

**WOWA Arabic (Khuzestan)**, by Bettina Leitner

**Text E**

speaker 07 (female, 45)

- 1 *ʕann-əč w ʕan dīč farəd əbnayya ʔəsəm-ha*  
*ḥamda.* Once upon a time there was a little girl called Ḥamda.
- 2 *w l hāy l-əbnayya bass əhəya təsraḥ*  
*b-əl-ḡanam kəll šāy mā ʕad-ha.* And this girl was always just grazing the sheep, she had nothing (else).
- 3 *təsraḥ b-əl-ḡanam həyya w saḥbāt-ha kəll*  
*waḥda tarḡi- ətraḡḡaʕ əl-ḡanam wa tnām.* She took out the sheep to graze, she and her (female) friends, each one brought back the sheep and slept.
- 4 *hādan saḥbāt-ha kəll waḥda tradd-əlha*  
*radda w təyi tnām.* These friends of hers, each one of them came back to her and went to sleep.
- 5 *ygūl dāk əl-yōm həyya raddat raddat-ha*  
*ḡəddām w nāmat, ḡəfat əl-əbnayya, nāmat*  
*mā darat šən-hi əs-sālfə.* They say that one day she came back earlier and slept, the girl fell asleep. She slept and didn't realize what happened.
- 6 *ygūl mən nāmat, ʔəhna haḡan raddan ʔəya*  
*sīəkāri ybīʕ farəd laʕābəyāt, šəlʕan-la šūf*  
*naʕyāt.* While she slept, these (girls) came back and a seller came who sold some toys; they [her friends] gave him ewes' wool.
- 7 *ḡanam yaʕann-a šəlʕan-la šūf ən-naʕya*  
*yaʕann-a, w yaʕi-hən š-əsmə, yaʕi-hən*  
*məḡāḡəš, maḥābəs əl-ḥašəl həya ḥamda*  
*nāymə.* They gave him the sheep (and) ewes' wool and he gave them, what's it called, he gave them bracelets, rings, and Ḥamda was sleeping.
- 8 *ḡāla(n)-lha: ḥamda ḥamda ḥəšən-əč,*  
*ḥəšən-əč, ḥamda ḥamda ḥəšən-əč, ḥəšən-əč;*  
*ʕən-i əmnīən ʕən-i əmnīən? ḡāla(n)-lha mən*  
*dāk əs-sīəkāri.* They said to her: 'Ḥamda, Ḥamda look what I have got, Ḥamda, Ḥamda, look what I have got.' [Ḥamda responds,] 'My dear, where (did you get this) from, where?' They said: 'From this seller.'
- 9 *ʔəhya məšaṭ, ḡālat-la yā sīəkāri: tānī-ni!*  
*ḡāl-ha yamm dīč əl-ḡarbāya.* She left, and said to him: 'Seller, wait for me!' He responded: '(I'll wait for you) Next to that poplar [ḡarbāye[1]] .'
- 10 *wašal-ha, taʕaddā-ha.* He reached it [the poplar] and (just) passed by it.
- 11 *ḡālat-la: yā sīəkāri tānī-ni! ḡāl-ha yamm*  
*dīč əṭ-ṭāḥməya.* She said: 'Seller, wait for me!' He responded: 'Next to that ṭāḥməya plant[2].'
- 12 *wašal-ha, taʕaddā-ha.* He reached it [the ṭāḥməya plant] and (just) passed by.
- 13 *ḡālat-la: yā sīəkāri tānī-ni! ḡāl-ha: yamm*  
*dāk əl-bīət əl-baʕīd əl-ḡašər.* She said: 'Seller, wait for me!' He told her: 'Next to that far away house, the castle.'
- 14 *lamma əltəftat mā šəfat ʔaḥad ḥamda.* As she turned (her head), Ḥamda didn't see anybody.
- 15 *xadā-ha ʔaṭāri hāḡa (n-)nəsər – gabəl*  
*ənsūra ygūlūn ʕala zamān gabəl – ygūl*  
*wašal ha-l-ḡašər.* Maybe the vulture took her – in former times they said (there were) vultures – well and he reached that castle
- 16 *ḡāl-ha baʕad mā ʕad-əč ʕalʕa əṭṭallīn əhnā.* and said to her, 'From now on you won't go anywhere, you stay here.'
- 17 *ḡāl-ha thəddīn hād əl-bīət, w thəddīn hāy*  
*əd-dār w thəddīn hāy əd-dār, bass hāy*  
*əd-dār lā thəddīn-ha.* He said: 'You (may) open this house, and you (may) open this room and you (may) open this room, but don't you open this room.'
- 18 *ʔəhwa ʕāf-ha w-məša.* He left her and went away.
- 19 *mən ʕāf-ha w-məša həyya ḡallat lə-*  
*b-waḥad-ha.* When he had left her and gone away, she remained on her own.
- 20 *w-ʔənhallat-əlha hāy əd-dār, ləgat bī-ha* And she opened this room and found in it

- farsāt.
- 21 *ḥallat hāy əd-dār, ləgat bī-ha ʕayūz w šāyəb mʕalləg-həm mən hədba ʕayūn-həm.* stallions.  
She opened that room, found in it an old woman and an old man, hanged up on their eyelashes.
- 22 *ygūl hāy ḥtārat gālō-lha ʕēn-i nəzzəlī-lna, nəḡḡəḥī-nna, nəzzəlī-lna.* She was perplexed, they told her: ‘My dear, take us down, help us down, take us down.
- 23 *tara ysawwī-č məṭəl-na.* Otherwise it [the vulture] will hang you up [lit. “make you”] like us.
- 24 *w ḥəllī-lna əl-bāb, ʕəḥna nəšrəd w təšrədī(n) ləbsī-ləč yələd wāwi.* Open the door for us, we flee and you flee (too) wearing jackal leather.
- 25 *širi məṭl əš-šāyəb yələd yələbsūn.* You go like the old men who wear leather.’
- 26 *gāmat tattača ʕala ʕšāya w-məšaṭ tayyəhat-ha w lə məšaṭ.* She got up, holding onto a stick and she left; she left them and went off.
- 27 *məšaṭ gāf ətšīl-ha w gāf ətzəm-ha w gāf əthəṭṭ-ha w gāf ətšīl-ha w gāf ətzəm-ha w gāf əthəṭṭ-ha waṣalt ə- wəšlat-əlha farəd bəkān, wəšlat-əlha farəd bəkān, farəd ḡašər māl malək.* She went and came by a lot of lands and places [lit. “land has carried her, land has abandoned her and land has put her”] (until) she came to a (certain) place, to a castle of a king.
- 28 *gālat ʕāna ʕaḍəllan bə-hāḍa ḡašər māl əl-malək.* She said: ‘I will stay in this, the king’s castle.’
- 29 *ygūl mən ḍallat ʕənd-a gālō-lha: ča ʕanti mā yšir ʕəṭḍəllīn əblāya šəḡəl.* As she stayed there, they said to her: ‘Hey you, you can’t just stay here without working.’
- 30 *mā gālō-lha, ḥasb-ʕāna[3] m(ū) šāyəb?* ‘No’, she responded [lit. “they said to her”, probably mistakenly said by the story-teller instead of “she said to them”], ‘am I not an old man [i.e. too old to work]?’
- 31 *gālō-lha yā šwayyəb əl-xər naṭī-k hōš təsraḥ bī-hən.* They said to her: ‘Dear old man, we give you cows to look after.’
- 32 *gāl ʕāna əl-hōš yšarrəd w mā bī-ya, mā ʕaḡdar ʕāna.* She[4] replied, ‘The cows, they run away, I’m not able (to do this job), I can’t.’
- 33 *gālō-lha ḡanam, gālaw l-əš-šāyəb – həyya, həyya bnayya məṭəl ət-təriḡ ḥalāt-ha, bass mā yədrūn bī-ha ləbsat-əlha yələd – naṭī-k ḡanam.* They told her ‘(We give you) sheep’, they said to the old man – in fact (the old man) was the girl, whose beauty was (bright) like light, but they didn’t know that, because she was wearing a leather – ‘We give you sheep’.
- 34 *gāl-(əl)həm əl-ḡanam yšarrəd w mā bī-ya ʕali-h.* She responded them: ‘The sheep run away, I am not able to do this.’
- 35 *gālō-lha ča naṭī-č əbšūš w bṭūṭa tsarḥīn bī-təsraḥ bī-hən, gāl-la xōš.* They told her: ‘So then we give you (small) ducks [əbšūš[5]], and ducks, and you take care of them, you let them graze’, and he [the girl disguised as an old man] said: ‘Alright.’
- 36 *ygūl həyya bəḍdat ʕan ən-nazīl təsraḥ b-əl-əbšūš w b-əl-əbṭūṭ.* Well then she went away from the camp, taking out the (small) ducks and the ducks to graze.
- 37 *ygūl šāfat əl-wādəm maḥḥad, nəzlat yəld əl-wāwi w nəzlat šaḥr rās-ha əš-šaḥr ha-l-ḥadd ygūm yəḡḡad, ḥəlwa ḥəl, təktəl əmn-əl-ḥala – nəzlat šaḥr-ha, ḍəbḥat-əlha baṭṭ šəwat-a, kəlat-a.* She could see nobody there (so) she took off the jackal leather and opened her hair [lit. “head hair”], the hair was this long, very beautiful, killing with its beauty – she opened her hair, killed a duck, grilled it and ate it.
- 38 *xō rawwaḥan əl-əbṭūṭ fəḡdō-hən.* The ducks came back and they [the townspeople] counted them.
- 39 *gālō-lha ča baḥad waḥda.* They said to her: ‘Hey, there is one missing.’
- 40 *gālat-ʕəlhəm əl-wāwi kəlā-ha.* She told them: ‘The jackal ate it.’
- 41 *nōba, nōbtēn, ṭalāt, dāk əl-yōm əbn əl-malək* Once, twice, three times [she told them that

*naṭar-ha. gāl baḷla ʔard ašūf šən-hi l-gəṣṣa  
hād əš-šāyəb yōməyya baṭṭ mā yəlfə(ʔ?)  
ʔalē-na.*

42 *ygūl lamma šāf-ha əbn əl-malək, həlwa həl  
w-əš-šaʔr atgūl šərtān dahab.*

43 *šāf-ha gāl-la ča mā yxāləf, ygūl yāb-ha  
gāl-ha ča nti bayyna ʔənti lābsat-ləč yələd  
ənti, mū-hu šāyəb əbnayya, hətta m- əbn  
əl-malək gāl kūn āxəd-ha.*

44 *kaḏḏ w xadā-ha əbn əl-malək.*

45 *šūfi-ha wən, mən sāraḥa lē şəbat (şəfat)  
ʔəhya māxəd-ha əbn əl-malək.*

same story], (but) one day the king's son watched her. He said [to himself]: 'Let's see, I want to see what's the story of this old man, [and the reason why] each day one duck doesn't come back to us.'

When the king's son saw her, this beautiful and the [her] hair, like golden tie.

He saw her and said it doesn't matter, then he brought her and said to her: 'It's obvious, you (just) wear a leather, you are not [lit. "he is not"] an old man but a girl.' So the king's son said: 'I have to marry her'.

So he married her, the king's son.

See what she has become, from herding (sheep) and (then) the king's son took her as his wife.