

The Neo-Aramaic Dialect of
Barwar

Volume Three: Texts

by

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A39 THE BROTHER OF GIANTS

Informant: Xošebo 'Odišo ('En-Nune)

(1) 'iθwa xá báxta-w xa-gàwra.¹ 'a-báxta mára ta-gáwra dīya¹ dā-xūs¹ nàša.¹ xūs-plūxən.¹ xūs-plūxən.¹ ta-mút baṭíla tíwa gu-bèθa.² dāx t-óya.² 'ámər la-líθ šùla.¹ mára dā-'áti xūs!¹ bálki máčxət šùla.¹ (2) qímle zílle mxéle l-túra.¹ xìšle,¹ xìšle,¹ xìšle.¹ píšle xúya.¹ móre ya-'àlahi,¹ ya-màri¹ lèka 'azéna.² píšle xúya.¹ cū-naša la-yāðéna.¹ la-bèθa 'iθən,¹ 'u-la-nàša 'iθən.¹ xzéle xa-núra lháya gu-xa-gəppa.¹ (3) móre 'ázən 'oðən qázəd d-àwewa gəppa.¹ t-áwðən qázədde dīye.¹ t-ázən máxən tíra d-àw-gəppa.¹ 'iθ-nàše¹ 'ən-lìθ-naše.¹ zìšle máxyele tār d-ò-gəppa.¹ (4) 'ina hóla tíwe¹ šawwà hambisáye.¹ šawwá-hambisáye tíwe gu-d-aw-gəppa.¹ móre ya-'àlahi.¹ xúya har-xúyεle.¹ har-déwe t-axlìli.¹ har-t-ázən gu-d-àna hambisáye¹ har-hambisáye-ži t-axlìli.¹ qímle mxéle l-tárèy¹ wírre kəslèy.¹ (5) wírre kəslèy¹ xírre muttúle bàla¹ kút-xa mənney¹ réše mṭáya l-túra,¹ dāqne šálya hál-'axxa,¹ səmbéle hál-'axxa.¹ móre 'ánna hár t-axlìli,¹ yāðéna.¹ 'ina t-àmrən xá-məndi¹ gu-ləbbe dīye mtuxmənnə.¹ (6) móre sláma-lləxu xonāwàθi.¹ xá-mənnə xírre b-o-xəna.¹ mára 'úlən xa-xóna xəna.² mára 'áti m-èka-yāðət t-ix xonāwàθa.² móre yámme mšudártəlli kəslèxu.¹ mára sí kəs-xonāwàθux.¹ hóla fulàn-duka.¹ m-kəs-gàne qəm-mdabərra¹ mxalóše xāye dīye.¹ (7) móre yá-'alaha m-ò-'oðən.² 'ána gúrəg 'ámərən hatxàne.¹ mára zèñ,¹ 'ən-ít xonèni,¹ háyyo tu-'axxa kəslèni.¹ xúl.¹ xúl mənñèni.¹ (8) xille dréle dax-d-àni.¹ xille,¹ mára b-álaha xónən-it məjjəd.¹ 'amrəxlux xà-mdi xéna.¹ t-laθà-məndiyane.¹ 'áyya qəm-mpaltəxla,¹ píše trè-məndiyane xéne.¹ (9) 'amrəxlux 'úlən xá zəqqa¹ rāba górtəla.¹ y-ásqəx méθəx míya mən-d-āwàha túra.¹ rāba rəhqele 'o-túra.¹ rāba rəhqele.¹ 'ən mášət šaqlətla.²

A39 THE BROTHER OF GIANTS

Informant: Xošebo 'Odišo (?En-Nune)

(1) There was a woman and a man. The woman said to her husband 'Go, man! Go and work! Go and work! Why are you sitting idly in the house? It is not right!'¹ He said 'No, there is no work'. She said 'Go! Perhaps you will find work'. (2) He set off and went to the mountains. He travelled a long way. It became dark. He said 'My God, my Lord, where shall I go? It has become dark. I do not know anybody. There is no house and there is no person here'. He saw a fire burning in a cave. (3) He said 'I shall go and make for that cave. I shall go towards it. I shall go and knock on the door of the cave, whether there are people there or there are no people there'. He went and knocked on the door of the cave. (4) He saw seven giants sitting there. Seven giants were sitting in that cave. He said 'My God, it is very dark, either wolves are sure to eat me or I shall go to these giants and the giants are sure to eat me'. He knocked on their door and went in to meet them. (5) When he went in to meet them, he looked and noticed that the head of each of them reached the (top of) the mountain, his beard fell down to here and his moustache to here. He said 'They are sure to eat me, I know. But I shall say something'—he thought this to himself. (6) He said 'Greetings to you my brothers'. They looked at each other. They said 'Have we another brother?' They said 'How do you know that we are brothers?' He said 'My mother sent me to you. She said "Go to your brothers. They are in such-and-such a place"'. He made this up himself to save his life. (7) He said 'My God, what shall I do? I have to say such things'. They said 'Well, if you are our brother, come and sit here with us. Eat, eat with us'. He ate and served (himself food) like them. (8) He ate and they said 'By God, you are really our brother. Let us say to you something else. (There are) three things (you need to do in order to prove that you are our brother). We have eliminated this one. Two other things remain. (9) We say to you that we have a water-skin that is very large. We shall go up and fetch water from that mountain over there. That mountain is very far away. It is very far away. Can you take it there?'

¹ Literally: How can it be?

(10) *máre* 'ó *xonāwàθi*,¹ 'aw-mo-šùlele.² *qa-mòtun mára* 'áxtu¹ 'áxni *y-ásqəx tura*¹ *másqəx zəqqa*.¹ *lomu lá-asqən* 'ána.² *hálli hāwla*.¹ *y-ásqən kúlla qése mjāmənnā*¹ 'u-'úrxa *paθxənnā*¹ *qa-t-míya šála qam-tar-gəppa*.² *qa-mó le-y-asqən-méθən míya mən-tàma*.² (11) *mára b-álaha* 'aw-xoš-fəkrele!¹ *qiməle šqilele xa-xáwla rába rixa*.¹ *səryele kúlla b-réšət 'ilanàne*.¹ *la-màse*,¹ *mo-'āwəð*.² *bāye mxálaš xāye*.¹ (12) *qiməle səryalle b-réšət 'ilanáne 'ilanàne*.¹ 'áni *kəlye kəs-bəθa*.¹ 'ámər *xonāwáθi mwádo mwádo*¹ *t-la-'azitu b-míya 'ap-àxtu*.¹ 'ámri *háyyo xilli ləbbux*¹ *lá-bāyəx la-míya*¹ 'u-la-čū-məndi.¹ 'áxni *har-xònn-it*.¹ (13) *mára zən*¹ *píšta dā-xeta*.¹ 'ánna *tərte*,¹ *píšta dā-xeta*.¹ 'ən-it-xònneni,¹ 'itlən *xa-magára rába 'amòqa*,¹ 'ax-xa-sàrdəb *qarəxle*.¹ 'iθ *xa-párša b-rése diye*¹ *rāba górele*.¹ 'ən-'āw-parša *šqillux*,¹ 'itlən *dāwe tàma*,¹ *pāləxxa*,¹ *kúllən xonāwàθəx*.¹ (14) *məre xonāwáθi mōtu mára*.² 'ána 'ən-šqilli,¹ *fəlsa la-yawənnəxu*.¹ *mára 'āwəwa mú-t-awəð b-rəšən*.² *mára lá-baba*, *là*.¹ *har-la-šqúlla biš-spəy*.¹ 'áxni *šaqləxxe 'u-məlaləxxa čántux zūze*¹ 'u-siga.¹ (15) *qiməle bəbi*,¹ *šqiləlla xonāwáθe diye* 'ə-parša¹ *d-o-magára*,¹ 'ina *xa-marəgla gōra*¹ *məlyə dāwe*,¹ *məlyə dāwe*.¹ *šqille moθéle čanáθa mənne*,¹ *tərna qəm-mələlə*.¹ *θəle*.¹ (16) *θəle*,¹ *b-ləle bāye mətə*¹ *t-la-xazéle náse gu-màθa*.¹ 'aw-məkele *θāya*,¹ *t-la-mšəlxile*.¹ (17) *səət xà mətəle l-bəθa*.¹ *mxéle l-tāra*.¹ *mxéle l-tāra*,¹ *mára bāxte diye*¹ *mára 'óx 'āw gāvri m-jəlde hóle zila*¹ *lá-'əθya l-bəθa žəre*,¹ 'ən-ile-qitila,¹ 'ən-ile xila.¹ (18) *xá-bena mxéle l-tāra*,¹ *mára 'óx ya-'aləhi*!¹ *b-xšəwəw gāvri θəle*.¹ *pθixle tāra*.¹ 'ina *θəle*.¹ *mára bāxta*¹ *θélux nāša*.² *məre bāxta θəli*¹ *mò-'oðən*.² *zilli pləxa*.¹ *kəxli*¹ 'u-θəli.¹ (19) *mára 'ánna mòdi*.² *məre də-məkəs tāra*.¹ 'u-məšla *fərde*¹ *pθúxla xza-mo-xəzyət gawəy*.¹ *qəm-məšləla kúlla fərde*.¹

(10) He said ‘My brothers, what job is that? Why do you say “We shall go up and take up the water-skin”? Why should I not go (alone)? Give me a rope. I shall gather all the wood and open up the way so that the water will come down to the door of the cave. Why should I go up and fetch water from there?’ (11) They said ‘By God, that is a good idea!’ He set off and took a very long rope. He tied it all onto the tops of the trees. He could not (do anything else). What could he do? He wanted to save his life. (12) He tied it to the tops of the trees. They (the giants) stayed at home. He said ‘Brothers, move out of the way, move out of the way, so that you do not get carried away with the water’. They said ‘Come, my dear,² we do not want water or anything else. You are indeed our brother’. (13) They said ‘Fine, one other task remains. These are two, one more remains. If you are our brother, there is a cavern that is very deep, like what we call a basement. There is a flat stone over it that is very large. If you take away this stone, (you will find) we have gold coins there and we shall divide them, since we are all brothers’. (14) He said ‘Brothers, what are you saying? If I take it off, I shall not give you a penny’. They said ‘What is he going to do to us?’ They said ‘No, my dear, no. It is better that you do not take it off. We shall take it off and fill your bag with money, then you can go’. (15) He set off and his brothers took off the flat stone of that cavern. Behold a large pot full of gold coins, full of gold coins. He took them, he brought bags with him and he filled two of them. Then he came back (home). (16) He came back. He wanted to arrive at night, so that he would not be seen by people in the village (who would say) ‘Where is he coming from?’, so that they would not strip (and rob) him. (17) He arrived home at one o’clock. He knocked at the door. His wife said, she said ‘Oh, that husband of mine has gone out early and has not returned home, poor man. He has either been killed or he has been eaten (by wild animals)’. (18) Then he knocked at the door and she said ‘Oh, my God! I think my husband has come back’. She opened the door and saw that he had indeed come back. The woman said ‘Have you come back, man?’ He said ‘Wife, I have come back, what should I do? I went to work. I got tired and come back’. (19) She said ‘What are these?’ He said ‘Close the door. Draw down the blinds. Then, open them and see what you find in them’. They drew down all the blinds.

² Literally: I have eaten your heart.

(20) *máre t-lá naše-xazɛlɛni¹ mən-panjɛra,¹ mən-tāràne.¹ kúlla dukáne mátti bála genàwe.¹ zílta kúlla mtugbàrtəlla.¹ pθíxtəlla ʔina kúlla dàwe.¹ (21) mára ʔaxni mò-ʔoðəx b-ánna dáwe?¹ ʔéka mʔaršəxla.² mərəx ʔláli lèt-plaxa.¹ ʔina-hóli ʔlìxli.¹ mára b-álaha gáwra ʔlìxlux.¹ gánux basimta.¹ (22) hádəx bābi ʔiʃlɛ zangine,¹ ʔiʃlɛ mārət dəkkənàne.¹ ʔiʃlɛ mārət ʔalàxe.¹ ʔiʃlɛ reʃáya gu-máθa ʔàwwa.¹ ʔáyya ʃwiqáli tàmá.¹*

(20) He said ‘So that people do not see us from the window and the doors. Thieves watch everywhere. She went and prepared everything. She opened them (the bags) and saw all the gold coins. (21) She said ‘What will we do with these gold coins? Where shall we hide them?’ ‘You said to me “You are not working”. Now I have worked’. She said ‘By God, husband, you have worked! Well done!’. (22) So, my dear, they became rich. They became owners of shops. They became owners of workers. He became a leading figure in the village. I have left it there and come here.