

The origin of the Dom

(Told by Muhammad Dib Sleem, Jerusalem)

- 1) ašlos dōmankī, ʕa-zamān ‘awwal,
origin.3SG dom.PL.ABL in-time early
The origin of the Doms, *early on*,
- 2) ašti di qabīle ʕīšrēda kānū *fi bilād*/
there.is two tribe.PL live.3PL.IMP were.3PL in land
dēyisma šāmaki.
town.3SG.LOC Syria.ABL
There were two tribes, they used to live *in the land of* in a Syrian town.
- 3) nāmosan banī qēs ū banī murra.
name.3PL Banī Qes and Banī Murra
Their name was Banī Qes and Banī Murra.
- 4) tillos banī qēs nāmos klēb.
big.3SG Banī Qes name.3SG Klēb
The leader of Banī Qes, his name was Klēb.
- 5) tillos banī murra nāmos dʒassās.
big.3SG Banī Murra name.3SG Dʒassās
The leader of Banī Murra, his name was Dʒassās.
- 6) w-ehe dīne māmūn putrēnī.
and.DEM.PL two uncle son.PL.PRED
And those two were cousins.
- 7) ašti ikaki wudik, bēnos tubba ḥassān.
there.is one.F old.ladyPRED daughter.3SG Tubba Hassan
There was an old lady, the daughter of Tubba Hassān.
- 8) lamma mardos klēb, marda tubba ḥassān *malik š-šām*,
when killed.3SG.3SG Klēb killed.3SG.M Tubba Hassan King of Syria

When Klēb killed him, he killed Tubba Hassān *the King of Syria*,

- 9) biddhā intaqimhōšar/ stadhōšar tāros
want.3SG.F take.revenge.SUBJ.3SG claim.SUBJ.3SG revenge.3SG
min dōmanki, yaʿnī min ehe dīne qabīlanki.
from Dom.PL.ABL that.is from Dem.PL two tribe.PL.ABL
She wanted to take revenge/ to take revenge from the Doms, that is, from those two tribes.
- 10) ērī ʿala banī murra ʿa džassāsaski, wāšīš
came.3SG.F to Banī Murra to Džassās..M.ABL with.3SG
naʿdžēk ʿažrabi
sheep.PRED mangy.PRED
She came to Banī Murra, to Džassās, and with her was a mangy sheep.
- 11) w-ihī naʿdža tirdī/ tirdī abuske aha/ zayy
and.DEM.F sheep put.3SG.F put.3SG.F on.3SG.BEN DEM.M like
ʿuṭūr wa-hāda, ʿaṭar wa-hāda
perfumes and-that perfume and-that
And this sheep she put/ she put on her this/ *like perfumes and all that, perfume and all that.*
- 12) ū širdī absanke ihī naʿdža qal ihī *min assāshā*
and said.3SG.F on.3PL.BEN DEM.F sheep said DEM.F from origin.F
min in-nāqiz in-nabi šāleḥ
from DEF.redeemer DEF.prophet Saleh
And she said to them: this sheep, she said, *is descended from the redeemer the Prophet Saleh.*
- 13) ašti nkīs ēkak dusarēk yaʿni ḥdimkari ihī / wudi.
there.is at.3SG one.M black.PRED that.is serves.3SG DEM.F old.lady
She had a black servant, [who was] serving this/ old lady.

- 14) širdī īhī wudi hayke/ dusaraske hayyos,
 said.3SG DEM.F old.lady this.BEN black.M.BEN this.3SG
 [This] lady said to/ to this servant of hers,
- 15) qal par īhī naʿdžē, ū dža bisātīnesma
 said take DEM.F sheep.F.ACC and go gardens.3SG.LOC
 klēbaski, xallī rʿīkar hundar.
 Klēb.M.ABL let.3SG graze.SUBJ.3SG there
 She said: take this sheep, and go to the gardens of Klēb, let her graze
 there.
- 16) aha dusara parda īhī naʿdžē ū bandos,
 DEM.M black took.3SG.M DEM.F sheep.F.ACC and tied.3SG.3SG
 tirdos hayma/ bustānisma klēbaski.
 put.3SG.3SG this.LOC garden.3SG.LOC Klēb.M.ABL
 [This] servant took [this] sheep and tied her, he put her in Klēb’s garden.
- 17) ū bustāni tillēk.
 and garden.PRED big.PRED
 And it was a big garden.
- 18) šarat īhī naʿdža qaṭīfkari min aha šadžarki
 began.3SG.F DEM.F sheep picks.3SG from DEM.M tree.ABL
 ū qāri
 and eats.3SG
 [This] sheep began to pick from [this] tree and to eat.
- 19) ḥurrāšīnes aha bustānki lakeda īhī naʿdžē,
 guards.3SG DEM.M garden.ABL saw.3SG.M DEM.F sheep.ACC
 fērendis mardedis.
 beat.3PL.3SG killed.3PL.3SG
 [This] garden’s guards saw [this] sheep, they beat her and killed her.

- 20) dusara hayyos widyaki ēra širda
 black this.3SG old.lady.F.ABL came.3SG.M told.3SG.M
 widyake.
 old.lady.F.BEN
 The old lady's servant came and told the old lady.
- 21) šārat rōwari.
 began.3SG.F cry.3SG
 She began to cry.
- 22) ēra abuske klēb:¹ karwe wudi, rowēk?
 came.3SG.M 3SG.BEN Klēb INT old.lady cry.2SG
 Klēb [= *Džassās*] came to her: what is it, old lady, [why] are you crying?
- 23) qal: lakedori, hurrāšīnes bustāniski hayki
 said saw.2SG.PERF guards.3SG garden.3SG.ABL this.ABL
 klēbaski marde naʿdžim illi ihī
 Klēb.M.ABL killed.3PL sheep.1SG REL DEM.F
assāshā min naʿdžāt in-nabi šāleḥ
 origin.3SG.F from sheep.PL DEF.prophet Saleh
 She said: Did you see, this/ the guards of Klēb's garden killed my sheep,
 who is *descended from the sheep flock of the Prophet Saleh*.
- 24) šari džassās abuske: na zʿilhōši atu wudi.
 say.3SG Džassās 3SG.BEN NEG anger.SUBJ.2SG 2SG old.lady
 Džassās says to her: Don't be angry, old lady.

¹ This is a mix-up, and the speaker actually means *Džassās*.

- 25) ama dēmri badālis ʕašrīn naʕdža ū ʕayyibkami
 1SG give.1SG.2SG instead.3SG twenty sheep and improve.1SG
 xātror.
 Mood.2SG
 I shall give you twenty sheep in its place, and I shall cheer you up.
- 26) qal: la', ama naqbilome'.
 said no 1SG NEG.accept.1SG.NEG
 She said: No, I don't accept.
- 27) yā imma naʕdžom gardohori, yā imma marēk amake
 either sheep.1SG live.3SG either kill.2SG 1SG.BEN
 klēbas, yā imma bardika ʕižrom ndžūmi.
 Klēb.M.ACC either fill.SUBJ.2SG lap.1SG stars.PRED
 Either my sheep shall live, or you shall kill Klēb for me, or else fill my
 lap with stars.
- 28) *yaʕni bi-l-ʕarabī: yā naʕdžatī tgūm, yā bitmalli ʕižrī*
 that.is in.DEF.Arabic either sheep.1SG stand.3SG.F or fill.2SG lap.1SG
ndžūm, yā imma rās klēb bi-damm yḥūm
 star.PL or else head Klēb in-blood turn.3SG.M
*That is, in Arabic: Either my sheep shall rise, or you will fill my lap with
 stars, or else Klēb's head shall float in blood.*
- 29) džassās qal: ama gardikaram nāʕdžor insakame'.
 Džassas said 1SG revive.SUBJ.1SG sheep.2SG NEG.can.1SG.NEG
 Džassās said: I cannot revive your sheep.

- 30) *ila yēr xuya lamma gardikaris aburke.*
 but without God when revive.3SG.3SG 2SG.BEN
 Only God can revive her for you.
- 31) *ū bardikaram hižror ndžūmi qal hāda ndžūm*
 and fill.SUBJ.1SG lap.2SG starS.PRED said that star.PL
hāda šaʿb ʿalayy,
 that difficult on.1SG
 And to fill your lap with stars, he said, *these stars that's difficult for me.*
- 32) *amma-n iza biddek rās klēb marḥabābek!*
 but if want.2SG.F head Klēb welcome.in.2SG.F
But if you want Klēb's head, you are welcome to it!
- 33) *dīsak min dīsanki šār klēb ū džassās kēlandi*
 day.INDEF from day.PL.ABL began.3SG.M Klēb and Džassās ride.3PL
hayta goryanta, šābiqhondi.
 this.DAT horse.PL.DAT compete.3PL
 One day Klēb and Džassās went out to ride/ horses, they had a race.
- 34) *goryos klēbaski šbuqhori goryos hayki, ka/ džassāsaski.*
 horse.3SG Klēb.M.ABL precede.3SG horse.3SG this.ABL Džassās.M.ABL
 Klēb's horse arrives before/ Džassās's horse.
- 35) *džassās šardeya romḥi axar ʿabāyiski ū uhu*
 Džassās hide.3SG.IMP lance.PRED beneath gown.3SG.ABL and DEM.M
agrīsi aha klēb, fēmēs rumuḥma,
 in.front.3SG.PRED DEM.M Klēb hit.PRED.3SG lance.LOC
ila pištismēk,
 but back.3SG.LOC.PRED

Džassās was hiding a lance beneath his gown, and just as the other one stood in front of him, [this] Klēb, striking him with the lance, directly in his back,

36) klibra.
fell.3SG.M

He collapsed.

37) šār parari min nhīriski aha klēb qabil mā
began.3SG.M take.3SG from blood.3SG.ABL DEM.M Klēb before COMP
maršar.
die.SUBJ.3SG

Klēb started to take from his own blood, before he died.

38) ū ktibkari džamfatiske ahaliske, ehe banī qēs,
and write.3SG community.3SG.BEN people.3SG.BEN DEM.PL Banī Qes
inni džassās yudurkedosim ū mardosim.
COMP Džassās betrayed.3SG.1SG and killed.3SG.1SG

And [in it] he wrote to his community of people, [these] Banī Qes, [saying] that Džassās betrayed me and killed me.

39) ū ‘ūfa sāmiḥkarassanni, ū maras qabīlos ehe
and beware forgive.2PL.3PL and kill.SUBJ2PL tribe.3SG DEM.PL

banī murra.

Banī Murra

And beware not to forgive them, and kill his tribe, [those] Banī Murra.

40) ēre ahalos klēbaski,
came.3PL people.3SG Klēb.M.ABL

Klēb’s people arrived,

- 41) lakede klēbas, rumuḥ pištismēk ū pandži nazaʿkari.
 saw.3PL Klēb.M.ACC lance back.3SG.LOC.PRED and 3SG die.3SG
 They found Klēb, a lance in his back, and he is dying.
- 42) ū ktibkadēk balaṭēṭa inni dʒassās mardosim.
 and wrote.PRED floor.F.DAT COMP Dʒassās killed.3SG.1SM
 And he had written on the floorstones that Dʒassās killed me.
- 43) gara dfinkeda klēbas ū ehra ḥarb bēn
 went.3SG.M hurried.3SG.M Klēb.M.ACC and became.3SG war between
 banī qēs ū bēn banī murra.
 Banī Qes and between Banī Murra
 They went and hurried Klēb, and war broke out between Banī Qes and
 Banī Murra.
- 44) *sabʿa snīn ḥarb* bēnatīsanni, *sabʿa snīn* manda fēyiš
 seven years war between.3PL.PRED seven years stayed.3SG.M war
 bēnatīsan.
 between.3PL
Seven years there was *war* between them, *seven years* the war continued
 between them.
- 45) *bi-l-ʿāxir* putros klēbaski nāmosi dʒalu,
 at.DEF.end son.3SG Klēb.M.ABL name.3SG.PRED Dʒalu
 ū sālem ez-zīr aha bāros klēbaski.
 and Salem ez-Zir DEM.M brother.3SG Klēb.M.ABL
In the end, Klēb’s son, his name was Dʒalu, and Salem ez-Zir was the
 brother of Klēb.

- 46) gara mīnda ka/ džassāsas ū mardedis.
 went.3SG.M grabbed.3SG.M Džassās and killed.3PL.3SG
 They went and caught Džassās and they killed him.
- 47) džamaŕtēs džassāsaski ehe banī murra,
 people.3SG Džassās.M.ABL DEM.PL Banī Murra
 ‘umurkeda atnīs aha sālem ez-zīr, xal:
 ordered.3SG.M on.3SG DEM.M Salem ez-Zir said
 As for Džassās’s people, [these] Banī Murra, [this] Salem ez-Zir decreed,
 he said:
- 48) itme mamnūfi hōšas hindar.
 2PL forbidden.PRED be.SUBJ.2PL here
 You are not allowed to remain here.
- 49) lāzem džas xalāmma hōšas.
 must go.SUBJ.2PL wilderness.PL.LOC be.SUBJ.2PL
 You must go and live in the wilderness.
- 50) lāzem lamma itme rawasi rawas *bi-ŕizz iš-šōb*,
 must when 2PL travel.2PL travel.SUBJ.2PL in.strength DEF.heat
w-id-dinya agi
 and.DEF.weather fire.PRED
 When you travel, you must travel *in the hottest time, when the weather is*
 fire-hot.
- 51) ū mamnūfi itme qolas goryanta.
 and forbidden.PRED 2PL ride.SUBJ.2PL horse.PL.DAT
 And you may not ride horses.

- 52) lāzem itme qolas bass ehe qaran.
 must 2PL ride.SUBJ.2PL only DEM.PL donkey.PL.ACC
 You must only ride [these] donkeys.
- 53) mamnūʿi arbaʿ-xamse buyūt skunnhōšas maʿ baʿd.
 forbidden.PRED four-five houses live.SUBJ.2PL together
 You are not allowed to live together, *four-five households*.
- 54) lāzem tkūn itme mišāṭṭaṭhresi
 must be.SUBJ.3SG.F 2PL dispersed.COP.2PL
 You must remain dispersed.
- 55) ū itme lāzem mašīroran hōšas inni bass
 and 2PL must destiny.2PL be.SUBJ.2PL COMP only
 ʿannikaras ū našīšas.
 sing.SUBJ.2PL and dance.SUBJ.2PL
 And your destiny is that you shall only sing and dance.
- 56) ahak ʿiṣatoran itme
 DEM.M.PRED life.2PL 2PL
 Thus is to be your life.
- 57) ehe dōme itšaṭiṭre ū krēn gare tirde?
 DEM.PL Dom.PL dispersed.3PL and where went.3PL settled.3PL
fī šamāl l-hind.
 in north DEF.India
 These Doms dispersed and where did they go and settle? *In northern India.*

- 58) min uhu waxtaski, mande *fi šamāl l-hind*.
 from DEM.M time.M.ABL stayed.3PL in north DEF.India
 From that time on, the remained *in northern India*.
- 59) tʃallimre *l-luḡa l-hindiyye*,
 learned.3PL DEF.language DEF.Indian
 They learned *the Indian language*.
- 60) ila qisem/ qismak minšīsan lamma zhurahra
 but part part.INDEF from.3PL when appeared.3SG.M
 ṣallaḥ ed-dīn ʿayyūbī ū ēre *ʃala l-ʃirāq*
 Salah ed-Din Ayyubi and came.3PL to DEF.Iraq
 ū *ʃala š-šām*,
 and to DEF.Syria
 But part/ one part of them, when Saladin Ayyubi appeared and came *to Iraq and to Syria*,
- 61) ū ēre *ʃala falasṭīn* ū šārū zaraʕkandi ū hāda,
 and came.3PL to Palestine and started.3PL farm.3PL and that
 And they came *to Palestine* and started to engage in farming and so on,
- 62) ū mande hindar dōme.
 and stayed.3PL here Dom.PL
 And the Doms have remained here ever since.