

# Lesson 7

## Your Turn 1

The seventh lesson of each set of seven will give you the opportunity to put your skills to use in translating from English into Láadan. This story will also be fairly cartoonish, but don't let that stop you from having fun with it.

Language is a fluid medium; there are always many ways to convey the same information. That said, my translation will be *one* way of rendering the English text into Láadan; yours may very well be another—especially as we go along and have more vocabulary and grammatical features with which to work.

### Vocabulary

ábed	farm	modi	to be ugly
ada	to laugh	na-	Prefix (verb): to begin to VERB; to start VERBing
belid	house	omid	horse
boshum	cloud	owa	to be warm
dithemid	cow	rahíya	to be large [ra- (NON) + híya (be small)]
do	to be strong	rahowa	to be cold [ra- (NON) + owa (be warm)]
doól	at last; finally	ralóolo	to be quick; to be rapid; to be fast [ra- (NON) + lóolo (be slow)]
dozh	to be easy	rohoro	storm
edemid	mouse [ede (grain) + mid (creature)]	róomath	barn
éeb	juice; sap	rul	cat
éesh	sheep	shóod	to be busy
éezh	goat	thée-	Prefix (verb): about to VERB, but not any minute
ham	to be present; there is/are	thu	honey
híya	to be small	woth	wisdom; used as a verb: to be wise
hob	butter	yom	to be safe; to be secure
-hul	Degree Marker: to an extreme degree; extremely	yul	wind
id	and then		
lal	milk		
lalom	to sing		
lóolo	to be slow		
meénan	to be sweet (flavor)		

In English we say “It’s windy,” or “It’s cold,” or “It’s stormy.” There’s no specific thing being referred to by the “it” in these English sentences; it’s just the way we talk about the weather. Every language has little pieces of “how we say” certain things that, transposed word for word into another language, make no sense; language students call these pieces “idioms.” In Láadan the idiom for speaking about the weather involves the verb “ham” followed by the weather effect (sun, rain, wind, storm, and so on). So the English “It’s windy,” would be, in Láadan, “ham yul.” Of course, this sentence may need the Type-of-Sentence word and Evidence word: “Bíi ham yul wa.”

Notice, also, the ending “-hul”. This is the first we’ve seen of a whole set of Degree Markers. This one means that the verb to which it is attached is an “**extremely**” form of itself. This is straightforward in stative verbs (verbs that discuss a state of being—translated into English as adjectives); with active verbs (verbs that discuss an action—translated into English as verbs), “-hul” would intensify the action; the English would resemble “**VERB extremely hard**” or some such.

There are verb prefixes that seem, in the English translation, like “helping verbs,” but in Láadan they are just ways you can modify any verb. Two such are “**na-**” (**begin to VERB; start VERBing**) and “**thée-**” (**about to VERB, but not any minute**), listed above.

## English Text

### The Farm

It was an ugly day. It was cloudy, windy and cold, and it was about to storm. The people were busy and working hard. But they sang, and then the work was easy.

The cows and pigs were big, and the horses were strong. The goats were wise, and the sheep were slow. The cats were quick; the mice were small and afraid. At last the animals were safe; the barn was strong. And then the storm began.

The house was strong and warm. There was bread and butter and honey. There were milk and juice. The bread was warm; the honey and the juice were sweet. The people ate, and sang and talked and laughed.

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# Your Láadan Translation & Retranslation into English

The Farm

L: \_\_\_\_\_

E: \_\_\_\_\_

It's an ugly day.

L: \_\_\_\_\_

E: \_\_\_\_\_

It's cloudy, windy and cold, and it's about to storm.

L: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The people are busy and working hard.

L: \_\_\_\_\_

E: \_\_\_\_\_

But they sing, and then the work is easy.

L: \_\_\_\_\_

E: \_\_\_\_\_

The cows and pigs are big, and the horses are strong.

L: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The goats are wise, and the sheep are slow.

L: \_\_\_\_\_

E: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The cats are quick; the mice are small and afraid.

**L:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**E:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

At last the animals are safe; the barn is strong.

**L:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E:** \_\_\_\_\_

And then the storm begins.

**L:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E:** \_\_\_\_\_

The house is strong and warm.

**L:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E:** \_\_\_\_\_

There is bread and butter and honey.

**L:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E:** \_\_\_\_\_

There is milk and juice.

**L:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E:** \_\_\_\_\_

The bread is warm; the honey and the juice are sweet.

**L:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**E:** \_\_\_\_\_

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The people eat, and sing and talk and laugh.

**L:**

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**E:**

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# My Láadan Translation with Morphemic Analysis & Retranslation into English

The Farm

Ábed

Ábed

FARM

The/A Farm

It was an ugly day. It was cloudy, windy and cold, and it was about to storm. The people were busy and working hard. But they sang, and then the work was easy.

Bíide modi sháal wo. Meham boshum, yul i rahowa, i théeham rohoró. Meshóod i mehalehul with. Izh melalom with, id dozh hal.

Bíide modi sháal wo.  
DECL + NARR BEUGLY DAY MADEUP

Meham boshum, yul i rahowa, i théeham rohoró.  
PL + BEPRESENT CLOUD WIND AND COLD AND ABOUTto- + BEPRESENT STORM

Mesháad i mehalehul with.  
PL + BEBUSY AND PL + WORK + DEGEXTREME PERSON

Izh melalom with, id dozh hal.  
BUT PL + SING PERSON ANDTHEN BEEASY WORK

The day was ugly. It was cloudy, windy and cold, and it was about to storm. The people were busy and working extremely hard. But the people sang, and then the work was easy.

The cows and pigs were big, and the horses were strong. The goats were wise, and the sheep were slow. The cats were quick; the mice were small and afraid. At last the animals were safe; the barn was strong. And then the storm began.

Bíide merahíya dithemid i muda, i medo omid wo. Mewoth éezh, i melóolo éesh. Meralóolo rul, i mehiya i mehéeya edemid. Doól meyom mid; do róomath. Id naham rohoró.

Bíide merahíya dithemid i muda, i medo omid wo.  
DECL PL + BELARGE Cow AND PIG AND PL + BESTRONG HORSE MADEUP

Mewoth éezh, i melóolo éesh.  
PL + WISDOM GOAT AND PL + BESLOW SHEEP

Meralóolo rul, i mehiya i mehéeya edemid.  
PL + BEQUICK CAT AND PL + BESMALL AND PL + BEAFRAID MOUSE

Doól meyom mid; do róomath.  
ATLAST PL + BESAFE CREATURE BSTRONG BARN

Id naham rohoró.  
ANDTHEN BEGIN + BEPRESENT STORM

The cows and horses were large, and the horses were strong. The goats were wise, and the sheep were slow. The cats were quick, and the mice were small and afraid. At last the animals were safe; the barn was strong. And then it began to storm.

Notes

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The house was strong and warm. There was bread and butter and honey. There were milk and juice. The bread was warm; the honey and the juice were sweet. The people ate, and sang and talked and laughed.

Bíide do i owa belid wo. Meham bal i hob i thu. Meham lal i éeb. Owa bal; memeénan thu i éeb. Meyod i melalom i medi i mehada with.

Bíide	do	i	owa	belid	wo.
DECL + NARR	BESTRONG	AND	BEWARM	HOUSE	MADEUP

Meham	bal	i	hob	i	thu.
PL + BEPRESENT	BREAD	AND	BUTTER	AND	HONEY

Meham	lal	i	éeb.
PL + BEPRESENT	MILK	AND	JUICE

Owa	bal;	memeénan	thu	i	éeb.
BEWARM	BREAD	PL + BESWEET	HONEY	AND	JUICE

Meyod	i	melalom	i	medi	i	mehada	with.
PL + EAT	AND	PL + SING	AND	PL + SPEAK	AND	PL + LAUGH	PERSON

The house was strong and warm. There were bread and butter and honey. There were milk and juice. The bread was warm; the honey and the juice were sweet. The people ate and sang and talked and laughed.

## My Láadan Text

### Ábed

Bíide modi sháal wo. Meham boshum, yul i rahowa, i théeham rohoró. Meshóod i mehalehul with. Izh melalom with, id dozh hal.

Bíide merahíya dithemid i muda, i medo omid wo. Mewoth éezh, i melóolo éesh. Meralóolo rul, i mehíya i mehéeya edemid. Doól meyom mid; do róomath. Id naham rohoró.

Bíide do i owa belid wo. Meham bal i hob i thu. Meham lal i éeb. Owa bal; memeénan thu i éeb. Meyod i melalom i medi i mehada with.

## Comments

Yes, this is a *lot* of new vocabulary; the topic required more than was planned. But you can handle it. And at least some of the new vocabulary items are just opposites of words we already knew; Láadan forms opposites of many words by simply adding the prefix “*ra-*” (NON).

Patterned after the corresponding feature in many Romance languages—as well as the emerging standard in English—Suzette Haden Elgin held that the verb “*ham*” when used in the “*there is/are*” sense would never be pluralized. While this works well in languages where the noun carries the plural, in Láadan where the plural is only carried on the verb, this leads to confusion. Also, it can be very difficult to determine whether the meaning of “*ham*” should be translated “*be present*” (which would be pluralized) or “*there is/are*” (which would not).

The second generation took the decision to pluralize “*ham*” wherever more than one Subject is being discussed, regardless of whether “*be present*” or “*there is/are*” is intended.

Because the weather idiom was coined before the second generation took the decision to pluralize “*ham*” wherever appropriate—and because there really is only one weather, no matter how many facets thereof are being discussed in a single sentence—the weather idiom is always singular. For example, “*It’s windy, cloudy, and cold,*” would be “*Bíi ham yul, boshum, i rahowa wa.*”