

†jòrax-lə?| hì,| á †jòrilə,| bəxpáḱəna †ùydələ,| mára †ànnə| máttimunlun ju-xá  
 lilànka| †ət-susavàtə| †mámṭimunlun bəta,| †ànnə bərrəxšəna,| (49) bitáyələ †hàji,|  
 †màlla,| †u-†ḱàssab| †ú †ḱazì,| †ànnə cúllə mayèlə| mára †ànnə dúḱunlun cúllə †idə-  
 †aḱlé †sùrunlun,| †maxlèta láchxa,| †ànnə cúllə †əmza vódlun| †hàji| †əmza vódlə|  
 hì,| †ána †əmza vádəvən| diva †xilálə| †u-†ḱàssab| †əmza vádələ| ḱát hì| †a-báxta  
 póllo ju-hàvuz,| mətla,| †ú †o-màlla xína mára| ḱát| †ána xzìli| †á bàxta| mən-  
 jàre póllo,| †ína cúllə| †əmza vádəna,| †əmza bəšḱáləna mənne| ḱàmta,| †əmzé  
 bəšḱàlulə,| †idaté †bəsyarələ,| mára †ànnə làblunlun,| máttunlun ju-†dùssaḱ| ḱa-  
 hál motè,| ḱa-hál=ət mèti,| (50) bəḱyámələ †al-àḱlu,| ḱa-màlca mára| †ávət basíma  
 †ràba| ḱát †a-pórsat yuvvélux ḱàti| †ànnə jùllux| †ína †é-†dān †báyəyət †ódət xa-  
 məndi| vúdlə †ax-nàšə,| †ànnə jùllux| †ànnə ... malcùytux| †áxla rìšux| †ána lèn  
 †byáyo xína,| málca bəḱyámələ †al-àḱlu,| cačàla| †bəzdáyələ,| bəxšáva ḱat-  
 †adýya ríšu maxìlə,| mórre lá là,| †àtən| mən-cačàlux xínə| ḱṭ-avìtun| ju-dārbār-  
 †ət dīyi,| dārbār †yánə betúytət malcùyta,| †át †-ávət sópət vazzìri,| †ànnə ḱṭ-  
 †ávi jú vāccə| vāzzər,| †ràba bəxdáyəvən| ḱat-xá-†axča məndi| †ána mučəxli ju-  
 məllat,| †ávət †ràba basíma| bəxpáḱulə,| †ànnə cúllə bədyəšèlə| vadələ jú betúytət  
 malcùyta,| basíma †ràba ḱat-†šmilux,|

## A2 Women are Stronger than Men (Yulia Davudi, †Hassar †Baba-čanja, N)

(1) †átva xa-dana-málca,| †átva xa-dana-málca| †u-yuvvállə †xàbra| ḱa-vāzzər,|  
 mərrə| †ána lè-†bayyən| həc xa-†šrà| †óya ju-màta,| ju-mdita,| †báyəyən †pàlṭən,|  
 †báyəyən †pàlṭən| xázzən †átri mù-ilə,| xázzən †átri mù-ilə,| (2) vāzzər †plàṭələ|  
 †jār bədráyələ,| †jār,| †é-†danta telefōnə| melefōnə lətvə,| †átxa †jār bədráyələ,|  
 hamzúmələ mára ḱát həc xá †šrà| là-layya ju-bətvátə,| málca †byayələ †pàlṭə|  
 †xàdər| cúť †šrá tapə| †ət-jarima,| (3) †xàbra yàvələ| b-lələ| vāzzər mən-málca  
 †plàṭəna| b-ricávə bərrəxšəna| †bəxdārəna| xázzə mù-†ət| mú ləttən,| (4) bəxzáyələ  
 mən-rəḱḱə| †ína xá-dana †šrá véla bəllàya| ju-xa-bəta,| mára vāzzər| †ána ḱátux

‘Oh joy! This is my husband!’ They embrace one another. He says ‘Put these in a horse-drawn carriage and take them home.’ They go off. (49) The pilgrim comes, the mullah, the butcher and the judge. They bring them all and he says ‘Seize them all and tie their hands and feet.’ Pardon (I forgot to say) here: They all signed. The pilgrim signed, yes, (he says) ‘I sign (and certify) that a wolf ate her.’ The butcher signs that ‘yes, the woman fell into the pool and died.’ The mullah says ‘I saw the woman fall from the roof.’ They all sign. They take a signature from them, previously. They take their signatures and bind their hands. He says ‘Take them and put them in jail until their death, until they die.’ (50) He gets up onto his feet. He says to the king ‘Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity, here are your clothes, but when you want to do something, do it properly.<sup>41</sup> Here are your clothes, and your kingdom is your responsibility.<sup>42</sup> I do not want it anymore.’ The king gets onto his feet. The bald man is afraid and thinks that now he will strike off his head. He said ‘No, no, you together with your other bald men will be in my court, court, that is the royal household. You will be in place of my vizier. They will be in (place of) the deputy and vizier. I am very pleased that I have found such a thing in the nation. Many thanks.’ He embraces him. He insists on making them (members of) the royal household. Many thanks for listening.

## A2 Women are Stronger than Men (Yulia Davudi, +Hassar +Baba-čanja, N)

(1) There was once a king. There was once a king. He gave an order to the vizier. He said ‘I do not want any lantern to be in the village, in the town. I want to go out, I want to go out and see how my land is, see how my land is.’ (2) The vizier goes out and makes an announcement, an announcement. At that time there were no telephones or the like. So, he makes an announcement. He speaks saying ‘No lantern should be lit in the houses. The king wants to go out and tour around. If anybody lights a lantern, there will be a fine.’ (3) He gives an order and at night the vizier and the king go out, they go with horsemen, touring around, so he (the king) could see what is happening.<sup>43</sup> (4) He sees from afar a lantern burning in a house. He (the king) says ‘Vizier, I told you, what is that lantern burning there?’ He said ‘King, be well, I have said (what you ordered me to say)

41 Literally: Do it like people.

42 Literally: May your kingdom eat your head.

43 Literally: what is and what is not.

*mìrənva* | 'a-mù-ila | +šrá bəllá tàmma? | mǝrrə málca 'ávət basima, | 'ána mìrən | 'íta  
 'ána lèn-+bədda 'áyya mù-ila | bálcat lèna | +šómyə. | 'ázax xázax. | (5) bərrəxšəla  
 +várəl | +təma | jaššúxəla 'ína xá-dana bəxta | mǝn tǝryəssər 'úrə. | hamzùməna,  
 tanùyəna, | jəxcəna, | +bixələna, | bəštəyənə. | (6) +baḵūrəna, | mára +maxləta  
 'áxnən tılan ju-dá | +àtrə | ḵaribəyəvax | léx | +bəddá həc mǝndi. | xzılan 'áxci xa-  
 +šrá làxxa bəlláyəla. | +báyyax | +yáttax 'áxnən 'icəvax, | 'ica c-+amsax xázax  
 xá-ja mǝčxaxən. | 'áxci xà-+šra bəlláyəla. | (7) +xárta | +baḵūrəna, | bətyávəna  
 +təma | +čəy bəštá | +šúlə, | +baḵūrəna ḵát | +jór dá-baxta 'icələ. | mára +jór dá-  
 baxta xəšlə ḵaribūyta. | mára bas-ənnə mù-ina làxxa, | 'ənnə 'úrə | +šúlə? | mára  
 'ənnə +xuyravátuna. | (8) málca +rába +narəhat váyəla. | ḵa-vəzzər mǝrələ | ḵu-  
 +yərmax. | +yərmax, | yánə 'əzax. | bəḵyàməna | bitáyəna. | ḵa-vəzzər mǝrələ, | málca  
 ḵa-vəzzər mǝrələ | mátti | +alámat | +al-də-beta. | ḵédamta jáldə 'ána | +byáyən 'a-  
 báxta xazənnə. | mátti | +alámat. | (9) vəzzər mattúyəla 'alámat, | nišəḵa. | ḵédamta  
 bərrəxšəla vəzzər | +bar-da-bəxta. | jaššúxəla 'ína cúlłə | 'o-+xiyàvand | 'o nišəḵəla.  
 'ína lélə | +bəddá 'əmnəva. | (10) bitáyəla ḵa-málca | mǝrələ málca | muyyàlux? |  
 mára là | málca ḵ-ávət basima. | 'ána xəšli ḵédamta xzili | 'ína cúlłə | 'o-+xiyàvand |  
 'o nišəḵət 'ána mǝttun | +áv-da vėl-+tàmma. | lá-+dili 'əm-bətələ. | (11) málca  
 +rába +narəhat váyəla. | mára vəzzər | 'ána pṭ-əzən ḵa-xa-yǝrxa. | hál | +dérən 'atən |  
 cóc nəḵva la-šóḵət. | cócət nəḵva | cúlłə dōḵət, | ḵámta bǝxtət dīyyi, | +xárta bǝxtət  
 dīyyux, | tavəryàtə, | +ḵaṭunyàtə, | cəlbə, | cúl-məndit | 'əttə nəḵva | p-šəḵlǝttə m-pát  
 +àrra. | (12) vəzzər mára | málca ḵ-ávət basima | 'a-dàx | +šúlə? | 'a-dàx c-+amsən  
 'ana-à-+šula 'odənnə? | mára 'ána ḵáx mǝrən, | 'ən-là, | ḵdálux mǝxənnə. | 'áxci  
 ju-+átrət dīyyi 'áha mǝndi 'əvə | 'ána lə ḵablənnə. | (13) málca bərrəxšəla. | ḵa-xa-  
 yǝrxa bərrəxšəla. | dástur yával ḵa-vəzzər | ḵát ... | 'a-+šúla 'avədlə. | bitáyəla 'a-vəzzər  
 +rába | +narəhat, | lá | +bixələ | lá bəštəya. | (14) 'a-vəzzər 'ətvələ xa-dána bəba. |  
 bábət dáha 'iva vəzzər ḵa-bábət málca | ḵámta. | 'ína | +úxčə sǝvəna | múttuva ju-  
 xá ... | +ḵərtəla | ju-ctəna | ḵát là-+əjjəzva | +págru. | +rába sǝvəna | 'ína 'iva vəzzirət  
 bábət málca. | (15) mára brūni | mù-ət | +xəbra? | ḵám xá-əxčə | +narəhat-ivət? | lét  
 +bixələ, | lét bəštəya, | 'áslan dútt šuxlǝppa. | 'á mù-ilə vóyya? | (16) mára | +ráppi  
 bəbi | là | +báḵər | là | +báḵər. | bərrəxšəla bitáyəla | Pəbəlāxará | mára 'áx brūni | 'ána-da  
 bəbux-vən. | 'a-cúl dax-ṭ-əyā | 'ána xáḵčə bəš-zoda mǝnnux | xīyyən. | tənili | bálcat  
 +ḵayyərənnux. | (17) mára bəbi | mən-álaha ləla | +ṭšita, | mǝnnux mùt | +ṭšitəla? |  
 'ətxa víla ḵéssat. | málca-da yúvnəl dástur | ḵát-cúlłə panənnun | bǝxtət jáni-zə, |

and so I do not know what that is. Perhaps they have not heard. Let us go and see.' (5) He goes and enters there. He sees a woman with twelve men. They are speaking, telling stories, laughing, eating, drinking. (6) They ask saying 'Pardon, we have (just) come to this land. We are foreigners. We do not know anything. We saw only one lantern burning here. We want to know where we are, where we can find (somewhere to stay). Only one lantern is burning.' (7) Then they ask—they sit and drink tea and so forth—they ask where the husband of the woman is. They say 'The husband of this woman has gone to foreign lands.' They say 'But what are these here, these men and so forth?' They say 'These are his friends.' (8) The king becomes very upset. He says to the vizier 'Let's get up and be off,' that is 'Let's go.' They get up and come back. He says to the vizier, the king says to the vizier 'Put a sign on this house. Early tomorrow morning I want to see this woman. Put a sign (on it).' (9) The vizier puts a sign (on it). In the morning the vizier goes looking for the woman. He looks and sees that the whole street is (marked with) the same sign, but he does not know which one it (i.e. the house of the woman) was. (10) He comes to the king. The king says 'Have you brought her?' He says 'No, king, be well. I went in the morning and saw that the same sign that I had placed was in the entire street. I did not know which was the house.' (11) The king becomes very upset. He says 'Vizier, I shall go away for a month. Before I return and come back, do not leave female kind<sup>44</sup> (alive). Seize all female kind, first my wife, then your wife, cows, cats, dogs, whatever has female kind you must take away from the face of the earth.' (12) The vizier says 'King, be well, what kind of task is that?! How can I perform this task?!' (The king responds) 'I am telling you, if not, I shall cut off your head. I will not permit this thing (i.e. womankind) to exist in my country!' (13) The king goes away. He goes away for a month. He gives a command to the vizier to perform this task. The vizier comes back (home) very upset, he does not eat or drink. (14) This vizier had a father. His father was formerly vizier to the father of the king. But he was so aged that they had placed him in a basket, in cotton, so that his body is not harmed. He was very old, but he used to be the vizier to the father of the king. (15) He says 'My son, what news is there? Why are you so upset? You are not eating, you are not drinking, you have completely changed. What has happened?' (16) He says 'Drop it, father, do not ask, do not ask.' He goes and comes back, and in the end (his father) says 'But my son, I am your father. Whatever the case may be, I have lived a little more than you. Tell me, perhaps I can help you.' (17) He says 'Father, it is not hidden from God, how can it be hidden from you? This is what has happened. The king has given a

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44 Literally: stump, stock of female.

*bax-màlca-da* | *cùllə nə́kʷə mən-pát* | *+àrra šaḱlónnun.* | (18) *mára brùnì* | *hàl dé-  
+danta* | *+ràba +dánəla.* | *é-+dān málca tìlə* | *ḱátì tání* | *+dānu* | *+əsra yumánə m-  
ḱám* | *+dána ḱay-tàni.* | (19) *bitáyəla* | *+dāna* | *ḱat-málca* | *+báyə* | *àtə.* | *mára bàbì* | *ʔadi  
+dān tètula.* | *mu-+báyə* | *+ḱaṭəlli?* | *ríši parəmlə?* | (20) *màra* | *ʔatən* | *+xábra hal-  
ḱa-cùllə* | *+àtra* | *ḱat-cùllə nə́kʷə* | *ʔə-t-ʔtlə jùllə šapíra* | *šaḱəllun* | *ʔə-t-lətlə-da* | *zāvən,* |  
*tavəryātu zabənnun,* | *cut-ʔtlə* | *zabənnə* | *šáḱəl* | *ʔxči jùllə šapíra* | *+pələṭ ḱam-  
málca.* | (21) *ʔy bàbì* | *ʔavən* | *+xləpux* | *ʔa-mút* | *+šùlələ?* | *málca ju-+mṭétu rīš-díyyi* |  
*maxílə.* | *mórrə ʔtən* | *ʔa-+šúla vùdlə* | *lá-ʔavilux* | *+šúla.* | (22) *bitáyəna* | *+jār bədráyəla* |  
*vəzzər* | *ḱat-cùllə baxtátə lóši lʷəšta šapərtə.* | *+dānət málca-da ḱarbūnəla.* | *ʔadíyya* |  
*ʔnnə nə́kʷə* | *cùllə* | *+həzər váyəna* | *mən-yāl-súra nə́kʷə hál* | *+jūrə.* | *+pləṭəna ḱam-  
málca.* | (23) *málca màra* | *ʔə-bēt-bábux* | *+šəyyənnə* | *ʔa-mù* | *vidələ?* | *lá* | *ʔadíyya ḱa-  
díyyi-da* | *+ḱəṭəl?* | *ʔa dúlə cùllə nə́kʷə xumyè* | *ʔurzə* | *+ḱṭilələ.* | *ʔana mírənva ḱātu* |  
*baxtátə* | *+ḱəṭəllun* | *ʔa dúl* | *ʔurzə* | *+ḱṭilələ* | *ʔu-ʔadi ju-+mṭéti ḱəy-da* | *p-+ḱəṭəl* | *ʔa-mùt* |  
*+ḱəṭma dóryəl b-ríšu.* | (24) *bitáyəla mára vəzzər* | *ʔa-mút* | *+šúla vidəvət?* | *màra* |  
*málca* | *ṭ-ávət basima.* | *ʔana ʔtli xa-bàba.* | *+rába b-šənnəla.* | *víyyəna* | *vəzzər ḱa-  
bāb-díyyux.* | *+ávun* | *+ḱlibəl mənnux* | *ʔxči* | *+əsra daḱíḱə mənnux hámzəm.* | *ʔita* |  
*ə-+dān-máxət rīšət cùllə mxílə.* | (25) *mórrə xuš-mélə cəsli.* | *bəšḱáləna bíyya b-  
dó sàla* | *bábət ... vəzzər* | *labúluna cəs-málca.* | *mára mù-ʔtlux tánət ḱátì?* | *mórrə* |  
*málca* | *ṭ-ávət basima* | *ʔana ʔnva vazzírat bábət díyyux.* | *vazzírat bábət díyyux-ínva.* |  
*sépi maxənvəla* | *+al-cipa* | *+ḱəmbərrənvəla.* | *ʔana ʔtxa nášənvə.* | *ʔita ʔúdyu yúma* |  
*ʔana-sivən.* | *ʔtli trə* | *+xábrə ḱátux tánən.* | *ʔita* | *+xarta* | *ḱámtət cùllə rīš-díyyi mxílə.* |  
(26) *mára* | *+rába* | *+spəy* | *hámzəm!* | *mára ʔana* | *ju-béti tivənva* | *ə-+dántət ʔnva* |  
*jvənḱa,* | *+tərri mxílu.* | *+tərri mxílu,* | *+tuḱtəḱlu.* | *ʔu-+pləṭli,* | *ʔxči* | *+šmíli mára* |  
*ta-jəldə* | *ʔtli* | *Pəhtiyəj* | *+állux.* | *+báyə* | *+máṭət* | *+állì.* | (27) *hál-ət xəšli* | *+bàru* |  
*mára tuləḱlə.* | *+dərri tili.* | *ʔə-yuma xína mədrə* | *ʔə-məndi vílə.* | *+tuḱtəḱlə* | *+tərri* |  
*mára* | *həl ḱəmli mədrə* | *təvli* | *+al-súysì* | *júlli lvišəli* | *xəšlə.* | (28) *yúmət* | *+ṭla màra* |  
*ʔana júlli lvišəli,* | *təvli* | *+al-súysə* | *+həzər,* | *səpi-da* | *p-ídi.* | *ə-+dána* | *+ràba críbənva* |  
*mórrì* | *ʔadi bət-+ḱəṭlənənə.* | *sábab* | *ʔə-sepət díyyi* | *ʔcət maxənvə* | *c-odənvəla trə.*

command that I should eradicate everybody, even my own wife, also the wife of the king, that I should remove from the face of the earth all females.’ (18) He says ‘My son, there is a lot of time until then. When the king has comes back, tell me when, tell me ten days beforehand.’ (19) The time comes when the king intends to come home. He says ‘Father, now is the time of his coming home. Do you want him to kill me, to cut off my head?’ (20) He says ‘Give an order to all the land that all women—whoever has fine clothes should take them, whoever does not have any should buy them, should sell his cows, should sell everything he has, and take fine clothes and come out before the king.’ (21) ‘Oh father, with respect,<sup>45</sup> what kind of task is that? When the king arrives he will cut off my head.’ He said ‘Do that task and you will have no problem.’ (22) They come and the vizier makes an announcement that all women should wear fine clothing. The time of the (return of the) king is getting close. Now the women are all ready, from young girls to older women. They go out before the king. (23) The king says ‘I shall blot out the house of your father. What has he (the vizier) done? Will he now not kill also me? He has preserved all the women and killed the men. I had said to him that he should kill the women, but he has killed the men. Now, when I arrive, he will kill me also. What a shameful thing he has done!’<sup>46</sup> (24) He comes and says ‘Vizier, what have you done?’ He says ‘King, be well, I have a father. He is very aged. He was vizier to your father. He has requested to speak with you just for ten minutes. Then cut off everybody’s head, if you want to do so.’ (25) He said ‘Go and bring him to me.’ They take the father of the vizier together with that basket, they take him to the king. He says ‘What have you to tell me?’ He says ‘King, be well, I was the vizier of your father. I was the vizier of your father. I used to strike my sword on a stone and split it. I was such a man and now today I have become old. I have a couple of things to tell you. Then cut off my head before all others.’ (26) He says ‘Very well, speak!’ He says ‘I was sitting in my house, when I was young, and somebody banged on my door. Somebody banged on my door, somebody knocked, and I went out. I only heard somebody saying “Come quickly, I need you (to do something for me). I want you to come to me.” (27) Before I got to him, he disappeared. I returned home. The next day the same thing happened. He knocked on the door. By the time I got up and sat on my horse and put on my clothes, he went. (28) On the third day I put on my clothes, sat ready on the horse, my sword in my hand. At that time I was very angry and said “Now I shall kill him,” since wherever I struck my sword I cut (the victim) in two. I had no fear of anybody.

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45 Literally: May I be your substitute.

46 Literally: What ash has he put on his head!

*lávta* +*zdúta mən-háč nàša*.| *mára tívənva* +*hazər* +*bar* +*tàrra*.| (29) +*ták ju-vátta* +*tàrra ptáxli* +*bar-dàha*.| *mára* 'áha bərrəxša| 'ána +*bàru*| 'ax-tənna *mára*,| +*amsánva* +*maṭəñvalə*.| *mára sépi jrəšli*,| *ptəlla* *ka-díyyi mərrə* | *léla* +*dán* P<sup>šuxi</sup>.P| *tá* +*bàri*.| (30) bərrəxšəx| *xəšli mára xína* +*págri rjədlə* | *mára xəšli* +*mṭili xút xa-tṭiyya*.| *káti mərrə* | *át cli láxxa xut* +*tṭiyya*.| 'ən *kāl-jəxca* +*šmilux*| *xuš*.| *xína látli* P<sup>əhtiyáj</sup>P +*əllux*.| 'ən *kāl-bəxya* +*šmilux*,| *cli*.| (31) *mára málca* *ṭ-ávət basíma*,| 'ána *clili* +*tàma*.| 'á *səklə mən-səmmálta*| *səmmálta* +*bəddáyət mù-ila*?| *səmmálta* | *hè*,| *səmmálta*.| *səklə* +*úllul* +*al*-+*tṭiyya*.| *mára xzili* *kálət bəxya tilə* | *spərri clili*.| (32) *mára xzili* +*slilə tilə* | *təvlə* +*al-siysə* | *káma kam-díyyi* | +*mṭilan xa-dúcta* | *káti mərrə* | *átən ka-díyyi bət* +*kəṭlət*.| *mára* 'íman *škəllə* | *júllu šulxələ* | *xzili nəḱvəla*.| (33) *málca ṭ-ávət basíma*,| *mára cúllə* +*págri rjədlə*.| *cúllə* +*págri rjədlə*.| *nəḱva* | *škalətuva ríšət* +*joro*.| +*haramiyyə*,| +*haramiyyə lùbluva* +*joro* | +*báyyyiva* +*kəṭlivalə* | *káti* +*bəṭlabəva còmác* 'azəñva +*əllu* 'ína 'ána *dərran* +*mṭili*.| *ríšət* +*joro ju-xpəḱova*.| (34) *káti mərrə* | *járə* +*kəṭlət káti* | *máttət láxxa ju-kóra cəs* +*jəri* | +*ṭamrətli* | 'íta 'əzət. | (35) *mára mərri* 'ána *là* +*msən* 'a-+*šúla* 'odənnə. | *là* +*msən* 'a-+*šúla* 'odənnə. | *mára málca* *ṭ-ávət basíma*,| *sépa muttíla* 'átxa | *jáno məxyála* +*əllu*.| *kəl škəlla mənni kát* +*ṭamrənna*.| *sépa muttíla* 'átxa | *jóra škəlla ju* +*sədro* | *jáno* +*ruppála* +*al-sépa* | 'u-*prəḱla*.| (36) 'ána +*ṭumrəl* | 'e-*bəxta*.| 'u-*səpi mxili* | *b-cúllə xéli* +*tàma*,| *kəl yuvvəlli kəto* | *kət* | *nəḱva* | *mən-úrza buš-xeləntəla*.| 'adíyya 'ána 'a-+*xábri káx tanūyun* | 'adíyya *cəpux-la* | 'ádi *nəḱva pármətlə* | 'úrza *parmətlə* | *mù* +*bayyət* 'odət. | (37) *kəmlə málca* | *nšəklə ju* +*kəssu* | *mərrə* 'ána +*púxlən cúllə mənđi*.| +*bəṭṭánən məntux* | *kát* 'á-məndi *káy tunilux*.| *basíma* +*rába kát* 'átən-da +*šəmyàlux*.|

### A3 Axiqar (Yulia Davudi, +Hassar +Baba-čanja, N)

(1) 'ətvə | +*dān*-P<sup>kādimi</sup>P | *mára* 'ətvə *lətvə* | 'ətvə *xá-dana málca* | *Sanxiro*,| *mál-cət* +*aturəyəva* | 'u-+*Axiqar* | *xaccíma mārūna*,| *xaccíma* +*yān lipa*.| 'ax-díyyux *professor-ivət* | +*áv-da* +*rába lipəva*,| +*rəba*.| *cúllə dúnyə* +*yəṭṭəvalə*.| (2) 'u-+*Axiqar* | *cəs bəbət* | *málca=zə plixəva*.| *cəs-bábu-da vídəva vazzirūyta*,| *vəzzər*.|

I was sitting ready behind the door. (29) When there was a knock, I opened the door after him. He went off and I was behind him (as fast) as smoke, and I could have reached him. I drew my sword and he turned round to me and said “It is not a time for joking. Come after me.” (30) We go. I went.’ He says ‘My body trembled. I went and arrived under a mountain. He said to me “You stay here under the mountain. If you hear the sound of laughter, go. I do not have need of you. If you hear the sound of weeping, wait.”’ (31) He says ‘King, be well, I waited there. He went up by a ladder—you know what a ladder is?—yes a ladder. He went up into the mountain.’ He says ‘I saw that the sound of weeping came, I waited.’ (32) He says ‘I saw that he came down and sat on the horse in front of me. We arrived at a place. He said to me “You will kill me.”’ He says ‘When he took off his clothes, I saw that it was a woman.’ (33) ‘King, be well,’ he says ‘all my body trembled. All my body trembled. She was holding<sup>47</sup> the head of her husband. Brigands had taken her husband and wanted to kill him. She had been seeking me in order to go and help him. But I arrived late. (34) The head of her husband was in her arms. She said “You must kill me and put me here in the grave with my husband, bury me, then go.”’ (35) He says ‘I said “I cannot do this task. I cannot do this task.”’ He says ‘King, be well, she put the sword like this and thrust herself upon it. She made me promise that I would bury her. She took the sword like this, she held her husband to her breast and threw herself onto the sword, and met her end. (36) I buried the woman. I struck my sword with all my might there and made a promise to her (to make known) that a woman is stronger than a man. Now I am telling you this. Now it is up to you if you want to slaughter women or slaughter men,<sup>48</sup> whatever you want to do.’ (37) The king got up and kissed him on his forehead. He said ‘I have forgiven everything. I am grateful to you that you have told me this.’ Thank you for listening to this.

### A3      Axiqar (Yulia Davudi, +Hassar +Baba-čanja, N)

(1) In times of old, there was, the story goes, there was there was not, there was a king, Sanxiro the king of the Assyrians, and Axiqar, the wise man, as they called him, the wise man, that is learned man. Just as you are a professor, he also was very learned. All the world knew him. (2) Axiqar had worked also with the father of the king. With his father he had held the office of vizier, (he was)

<sup>47</sup> Literally: She had taken.

<sup>48</sup> Literally: Slaughter the woman, slaughter the man.



ʿína yálə lətvələ. | <sup>+</sup>Axiqar yálə lətvələ. | ʿətvələ | ʿəští-danə baxtətə. | ʿəští baxtətə ʿətvələ. | <sup>+</sup>rāba qəsra | qəsra | bətvátə <sup>+</sup>rāba šapīra, | ʿína yálə lətvələ. |

(3) xà-yuma | <sup>+</sup>krilə <sup>+</sup>rāba mən-dānnə nāšə lipə, | <sup>P</sup>rammāl-dārə<sup>P</sup>, | <sup>P</sup>jādujārə<sup>P</sup> | ʿu-<sup>+</sup>rāba nāšə <sup>+</sup>krilə | kát xá-məndi ʾədi | <sup>+</sup>palačyṣə | <sup>+</sup>pála ptəxəna | kátu kát ʾáha yála ʾavilə. | lá-vilə xa-<sup>+</sup>xābra mənne. | (4) <sup>+</sup>bār hāda | <sup>+</sup>bār-ət <sup>+</sup>xābra lá-vilə mən-dānnə, | <sup>+</sup>bār hāda <sup>+</sup>dərrə | cəs-ʾaláhəť jānu. | <sup>+</sup>dərrə cəs-ʾaláhəť jānu. | <sup>+</sup>dərrə cəs-ʾalāha | mərrə kátu | ya-ʾalāha, | xlapu vili, | hālli xa-brūna. | (5) ʾalāha <sup>+</sup>jūnvab yuvvəllə kátu | mərrə | lə-ʾavilux brūna, | sābab kāmta | xəšlux cəs nāšəť kát p-ida plixəna | là cəs-ʾalāha. | xəšlux cəs-nāšə xina | kat-ʾani lá-<sup>+</sup>msiva kátux ʾodiva. | ʾat lə-ʾavilux brūna. | (6) brúnəť xátux, | Nātan, | šəmmu Nātan-iva, | vúdla qa-jánux brūna. | māləplə. | xəmila. | qa-jánux vúdla brūna. | ʾəvun pť-ávə qa-sebúytux | ʾe-<sup>+</sup>dān-səvlux, | ʾə-ávə brūna kátux. | ʾe-<sup>+</sup>dān-mətlux, | ʾəynux p-<sup>+</sup>čāmla. |

(7) ʾáha bitəyələ | qa-Nātan | brūn-xātu, | vádu brūn-jānu. | malúpulə <sup>+</sup>rāba məndyānə | kat-ju malciyta, | bəťəť <sup>P</sup>darbār<sup>P</sup> | malciyta ʾəvə, | lá-ju-<sup>+</sup>alulānə | láxxa <sup>+</sup>tāmma | malúpulə kát ju-betúyťəť málca | ʾəməs | xəyyə, | pələx, | jəvəj, | ʾəxəl, | šəťə, | cúl-məndi ʾəvəd. | ʾəxci ju-bəť-malciyta | lá <sup>+</sup>al-vəddar. | malúpulə. | <sup>+</sup>rāba məndyānə malúpulə kátu. | (8) ʾa-yála jarvəsəl. | <sup>+</sup>rāba məndi yəvəl kátu, | ləšyətə šapīra, | <sup>+</sup>mixulyətə šapīra. | <sup>+</sup>rāba məndyānə kátu tanuyələ. | malúpələ kátu, | qa-brūni, | <sup>+</sup>rāba nasyátťə yəvələ. | (9) xácma mən-nasyátťə masálan mārələ brūni | lá-ʾəvəť <sup>+</sup>rāba šaxina. | lá-ʾəvəť <sup>+</sup>rāba <sup>+</sup>kəyra. | brūni, | lá jáxcəť bí ... nāšəť <sup>+</sup>dəstux-ina | sābab mímčən ʾáni kəmi, | ʾáni jarvəssi | xārta | jáxcəť biyyux. | lá <sup>+</sup>əxləť | láxma <sup>+</sup>hāram. | <sup>+</sup>əxləťlə láxma dūz, | <sup>+</sup>spəy. | (10) <sup>+</sup>rāba mən-dānnə məndyānə malúpulə. | lá ʾəvəť mən-xa-bəťta | kát ... <sup>+</sup>jóro mītələ, | là jorəťla, | sābab | ʾíman-ət ... cú-<sup>+</sup>danta pť-óya mára <sup>+</sup>jóri | <sup>+</sup>jóri. | (11) lá-ʾəzəť <sup>+</sup>bār <sup>+</sup>šūpra. | <sup>+</sup>šūpra lə-paš kátux. | lá-ʾəzəť <sup>+</sup>bār <sup>+</sup>rāba davəľta. | ví xa-nāša lipa. | ví xa-nāša macixa. | <sup>+</sup>arra | cmə-ť óya macəťta | buš-miyya c-ázi jávo. | ʾína <sup>+</sup>arra-óya kvita | míyya ju-dretə míyya c-ázi. | ví ʾəx <sup>+</sup>arra. | (12) ví ʾəx tūyta. | lá-vi ʾəx <sup>+</sup>šāda. | <sup>+</sup>šāda kāmta | ci-yávva | <sup>+</sup>čərpə | xārta ci-yavvála | <sup>+</sup>čūnto. | ʾína ʾat ví ʾəx tūyta. | ví ʾəx-tūyta | kāmta cūllə | <sup>+</sup>čūnta ci-yavvála qa-nāša, | <sup>+</sup>xārta | <sup>+</sup>čərpə. | (13) ví macixa. | ví xubbāna. | ví jaxúca. | ví <sup>+</sup>spəy nāša. | ʾānnə məndyānə | <sup>+</sup>rāba, | <sup>+</sup>rāba | kátu tanuyələ. | bálčəť <sup>+</sup>arəpāmma, | xamšāmma | ʾəťxa məndyānə malúpulə. |