their
instinct or something they learned?

He said:

In their instinct they can't...

differentiate between...

mice and...

130 The narrator uses the interrogative pronoun *mani* 'who' when she actually refers to 'what'.

131 The narrator uses here the contradiction between *faʃʕl* and *aʃl*, while earlier and later she uses the contradiction between *aʃl* and *fəʕl*. Both *faʃʕl* and *fəʕl* are used to describe an acquired ability whereas *aʃl* is used to describe an original instinct. Having said that, the narrator herself gets them confused several times along the story.