

III: Dezful and Shushtar

¹Qabin əmer mendi əqdağernā, gāw šet alfā u čemmā, ārbīn u klātā. ²Həwat šer horettā, u geš əton, maxşuş Amrikān, Engliz, əton gāw Irān, qabien komak əbdell el-Rusya. ³Əton əm-ohər Moḥamrā, qəmwadden ekkaḳ. ⁴An həwit əm Provost Marshal (qəmbaşqerle) ehle pāsi kol dokkān-e Amrikān qəmzabnen əlāwwu. ⁵Həwit qənāyā d-kaspā (silversmith) aḳ waxt həwit.

⁶Aḳ waxt əzgini qam Haft Tappe, u qallen qam Bandar-e Maşur, qallen qam Dezful (7-11 hwālu ekkaḳ), qallen əmzabnen qəlāwwu. ⁷Əzgit əm-Şolḥabād (həwini gāw Şolḥabād) u qallenni, qam Dezful həzini ax waxt. ⁸An həwā orke yeki (rəwāhā nehwi) Yabber, meṭ Yabber, əzgini ekkaḳ, həzin el-nahrā. ⁹Şənā əbadni ekkaḳ, şāmni u barraḳni. ¹⁰Ba‘den ləbaşni qəməşānan, şielni, “Qəhāzen biətwāt ba‘id. ¹¹Ahni el-mannon, lek barra əm-belātnon?”

¹²Əmaryon “ahni,” gāw Fārsi, “xāne kāferān,” ya‘ni biətwāt ke elli (laqəmbaşqer) šerš lehlu, biəṭ māl şobbihā, xāne kāferān, şobbīye, şābi‘e, ya‘ni biəṭ Mandeyān.

¹³An həzit biətwāt elli mandi həwālu, əlāw nahrā, ‘ād ləsoqet, ləşabqonnan allenni ekkaḳ.

¹⁴Həwit aḳ waxt jihel həwit, ya‘ni bis sāl, bis sālū ‘omər-de, činasər šettā, ‘ād esrin šettā.

¹⁵‘Ād ləsoqet aḳ waxt; kammarni. ¹⁶An agar gāw ā ‘aqəl hewinā, əzgit, ya kədāb Mandāyí, mendi əmḥaşşelnā. ¹⁷Lezgini.

¹⁸Gāw šet əštā, ya‘ni şubbā šettā əštā qəmātar, ya‘ni alpā u čemmā u čin u hamşā, yeah, əzgit ekkaḳ yektā tum. ¹⁹Əzgit Dezful, əzgit Şuštār, dokkāni ke həzitu awwal, qəmsiel, jesər ke həwā ekkaḳ, goḅrā ke gāw metelā Mandāyí əbdonni, həwā pəseq aḳ waxt. ²⁰Əštā həziti jesər şon‘ye, u jesri tum əbadyon. ²¹Elinon biəṭ mandeyānā, lekkā - geš dəronnu w-əbdonnu, xiyabānhā əbdonnu, street əbdonnu, bənon bənon benāyāt - u

[5] həw-it qəṇāy-ā d=kasp-ā aḵ=waxt həw-it
 be.PST-1SG smith-AUG of=silver-AUG that=time be.PST-1SG

I was a silversmith at that time, I was.

[6a] aḵ=waxt əzgi-ni qam Haft Tappe
 that=time go.PST-1PL to PN

At that time we went to Haft Tappe,

[6b] u q=all-en qam Bandar=e Maʕšur
 and PRS=go.PRS-1PL to PN

and we went to Bandar-e Maʕšur,

[6c] q=all-en qam Dezful 7-11 həwā-ø=l-u ekkəḵ
 PRS=go.PRS-1PL to PN PN be.PST-3SG.M=to-3PL there

we went to Dezful (they had a 7-11 there),

[6d] q=all-en əmzabn-en qələww-u
 PRS=go.PRS-1PL sell.D.SBJV-1PL to-3PL

we went to sell to them.

[7a] əzg-it əm=Şolḥabād həwi-ni gāw Şolḥabād u
 go.PST-1SG from=PN be.PST-1PL in PN and

I went from Şolḥabād (we were in Şolḥabād)

[7b] q=all-enni qam Dezful həzi-ni aḵ=waxt
 PRS=go.PRS-1PL to PN see.PST-3PL that=time
 and we went to see Dezful at that time.

[8a] an həwā-∅ ork-e yeki
 I be.PST-3SG.M with=1SG someone
 There was someone with me,

[8b] rəwāh-ā ne-hwi=1-i Yabber meṭ-∅ Yabber
 relief-AUG 3SG.M-be.IPFV=to-3SG.M PN die.PST-3SG.M PN
 Yabber, God bless him (Yabber died),

[8c] əzgi-ni ekkak̄ həzi-n el=nahr-ā
 go.PST-1PL there see.PST-1PL REF-river-AUG
 we went there and we saw the river.

[9] šənā əbad-ni ekkak̄ šām-ni u barraq-ni
 swim do.PST-1PL there ablute.PST-1PL and pray.D.PST-1PL
 We swam there, performed our ablutions, and prayed.

[10a] ba'den ləbaš-ni qəmāš-ān-an šiel-ni
 after wear.PST-1PL clothes-PL-1PL ask.D.PST-1PL
 Afterwards, we put on our clothes, and we asked,

[14c] činasər šett-ā ‘ād əsrin šett-ā
 19 year-AUG then 20 year-AUG

[in Mandaic:] 19 years, no - wait - 20 years.

[15] ‘ād lə=soq-et aḵ=waxt kammar-ni
 then NEG=go.up.PST-1SG that=time return-1PL

No, I didn't go up then. We went back.

[16a] an agar gāw ā ‘aqəl hewi-nā əzg-it
 I if in this mind be.PRS-1SG go.PST-1SG

If I knew then what I know today (lit. I were in this mind), I would have gone,

[16b] ya kədāb mandāyí mend-i əmḥašṣel-nā
 a book Mandaean thing-INDF obtain.PRS-1SG

I would have picked up a Mandaic book or something.

[17] le=zgi-ni
 NEG=go.PST-1PL

We didn't go.

[18a] gāw šet əštā
 in year now

In this year,

[18b] ya'ni šobbā šett-ā əštā qəmā-tar
 meaning 7 year-AUG now before-COMP

that is to say, seven years ago,

[18c] ya'ni alpā u čemmā u čin u hamšā
 meaning 1000 and 900 and 90 and 5

that is, 1995,

[18d] əzg-it ekkak̄ yektā tum
 go.PST-1SG there once again

I went there once again.

[19a] əzg-it Dezful əzg-it Šuštar
 go.PST-1SG PN go.PST-1SG PN

I went to Dezful, I went to Shushtar,

[19b] dokk-ān-i ke həz-it-u awwal
 place-PL-RES REL see.PST-1SG-3PL before

the places which I saw before.

[20a] qə=mšiel-ø jesər ke həwā-ø ekkak̄
 PRS=ask.D.PRS-1SG bridge REL be.PST-3SG.M there

I asked about the bridge that was there,

[20b] gobr-ā ke gāw mōtel-ā
 men-AUG REL in story-AUG

which was built by the men

[20c] mandāyí aḅd-onn-i
 Mandaic do.PST-3PL¹

who were in the Mandaic story,

[20c] hōwā-∅ pāseq-∅ aḅ=waxt
 do.PST-3SG.M cut.PTC.PASS-3SG.M that=time

it was broken then.

[21a] ǝštā hōz-it-i jesər ʃonə^s=ye
 now see.PST-1SG-3SG.M bridge good=3SG.M

Now I saw that it had been repaired (lit. I saw it was a good bridge),

[21b] u jesr-i tum ǝḅad-yon
 and bridge-INDF again do.PST-3PL

and another bridge had been built.

[22a] eli=non biēṭ mandey-ān-ā l=ekkā
 where=3PL house mandaeen-PL-AUG NEG-there

Wherever there were Mandaean houses, (now) there weren't.

¹ See

[23c] šabq-on əm=Šuštar u Dezful u Šawāli
 leave.PST-3PL from=PN and PN and PN
 they left Shushtar and Dezful and Shah Wāli.

[24a] əštā l=ek enši
 now NEG-there anybody
 Now there isn't anyone left,

[24b] biēt-wāt ham dər-onn-u
 house-PL.F also take.PST-3PL-3PL³
 and even the houses have been taken away.

[25] ā mətēl-ā Mošmān-ān orke Mandey-ān-ā
 this story-AUG muslim-PL with mandaeen-PL-AUG
 This is Muslim way (lit. story) with the Mandaeans.

³ See