

II: Lady Drower

¹Qabin əmer mendi əqdağernā, ke həwit jihel, waxti ke həwit jihel. ²Aḵ waxt babbe həwā - bāḅ emme yaʿni - həwā rab Mandeyānā. ³Lu ganzeḅriye, həwā rabbā ekkak. ⁴Gāw šet šoḅḅā, təmānā - laqdağer šonəʿ - šettā šoḅḅā, təmānā, həwini qəmṭallen gāw maḥallat jihelā geš-dan.

⁵Əṭon əm-Aḥwāz. ⁶Qabien āḅden qāḅin gāw Məḥamrā. ⁷Həwālan ganzeḅrā gāw Məḥambrā, ešmi Šex Masbub. ⁸Gāw Aḥwāz həwā tarmidi, ešmi Šex ʿAbdalla. ⁹Lehwālu ganzeḅrā, ammā əštā ehlu. ¹⁰Əṭon qāḅin əḅadyon m-Aḥwāz qam yeki, ešmi Yusef, qələw etti, ešma Ḥadiyye bərat Kanjar. ¹¹Həwā Yusef—Šabuṭ qamrelli, ammā ešmi Yusef.

¹²Tum pardason. ¹³Nəḅaqyon barra, ani qəmṭallen. ¹⁴Qəhazen orku eṭ englizi həwat! ¹⁵Nəḅqat barra qəmşelā əm-jihelā qəmḥatt Mandāyí. ¹⁶An həwit jihel. ¹⁷Əṭit qəmāya qabin bas məḥaddet orka. ¹⁸Englizi? Laqəmbaşqer englizi! ¹⁹Ḥattat orke Mandāyí, jawāb-d' aḥḅita. ²⁰Genz ḥattat ke genz jawāb-d' aḥḅita. ²¹Aḵ waxt amrat, “Gāw Erāq, tarmidi u ganzeḅrā laqəmḥattten Mandāyí; hənā ḥatta jihelā qəmḥattten!” ²²Ani həwini eččā eččin u bištar geš-dan qəmḥattten Mandāyí. ²³Ehlan geš Mandāyí həwā gāw Moḥamrā, faqat ke hənā qāṭen m-Erāq, Azāzi u Giyālin; laqəmḥattten Mandāyí.

²⁴Fekr əḅodyon man həwat ā ettā? ²⁵An laqyāde moyye Erāq, laqyāde tarmidi u ganzeḅrā u goḅrā ekkak laqəmbaşqeren əmḥatt Mandāyí. ²⁶Ā ettā hidā amrate Ms. Drower. ²⁷Əṭat əm-Bağdād qār Šex ʿAbdalla. ²⁸Gāw Aḥwāz həwālu qāḅin. ²⁹Qabien āṭen Məḥamrā, yaʿni Xorramšahr šətā, u aṭon qār Šex Masbub. ³⁰Qāḅin əḅadyon. ³¹Hid nəḅqat qəmşelā əmḥattā qə-jihelā. ³²Yaʿni, Məḥamrā geš məḥattten Mandāyí həwā. ³³We-qdağernā tum əštā šekəl-da u naḅša. ³⁴Rəwāhā nehwiła, meḵtat əštā. ³⁵Māre əmzahherla!

[3] lu=ganzeḅr-i=ye hōwā-∅ rabb-ā ekkak
 non=ganzibra-INDF=3SG.M be.PST-3SG.M leader-AUG there
 He wasn't a ganzibra,¹ he was the leader there.

[4a] gāw šet šobḅā tēmānā la=q=daḅer-∅
 in year 7 8 NEG=PRS-remember.PRS-1SG
 When I was seven or eight, I don't remember

[4b] ṣonə^c šett-ā šobḅā tēmānā
 well year-AUG 7 8
 well, the year was seven or eight,

[4c] hōwi-ni qə=mṭall-en gāw maḅallat
 be.PST-1PL PRS=play.D.PRS-1PL in neighborhood
 all of us children were playing

[4d] jihel-ā geš=d-an
 child-PL all=of-1PL
 in the neighborhood.

[5] aṭ-on əm=Aḅwāz
 come.PST-PL from=PN
 (Some people) came from Aḅwāz.

¹ The highest degree of Mandaean priesthood currently occupied.

[6] q=abie-n ābd-en qābin gāw Məḥamrā
 PRS=want.PTC-3PL do.PTC-3PL marriage in PN

They wanted to perform a marriage in Mohammerah.

[7a] həwā-ø=l-an ganzebr-ā gāw Məḥamrā
 be.PST-3SG.M=to-1PL ganzibra-AUG in PN

We had a ganzibra in Mohammerah,

[7b] ešm -i Šex Masbub
 name-3SG.M sheikh PN

whose name was Sheikh Masbub.

[8a] gāw Aḥwāz həwā-ø tarmid-i
 in PN be.PST-3SG.M tarmida-INDF

In Aḥwāz, there was a tarmida,

[8b] ešm-i Šex ʿAbdalla
 name-3SG.M sheikh PN

whose name was Sheikh Abdallah.

[9a] le=hwā-ø=l-u ganzebr-ā
 NEG=be.PST-3SG.M=to-3PL ganzibra-AUG

They didn't have a "ganzibra"

- [16] an həw-it jihel
I be.PST-1SG child
I was a child.
- [17a] ət-it qəmāy-a
come.PST-1SG before-3SG.F
I came up to her,
- [17b] q=abi-n bas məḥaddet-ø ork-a
PRS=want.PRS-1SG only speak.SBJV-1SG with-3SG.F
I just wanted to speak to her.
- [18] Englizí la=qə=mbaşqer-ø Englizí
English NEG=PRS=know.PRS-1SG English
But English? I don't know English!
- [19a] ḥatt-at ork-e Mandāyí
speak.PST-3SG.F with-1SG Mandaic
She spoke Mandaic with me,
- [19b] jawāb-d-ʾ ahb-it-a
answer-of-1SG give.PST-1SG-3SG.F
I answered her.

[25a]	an	la=q=yād-e	mo-yye	Erāq
	I	NEG=PRS=know.PRS-1SG	what-3SG.M	Iraq

I didn't know what Iraq was,

[25b]	la=q=yād-e	tarmid-ā	u	ganzebr-ā
	NEG=PRS=know.PRS-1SG	tarmida-AUG	and	ganzibra-AUG

I didn't know that the tarmidas and the ganzibras and

[25c]	u	gobr-ā	ekkaḵ	la=qə=mbaşqer-en
	and	men-AUG	there	NEG=PRS=know.PRS-3PL

the men there didn't know

[25d]	əmhatt-ø	Mandāyí
	speak.SBJV.3PL	Mandaic

how to speak Mandaic.

[26]	ā	ett-ā	hidā	amr-at-e	Ms. Drower
	this	woman-AUG	she	say.PST-3SG.F-1SG	PN

This woman told me that she was Ms. Drower!

[27]	əṭ-at	əm=Baḡdād	qār	Šex	ʿAbdalla
	come-3SG.F	from=PN	to	Sheikh	PN

She came from Baghdad to Sheikh Abdallah.

- [28] gāw Aḥwāz həwā-ø=l-u qāḃin
 in PN be.PST-3SG.M =to-3PL marriage
 In Ahvaz, they had a wedding.
- [29a] q=abie-n āt-en Məḥamrā
 PRS=want.PTC-3PL come.SBJV-3PL PN
 They wanted to come [to] Mohammerah,
- [29b] yaʿni Xorramšahr šətā u
 meaning PN now and
 that is, Khorramshahr now, and
- [29c] aṭ-on qār Šex Masbub
 come.PST-3PL to Sheikh PN
 they came to Sheikh Masbub.
- [30] qāḃin əḃad-yon
 marriage do.PST-3PL
 They had a wedding.
- [31a] hid naḃq-at qə=mšel-ø
 she ex.it.PST-3SG.F PRS=ask.D.PRS-3SG.F
 She came out to ask

