



THE GRAMMAR OF THE KABARDIAN LANGUAGE

by John Colarusso

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Appendix A

Analysed Text

In the following I give the whole text phonemicised at a fairly surface level, so that apart from zero morphemes the page can be read off. Deep structure is provided, word for word, in the following analysis pages. I depart from the rest of the book only in that I gloss the morphemes for third person according to their actual referents, that is to say ‘his,’ ‘her,’ ‘she,’ and so forth with the sole exception of /-y-ah-/ which is still -3-pl-. In this way the reader can keep track of the references of the pronouns and indices. Likewise, I have glossed the verb ‘to move’ either as ‘come’ or ‘go’ in order to help the reader.

The text is intended to give the reader a direct acquaintance with Kabardian as a medium of communication and not merely as an abstract grammatical system. No matter how thorough or careful a grammar, a well-analysed text can go much further in providing a grasp of a language and no grammar is complete without one. The astute reader will find many phenomena even in this short text that are not in this or any other grammar of the language.

The present text is one of the so-called “Nart Sagas” (original from Hadaghat’la 1968, vol. 1: 263–65, no. 76). It is from a corpus of old myths which show fascinating parallels outside the Caucasus (Colarusso 1982; 1989). This particular myth is the only one in the corpus involving the world tree. It is not only beautiful in its own right, but fascinating from the standpoints both of grammar and comparative mythology.

To avoid the impression of excessive clutter on the page, I have offset all punctuation, save commas, by one space.

[1] ¹ʎáps-ra ²ʒəð-g³áaša-m-ra

[2] ¹náhr̥t-ha-r̥ ²ø-zə-χ̣³á-y ³psa-w ⁴ø-y-ah-χ̣⁵-ə-y-ṣ⁶-r̥-əỵ ³ʎapṣ ⁶ø-y-ə-ṣ⁷á-ṇ ⁷ø-y-ə-mə-γ̣⁸atə-ʒə-ẉ ⁸ø-q̣⁹a-à-n+a-r̥-əỵ ⁹ø-zaṣ̌ ¹⁰ø-χ̣¹¹-ah-ṣ . [3] ¹ø-ø-χ̣²a-mə-šak³ə-ẓ̌ ²ø-ø-ṣ³χ̣⁴ə-m, ³satanay-g⁴áaša-m ⁴ø-dayẓ̌ ⁵ø-k⁶+a-r̥-əỵ ⁶ø-y-a-χ̣a-ʔ⁷-áh-ṣ .

[4] “¹satanay-g²áaśa, ²s-a-w-záś, ³ø-s-ś'á-n ⁴ø-z-γ⁵atø-r-q'óm . [5] ¹s-øy-q'ahrøw-ør ²ø-z-a-s-ħa+λ'+á-n ³ø-sø-mø-γ⁴atø-w, ⁴γ⁵óś'ø-w ⁶ø-s-øy-ŷa-r ⁶ø-sø-wø+p'as'áh-ś . [6] ¹g²á+a+ś+a-w ²ø-śó-ŷa-m ³wa ⁴náħ-ra ⁵náħ ⁶ŷ⁷ø-y-ah-ħa-mø-t-ów ⁸ø-ž-y-áh-ŷa, ⁹ø-s-ś'á-n ¹⁰ø-q'ø-s-ħ¹¹a-ø-g¹²ø+psøś !” ¹¹ø-ž-ø-y-ŷa-r-øy .

[7] “¹sø-t ²ø-q'ø-ø-ħ³a-z-g⁴ø+psøśø-n ? “³ø-g⁴ø+zav-áh-ś ⁴satanay-g⁵áaśa, “⁵náħrt-ha ⁶ŷáśa ⁷ø-ø-ħ⁸a-yø-m ⁹ø-y-ah-ħ¹⁰a-p-ś'-áh-ś, ⁹náħrt-ha ¹⁰γ¹¹øbžá ¹¹ø-ø-ħ¹²á-yø-m ¹²ø-y-ah-ħ¹³a-p-ś'-áh-ś . [8] ¹c'òħ² ²ø-zø-ħ³á-y ³psa-w-r-øy ⁴ø-p-ś'-áh-ś . [9] ¹yó-g'ø ²ø-y-a-w-øy ³ø-y-a-ž-øy ⁴døwnáy ⁵ø-q'a-ø-k⁶ø+ħ, ⁶a-d-rá-y ⁷c'òħ⁸-ha-r ⁹ø-z-a-rø-psá+wø-r ¹⁰ø-z-a-ø-γa-ħáaγ¹¹-øy ¹⁰náħrt-ha ¹¹ś'a+nó+γa ¹²ø-q'-ø-ah-ħ¹³á-ø-ħ . [10] ¹ħa-m ²wø-q'-ø-y-mø-wø+žay³ø-ž-áh-ma ³zø-g⁴ár ⁴ø-q'a-b-γ⁵atø-n-ś .”

[11] “¹døwnay-r ²ø-q'a-s-k³ø+ħø-n ³śħá-k⁴a ⁴sø-t ⁵sø-ø-ħ⁶a-yø-nø-w !”

[12] “¹z-øy-k² ²wø-zø-ħ³a-yó-śħ⁴a ³ø-ø-śø-wøva-q'óm . [13] ¹ø-mø-łaza-ná-w ²zø-fa-yø-ł+ħá-γ³a ³ø-z-a-ø-γa-pas-øy ⁴ø-y-á-ža . [14] ¹maś ²ø-zø-ś'á-n ³f'ó-wa ⁴wø-q'-a-y-łáaγ⁵, ⁵łas ⁶ø-zø-γá-ħ⁷ø-r ⁷w-øy-nøbžá+γ⁸ø-ś, ⁸á-bø-ha-m ⁹śħá-k¹⁰a ¹⁰w-ø-ah-γa-ł'a-nø-q'óm .”

[15] ¹łaps ²ø-y-a-wøvå+a+λ'+a-r-øy ³nax ⁴žer-bøda-døda-m ⁵ø-q'ø-ø-ħ⁶ø-y-ħ-r-øy ⁶žer ⁷våaq'a ⁸ø-y-ø-ś'-r-øy ⁹a-r ¹⁰ø-ŷa-ś'a-ł-ów ¹¹ø-y-a-ž-áh-ś . [16] ¹łaps ²a-b-ħ³a-d-øy-z-k⁴a ³psøś'á-w ⁴ø-k⁵+a-r-t-øy ⁵zø-måaza-γ⁶á+g⁷-ør ⁶zø-måaħ⁸a-m ⁷ø-y-ø-k⁹ø-r-t, ⁸zø-yø-łás ⁹γ¹⁰á+g¹¹-ør ¹⁰zø-måaza-m ¹¹ø-y-ø-k¹²ø-r-t; ¹²q¹³ørś ¹³ø-ø-ħ¹⁴a-z-a-m ¹⁴ø-y-a-båaq¹⁵á-r-t, ¹⁵psø ¹⁶ø-ø-ħ¹⁷á-z-a-m ¹⁷ø-y-a-łá-r-t . [17] ¹k²+à-m-łá+y-m ²k³+à-m-łá+y-wø-ra ³ps-øy-bl ⁴ø-za-p-ø-y-wøp'ś'-r-øy ⁵tayng'øz ⁶ŷ'ó-fa-m ⁷ø-ø-ŷ'ø-ħ-áh-ś . [18] ¹žøđ-øy-śa ²ø-q'ø-ø-r-øy-k³-ś, ³ø-y-ø-wøħ⁴á+n+ś'ø-ś, ⁴ø-z-a-r-ø-y-pħ-r-øy ⁵ħø-m ⁶ø-ø-t-ø-r-ø-y-γa-ład-áh-ś, ⁷yaz-ør ⁸á-bø ⁹ø-ø-t-a-y-wøva-m-r-øy ¹⁰tayng'øz-ø-m ¹¹ø-yø-k¹²-áh-ś . [19] ¹ø-za-r-øy-k²-ów ²psø ³ŷ'ó-fa-m ⁴ø-g⁵ag⁶-ów ⁵ø-ø-ŷ'ø-s-ów ⁶ø-yø-r-øy-ħa+λ'-áh-ś ⁷ħøg⁸á-bz ⁸g⁹øp, ⁹ná-a-bžá ¹⁰ø-zø-t-á-y-ł-ø-m ¹¹ø-y-ah-nax ¹²dåaħa-ha-w . [20] ¹łaps ²zans'a-w ³ħas'øq' ⁴ø-y-ah-ħ⁵a-ħ⁶-áh-ś ⁵á-bø-ha-m, ⁶áwa ⁷ø-y-á-pħ⁸a ⁸ø-pat-m-øy ⁹zø-r-øy ¹⁰ø-q'-ø-ħ¹¹a-wø+bød-ah-q'óm, ¹¹a-b-ħ¹²a-d-øy-z-k¹³a ¹²ø-c'åaħa-ha-t-øy ¹³ø-ŷa-ś'a-c'afthø-žø-r-t . [21] ¹ø-yø-r-øy-ħ²ø+žar-øy ²ø-y-ah-ś'a-rø-ħ-ah-q'óm . [22] ¹yø-t'á-a-na ²ø-ø-ła+ŷ³-áh-ś :

[23] “¹ħa-r ²ø-fø-z-a-w-γa-łá+ŷ³, ³føz-øy-ś'ó+s-ør ⁴ø-q'ø-z-ž'ø-f-ŷa . [24] ¹fa ²ø-f-ħ³á-da ³s-øy-nøbžø-m ⁴ø-s-łay⁵-ah-q'óm . [25] ¹sa ²ø-s-łay³-áh-m ³ħatør ⁴ø-q'ø-s-ħ⁵a-z-mø-ś'-áh ⁵ø-q'-ø-ah-ħa-k⁶-ah-q'óm, ” ⁶ø-ž-ø-y-ŷa-r-øy .

[26] “¹ḫəḡ-g²áaša-m²də-ø-r-əy-tħa-ṛ²ə-ḫ²ə+d-š,”³ø-ž-ø-ah-ṛ-áh-š⁴ḫəḡ⁴á-bz⁵ḡ⁵əp-əm . [27] “¹d-əy-g²áaša-m²ø-wənə-ḫ²-a-y-blá+a+ya-m³w-əy-ħatəṛ-əy⁴ø-q⁴-ə-y-łáay⁴-ən-š .”

[28] “¹ø-na-a-k²+a,²sə-f-š+a,”³ø-ž-ə-y-ṛa-r-əy⁴łapš⁵tħa-ṛ²ə-ḫ²ə+d-ha-m⁶ø-y-ah-wəž⁷ø-yə-wəva-r-əy⁸ø-k²-ah-š . [29] ø-na-s-ma,²zə-žəḡ-v-a-r-ø-ah-mə-š³á-ž³ø-šə-t-š,⁴ø-žəḡ-əw-əy⁵ø-mə-žəḡ-əw,⁶ø-c²əḫ²-əw-əy⁷ø-mə-c²əḫ²-əw,⁸z-əy-š³ə+s-əṛ⁹ø-q²ə-p-ḫ²a-mə-š³a-nə-w . [30] ø-yə-łá+a+bza-r²k²ə-wa³š³ə-m⁴ø-ø-łá-t-əw,⁵ø-yə-šhá+cə-r⁶pša-m⁷ø-ø-ḫ²á-da-w⁸wá-g²-əm⁹ø-ø-yə-t-əw,¹⁰ø-yə-ṛ-əy-t²ə-r¹¹c²əḫ²-ṛa-w,¹²ø-yə-ná+k²ə-r¹³dáaḫa-m¹⁴ø-y-ah-naḫ¹⁵dáaḫa-w,¹⁶dáša-m-ra¹⁷dəžən-əm-ra¹⁸ø-q²ə-ḫa-š³ə+k²a-hə-wa . [31] ḫəḡ-g²áaša-r²łapš³ø-q²ə-ø-šə-g²ə+f²ə+k²-r-əy⁴ø-yə-r-ə-y-ya-bl+a+γ-áh-š,⁵ø-y-ə-γá-a-šḫ+a-š,⁶ø-yə-r-ə-y-γá-a-f+a-r-əy⁷ø-y-ə-γa-γ²a+łə-ž-áh-š . [32] žaš-ə-bḡə-m²łapš³ø-q²a-wəš-r-əy⁴“ø-zə-z-γa-γ²at⁵ø-ø-ž-ə-y-ṛa-r-əy⁶ø-p-ə-y-wə+bəd-áh-š .

[33] “¹dá+a+w+a²ø-ḫ²ə-n,”³ø-y-ə-d-ah-q²əm⁴žəḡ-g²áaša-m,”⁵sa⁶sə-g²áaša-š,⁷c²əḫ²-c²ək²⁸əy-g²ə-r-əy⁹ø-q²a-s¹⁰ø-q²ə-s-ła+aṛa+s-ah-q²əm .”

[34] “¹sa²tħa-m³s-ø-ah-šə-š,”⁴ø-ž-ə-y-ṛa-š⁵łapš⁶əy⁷ø-taḡ⁸ə-r-əy⁹ł²ə+γ²a-fəz+ə+γ²a⁸ø-yə-r-ə-y-ḫ-áh-š .

[35] ¹ḡ²áaša-m²a-r³ø-yə-g²⁴ø-yə-r-ə-y-ḫ-r-əy⁵łapš⁶-əm⁷ø-q²-a-y-ła-ṛ²-áh-š⁸“⁷wə-mə-k²+a-žə-w⁸ø-q²á-a-n+a,”⁹ø-ž-ə-y-ṛa-r-əy .

[36] “¹háwa,²ø-ḫ²ə-nə-w-q²əm³s-ø-ah-q²á-a-n+a,”⁴ø-y-ə-d-ah-q²əm⁵łapš,⁶“⁶sa⁷š³ə-m⁸ø-yə-γ²əna-r⁹ø-q²a-z-γ²atə-w¹⁰náħrt-ha-m¹¹š³a+nə+ya¹²ø-y-ah-ḫ²a-s-ḫə-n¹³ø-ø-ḫ²a-y-š .

[37] “¹wə-šə-mə-w+a,²łapš,—³š³a-nə-ya⁴wə-ø-ḫ²á-y-m⁵sa⁶ø-w-a-s-tə-n-š,⁷sa⁸s-əy-łá+a+bza-r⁹š³ə-m¹⁰ø-ø-ḫa-t-š,¹¹š³ə-m¹²ø-ø-š³a-ł¹³psa-w-r-əy¹⁴ø-s-á-w-š³a,¹⁵s-əy-šhá+cə-r¹⁶wá+g²-əm¹⁷ø-ø-yə-t-š-əy¹⁸wá+a+fa-m¹⁹ø-ø-yə-t²⁰psa-w-r-əy²¹ø-s-á-w-š³a . [38] š³ə-m²γ²əna³ø-ø-yə-ṛa-q²əm,”⁴ø-yə-f²a+š⁵ø-ḫ²-ah-q²əm⁶łapš .

[39] “¹š³ə-m²ø-ø-f²a-k²-áh³γ²əna⁴ø-z-əy-mə-ṛa⁵ø-šə-ṛa-q²əm,⁶w-a-y-mə-ža . [40] sa²wá+g²-əm³ø-ø-yə-t⁴váay²a-ha-r⁵ø-w-a-z-γa-c²əḫ²-ə-n-š,⁶š³ə-m⁷ø-ø-š³a-ł⁸psa+w-r-əy⁹w-əy-ṛa-m-ə-š³a¹⁰ø-ø-yə-s-ł+ḫá-n-š,¹¹š³ə-šhá+fa-m¹²ø-ø-t-a-y-t-r-əy¹³ø-w-a-s-tə-n-ə-š .”

[41] ¹á-r-šha-k²a ²žəḡ-g³aaša-m ³ø-ž-ə-y-ʔa-r ⁴ø-yə-f⁵a+š ⁶ø-mə-š⁷ə-w, ⁶lapš ⁷ø-y-a-ža-ž-áh-š . [42] ¹ø-yə-vaaq²a-r ²ø-ø-łaažá-w ³ø-yə-łá+a+pa-m ⁴ø-q⁵-ø-ə-f⁶aš⁷a-žə-hə-w, ⁸ø-yə-baašə-r ⁶ø-ø-łaažá-w ⁷ø-yə-ʔa-m-ə-š⁸a-m ⁸ø-q⁹-ə-y-məšə-ž ⁹ø-š¹⁰ə-hə-w, ¹⁰ø-yə-pəʔa-r ¹¹wəná-šš¹²ə-m ¹²ø-y-ə-š-hə-w ¹³ø-yə-pša-m ¹⁴wardəš¹⁵-əw ¹⁵ø-q¹⁶-ø-ə-f¹⁷aš¹⁸ə-žə-hə-w ¹⁶ø-q¹⁹-ə-y-k²⁰ə+ḥ-r-əy ¹⁷š¹⁸ə-m ¹⁸ø-yə-γ¹⁹əna-r ¹⁹ø-y-ə-γ²⁰at-ah-q²¹əm . [43] ¹ø-q²-ə-y-γa-z+a-ž-r-əy ²žəḡ-g³aaša-m ³ø-dayž ⁴ø-q⁵-a-y-k⁶+a+ł⁷+a-ž-áh-š.

[44] “¹ø-q²-a-b-γ³at-áh ²š³ə-m ³ø-yə-γ⁴əna-r ?” ⁴ø-q⁵-a-y-wəp⁶š⁷-áh-š ⁵žəḡ-g⁶aaša-r .

[45] “¹ḥáwa .”

[46] “¹át²a ²sə-t ³ø-q⁴-a-b-γ⁵at-áh ?”

[47] “¹zə-r-əy-k² .”

[48] “¹át²a ²sə-t ³ø-z-a-b-γa-š⁴-áh ?”

[49] “¹š²ə-m ²γ³əna ³ø-z-a-r-ø-yə-mə-ʔa-r ⁴ø-z-a-z-γa-š⁵-áh-š .”

[50] “¹yə-t²á-a-na ²ša ?”

[51] “¹c²əš³-əm ²ø-yə-ʔà+p³q⁴+łá+p⁵q⁶-ə-r ³γ⁴əš⁵ə-m ⁴náš⁶-ra ⁵z-a-rə-náš⁷-ra ⁶bəda-r ⁷ø-z-a-z-γa-š⁸-áh-š .”

[52] “¹yə-t²á-a-na ²ša ?”

[53] “¹z-əy ²zaaq³a ³ø-γ⁴a+g⁵ə-rə-k⁶+a-m ⁴náš⁶-ra ⁵naš⁶ ⁶g⁷ə-γ⁸ ⁷ø-z-a-rə-ø-šə-mə-ʔa-r ⁸ø-z-a-z-γa-š⁹-áh-š .”

[54] “¹a+psa+w-r-əy ²šahržəna-š,” ³ø-ž-ə-y-ʔ-áh-š ⁴žəḡ-g⁵aaša-m . [55] “¹áwa ²náhr³t-ha-r ³ø-yə-r-əy-psa+wə-nə-w ⁴sə-t ⁵ø-q⁶-ø-ah-š⁷ə-p-š⁸-áh, ⁶sə-t ⁷ø-q⁸-ø-ah-š⁹a-b-γ¹⁰at-áh ?”

[56] “¹zə-r-əy-k² .”

[57] “¹át²a ²á-bə ³šha-k⁴a ⁴ø-q⁵-ə-š⁶a-p-k⁷ə+ḥə-n ⁵ø-šə-ʔ-ah-q⁶əm . [58] ¹sa ²ø-žə-

s-ʔ-áh-m ʔwə-q'a-y-a-ʔ"-áh-wa ʔθ-ʂə-t-áh-m, ʔf-əy-ʂá+p'q'-ər ʔθ-psa+wə-hə-w ʔθ-y-ah-ʂ"a-mə-wəʂə-n ʔs'a+nə+ya-w ʔθ-w-a-s-tə-n-t. [59] ʔnährt-ha-r ʔfə-cəʂ" ʔyərəś-s, ʔfə-pà+a+ǵá+a+ša-s. [60] ʔá-bə ʔfə-θ-t-a-y-k"+a+da-žə-n-s. [61] ʔáwa ʔq'á-a-n+a-r ʔθ-yə-r-əy-psa+wə-nə-w ʔm-əy-s ʔmə-r ʔθ-fə-z-á-w-t," ʔθ-ž-ə-y-ʔa-r-əy ʔʂapś ʔzə-sahbəy ʔdəya ʔθ-q'ə-ʔa+s'ə-y-ʂ+ħ-áh-s. [62] " ʔmə-r ʔwa ʔw-əy-q" a-m ʔθ-z-da-ħə-ž. [63] ʔsa ʔs'a+nə+ya-ra ʔʔa+s'á+a+ya-w ʔθ-s-əy-ʔa-r ʔá-bə ʔθ-θ-ħa-s-ʂ+ħ-áh-s. [64] ʔθ-q'á-ʂ"ə-ma ʔθ-z-a-rə-ʂ" ʔθ-f-ʂaaǵ"-ə-n-q'a ʔ"

[65] ʔʂapś ʔsahbəy-ər ʔθ-q'ə-y-ħ-r-əy ʔθ-q'a-k"+a-ž-áh-s. [66] ʔpsáaʂa-w ʔθ-yə-bza-r ʔθ-q'ə-ś-ə-y-wə+ʔəpsə-m ʔnährt-ha-m ʔθ-q'ə-ah-žə-r-ə-y-ʔ-áh-s.

[67] " ʔm-aw ʔwá+a+fa-m ʔθ-θ-yə-t ʔsə+ʂ"ə-ʂá+a+γ"a-r ʔθ-f-ʂaaγ"-ə-ra ʔ"

[68] " ʔθ-d-a-w-ʂaaγ" ."

[69] " ʔát'a ʔz-a-y-k"-a ʔfə-θ-śə-k"+á-k" a, ʔfə-q'ə-θ-śə-k"+á-ž-k" a ʔa-r ʔθ-fə-mə-ya-γ"áaša-ma, ʔfa-r-əy ʔfə-γ"aša-n-q'əm," ʔθ-ž-ə-y-ʔa-r-əy .

[70] " ʔaʂəħ-aʂəħ, ʔmə-r ʔθ-q'á-ʂ"ə-ma ʔzə-baʂəħ-ər ʔθ-q'ə-y-g"ə+psəśə-n-s, ʔmə-r ʔθ-θ-ʂ"a-saaq'ə-w ʔp'ə-n ʔθ-θ-ʂ"a-y-s," ʔθ-ž-θ-ah-ʔa-r-əy ʔfəz-əy-bl ʔθ-by" a-d-θ-ah-ya-wəv-áh-s ʔθ-y-ah-p'ə-nə-w, ʔθ-θ-k" a-ʂə-pʂə-nə-w .

[71] ʔá-r-ʂħa-k" a ʔzə-máaʂ" a-g" ar-əm [ʔfəz-ha-m] ʔsahbəy-ər ʔθ-[θ-ah-]da-k"+a+sə-k"-r-əy ʔθ-g" aǵ" ə-wə-ra ʔθ-γ" áaša-r-əy ʔθ-k"+a+d-áh-s. [72] ʔfəz-ha-m ʔsahbəy-ər ʔθ-y-ah-g" ʔθ-yə-r-θ-ah-mə-γá-a-s'a-w ʔθ-z-a-bǵə-rə-ž-ha-r-əy ʔθ-θ-ʂə-ʂ"-áh-s, ʔá-r-ʂħa-k" a ʔθ-y-ah-γ" ətə-ž-ah-q'əm .

[73] ʔθ-q'a-ʂ"-áh-r ʔnährt-ha-m ʔθ-q'ə-ś-θ-áh-s'a-m ʔθ-ś-a-s-ha-r-əy ʔθ-θ-ʂə-ʂ"-áh-k" a ʔθ-y-a-ž-áh-s. [74] ʔθ-θ-ʂ" a-z-áh-ra ʔθ-zə-ʂaaγ"-áh-r ʔθ-q'ə-ah-γ" át ʔθ-mə-ʂ" ə-ma, ʔyáz-ər ʔθ-y-ah-γ" atə-ž-ah-q'əm .

[75] " ʔθ-yə-ħá-na-m ʔθ-dayž ʔθ-k"+a-ž-áh ʔθ-ʂ" ə-n-s," ʔθ-ž-θ-ah-ʔa-r-əy ʔʂapś ʔθ-y-ah-ya-k"-áh-s. [76] ʔáwa ʔsahbəy-ər ʔá-bə ʔθ-k"+a-ž-ah-ta-q'əm .

[77] " ʔsə-t ʔθ-t-ś'a-nə-w, ʔsə-t ʔd-əy-ʔamáaʂ ʔ" ʔθ-y-a-wəp'ś'-áh-s ʔá-bə ʔʂapś .

[78] " ʔzə-ʔamáaʂ-əy ʔθ-θ-yə-ʔa-q'əm. [79] ʔyə-zamáħn-ər ʔθ-q'á-s-ma, ʔyáz-əm ʔθ-q'ə-y-ya-z+a-žə-n-s. [80] ʔáwa ʔθ-q'ə-ś-ə-y-ya-z+a-žə-nə-w-ər ʔħa-m

⁴ø-y-á-ś'a . [81] ¹fə-psa+wə-wa ²ø-q'a-k™+á-ž-ma, ³f-əy 'nahsəp-ś; ⁵ø-q'a-mə-k™+á-ž-ma, ⁶f-əy ⁷baɫəŋ-ś-əy, ⁸á-bə ⁹fə-ø-t-a-y-k™+a+da-ž-ə-n-ś, ¹⁰ø-q'ə-ø-žə-r-ə-y-ʔ-áh-ś .

[82] ¹λapś ²ø-yə-śha-r ³ø-ø-f'a-ŋ™-áh-wa ⁴ø-q'a-k™+a-ž-áh-ś .

Underlying Forms

[1] ¹/λapś-ra/ Tlepsh (god of the forge)(henceforth TI)-and; ²/žəŋ-g"áaśa-m-ra/ tree-princess, lady-obl-and.

[2] ¹/náht-ha-r/ Nart (race of heroes)(henceforth Nt)-pl-abs; ²/ø-zə-ŋ™á-y/ it-which-for-need; ³/psa-w/ life-adj= alive; ⁴/ø-y-ah-ŋ™a-y-ə-ś'ə-əy-əy/ it-3-pl-for-he-non pres-do-even-and (this text uses /-əy-əy/ (/rəy/) as a rhetorical 'and'); ⁵/λapś/ TI; ⁶/ø-y-ə-ś'á-n/ it-he-non pres-know-inf; ⁷/ø-y-ə-mə-γ™atə-žə-w/ it-he-non pres-not-find-finally-that; ⁸/ø-q'a-à-n+a-əy-əy/ he-hor-dat-remain+in-even-and; ⁹/ø-zaś/ he-yearn; ¹⁰/ø-ŋ™-aγ-ś/ it-happen-past-aff (note /-ay-/ → /-ah-/) .

[3] ¹/ø-ø-ŋ™a-mə-śak'ə-ž/ he-it-for-not-endure-finally; ²/ø-ø-ś-ŋ™ə-m/ it-him-deixis-happen-adv = 'it happen to him; ³/satanay-g"áaśa-m/ Satanaya (all-knowing heroine)(henceforth S)-princess, lady-obl; ⁴/ø-dayž/ her-near; ⁵/ø-k™ə+a-əy-əy/ he-go+intr-even-and; ⁶/ø-y-a-ŋ™a-ŋ™a-á-γ-ś/ he-her-dat-after-say-past-aff = he asked her for something.

[4] ¹/satanay-g"áaśa/ S-princess; ²/s-a-w-záś/ I-pres-prog-yearn; ³/ø-s-ś'á-n/ it-I-know-inf; ⁴/ø-s-γ™atə-r-q'əm/ it-I-find-pres-not.

[5] ¹/s-əy-q'ahrəw-ər/ my-poss-strength-abs; ²/ø-z-a-s-ħa+ŋ™+á-n/ it-self-dat-I-carry+near+in-inf; ³/ø-sə-mə-γ™atə-w/ it-I-not-find-that; ⁴/γ™əś'ə-w/ iron-pred; ⁵/ø-s-əy-ʔa-r/ it-I-poss-have-abs; ⁶/ø-sə-wə+p'aś'-á-γ-ś/ it-I-val+flatten-past-aff = I have flattened it out completely.

[6] ¹/g"á+a+ś+a-w/ heart-conn-lead-dat-pred = generous; ²/ø-ś-ə-ʔa-m/ who-deixis-be-obl; ³/wa/ you; ⁴/náŋ-ra/ more-adv; ⁵/naŋ/ than; ⁶/r"əś/ clever; ⁷/ø-y-ah-ŋ™a-mə-t-əw/ he (she)-3-pl-among-not-stand-pred; ⁸/ø-ž-y-áh-ʔa/ it-back-3-pl-say; ⁹/ø-s-ś'á-n/ it-I-know-inf; ¹⁰/ø-q'ə-s-ŋ™a-ø-g"ə+psəś/ it-hor-me-for-

you(imp)-heart+think = think (about) it for me ¹¹/ø-ž-y-ə-ʔa-əy-əy/ it-back-he-non pres-say-even-and.

[7] ¹/sə-t/ what-pro afx ; ²/ø-q'ə-ø-ŋ'a-s-g'ə+psəsə-n/ what-hor-(you)-for-I-heart+ think-subj; ³/ø-g'ə+zav-áγ-š/ she-heart+narrow-past-aff; ⁴/satanay-g'áaša/ S-princess; ⁵/náhrt-ha/ Nt-pl; ⁶/ʔáša/ weapons; ⁷/ø-ø-ŋ'a-yə-m/ they-it-for-need-obl; ⁸/ø-y-ah-ŋ'a-w-š-áγ-š/ it-3-pl-for-you-make-past-aff; ⁹/náhrt-ha/ Nt-pl; ¹⁰/γ'əbžə/ sickle; ¹¹/ø-ø-ŋ'a-yə-m/ them-it-for-need-obl; ¹²/ø-y-ah-ŋ'a-w-š-áγ-š/ it-3-pl-for-you-make-past-aff.

[8] ¹/c'əŋ' / people; ²/ø-zə-ŋ'a-y/ they-what-for-need; ³/psa-w-əy-əy/ life-adj-even-and; ⁴/ø-w-š-áγ-š/ it-you-make-past-aff.

[9] ¹/y'ə-g'ə/ gen-now; ²/ø-y-a-w-əy/ you(imp)-dir-dat-hit (out)-and; ³/ø-y-a-ž-əy/ you(imp)-dir-dat-start-and; ⁴/dəwnáy/ world; ⁵/ø-q'a-ø-k'ə+ħ/ it-hor-you(imp)-go+around; ⁶/a-d-rá-y/ that-other-pro-and = and the other; ⁷/c'əŋ'-ha-r/ people-pl-abs; ⁸/ø-z-a-rə-psá+wə-r/ they-how-dat-inst-life+adj-abs; ⁹/ø-z-a-ø-γa-łàaγ'-əy/ it-self-dat-you(imp)-caus-see-and; ¹⁰/náhrt-ha/ Nt-pl; ¹¹/š'a+nə+γa/ know+inf+ness = knowledge; ¹²/ø-q'ə-ah-ŋ'a-ø-ħ/ it-hither-3-pl-for-you(imp)-bring.

[10] ¹/tħa-m/ god-obl; ²/wə-q'a-y-ə-mə-wə+žəγ'ə-ž-áγ-ma/ you-hor-he-non pres-not-val+find odious-finally-past-if (unexpected past tense form); ³/zə-g'ár/ one-certain = something; ⁴/ø-q'a-w-γ'atə-n-š/ it-hor-you-find-subj-aff.

[11] ¹/dəwnay-r/ world-abs; ²/ø-q'a-s-k'ə+ħə-n/ it-hor-I-go+around-inf; ³/šħá-k'a/ head-inst = at first; ⁴/sə-t/ what-pro afx; ⁵/sə-ø-ŋ'a-yə-nə-w/ I-it-for-need-fut-def.

[12] ¹/z-əy-k' / what-obl (archaic)-inst (note Bzhedukh West Circassian /a-y/ 3-obl); ²/wə-zə-ŋ'a-yə-šŋ'a/ you-what-for-need-greatly; ³/ø-ø-šə-wəva-q'əm/ you(imp)-it-deixis-stop-not.

[13] ¹/ø-mə-łəža-ná-w/ you-not-work-subj(anomalous /a/)-pred; ²/zə-fa-yə-ł+ħá+γ'a/ one-skin-dir-lie+act+companion = clothes; ³/ø-z-a-ø-γa-paš-əy/ it-self-dat-you(imp)-caus-form-and; ⁴/ø-y-á-ža/ you(imp)-dir-dat-start.

[14] ¹/maš/ millet; ²/ø-zə-š'á-n/ it-who-make-inf; ³/f'ə-wa/ good-adv; ⁴/wə-q'a-y-a-łáaγ' / you-hor-he-pres-see; ⁵/ʔaš/ cattle; ⁶/ø-zə-γá-ŋ'a-r/ it-who-caus-

become-abs = who breeds them; ⁷/w-əy-nəbʒá+yʷə-ś/ you-poss-coeval+companion-aff; ⁸/á-bə-ha-m/ that-obl-pl-obl(pleonastic); ⁹/sha-kʷa/ head-inst = by this precondition (i.e., because); ¹⁰/w-y-ah-ya-ʎ'a-nə-q'əm/ you-3-pl-let-die-fut-not.

[15] ¹/ʎapś/ TI; ²/ø-y-a-wəvə+a+ʎ'+a-əy-əy/ it-he-pres-stop+on+near+in-even-and; ³/naʃ/ (more) than (to); ⁴/ʒər-bəda-dəda-m/ steel-hard-most-obl; ⁵/ø-q'ə-ø-ʎa-y-ə-ʎ-əy-əy/ some-hor-it-among-he-non pres-take-even-and; ⁶/ʒər/ steel; ⁷/vāaq'a/ shoe(s); ⁸/ø-y-ə-ś'-əy-əy/ them-he-non pres-make-even-and; ⁹/a-r/ he-abs; ¹⁰/ø-ʔa+ś'a-ʎ-əw/ he-hand+inst-lie-that; ¹¹/ø-y-a-ʒ-əy-ś/ he-dir-dat-go-past-aff.

[16] ¹/ʎapś/ TI; ²/a-b-ʎʷa-d-əy-z-kʷa/ that-obl-for-be like-past part-while-inst = thus, in this way; ³/psəns'a-w/ quick-adv; ⁴/ø-kʷə+a-r-t-əy/ he-go+intr-distr-stand-and = and he went (durative past); ⁵/zə-māaza-γ'á+gʷ-ər/ one-forest-road+surf-abs; ⁶/zə-māaʎʷa-m/ one-day-obl; ⁷/ø-y-ə-kʷə-r-t/ it-he-non pres-go-distr-stand; ⁸/zə-yə-ʎás/ one-gen-year; ⁹/γ'á+gʷ-ər/ road+surf-abs; ¹⁰/zə-māaza-m/ one-forest-obl; ¹¹/ø-y-ə-kʷə-r-t/ it-he-non pres-go-distr-stand; ¹²/qʷərś/ cliff; ¹³/ø-ø-ʎʷa-z+a-m/ he-it-for-turn+to-adv; ¹⁴/ø-y-a-bàaqʷ'á-r-t/ he-it-dat-stride-distr-stand, ¹⁵/psə/ river; ¹⁶/ø-ø-ʎʷ'á-z+a-m/ he-it-for-turn+to-adv; ¹⁷/ø-y-a-ʎá-r-t/ he-it-dat-jump-distr-stand.

[17] ¹/kʷ+à-m-ʎá+y-m/ go+intr-adv-jump+prolonged-adv; ²/kʷ+à-m-ʎá+y-wə-ra/ go+intr-adv-jump+prolonged-pred-adv; ³/ps-əy-bl/ river-num-seven; ⁴/ø-za-pə-y-ə-wəp'ś'-əy-əy/ them-all-sever-he-non pres-cross-even-and; ⁵/tayng'əz/ Taingyiz (Sea of Azov ?); ⁶/r'ə-fa-m/ edge-skin-obl = shore; ⁷/ø-ø-r'ə-ə-əy-əy/ he-it-edge-enter-past-aff.

[18] ¹/ʒəġ-əy-śa/ tree-num-hundred; ²/ø-q'ə-yə-yə-k'ś-/ he-hor-path-dir-walk-aff; ³/ø-y-ə-wəʎʷ'á+n+ś'-ə-ś/ them-he-non pres-limb+conn+make-aff = he cut them into logs; ⁴/ø-za-rə-y-ə-pʎ-əy-əy/ them-recip-inst-he-non pres-tie-even-and = and he made a raft of them; ⁵/ʎə-m/ sea-obl; ⁶/ø-ø-t-y-a-y-ə-ya-ʎad-áγ-ś/ it-it-surf-dir-dat-he-non pres-caus-run-past-aff (→ /ø-ø-tə-ø-r-ə-y-ya-ʎad-áh-ś/); ⁷/yáz-ər/ self-abs; ⁸/á-bə/ it-obl; ⁹/ø-ø-t-y-a-wəva-m-əy-əy/ he-it-surf-dir-dat-stop-obl-even-and = and he remained on it; ¹⁰/tayng'əz-əm/ Taingyiz-obl; ¹¹/ø-y-ə-kʷ-áγ-ś/ he-it(from)-exit-past-aff.

[19] ¹/ø-za-rə-yə-kʷ-əw/ he-all-along-it(from)-exit-adv; ²/psə/ water; ³/r'ə-fa-m/ edge-skin-obl; ⁴/ø-gʷagʷ-əw/ they-play-that; ⁵/ø-ø-r'ə-s-əw/ they-it-edge-sit-that;

⁶/ø-yə-yə-ħ+a+λ'-áγ-ś/ they-cont-dir-carry+in+near-past-aff = they bore a trait (words 9–13); ⁷/χəg'á-bz/ girl-female; ⁸/g'əp/ group; ⁹/ná-a-bza/ eye-conn-brow; ¹⁰/ø-zə-t-y-á-λ-əm/ it-who-surf-dir-dat-lie-obl; ¹¹/ø-y-ah-naχ/ 3-poss-pl-(more) than; ¹²/dáaħa-ha-w/ beautiful-pl-pred.

[20] ¹/λapś/ TI; ²/zánś'a-w/ straight-adv; ³/ħaśóq/ fascination; ⁴/ø-y-ah-ħ"á-χ"-áγ-ś/ he-3-pl-for-happen-past-aff; ⁵/á-bə-ha-m/ that-obl-pl-obl, postposed for emphasis; ⁶/áwa/ but; ⁷/ø-y-á-pχ"a/ he-dir-dat-grasp; ⁸/ø-pat-m-éy/ it-strong (be)-if-even; ⁹/zə-əy-éy/ one-even-and; ¹⁰/ø-q'-y-ə-ħ"a-wə+bəd-aγ-q'ém/ her-hor-he-non pres-able-val+hard-past-not = he was not able to seize one of them; ¹¹/a-b-ħ"a-d-éy-z-k"a/ that-obl-for-be like-past part-while-inst = with things thus for a time; ¹²/ø-c'áaħa-ha-t-éy/ they-slip-pl-stand-and; ¹³/ø-ʔa-ś'a-c'afə-žə-r-t/ they-hand-inst-dart away-again-distr-stand.

[21] ¹/ø-yə-yə-ħ"ə+za-əy-éy/ he-cont-dir-white+colour-even-and = and he turned white; ²/ø-y-ah-ś'a-rə-ħ-aγ-q'ém/ he-3-pl-earth-along-enter-past-not = he did not tackle them, bring them down.

[22] ¹/yə-t'á-a-na/ gen-twice-conn-ordinal = then; ²/ø-ø-ħa+r"áγ-ś/ he-something-after+ask-past-aff.

[23] ¹/ħa-r/ god-abs; ²/ø-fə-s-a-w-ya-ħá+ʔ"/ it-you(pl)-me-pres-prog-let-after+ask; ³/fəz-əy-ś'ə+s-ər/ woman-poss-under+sit (= nature, type)-abs; ⁴/ø-q'ə-s-žə-f-ʔa/ it-hor-me-back-you(pl)-say.

[24] ¹/fa/ you(pl); ²/ø-f-ħ"á-da/ someone-you(pl)-for-be like; ³/s-əy-nəbžə-m/ my-poss-coevals-obl; ⁴/ø-s-ħaγ"-aγ-q'ém/ it-I-see-past-not.

[25] ¹/sa/ I, ²/ø-s-ħaγ"-áγ-m/ what-I-see-past-obl = in my experience; ³/ħatər/ respect, esteem; ⁴/ø-q'ə-s-ħ"a-s-mə-ś'-áγ/ it-hor-me-for-I-not-do-past; ⁵/ø-q'-ø-ah-ħa-k"-aγ-q'ém/ it-hor-3-pl-among-exit-past-not; (1–5 = in all my experience it has never happened that I have made such a fool of myself); ⁶/ø-ž-y-ə-ʔa-əy-éy/ it-back-he-non pres-say-even-and.

[26] ¹/žəğ-g"áaśa-m/ tree-princess, lady-obl; ²/də-yə-yə-ħa-ʔ"ə-ħ"ə+d-ś/ we-cont-dir-god-before-bend+down-aff = we are the devotees, followers of a god; ³/ø-ž-y-ah-ʔa-áγ-ś/ it-back-3-pl-say-past-aff; ⁴/χəg'á-bz/ girl-female; ⁵/g'əp-əm/ group-obl (postposed because word three is normally used to mark direct discourse at end of quote).

[27] ¹/d-əy-g^wáaša-m/ our-poss-princess-obl; ²/ø-wənə-ŋ^wa-y-a-blá+a+ya-m/ she-house-for-dir-dat-pass+conn+ness-adv = (by) extending an invitation to (her) house; ³/w-əy-ħatər-əy/ your-poss-esteem-and; ⁴/ø-q'a-y-ə-łāay^w-əñ-š/ it-hor-she-non pres-see-fut-aff. [28] ¹/ø-na-a-k^w+a/ you(imp)-thither-imp-go+int; ²/s-ə-f-š+a/ me-you(pl)-take+to; ³/ø-ž-y-ə-ʔa-əy-əy/ it-back-he-non pres-say-even-and; ⁴/łapš/ TI; ⁵/tħa-ʔ^wə-ŋ^wə+d-ha-m/ god-before-bend+down-pl-obl; ⁶/ø-y-ah-wəž/ poss-pl-trail; ⁷/ø-yə-wəva-əy-əy/ he-path-stay-even-and; ⁸/ø-k^w-aγ-š/ he-go-past-aff.

[29] ¹/ø-na-s-ma/ he-thither-reach-adv; ²/zə-žəŋ-v-a-r-y-ah-mə-š'á-ž/ one-tree-you(pl)-dat-inst-3-pl-not-know-again = it is not recognisable by you(pl) (third person indefinite passive with pleonastic second person instrumental agent which has been postposed and reduced to an adjective-like status); ³/ø-šə-t-š/ it-deixis-stand-aff; ⁴/ø-žəŋ-əw-əy/ it-tree-pred-and; ⁵/ø-mə-žəŋ-əw/ it-not-tree-pred; ⁶/ø-c'əŋ^w-əw-əy/ it-person-pred-and; ⁷/ø-mə-c'əŋ^w-əw/ it-not-person-pred; ⁸/z-yə-š'ə+s-ər/ one-poss-under+sit-abs = nature; ⁹/ø-q'ə-p-ŋ^wa-mə-š'a-nə-w/ it-hor-you-able-not-know-subj(?) -def.

[30] ¹/ø-yə-łá+a+bza-r/ her-poss-leg+conn+horn-abs = root(s); ²/k'ə-wa/ deep-adv; ³/š'ə-m/ earth-obl; ⁴/ø-ø-ŋá-t-əw/ they-it-into-stand-pred; ⁵/ø-yə-šħá+cə-r/ poss-head+hair-abs; ⁶/pša-m/ cloud-obl; ⁷/ø-ø-ŋ^wá-da-w/ it(hair)-it(cloud)-for-be like-pred; ⁸/wá-g^w-əm/ sky-locus-obl; ⁹/ø-ø-yə-t-əw/ it(hair)-it(sky)-dir-stand-pred; ¹⁰/yə-ʔa-əy-t(ʔ^w)ə-r/ its-arm-num-two-abs; ¹¹/c'əŋ^w-ʔa-w/ people-arm-pred; ¹²/yə-ná+k^wə-r/ its-eye+slope-abs = cheeks; ¹³/dáaŋa-m/ beautiful-obl; ¹⁴/ø-y-ah-naš/ poss-pl-more; ¹⁵/dáaŋa-w/ beautiful-pred, (12–15 = most beautiful); ¹⁶/d'əša-m-ra/ gold-conn-and; ¹⁷/dəžəñ-əm-ra/ silver-conn-and; ¹⁸/ø-q'ə-ŋá-š'ə+k^wa-hə-wa/ they-hor-mass-under+exit-pl-pred = they were in evidence, they were to be found.

[31] ¹/žəŋ-g^wáaša-r/ tree-lady-abs; ²/łapš/ TI; ³/ø-q'ə-ø-šə-g^wə+f'ə+k^w-əy-əy/ she-incept-him-deixis-heart+good+grow-even-and = and she fell in love with him; ⁴/ø-y-a-y-ə-ya-bl+a+γ-áγ-š/ him-it-dat-she-non pres-caus-pass+conn+ness-past-aff = she invited him in; ⁵/ø-y-ə-γá-a-šŋə+a-š/ him-she-non pres-caus-conn-eat+intr-aff; ⁶/ø-y-a-y-ə-γà-a-fə+a-əy-əy/ him-it-dat-she-non pres-caus-conn-drink+at-even-and; ⁷/ø-y-ə-ya-γ^wa+łə-ž-áγ-š/ him-she-non pres-caus-purpose+lie down-again-past-aff = she made him lie down to rest.

[32] ¹/žaš-ə-bğə-m/ night-ep v-waist-obl = midnight; ²/łapš/ TI; ³/ø-q'a-wəš-əy-

éy/ he-incept-awake-even-and; ⁴/ø-zə-s-γa-γ^át/ something-self-I-caus-find; ⁵/ø-ø-ž-y-ə-ʔa-əy-éy/ it-her-back-he-non pres-say-even-and; ⁶/ø-pə-y-ə-wə+bəd-á-γ-š/ it-sever-he-non pres-val+hard-past-aff = he resolved upon something.

[33] ¹/dá+a+w+a/ with+conn+strike+at = dispute; ²/ø-š^áə-n/ it-happen-fut; ³/ø-y-ə-d-a-γ-q^ám/ him-she-non pres-agree-past-not; ⁴/žəḡ-g^ááša-m/ tree-lady-obl; ⁵/sa/ I; ⁶/sə-g^ááša-š/ I-princess-aff; ⁷/c^áx^á-c^ák^á/ person-little; ⁸/yə-g^áə-əy-éy/ gen-now-even-and; ⁹/ø-q^á-s/ it-hither-reach = up until; ¹⁰/ø-q^á-s-ša+ʔa+s-a-γ-q^ám/ he-hither-me-after+hand+reach-past-not.

[34] ¹/sa/ I; ²/tħa-m/ god(s)-obl; ³/s-ø-ah-šá-š/ I-3-pl-deixis-belong; ⁴/ø-ž-y-ə-ʔa-š/ it-back-he-non pres-say-aff; ⁵/šapš-əy/ Tl-and; ⁶/ø-ta-g^áə-əy-éy/ he-stand up-even-and; ⁷/š^áə+γ^á-a-fəz+ə+γ^áa/ man+ companion-woman+ep v+companion; ⁸/ø-yə-y-ə-x^á-á-γ-š/ it-her(from)-he-non pres-take-past-aff; (7 and 8 = he made love to her).

[35] ¹/g^ááša-m/ lady-obl; ²/a-r/ him-abs; ³/ø-yə-g^á/ her-poss-heart (in); ⁴/ø-y-a-y-ə-ħ-əy-éy/ him-it-dat-she-non pres-carry-even-and; ⁵/šapš-əm/ Tl-obl; ⁶/ø-q^á-y-a-ša+ʔ^á-á-γ-š/ she-hor-him-dat-after+say-past-aff; ⁷/wə-mə-k^á+a-žš-w/ you-not-go+intr-again-pred; ⁸/ø-q^á-a-n+a/ you(imp)-hor-dat-stay+at; ⁹/ø-ž-y-ə-ʔa-əy-éy/ it-back-she-say-even-and.

[36] ¹/ħáwa/ no; ²/ø-š^áə-nə-w-q^ám/ it-happen-fut-def-not = it will not be possible; ³/s-ø-ah-q^á-a-n+a/ I-3-pl-hor-dat-stay+at (emphatic postposing of 3 over 2); ⁴/ø-y-ə-d-a-γ-q^ám/ her-he-non pres-agree-past-not; ⁵/šapš/ Tl; ⁶/sa/ I; ⁷/š^á-m/ earth-obl; ⁸/ø-yə-γ^áəna-r/ its-poss-boundary-abs; ⁹/ø-q^á-s-γ^áatə-w/ it-hor-I-find-pred; ¹⁰/náħrt-ha-m/ Nt-pl-obl; ¹¹/š^á-a-nə+γa/ know+inf+ness; ¹²/ø-y-ah-x^á-a-s-ħə-n/ it-3-pl-for-I-carry (off from there)-inf; ¹³/ø-ø-x^á-a-y-š/ it(dummy pro)-it-for-need-aff.

[37] ¹/wə-šə-mə-w+a/ you-deixis-not-strike+at; ²/šapš/ Tl; ³/š^á-a-nə-γa/ know-inf-ness; ⁴/wə-ø-x^á-á-y-m/ you-it-for-need-obl; ⁵/sa/ I; ⁶/ø-w-a-s-tə-n-š/ it-you-dat-I-give-fut-aff; ⁷/sa/ I; ⁸/s-əy-šá+a+bža-r/ my-poss-leg+conn+horn-abs = root(s); ⁹/š^á-m/ earth-obl; ¹⁰/ø-ø-x^á-t-š/ they-it-mass-stand-aff; ¹¹/š^á-m/ earth-obl; ¹²/ø-ø-š^á-š/ which-3-under-lic; ¹³/psa+w-əy-éy/ life-adj-even-and; ¹⁴/ø-s-á-w-š^á/ it-I-pres-prog-know; ¹⁵/s-əy-šħá+cə-r/ my-poss-head+hair-abs; ¹⁶/wá+g^á-əm/ sky-surf-obl; ¹⁷/ø-ø-yə-t-š-éy/ it(hair)-it(sky)-cont-stand-aff-and; ¹⁸/wá+a+fa-m/ sky+conn+skin-obl; ¹⁹/ø-ø-yə-t/ which (word 20)-it(sky)-cont-stand; ²⁰/psa+w-əy-éy/ life+adj-even-and; ²¹/ø-s-á-w-š^á/ it-I-pres-prog-know.

[38] ¹/s'ə-m/ earth-obl; ²/γ"əna/ boundary; ³/ø-ø-yə-ʔa-q'əm/ it(boundary)-it(earth)-poss-have-not; ⁴/ø-yə-f'a+s/ her-poss-good+aff = her beloved; ⁵/ø-x"-aγ-q'əm/ he-become-past-not; ⁶/ʎapš/ TI.

[39] ¹/s'ə-m/ earth-obl; ²/ø-ø-f'a-k"-áγ/ you(imp)-it-detri-exit-past; ³/γ"əna/ boundary; ⁴/ø-z-yə-mə-ʔa/ it-which-poss-not-have; ⁵/ø-šə-ʔa-q'əm/ it-deixis-exist-not; ⁶/w-y-a-mə-žə/ you-dir-dat-not-go.

[40] ¹/sa/ I; ²/wá+g"-əm/ sky-surf-obl; ³/ø-ø-yə-t/ which-it-cont-stand; ⁴/váaγ"a-ha-r/ star-pl-abs; ⁵/ø-w-a-s-γa-c'əx"-ə-n-š/ them-you-dat-I-caus-be acquainted-ep v-fut-aff; ⁶/s'ə-m/ earth-obl; ⁷/ø-ø-š'a-š/ under-lie; ⁸/psa+w-əy-əy/ life-adj-even-and; ⁹/w-əy-ʔa-m-ə-š'a/ your-poss-arm-obl-ep v-inst = in the palm; ¹⁰/ø-ø-yə-s-š+ħá-n-š/ it-it(palm)-cont-I-lay+act-fut-aff; ¹¹/s'ə-šħá+fa-m/ earth-head-skin-obl = surface (of the earth); ¹²/ø-ø-t-y-a-t-əy-əy/ it-it(earth)-surf-dir-dat-stand-even-and; ¹³/ø-w-a-s-tə-n-ə-š/ it-you-dat-I-give-fut-ep v-aff.

[41] ¹/á-r-šħa-k"a/ that-inst-head-inst = with this having gone before; ²/žəğ-g"áaša-m/ tree-lady-obl; ³/ø-ž-y-ə-ʔa-r/ what-back-she-non pres-say-abs; ⁴/ø-yə-f'a+s/ her-poss-good+aff; ⁵/ø-mə-x"ə-w/ he-not-become-pred; ⁶/ʎapš/ TI; ⁷/ø-y-a-žə-ž-áγ-š/ he-dir-dat-go-again-past-aff.

[42] ¹/ø-yə-váaq'a-r/ his-poss-shoe(s)-abs; ²/ø-ø-łáažá-w/ which-he-make-pred; ³/ø-yə-šá+a+pa-m/ his-poss-leg+conn+tip-obl = foot; ⁴/ø-q'a-y-ə-f'ax"a-žə-hə-w/ them-incept-he-non pres-don-again-pl-pred; ⁵/ø-yə-báašə-r/ his-poss-walking stick-abs; ⁶/ø-ø-łáažá-w/ which-he-make-pred; ⁷/ø-yə-ʔa-m-ə-š'a-m/ his-poss-arm-obl-ep v-inst-obl; ⁸/ø-q'a-y-ə-məšə-ž/ it-incept-he-non pres-fit(= grasp)-again; ⁹/ø-x"ə-hə-w/ it-happen-pl-pred; ¹⁰/ø-yə-pəʔa-r/ his-poss-hat-abs; ¹¹/wəná-šx"ə-m/ house-big-obl; ¹²/ø-y-ə-š-hə-w/ it(hat)-he-non pres-bring(out)-pl-pred; ¹³/ø-yə-pša-m/ his-poss-neck-obl; ¹⁴/wardəx"-əw/ hoop-pred; (13 and 14 = a torc); ¹⁵/ø-q'a-y-ə-f'aš"ə-žə-hə-w/ them-incept-he-non pres-don-again-pl-pred; ¹⁶/ø-q'-yə-k"ə+ħ-əy-əy/ he-hor-dir-go+around-even-and; ¹⁷/s'ə-m/ earth-obl; ¹⁸/ø-yə-γ"əna-r/ its-poss-boundary-abs; ¹⁹/ø-y-ə-γ"at-aγ-q'əm/ it-he-non pres-find-past-not.

[43] ¹/ø-q'a-y-ə-γa-z+a-ž-əy-əy/ (self)-incept-he-non pres-caus-turn+to-again-even-and; ²/žəğ-g"áaša-m/ tree-lady-obl; ³/ø-dayž/ her-near; ⁴/ø-q'a-y-a-k"'+a+š'+a-ž-áγ-š/ he-hor-her-dat-come+intr+near+at-again-past-aff.

[44] ¹/ø-q'a-w-γ"at-áγ/ it-hor-you-find-past; ²/š'ə-m/ earth-obl; ³/ø-yə-γ"əna-r/ its-poss-boundary; ⁴/ø-q'a-y-a-wəp's'-áγ-š/ she-hor-him-dat-ask-past-aff; ⁵/zəŋ-g"aaša-r/ tree-lady-abs.

[45] ¹/háwa/ no.

[46] ¹/át'a/ so; ²/sə-t/ what-pro afx; ³/ø-q'a-w-γ"at-áγ/ what-hor-you-find-past.

[47] ¹/zə-əy-əy-kʷ/ one-obl-even-inst = nothing.

[48] ¹/át'a/ so; ²/sə-t/ what-pro afx; ³/ø-z-a-w-γa-š'-áγ/ what-self-dat-you-caus-know- past.

[49] ¹/š'ə-m/ earth-obl; ²/γ"əna/ boundary; ³/ø-z-a-r-ø-yə-mə-ʔa-r/ it(boundary)-how-dat-inst-it(earth)-poss-not-have-abs; ⁴/ø-z-a-s-γa-š'-áγ-š/ it-self-dat-I-caus-know-past-aff.

[50] ¹/yə-t'á-a-na/ gen-twice-conn-ord = then; ²/ša/ what.

[51] ¹/c'əx"-ə-m/ person-obl; ²/ø-yə-ʔà+p'q'-lá+p'q'-ə-r/ his-poss-arm+frame-leg+frame-abs = body (as a framework); ³/γ"əš'ə-m/ iron-obl; ⁴/náx-ra/ than-adv; ⁵/z-a-rə-náx-ra/ how-dat-inst-more-adv; ⁶/bəda-r/ hard-abs; (3-6 = how it is harder than iron); ⁷/ø-z-a-s-γa-š'-áγ-š/ it-self-dat-I-caus-know-past-aff.

[52] ¹/yə-t'á-a-na/ gen-twice-conn-ord ; ²/ša/ what.

[53] ¹/z-əy/ one-and; ²/záaq"m/a/ alone; ³/ø-γ"m+a-g"ə-ró-k"m+a-m/ who-road+surf-distr-go+intr-obl; ⁴/náx-ra/ than-adv; ⁵/nax/ more; ⁶/g"ə-γ"/ heart-dry = difficulty; ⁷/ø-z-a-rə-ø-šə-mə-ʔa-r/ it-how-dat-inst-him-deixis-not-exist-abs; ⁸/ø-z-a-s-γa-š'-áγ-š/ it-self-dat-I-caus-know-past-aff.

[54] ¹/a-psa+w-əy-əy/ the-life+adj-even-and; ²/šahrzəna-š/ good, beautiful-aff; ³/ø-ž-y-ə-ʔa-áγ-š/ it-back-she-non pres-say-past-aff; ⁴/zəŋ-g"aaša-m/ tree-lady-obl.

[55] ¹/áwa/ but; ²/náhrt-ha-r/ Nt-pl-abs; ³/ø-yə-yə-psa+wə-nə-w/ they-cont-dir-life+adj-inf-that; ⁴/sə-t/ what-pro afx; ⁵/ø-q'-ø-ah-š"m-a-w-š'-áγ/ what-hor-3-pl-for-you-know-past; ⁶/sə-t/ what-pro afx; ⁷/ø-q'-ø-ah-š"m-a-w-γ"at-áγ/ what-hor-3-pl-for-you-find-past.

[56] ¹/zə-əy-əy-kʷ/ one-obl-even-inst = nothing.

[57] ¹/át'a/ so; ²/á-bə/ that-obl; ³/šhá-kʷa/ head-inst = apart from; ⁴/ø-q'ə-s'a-w-kʷə+ħə-n/ it-hor-earth-you-go+around-inf; ⁵/ø-šə-ʔ-aγ-q'əm/ it-deixis-exist-past-not.

[58] ¹/sa/ I; ²/ø-žə-s-ʔa-áy-m/ what-back-I-say-past-obl; ³/wə-q'a-y-a-ʔ'ə-áy-wa/ you-hor-it-dat-listen-past-that; ⁴/ø-šə-t-áy-m/ it-deixis-stand-past-obl(= if); ⁵/f-yə-łá+p'q'ər/ you(pl)-poss-leg+ bone-abs; ⁶/ø-psa+wə-ħó-w/ it-life-adj-pl-that; ⁷/ø-y-ah-š' a-mə-wəħə-n/ it-3-pl-for-not-finish-subj; ⁸/š'a+nə+γa-w/ know+inf+ness-pred; ⁹/ø-w-a-s-tə-n-t/ it-you-dat-I-give-subj-stand.

[59] ¹/náhrt-ha-r/ Nt-pl-abs; ²/fə-c'əš' / you(pl)-people; ³/yərəś-ś/ stubborn-aff; ⁴/fə-pə+a+ġá+a+ša-ś/ you(pl)-nose+conn+high+conn+defect-aff = you(pl) are woefully proud.

[60] ¹/á-bə/ that-obl; ²/fə-ø-t-y-a-kʷ+a+da-žə-n-ś/ you(pl)-it-surf-dir-dat-go+intr+out-finally-fut-aff = you(pl) will perish from it.

[61] ¹/áwa/ but; ²/q'á-a-n+a-r/ hor-dat-remain+in-abs = survival; ³/ø-yə-yə-psa+wə-nə-w/ it-cont-dir-life+adj-inf-adv; ⁴/ma-yə-s/ it-cont-sit; ⁵/mə-r/ this(near to speaker)-abs; ⁶/ø-fə-s-á-w-t/ it-you(pl)-I-pres-prog-give; ⁷/ø-ž-y-ə-ʔa-əy-əy/ it-back-she-non pres-say-even-and; ⁸/łapś/ TI; ⁹/zə-sahbəy/ one-baby; ¹⁰/dəγa/ sun; ¹¹/ø-q'ə-ʔa+š'-y-ə-ł+ħ-áy-ś/ it-hor-hand+inst-she-non pres-lay+act-past-aff.

[62] ¹/mə-r/ this-abs; ²/wa/ you; ³/w-əy-qʷa-m/ your-poss-son-adv; ⁴/ø-s-da-ħə-ž/ it-me-inside, with-carry-finally.

[63] ¹/sa/ I; ²/š'a+nə+γa-ra/ know+inf+ness-adv; ³/ʔa+š'á+a+γa-w/ hand-inst-conn-ness-adv; ⁴/ø-s-əy-ʔa-r/ it-me-poss-have-abs; ⁵/á-bə/ that-obl; ⁶/ø-ø-łá-s-ł+ħ-áy-ś/ it(knowledge)-it(baby)-into-I-lay-act-past-aff.

[64] ¹/ø-q'á-š'ə-ma/ it-incept-mature-if(= until); ²/ø-z-a-rə-š' / it-how-dat-inst-maturing; ³/ø-f-łàag'-ən-q'a/ it-you(pl)-see-subj-Q(counter to expectation of speaker).

[65] ¹/łapś/ TI; ²/sahbəy-ər/ infant-abs; ³/ø-q'a-y-ə-ħ-əy-əy/ it-hor-he-non pres-

carry-even-and; ⁴/θ-q'a-k™+a-ž-áγ-š/ he-hor-come+intr-back-past-aff.

[66] ¹/psáaλa-w/ word-pred; ²/θ-yə-bza-r/ his-poss-tongue-abs; ³/θ-q'ə-šə-y-ə-wə+t'əpsə-m/ it-incept-deixis-he-non pres-val+set free-adv; ⁴/nährt-ha-m/ Nt-pl-obl; ⁵/θ-q'y-ah-ž-y-ə-ʔa-áγ-š/ it-hor-3-pl-back-he-non pres-say-past-aff.

[67] ¹/m-aw/ this-pred; ²/wá+a+fa-m/ sky+conn+skin-obl; ³/θ-θ-yə-t/ which-it-cont-stand; ⁴/šə+χ"ə-λá+a+γ"ə-r/ milk+white-leg+conn+road-abs = the Milky Way (literally!); ⁵/θ-f-λáaγ"-ə-ra/ it-you(pl)-see-ep v-pres(Q).

[68] ¹/θ-d-a-w-λáaγ"/ it-we-pres-prog-see.

[69] ¹/át'a/ so; ²/z-a-y-k™+a/ when-dat(of when)-dir-go+intr; ³/fə-θ-šə-k™+á-k"ə/ you(pl)-it-deixis-go+intr-both; ⁴/fə-q'ə-θ-šə-k™+á-ž-k"ə/ you(pl)-hor-it-deixis-come+intr-back-and; ⁵/a-r/ that-abs; ⁶/θ-fə-mə-γa-γ"áaša-ma/ it-you(pl)-not-let-get lost-if; ⁷/fa-əy-əy/ you(pl)-even-and; ⁸/fə-γ"áša-n-q'əm/ you(pl)-get-lost-fut-not; ⁹/θ-ž-y-ə-ʔa-əy-əy/ it-back-he-non pres-say-even-and.

[70] ¹/aλəh-aλəh/ Allah-Allah; ²/mə-r/ this-abs; ³/θ-q'á-χ"ə-ma/ it-incept-happen-if; ⁴/zə-baλəh-ər/ one-calamity-abs; ⁵/θ-q'a-y-ə-g"ə+psəsə-n-š/ it-hor-one-non pres-heart+think-fut-aff; ⁶/mə-r/ this-abs; ⁷/θ-θ-χ"ə-sàaq'ə-w/ someone-him-for-care-that; ⁸/p'ə-n/ rear (raise)-inf; ⁹/θ-θ-χ"ə-a-y-š/ he-it-for-need-aff; (7-9 = he needs someone to care for him and rear him); ¹⁰/θ-ž-y-ah-ʔa-əy-əy/ it-back-3-pl-say-even-and; ¹¹/fəz-əy-bλ/ woman-num-seven = the Pleiades; ¹²/θ-by"ə-də-a-y-ah-γa-wəv-áγ-š/ him-side-zone-dat-3-pl-caus-stay-past-aff; ¹³/θ-y-ah-p'ə-nə-w/ him-3-pl-rear-fut-def; ¹⁴/θ-θ-k"ə-λə-pλə-nə-w/ they-him-tail-after-look-fut-def.

[71] ¹/á-r-šha-k"ə/ that-obl-head-inst = after that; ²/zə-máaχ"ə-a-g"ər-əm/ one-day-certain-obl; [³/fəz-ha-m/ woman-pl-obl (omitted by the bard)]; ⁴/sahbəy-ər/ infant-abs; ⁵/θ-[θ-ha-]da-k™+a+sə-k"ə-əy-əy/ he-[3-pl]-opening-go+intr+disappear-exhaustive-even-and = they went all over with him; ⁶/θ-g"əg"ə-wə-ra/ he-play-adv-dist; ⁷/θ-γ"áaša-əy-əy/ he-get lost-even-and; ⁸/θ-k™+a+d-áγ-š/ he-go+intr+out-past-aff = he disappeared.

[72] ¹/fəz-ha-m/ woman-pl-obl; ²/sahbəy-ər/ infant-abs; ³/θ-y-ah-g"/ 3-poss-pl-heart; ⁴/θ-y-a-y-ah-mə-γá-a-š'a-w/ him-it-dat-3-pl-not-caus-conn-know-adv = when they were no longer aware of him; ⁵/θ-za-bθə-rə-ž-ha-əy-əy/ they-recip-middle-along-run-pl-even-and = they scattered out; ⁶/θ-θ-λə-χ"ə-áγ-š/ they-him-after-happen-past-aff = they searched for him; ⁷/á-r-šha-k"ə/ that-obl-head-by = but after that; ⁸/θ-y-ah-γ"ətə-ž-aγ-q'əm/ him-3-pl-find-again-past-not.

[73] ¹/ø-q'a-š"á-y-r/ it-hor-happen-past-adv; ²/náhrt-ha-m/ Nt-pl-obl; ³/ø-q'ə-šə-y-áh-š'a-m/ it-incept-deixis-3-pl-know-adv; ⁴/ø-š-a-s-ha-əy-əy/ they-horse-dat-sit-pl-even-and; ⁵/ø-ø-šə-š"á-y-k"ma/ they-him-after-happen-past-in order to; ⁶/ø-y-a-z-á-y-š/ they-dir-dat-go-past-aff.

[74] ¹/ø-ø-š"á-z+a-á-y-ra/ they-him-for-turn+to-past-adv; ²/ø-zə-šə-y"á-y-r/ him-who-see-past-adv; ³/ø-q'a-y-ah-y"át/ him-hor-3-pl-find; ⁴/ø-mə-š"ə-ma/ it-not-be possible-when; ⁵/yáz-ər/ self-abs, emph; ⁶/ø-y-ah-y"atə-ž-a-y-q'əm/ him-3-pl-find-again-past-not (a passive).

[75] ¹/ø-yə-há-na-m/ his-poss-inh-mother-obl; ²/ø-dayž/ her-near; ³/ø-k"m+a-ž-á-y/ he-go+intr-back-past; ⁴/ø-š"ə-n-š/ it-happen-fut-aff; ⁵/ø-ž-y-ah-ʔa-əy-əy/ it-back-3-pl-say-even-and; ⁶/šapš/ Tl; ⁷/ø-y-ah-ya-k"m+a-á-y-š/ him-3-pl-caus-go+intr-past-aff.

[76] ¹/áwa/ but; ²/sahbóy-ər/ infant-abs; ³/á-bə/ her-obl; ⁴/ø-k"m+a-ž-a-y-ta-q'əm/ he-go+intr-back-past-stand-not, a stative past.

[77] ¹/sə-t/ what-pro affx; ²/ø-t-š"á-nə-w/ what-we-do-fut-def; ³/sə-t/ what-pro-affx; ⁴/d-əy-ʔamáaλ/ our-poss-remedy; ⁵/ø-y-a-wəp"š"á-y-š/ he-her-dat-ask-past-aff; ⁶/á-bə/ her-obl; ⁷/šapš/ Tl.

[78] ¹/zə-ʔamáaλ-əy/ one-remedy-even; ²/ø-ø-yə-ʔa-q'əm/ it(remedy)-it(problem)-poss-have-not.

[79] ¹/yə-zamáhn-ər/ gen-time-abs; ²/ø-q'á-s-ma/ it-hither-reach-if(= when); ³/yáz-əm/ self-obl, emph; ⁴/ø-q'a-y-ə-ya-z+a-žə-n-š/ self-hor-he-non pres-caus-turn+to-again-fut-aff; (1–4 = in time he might return by himself).

[80] ¹/áwa/ but; ²/ø-q'ə-šə-y-ə-ya-z+a-žə-nə-w-ər/ self-hor-deixis-he-non pres-caus+turn-to-again-fut-def-abs; ³/tə-m/ god-obl; ⁴/ø-y-á-š"á/ it-he-pres-know.

[81] ¹/fə-psa+wə-wa/ you(pl)-life+adj-pred; ²/ø-q'a-k"m+á-ž-ma/ y'all(intimate deletion)-hor-come+intr-back-if; ³/f-əy/ you(pl)-even; ⁴/nahšəp-š/ happy-aff; ⁵/ø-q'a-mə-k"m+á-ž-ma/ you(pl)-hor-not-come+intr-back-if; ⁶/f-əy/ you(pl)-even; ⁷/baλəš-š-əy/ calamity-aff-and; ⁸/á-bə/ it-obl; ⁹/fə-ø-t-y-a-k"m+a-da-žə-n-š/ you(pl)-it-surf-dir-dat-go+intr+out-finally-fut-aff = you(pl) will perish from it; ¹⁰/ø-q'ə-y-a-ž-y-ə-ʔa-á-y-š/ it-hor-him-dat-back-she-non pres-say-past-aff.

[82] ¹/λapś/ Tl; ²/ø-yə-šha-r/ his-poss-head-abs; ³/ø-ø-f'a-χ"-áγ-wa/ it-him-detri-bend-past-pred = with his head hanging down in dejection; ⁴/ø-q'a-k"m+a-ž-áγ-ś/ he-hor-come+intr-back-past-aff.

Translation

[1] Tlepsh and Lady Tree

[2] Tlepsh¹ could not make those things for the Narts² that they needed in life. He could not find the necessary knowledge. He had remained in this quandary until he grew desperate. [3] When he could no longer bear this situation, he went to Lady Satanaya³ and beseeched her:

[4] "Lady Satanaya, I am desperate. I cannot uncover what I need to know. [5] I cannot discover it by my own powers. I have pounded out flat all the iron that I have. [6] They say that there is no one who has even a part of your wisdom and generosity. Recall that knowledge which I must have."

[7] "What is there to recall?" said Lady Satanaya, being selfish. "If the Narts need weapons, you make them for them; when the Narts needed a sickle, you made it for them. ⁴[8] You have made what people need to live. [9] Now start to leave and travel the world. See how other peoples live and bring this knowledge back for the Narts. [10] If God does not find you utterly odious, you shall find something."

[11] "What will I need to travel the world?!"

[12] "Do not stop because you have some pressing need. [13] Do no more but merely take one set of clothes for yourself and set off. [14] He who grows millet will love you, and he who breeds cattle is your friend. Because of this, they will not let you die."

[15] Tlepsh tarried no longer. He took a pair of shoes that he had made from the hardest steel, and with these in his hand he set off. [16] Thus Tlepsh travelled swiftly for a long time. For one day he travelled along a forest road. For one year he travelled through a forest. When he came to cliffs, he strode over them. When he came to rivers, he leapt across them. [17] Bounding along, he crossed seven rivers and came to the shore of the Taingyiz Sea.⁵ [18] He walked among a hundred trees. He cut them into logs and bound them together into a raft. He launched it into the water and stayed on the Taingyiz Sea until he had crossed it. [19] He came ashore and saw playing and sitting on the beach, a group of girls with the most lovely eyes that he had ever seen. [20] Tlepsh was instantly enthralled with them, but although he tried hard to grasp them he was unable to catch a single one. While he pursued them, they

slipped past him and darted away. [21] He did not tackle any of them and eventually he turned pale. [22] Then he asked them: [23] "I enjoin you to swear by God. Tell me what manner of women you are. [24] I have never seen your like among my folk. [25] I have not made such a fool of myself in all my experience," he said.

[26] "We are the devotees of Lady Tree," the group of girls replied. [27] "Our Lady will invite you to her house and honour you."

[28] "Set forth! Lead me there!" replied Tlepsh, and he went along, following the path of the devotees. [29] When he reached the place, there stood a tree that you would not have recognised. It was a tree and yet not a tree, a person and yet not a person. You would not be able to comprehend its true nature. [30] Its roots ran deep into the earth. Its hair, like a cloud, rose high into the sky. Its two arms were like a person's, and the cheeks of its face were the loveliest of the lovely. Gold and silver were everywhere. [31] Lady Tree⁶ fell in love with Tlepsh and invited him in. She let him eat and drink, and made him lie down to rest. [32] In the middle of the night, Tlepsh awoke and said to her, "I must seek something," and resolved to leave.

[33] "This will not do!" Lady Tree protested. "I am a princess. Up until now no mere person has reached me."

[34] "I am one of the gods," replied Tlepsh. He stood up and made love to her.

[35] The lady loved Tlepsh and beseeched him, "Don't go! Stay!"

[36] "No, I cannot stay," protested Tlepsh. "I must find the edge of the earth and from there bring back knowledge for the Narts."

[37] "Do not set off, Tlepsh. I shall give you the knowledge that you need. My roots run deep into the ground. I know the life that lies under the earth. My hair rises up into the sky and I know the life that is in the heavens. [38] The earth has no edge."⁷ But Tlepsh would not be her beloved.

[39] "Would you set off into the world which doesn't have a boundary? It doesn't exist. Don't go! [40] I shall acquaint you with the stars of heaven. I shall place in your palm that life that lies beneath the earth, and I shall give you all that is on the surface of the earth."

[41] After all that Lady Tree had said, he still would not become her beloved. [42] He put the shoes that he had made on his feet, hefted in his palm the walking stick that he had made, took his hat down from off the wall, and put his torcs about his neck. He set off and travelled all over, but he did not find the edge of the earth. [43] He turned back and returned to Lady Tree.

[44] "Did you find the earth's edge?" asked Lady Tree.

[45] "No."

[46] "So, what did you find?"

[47] "Nothing."

[48] "So, what did you learn?"

[49] "I learned how the earth has no boundary."

[50] "Then what?"

[51] "I learned how a person's body is harder than iron."

[52] "Then what?"

[53] "I learned how there is no road more difficult than that which is travelled alone."

[54] "And that life is beautiful," replied Lady Tree. [55] "But what did you learn for the welfare of the Narts? What did you find for them?"

[56] "Not a thing."

[57] "So, there is nothing from your travelling about apart from that. [58] If you had stood and listened to what I said, I would have given you the knowledge so that the life in your limbs might not end. [59] You Narts are a stubborn people. You are proud. [60] You shall perish from this. [61] But, I give you this in which sits life and survival," she said and she placed in Tlepsh's arms a baby sun.⁸ [62] "I carried this within me as your son. [63] The knowledge that I hold I have placed in it. [64] Will you not look after its growth until it matures?"

[65] Tlepsh returned carrying the infant. [66] He let loose the words of his tongue and said to the Narts:

[67] "Do you see the Milky Way in the sky above?"

[68] "We see it."

[69] "Then, when you go forth at night on a raid and when you return, if you do not lose him, you will not be lost," he said.

[70] "Lord! If that were to happen, it would be considered a calamity. He needs someone to rear him and take care of him," said seven women.⁹ They stayed by his side and reared him, looking after him.

[71] After this, one day the infant went out and disappeared. He became lost while playing, and vanished. [72] The women no longer sensed the infant's presence, and scattered out to look for him. They could not find him.

[73] When the Narts learned that this had happened, they went out on horseback to search for him. [74] They turned this way and that and looked about, but were unable to find him. He was not to be found.

[75] "He must have gone back to his mother," they said, and so they sent Tlepsh after him. [76] But the infant had not gone back to her.

[77] "What should we do? What is our remedy?" Tlepsh asked her.

[78] "There is no remedy. [79] A time may come when he returns on his own."¹⁰ [80] But God knows if he will return. [81] If you all return alive from your raids, then you will be happy. If you do not return, then it will be your calamity and you will have perished because of this," she replied to him.

[82] Tlepsh returned home, his head hanging in dejection.

Notes

¹God of the forge and benefactor to the Narts.

²A race of heroes, the central characters of the sagas. There are one hundred of them.

³The central woman of the Nart sagas. She is mother to all the Narts. She is famed not only for her beauty and fertility, but also for her great wisdom. She has a volatile character and can be stingy or vindictive. In most of the other sagas she has a close relationship with Tlepsh.

⁴This refers to another saga in which Tlepsh invents the first sickle so that the Narts may harvest their grain.

⁵This may be the Sea of Azov, just to the northwest of the traditional home of the Circassians and Kabardians.

⁶This appears to be a female personification of a world tree, very similar to the Norse world tree, Yggdrasil.

⁷This appears to be a remarkable bit of folk-knowledge regarding the spherical geometry of the earth.

⁸This baby sun proves to be the Milky Way.

⁹These seven women may be the seven sisters of the Pleiades star cluster.

¹⁰The Milky Way may have proven useful as a guide on the moonless nights favoured in the past for cattle raids. The Milky Way is high in the night sky, however, only during the winter and summer months. This seasonal character is explained by this myth.

Appendix B

Symbols and Abbreviations

ʔ	=	unreleased stop
ˌ	=	syllable boundary
V̆	=	pharyngealised or adyatalised vowel
V˙	=	long vowel, vowel which fills its syllable's coda
V<	=	vowel fronted from its customary target
V>	=	vowel backed from its customary target
˘	=	vowel with primary stress
˙	=	vowel with secondary stress
3	=	'he,' 'she,' 'it,' 'him,' 'her,' 'it'
A	=	adjective node
abs	=	absolutive case
acc	=	accusative case or role
act	=	active
adj	=	adjective
adv	=	adverb
aff	=	affirmative mood
afx	=	affix
ag	=	agent
C	=	complementiser
caus	=	causative
com	=	comitative
comp	=	complement
conj	=	conjunction
conn	=	connective
cont	=	container
dat	=	dative
def	=	definite time
det	=	determiner
detri	=	detrimentive

dir	=	direction
distr	=	distributed through space or time
DO	=	direct object
DQ	=	dubitative question
dyn	=	dynamic
emph	=	emphatic
ep v	=	epenthetic vowel
exp	=	expostulation
fut	=	future
gen	=	genitive
ger	=	gerund (a participle-like form that can take case endings)
hor	=	horizon of interest
incept	=	inceptive (change of state)
imp	=	imperative
inf	=	infinitive
INFL	=	inflection node (much like the old Aux(iliary) node)
inh	=	inherent
inh poss	=	inherent possession
inst	=	instrumental
intr	=	intransitive
IO	=	indirect object
irreal	=	irrealis
juss	=	jussive
loc	=	locative
m	=	marked
N	=	noun node
neg	=	negative
non pres	=	non-present tense vowel (/ə/)
num	=	number
num conn	=	numerical connective
obl	=	oblique case
opt	=	optative
part	=	participle
pl	=	plural
poss	=	possessive, possessed
postp	=	postposition
pot	=	potential
PP	=	postpositional phrase

pred	=	predicative case
pres	=	present tense
PreV	=	pre-verb
Pro	=	pronoun
pro	=	pronominal suffix
prog	=	progressive aspect
Q	=	question complementiser
quant	=	quantifier
recip	=	reciprocal
ref	=	referential
refl	=	reflexive
S	=	sentence node or subject
sg	=	singular
stat	=	stative affirmative
StemP	=	stem phrase
subj	=	subjunctive
surf	=	surface
V	=	verb node
val	=	valence
wh	=	interrogative index

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*Following the ethnic conventions of Circassian and Chinese, these names are automatically in the order surname–given name, and therefore do not take a comma.