

4.6 Folk stories

4.6.1 ^ʿzīyt əl-məlḥ (The preciousness of salt)

Narrator:

Alwiz Ben-Eliyahu (Xlaṣṣi)

kān wu-ma kān ʿal-aḷḷahu təkḷān.

*kān fəd-malək,
hāda l-malək ʿand-u bnāt ʿtnēn.
fád-yōm,
qal-l-əm,
hūwi qa-ygīd ysāfəḡ l-əl-ḥaḡḡ,
qa-ysāfəḡ l-əl-ḥaḡḡ.
aš təḡdōn?
hūwi ygīd ygūḥ l-əl-ḥaḡḡ,
aš təḡdōn?
aḡīb-^ʿl-kəm...
ṣuḡāt.
lə-kbīḡi qalət-l-u:
ḡīb-l-i ḥwās wu-ḡīb-l-i hēkəḍ wu-ḡīb-l-i
hēkəḍ.
lə-zḡayyḡi kən-tqól-l-u:
tḡūḥ b-əs-salāma wu-təḡḡa^ʿ b-əs-
salāma,
wu-ana aḥəbb-ak ʿmqadd-əl-məlḥ.*

*məlḥ ašqad ʿzīz.
aḥəbb-ak hēkəḍ.
raḡa^ʿ,
sāfaḡ wu-raḡa^ʿ.
raḡa^ʿ ʿmn-əl-ḥaḡḡ,
ṣāḥ-l-əm l^ʿ-bnāt-u.
qal-l-əm...
lə-kbīḡi aš ṭalbət?
t^ʿa-l-yā.
lə-zḡayyḡi aš ṭalbət?
tḥəbb-u mqadd əl-məlḥ.*

*qām ʿtḡad-a.
qal-l-a:*

Once upon a time (Literally: was and (or) wasn't, (and the rest) depends on god).

There was a king,
this king had two daughters.
One day,
he told them,
he wants to travel to the Haj.
He is traveling to the Haj.
What do you want (me to bring)?
He wants to travel to the Haj,
What do you want (me to bring)?
I will bring to you...
presents.

The elder told him:
Bring me cloths and bring me this
and bring me that.

The younger told him:
Go in peace and return in peace,

and I will love you as much as (I
love) salt.

Salt is so precious.

I will love you that (much).

He returned,
he traveled and returned.
He returned from the Haj,
he called for his daughters.
He told them...

What did the elder request?

He gave it to her.

What did the younger request?

To love him as much as (she loves)
salt.

He expelled her.

He told her:

*lēš aškun əl-məlḥ xaṭağ qa-tḥəbbē-ni
mqadd əl-məlḥ?
ana ma aqbal,
la aǧīd-ək wu-la aǧīd əl-məlḥ māl-ək.*

*za^sal wiḡā-ha.
ṭla^s... ^ʔtǧad-a mn-əl-bēt.
hāyi l-xāybi,
ḡallət.
fəd-^ʔnhāğ ^sayán-a b^ʔn şəḷtān,*

*wu-ḥább-a,
wu-dzūwáğ-a¹¹⁶.
hāyi kən-^ʔtqūl tǧīd təntáqəm ^ʔmn-abū-
ha.
lēš ^ʔtǧad-a mn-əl...?
qāmət sūwát-l-əm ^ʔzīmi kbīǧi.
wu-ma xəllát-l-əm wəla nəqtāyi məlḥ,*

*bī-nu l^ʔ-ṭbīx.
ǧō qa^sdu qa-yaklōn,
ma qa-yṭiqōn yaklōn.
qalát-l-əm:
lēš ma qa-taklōn?
aškun hāyi?*

*qalō-l-a:
hāḡa kəll-u ḡəla-məlḥ,
mnēn ^ʔnṭīq nakól-u?
qalát-l-u¹¹⁷:
şihō-l-u l-abū-ha...
hāḡa abū-ha...
şihō-l-u,
qəllō-l-u,
aššōn ma kan-yəftáhəm?
əl-məlḥ ašqad bī-nu ^szīyi.*

what is (it about) salt so that you
love me as much as (you love) salt?
I don't accept it,
I don't want you and I don't want
your salt.
He got angry with her.
He expelled her from home.
This poor one,
she stayed.
One day the son of the sultan saw
her,
and he fell in love with her,
and he married her.
She said she wants to take revenge
on her father.
Why did he expel her from the...?
She made a big feast for them.
And she didn't put even a little bit
of salt for them,
in the food.
They started to eat,
and they couldn't eat.
She told them:
Why aren't you eating?
What's going on (literally: what is
it)?
They told her:
It's all without salt,
how can we eat it?
She told him:
Call for her father...
the father of hers...
call for him,
tell him,
how come he couldn't understand?
How precious salt is.

116 The *t* of stem V assimilates into *d* as a result of the following *z*.

117 The narrator uses the 3.m.s. pronominal suffix probably with the intention to quote what the younger daughter told her father. It seems, however, that the narrator changed her mind, as she then quotes what the younger daughter told the people to tell her father.

ana sūwitū-ha l-āyi kəll-a bəla-məlh
xatəg̃ yə'g̃əf 'ziyt əl-məlh ašqad
'qwiyi.
wu-əs-salāmu 'lē-kum.

I did all of it without salt so that he
 will understand how strong the
 preciousness of salt is.
 And may peace be with you.