

How ants made a child forget about her mother

Langue: Northern Tat

ID: nort2643_03_ants

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Source: Maqsud Hacıyev *Düta birar* ('Two brothers'; Baku: Azərneşr, 1993).

- (1) *yä düxtär-lä bä-bir-än bä yä di*
one girl-DIM IPFV-be₂-PRS:3 LOC one village
'Once upon a time, there is a girl who lives in a village.'
- (2) *in düxtär-lä=yä hičkäs=ü nä-bä-bir-än*
this girl-DIM=OBL no one=POSS:3 NEG-IPFV-be₂-PRS:3
'This girl does not have any family.'
- (3) *yä ʕäzizxäläf-ä may=ü bä-bir-än*
one cherished-ATTR mother=POSS:3 IPFV-be₂-PRS:3
'she only has her beloved mother.'
- (4) *nä-bast-än-üm ä qäzyä=yü ä pır=ü ya bälkä ä baxt in*
NEG-IPFV.know₂-PRS-1SG from incident=COP:3 from shrine=COP:3 or maybe from luck this
düxtär-lä=yü
girl-DIM=COP:3
'I do not know whether it was due to an incident, an invocation, or perhaps the girl's bad luck'
- (5) *yä ruz in may=ü=riş bun dünya raft-äni bä-bir-än*
one day this mother=POSS:3=ADD LOC.that world go₂-GRDV IPFV-be₂-PRS:3
'but one day her mother also passes away.'
- (6) *gal bä-zär-än düxtär xiştän=ä maç quç bäst-än zän-lä čüm-ay*
call IPFV-hit₂-PRS:3 girl self=OBL kiss hug IPFV.do₂-PRS:3 woman-DIM eye-PL.BS
xiştän=ä hämşäluq bä-bäst-än
self=OBL forever IPFV-close₂-PRS:3
'The woman calls her daughter over, gives her a kiss and a hug, and then closes her eyes for the last time.'
- (7) *in düxtär-lä äz in bädä haruz bart-än bäsär qäbür may xiştän*
this girl-DIM from this after every day IPFV.go₂-PRS:3 on grave mother self
'After that, the girl goes to visit her mother's grave every day.'
- (8) *yä sähät sä sähät bä-giräst-än ʕärs čüm xiştän sayıl bäst-än*
one hour three hour IPFV-cry₂-PRS:3 tear eye self flood IPFV.do₂-PRS:3
'She cries and sheds tears there for an hour or three.'
- (9) *ʕämäʕät äni di čän qädä fikir şükür bäst-än-und in düxtär=ä äz*
people of this village how many CLS idea gratitude IPFV.do₂-PRS-3PL this girl=OBL from
in ʕädat dursan-und bä ʕämäl nä-b-amar-än
this custom far MOD:do₁-3PL LOC deed NEG-IPFV-come₂-PRS:3

'No matter how hard the villagers try to discourage the girl from continuing this habit, their efforts prove to be in vain.'

- (10) *in küškä duxtär-läyā sal vasal zumustun bart-än b-amar-än bäsär*
 this small.ATTR girl-DIM one year spring winter IPFV.go₂-PRS:3 IPFV-come₂-PRS:3 on
qäbür may xištän
 grave mother self
 'For a year, through summer and winter alike, the little girl visits her mother's grave.'
- (11) *in xäbär bart-än bä yä quĵä-yä märd äni di ba-rasir-än*
 this news IPFV.go₂-PRS:3 LOC one old-ATTR man of this village IPFV-reach₂-PRS:3
 'This news reaches an elderly man from the same village.'
- (12) *in quĵä bätir-än ki in duxtär in kar=ä diyä Sädat saxt-e*
 this old IPFV.say₂-PRS:3 SUB this girl this work=OBL already custom do₂-PRF:3
 'The elderly man says: "This girl has already formed a habit of doing this.'
- (13) *ü=rä tärk saxt-än hä čatun-tä bistän baš-ü*
 3SG=OBL abandoning do₂-INF FOC difficult-COMP PROSP MOD:be₁-3SG
 'It is going to be more difficult to make her drop (this habit).''
- (14) *xäbär astar-und märd-un äz in quĵä*
 news get₂:PST-3PL man-PL from this old
 'The men (of the village) asked the elderly man.'
- (15) *axir imu čü san-im ki ha bä dül äni yetim=iš nä-varaftän-im*
 end we what MOD:do₁-1PL SUB ITJ LOC heart of this orphan=ADD NEG-MOD:touch₁-1PL
dül=ü=rä xürd nä-san-im
 heart=POSS:3=OBL broken NEG-MOD:do₁-1PL
 'But what shall we do then that would not hurt this orphan's feelings and would not break her heart'
- (16) *häm=iš ki äz in haruz unĵä raft-än ä bä sähät-a-yaz giräst-än ü=rä*
 also=ADD SUB from this every day there go₂-INF from LOC hour-PL-with cry₂-INF 3SG=OBL
xulas san-im
 salvation MOD:do₁-1PL
 'but at the same time, would prevent her from going there every day and crying for hours?''
- (17) *quĵä gufti*
 old say.PST:3
 'The elderly man said.'
- (18) *bär-ind bäsär äni säyäl yä kurä mužnä raha tin-ind diyä*
 MOD:carry₁:2SG-2PL on of this child one pile ant free MOD:give₁-2PL already
bäsär qäbür may xištän bisän nä-bu-ray
 on grave mother self PROSP NEG-MOD-go₁:3

‘Take a swarm of ants and release it on this child(’s path), and she is not going to visit her mother’s grave anymore.’”

- (19) *čänäm ki in qujä-yä märd guftir-ebü hä untä=riš saxt-und*
 how SUB this old-ATTR man say₂-Pqp:3 FOC that way=ADD do₂:PST-3PL
 ‘They did it the way the old man had told them.’
- (20) *duxtär säbähin ama ki bu-ray bätän qäbür may xištäni di ki*
 girl the next day come₂:PST:3 SUB MOD-go₁:3 near grave mother self₃ see₂:PST:3 SUB
yä kurä mužnä bädärü ra=yü kar bäst-än
 one pile ant inside road=COP:3 work IPFV.do₂-PRS:3
 ‘The following day, as the girl made her way to her mother’s grave, she encountered a swarm of ants diligently at work on the road.’
- (21) *ništ bä tamašä di ki här yäki yä čiz bä duhun=ü bä yä*
 sit₂:PST:3 LOC observation see₂:PST:3 SUB each one:HEAD one thing LOC mouth=POSS:3 LOC one
taraf yä kām-a=yiš ki hä ti bä üzgä taraf bart-an-und
 direction one little-PL=ADD SUB FOC empty LOC other direction IPFV.go₂-PRS-3PL
 ‘She sat down to watch them and noticed that each one, having something in its mouth, (was moving) in one direction and a few (others), unloaded, were moving in the other direction.’
- (22) *qäykinü bä ü in läzzät da ki küškä mužnä-ha bä duhun=šun*
 especially LOC 3SG this enjoyment give:PST:3 SUB small.ATTR ant-PL LOC mouth=POSS:3PL
häčan dä-tay=šun čiz bart-an-und
 as if ten-CLS.BS=POSS:3PL thing IPFV.go₂-PRS-3PL
 ‘What fascinated her the most was witnessing the tiny ants carrying objects nearly ten times their own size.’
- (23) *ništ ništ in bä tamašä bä in mužnäkurä*
 sit₂:PST:3 sit₂:PST:3 this LOC observation LOC this anthill
 ‘She remained seated as she watched this anthill.’
- (24) *yä växt di ki bürun šangun bir-e*
 one time see₂:PST:3 SUB outside evening be₂-PRF:3
 ‘Suddenly she realised that night had fallen.’
- (25) *växišt raft bä xunä*
 get up₂:PST:3 go₂:PST:3 LOC home
 ‘She stood up and went home.’
- (26) *säbähin växišt raft yära=yiš bäqal qäbür may xištän*
 the next day get up₂:PST:3 go₂:PST:3 once=ADD toward grave mother self
 ‘The next day, she got up and once again made her way to where her mother’s grave was.’
- (27) *di in mužnäkurä=yä ništ bä tamašä saxt-än*
 see₂:PST:3 this anthill=OBL sit₂:PST:3 LOC observation do₂-INF
 ‘She noticed the anthill and sat down to observe it.’

- (28) *yä växt di ki šangum bir-e*
 one time see₂:PST:3 SUB evening be₂-PRF:3
 ‘Suddenly she realised that night had fallen.’
- (29) *växišt raft bä xunä*
 get up₂:PST:3 go₂:PST:3 LOC home
 ‘She stood up and went home.’
- (30) *yä čän ruz växišt ki bu-ray bätän qäbür may xištäni ama bänd*
 one how many day get up₂:PST:3 SUB MOD-go₁:3 near grave mother self₃ but tied
bü bä in mužnäkürä
 be₂:PST:3 LOC this anthill
 ‘She set off in order to go and visit her mother’s grave but she found herself captivated by the anthill.’
- (31) *bäfdä diyä qäbür may hič bä biyar=ü nä-afta*
 then already grave mother at_all LOC memory=POSS:3 NEG-fall₂:PST:3
 ‘Afterwards the thought of her mother’s grave never occupied her mind again.’
- (32) *hä bätän in mužnäkürä ama*
 FOC near this anthill come₂:PST:3
 ‘She kept visiting the anthill.’
- (33) *raft-und märe-un bätän äni qujä-yä märe ki*
 go₂:PST-3PL man-PL near of this old-ATTR man SUB
 ‘The men went to see the elderly man (and said):’
- (34) *vaykälä märd e in šäyäl diyä bäsär qäbür may xištäni nä-bart-än*
 VOC big.ATTR man VOC this child already on grave mother self₃ NEG-IPFV.go₂-PRS:3
 ‘Our elder, this child does not visit her mother’s grave anymore.’
- (35) *änjaq haruz bätän äni mužnäkürä bart-än*
 only every day near of that anthill IPFV.go₂-PRS:3
 ‘But every day she visits the anthill.’
- (36) *kälä märd gufti*
 big.ATTR man say.PST:3
 ‘The elder said:’
- (37) *bašgun ü hasand=ü*
 okay 3SG easy=COP:3
 ‘Alright, this is easy.’
- (38) *bu-ra-yind mužnäkürä=yä varzun-ind mužnä-ha bä üzgä jigä bu-rand*
 MOD-go₁-2PL anthill=OBL MOD:demolish₁-2PL ant-PL LOC other place MOD-go₁-3PL
duxtär=iš diyä unjä nä-mu-ray
 girl=ADD already there NEG-vt-go₁:3
 ‘Go and disturb the anthill so that the ants move somewhere else, and the girl will not go there anymore.’

- (39) *intä=iš saxt-und*
 this way=ADD do₂:PST-3PL
 ‘This is what they did.’
- (40) *kurey=šun=ä varzund-ä bāšdä mužnä-ha bā üzgä jīgä raft-und*
 pile.BS=POSS:3PL=OBL demolish₂-PTCP after ant-PL LOC other place go₂:PST-3PL
 ‘After the hill was disturbed, the ants moved to a different location.’
- (41) *duxtär yä ruz dū ruz raft unjā ništ di hičiz nist*
 girl one day two day go₂:PST:3 there sit₂:PST:3 see₂:PST:3 nothing NEG.COP
 ‘The girl went there once or twice but saw nothing there.’
- (42) *växišt ama bā xunä diyä bäsär qäbür may xištän nä-raft*
 get up₂:PST:3 come₂:PST:3 LOC home already on grave mother self NEG-go₂:PST:3
nä-giräst
 NEG-cry₂:PST:3
 ‘She got up and returned home and since then never visited or cried by her mother’s grave.’

Abbreviations

1 first person	ITJ interjection
2 second person	LOC locative
3 third person	MOD modal
ADD additive	NEG negative
ATTR attributive	OBL oblique
BS bound stem	PL plural
CLS classifier	POSS possessive
COMP complementizer	PRF perfect
COP copula	PROSP prospective
DIM diminutive	PRS present
FOC focus	PST past (preterite)
GRDV gerundive	PTCP participle
HEAD head	SG singular
INF infinitive	SUB subordinator
IPFV imperfective	VOC vocative

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