INFORMANT D (VICTORIA AMINI)

The Tale of the Bald Boy

(1) xà bronà híye ba-colàm kăčàl-yele. məstá lìtwa ba-rešéf. bár-d-o xăràe záy bronà| băruxá lìtwale.| híč-kas băruxèf lá xarwá.| rèwe,| rèwe| tá-'inke xìr| ba-xá bronà tagribán ˈəsrì šəné. 'áy broná be-čará hìč-kas lítwale. (2) xá-yoma tíw məntáke dağkef hgéle mìre dàyka anà hìč băruxá líti wa-lá kắena má honà. hàlax tămấm 'áy dawruwăràn da'wàt honú bašká 'ašná xa-dána mənun-u bəxlé zəndəgì holéxin. (3) xà-lele rába xàrj wíle rába xalà trəşle. xalà gahafšà réša 'ărá məndèle-u našé kůle tìwi-u xalá ràba trəsle, míre 'àna, tadaăkèf míre, [|] 'ána 'ay-xalá tărəṣnèf 'aná kằena bár-d-o xăràe 'áy čəkmá naše hár-lele xa-našá da'wát didí kòl, ké 'ána gézna ga-pəlgùn-u 'anà băruxăwalé dògna.| (4) wằle| ʾéa zìl-u| našăké ʾàsər xílu,| našé kắle híyen dokà-u| xalà| rába tròswale-u yaxní săgatà-u kăčawè, yapragè, rəzzà xwará-u rəzzà yărugá-u kùle jór tráswale bága našé. (5) 'áy-naše kúle hìyen 'áy-xala kúle xìlu. kúle xìlun-u rába mtùlun-u hqèlun-u gxìki-u pṣìxi-u 'ó-č rába xoš-ḥāl xír-u mớnu kűle haèle báška 'əlhà-y 'ənyexáe băruxéf xărì wá hélu da'watèf holi ke-hezəl ga-pəlgá našè, hăwé ga-pəlgá našè-u 'alenile-ò. (6) 'ay bronà da'watăké wilàle-u ta-sa^càt-e tresàr lelé dokà-yelun-u dána dána kúle zili-ò. tíw m-daăkéf hgèle míre dàyka 'at nóšax hazər hulá. jəlé 'ayzé-č xùt, jəlé 'ayzé hăwèlax, ' kắle ʾásər didán daʿwàt kolí. hàr ʾásər xa-našá daʿwát holàn nóšef tré yarxé túl gărèš. \ 'ana-č băruxăwalé kwèli \ 'ana-č xoš-ḥāl xarna 'exa. \

INFORMANT D (VICTORIA AMINI)

The Tale of the Bald Boy

(1) A boy came into the world who was bald. He did not have a hair on his head. Later (in his life) this boy did not have a friend. Nobody became his friend. He grew and grew until he became a boy about twenty years old. This unfortunate boy had nobody. (2) One day he sat with his mother, spoke and said 'Mother, I do not have any friend and I do not know what to do. Come, let me invite everybody around us, perhaps I shall become acquainted with one of them and we can spend time87 together.' (3) One night he spent a lot of money and made a lot of food. He laid out the food in the courtyard on the ground and all the people sat down. He made a lot of food. He said 'I'—he said to his mother—'I shall make this food and I know that afterwards each night one of these people will invite me, since I shall go among them and I shall make friends.' (4) Now, he went (to make the preparations) and the people ate in the evening. The people all came there. He had made a lot of food—offal soup, rissoles, stuffed vine leaves, white rice, green rice. He made every kind (of food) for the people. (5) The people all came and ate all the food. They all ate, served themselves a lot, spoke, laughed, made merry, and he was happy. He spoke with them all, so that perhaps, God willing, they would become his friends and would be able to invite him, so that he could visit people⁸⁸ and be among people and they would become acquainted with him. (6) The boy held the party⁸⁹ and they were there until twelve o'clock at night. One by one they went away. He sat down and spoke with his mother and said 'Mother, prepare yourself, sew fine clothes, get some fine clothes, they will invite us every evening. Each evening for two months somebody will invite us. 90 I shall have friends. I shall be happy,' and so forth.

⁸⁷ Literally: life.

⁸⁸ Literally: go among people.

⁸⁹ Literally: made the invitation.

 $^{^{90}}$ Literally: It will last for two months (that) every evening somebody will invite us.

(7) wălè kắle aṣàr tíw ga-qam-tărà-u muntăzàr xír bašká da wătèf holí. hìč-kas lá-hiye. | xà yomá, | trè yomé, | təlḥà yomé, | xír xà yarxá | hič-kás da wătéf lá wilè. daŭkéf míra xèlox? ' ɔ̃át ɔ́áy ḥaštá wilàlox, ' ɔ́áy kắle pulé xərjìlox híč kăsí da'wătóx lá wilè. (8) míre dàyka '>əlhá rŭwà-y '\artati xăfàt la-xúl. bəl'axərà xáyoma kwèl 'anàl da'wătì kolí. zíl bazār-ul 'o-našé kúle da'wát wiliwalèl kúle dubára šalòm drélu-'əlef-u hqèle mənun-u míre mà'in anà da'wắt-e didăxún wilì ké hètun belí memaní wíli bagăxùn. Zaxtú tămà didí-u daăkí da'wát lá kolétun, ké 'ána-č héna ga-pəlgăxùn? (9) míru ròla 'át sarwatmànd-yet ké 'àt pulè rába hitóx ké 'áy memaní dəwgàlox. 'axní là kélan memaní 'áxa dogéxin. ' hiye-ó belà-u ta-dağkéf mìre dağkéf-əč rába nósaf na-rahát wilàla. mìra xăfàt la-xúl| 'əlhà rŭwá-y| bəl'axərà| xá-mdi xàr| 'əlhá xà| tắra bága didán-əč kol-ò. (10) xá-yoma tíwa ga-belà 'exà-u xéle xà gorá tărá dìle-u halèf bəqrú míre dàx-yetu 'exá-u? míre wála tòb-yena. 'anà 'axá memaní dwagli-u hìč-kas da'wătí lá wile-ò| wa-là kắena| m-qám d-éa 'anà| pərčè lití, kăčàl-yena| yá šəmà lití 'exá.| (11) míre là| 'aná xá ḥaštá kớwna baqòx.| sélox xà| ksilá pərčé mătù.| ksilá pərčé mătù wa-sè nóšox 'ayzá trùṣla sé ga-pəlgáwa našé dubàra. míre léka heznà? rahnamaí wìle-u, míre sé flắn twkà, salmaní ké pərčé tăràs, oa hitè. (12) zíl dòka. xánči pulé pas-andāz wiliwale hiwíle bagèf-u míre mà in aná gbèna xà ksilá pərcé mătət baqá didì ké aná hèli ga-pəlgá našé hăwèna našé xošú hé mənì. míre tòv. qìm ksilăké tərsàle bagéf-u mìre xá čəkmá yomé xét hál bagàf. (13) čəkmá yomé muntăzər xír-u híye-u zìl-u híye-u zìl ta-'ìnke 'ay ksilá trisà. mətále rešèf-u dubára zíl ga-bazàr-u ga-našé ké da'wàt wilíwale, šalòm xèta wíle 'exá. (14) míru 'é 'òa-y?' 'é hár 'ó broná kăčalăkéle da'wătàn wílwale? xá 'lile-ò xá lá 'lile-ò 'axréf bəgrù mənéf mìre' 'i 'aná 'òena. (15) wà bár xa-čəkmá yomé xèt kén dána dána tắra dăèn-u da wătèf kolí. mìre ' ătá mà-hona? 'jātá ya-da'wătí wilà-y ba-mà-jor hezná belú? (16) gím zìl mən-xá twkaná jəlé krà wilé-u hár 'àsər ta-hár-kas da'wătéf wile ba-xá dăsá jəlé zil. baxá dăsá jəlé zìl-u ga-pəlga našăké tìw-u hqéle mənun-u exà-u yawas yawas waràd xír-u wa-našé 'lilu-ò-'əlef.

(7) But, he sat outside, he waited hoping they would invite him, and nobody came. One day, two days, three days (went by), a month passed without anybody inviting him. His mother said 'Do you see? You have done this work, you have spent all this money, and nobody has invited you.' (8) He said 'Mother. God is great. 91 Don't worry. In the end, a day will come when they will invite me.' He went to the market. The people whom he had invited all greeted him again. He spoke to them and said 'Look, I invited you to come and I hosted you in my house. Why do you not invite me and my mother, so that I can visit you?' (9) They said 'Dear boy, you are rich, since you must have a lot of money to have offered that hospitality. We cannot offer such hospitality.' He came back home and told his mother. His mother became very upset. She said 'Don't worry. God is great. In the end something will happen. God will open a door also for us.' (10) One day he was sitting in the house and so froth, and he saw a man knock on the door. They asked after his health. He said 'How are you? and so forth.' He said 'I am well. But, I held a party and nobody invited me back, I don't know whether it was because I do not have any hair and am bald, or whether I am not well known and so forth.' (11) He said 'No, I'll sort something out for you. Go and put on a wig. Put on a wig and go and make yourself look good, then go and visit people again. He said 'Where should I go?' He guided him and said 'Go to such-and-such a place, a barber who makes hair, he has one.' (12) He went there. He had saved some money and gave it to him. He said 'Look, I want you to make a wig for me so that I can be among people and people will like me.' He said 'Fine.' He made the wig for him. He said 'In a few more days come for it.' (13) He waited for a few days. He came and went, came and went, until the wig was made. He put it on his head, then he went to the market among the people whom he had invited, and greeted them and so forth. (14) They said 'Is this him? Is this the same bald boy who invited us?' One recognized him and another did not recognize him. In the end they asked him. He said 'Yes, it is me.' (15) Then, after a few more days they came one by one and knocked on the door, and invited him. He said 'Now what should I do? Now that they have invited me, how shall I go to their house?' (16) He went and hired clothes from a shop. Each evening he went in a suit to each one who had invited him. He went in a suit and sat among the people and spoke to them, and so forth. Gradually he entered (into their circle) and people became acquainted with him.

⁹¹ I.e. there is still hope.

(17) 'lilu-ò-'əlef-u xá bratá mă'arəfi wilálu báef kè báška xlulà-č hól 'éa zəndəgiyéf biš-'ayzá xàr. xá mən-băruxăwalèf ké băruxà xírwa-u da'wătèf wíle dubára-u zíl dóka 'exà míre xá bratá 'ăxà hít 'aná kmènaf 'át 'əlula-ò sáyad hélăxun bòxle xlulá holètu. (18) bratăké hiyá-u 'exà-u xèla 'ì broná 'ayzèk-yeu xá čəkmá mŭdàte híyen-u zìli. bratăkè míra gbé hét xāstgarí lấ tatí-u daăkì. míre bàše. aná daŭkí kmènaf-u kéna xāstgarì. (19) qíma daŭkèf həjbìyaf holá híya zíla həjbì bratăké. zíl lấ táta daăkàf-u mìre haštóx mà-ya? 'éxa míre wàlla 'aná ta-'ătá haštá-e xa-b-ay-jóra lăxá lìti-u gbéna hézna haštà yălápna ké haštá 'ayzá dògna. (20) tatăké míre là'! 'anà bratí ta-xá-nāš là kównaf ké haštá líte-u 'exá. be-čarà na-rahàt xír-u hiye-ó belà. hiye-ó belà, ta-daŭkéf mìre dàyka sất zílat m-d-ənyexáe hgèlax lá mírax aná haští mà-ya. wàle táta bratăké bəqré məni míre at hastóx mà-ya? míri aná hastá líti ta-atà gbéna hašta tăhèna. (21) mìra ròla gyấn, 'atá g-áy səná didòx ké xirèt asrí sənè Pəsrí-u xamšá šənè, dàx kélox haštá yalpét? hár-jor xirá-y yăləpna. (22) zíl gaxá t^wká kè karxanà-yela, parčé 'exá tarṣìwa. zíl ga-dòka, xaìš wíle míre 'aná haštà gbéna čún gbèna zəndəgi tărə́şna-u baxta gòrna-u exa. ga-doka ililu-ò-'əlef-ul haštá híwlu baqèf-ul hiye-òl rába pşìx-ul (23) míre ta-daăkèf dàykal 'anà xét mən-qóme-u xăré gbé hézna haštà wa-zəndəgi nòši ədára hònef wa-ba-xá zəndəgi măténa. Míra Htòv H sèl anà rába paşxána át hezét haštà-u báška hélox-əč xá baxtá-č gorát b-ày jorá. (24) xolàsa zíl haštà bagá xá-yarxa-u tréyarxe haštá wìle-u dubára xa-bráta xét 'əlyale-ò, ' daŭkéf šərále həjbì, ' həjbi bratăke məntáke tatá-u daăkáf-u 'exà. (25) miru mà kól? mira ga-xá twká xa-haštà kól-u rába broní 'ayzà-y rába ta'rifèf hiwlá-u míru gbé hamyắte xăexile. làbla-u méla bronăkè. (26) lábla lấ táta-u daăkăkè-u xá 'ásər zíli dokà-u mewá-u širní-u 'exá kůle mtúlu rešá mèz-u hgèlun-u bráta-u bronăké mən-láxle hgèlun-u míra Htòv tánan láxle gbèxin. (27) xolàsa xìra băruxtèf-u tasmím dwóglu xlulá hóli bagèf. Xá xlulá rába mojălàl dəwgále bagáf tatăké. rába xoš-bàxt xír 'áy brona-kăčàl. wa-ba-mrá-e nóšef mète

(17) They became acquainted with him and introduced a girl to him, whom he could perhaps marry and so his life would become better. One of his friends, (somebody) who had (already) become his friend, invited him again and he went there (to his home) and so forth—he (the friend) said 'There is a girl (here), I shall bring her and you can get to know her, perhaps you can marry one another.' (18) The girl came and so forth. She saw that, yes, he was a fine boy. They came and went a few times. The girl said 'You must make your suit with my father and mother.' He said 'So be it. I shall bring my mother and I shall make suit.' (19) His mother went to act as intermediary to ask for the hand of the girl. He then went to her father and mother. He (the father) said 'What is your work?' and so forth. He said 'By God, up until now I have not had any particular job here, but I want to go and learn to work, so that I can hold down a job.' (20) The father said 'No! I shall not give my daughter to a man who has no job' and so forth. The unfortunate boy became upset and went back home. He went back home and said to his mother 'Mother, you went and talked to these people and did not say what my job is. But the father of the girl has asked me saying "What is your job?" I said "Until now I have no job. I want to find work." (21) She said 'My dear boy, now at the age that you are, twenty years old, twentyfive years old, how can you learn a job?' 'Whatever the situation may be, I shall learn.' (22) He went to a place that was a factory, where they made material, and so forth. He went there and pleaded saying 'I need a job, since I want to build a life and get married' and so forth. They got to know him there and gave him a job. He came back and was very happy. (23) He said to his mother 'Mother, from tomorrow onwards I have to go to work to manage my own life and to make a livelihood for myself.' She said 'Fine. I am very happy if you go to work. Perhaps you will be able to marry a woman in this way.' (24) In short, he went to work and worked for one or two months, then he became acquainted with another girl. He became acquainted with her and he sent his mother to ask for her hand in marriage, to request the hand of the girl from her father and mother, and so forth. (25) They said 'What does he do?' She said 'He works in a certain place. My son is very good.' She described him in glowing terms. They said 'You must bring him for us to see.' She took him. She brought the boy. (26) She took him to the father and mother. One evening they went there. They laid out on the table fruit, sweets and so forth. They talked. The girl and boy talked together. She (the girl) said 'Fine, we both love each other.' (27) In short, she became his girl friend and they (the parents) decided to arrange a wedding for him. The father arranged a very grand wedding for her. The bald boy became very happy. He attained his heart's desire.

(28) wa-xá yalá-č xèle hár mangól nóšef pərčé lìtwale. míre mà honá? 'áy-əč mangól nóši xirá-y-u 'exà. bár-d-o xăràe míre 'əlhá rŭwà-y har-dáx-dax 'ana-nóši ba-xà t ká mténa 'ày-brona-č mắte ba-t kà. xolàṣa g-áy xèta xoš-ḥầl xír-u zəndəgìyef šərù wilé. ráza 'áy broná 'ày-yela tíma.

(28) He had a son who had no hair just like him. He said 'What shall I do? He has turned out to be like me' and so forth. Then he said 'God is great, just as I attained a place (in life), this boy also will attain a place.' In short, he was happy with the situation and he began to live his life. This is the story of this boy. It has ended.