

# Lesson 53

## Sex & Anatomy

We've seen the most basic words for some functions of the healthy female body; it shouldn't surprise you to find that there are more, richer terms for this realm of women's experience.

Some of the words in the vocabulary of this lesson were coined using non-standard processes, eliding (deleting) various parts of the constituent words. The etymologies given here, where not straightforward, are “best guesses” as to the sources that inspired these words.

### Vocabulary

<b>lila</b>	to female-sex-act <i>previously presented in Lesson 38</i>
<b>lilahá</b>	lover; one who carries out the female sexual act (not of males)

### Female Sexual Anatomy

<b>abathede</b>	clitoris [ <b>aba</b> (fragrant) + <b>thede</b> (jewel)] {RB, BG, PJ}
<b>hib</b>	ovary(ies) [ <b>hibid</b> (testicle) <b>subtract -id</b> (MASC): this is known in linguistics as a “back-formation”] {YML}
<b>liliháaláa</b>	labia [ <b>lili</b> (wet) + <b>-háalish</b> (DEGREEEXTRAORD) + <b>láa</b> (perception)] {JP}
<b>lul</b>	vagina
<b>nemeháalish</b>	clitoris [ <b>nem</b> (pearl) + <b>-háalish</b> (DEGREEEXTRAORD)] {RB, BG}
<b>wodama</b>	exterior female genitalia [ <b>wohóol</b> (entire female genitalia) + <b>dama</b> (touch)] {SH}
<b>wohóol</b>	entire female genitalia [ <b>woho</b> (all; every) + <b>óol</b> (moon)] {SH}

### Menstruation

From Suzette Haden Elgin:

[An] example of an English word that distresses me [...] is “menstruation.” [It's] ugly; it's hard to pronounce; it hovers on the very edge of violating English phonology. And then there's the fact that it's the name of an experience every woman has for most of her life—but its first syllable is *men*! Etymology or no etymology, there sits “men” at the beginning of that word. It's infuriating. But there it is, and there's no way to get rid of the darned thing. Which is one reason why I gave it so much attention when I constructed Láadan...

<b>osháana</b>	to menstruate; menstrual <i>previously presented in Lesson 10</i>
<b>ásháana</b>	to menstruate joyfully
<b>desháana</b>	to menstruate early
<b>elasháana</b>	to menstruate for the first time
<b>husháana</b>	to menstruate painfully
<b>wesháana</b>	to menstruate late
<b>zhesháana</b>	to menstruate in synch with another woman [ <b>zhe</b> (similar) + <b>osháana</b> (menstruate)]

Notes

## Pregnancy

lawida	to be pregnant <i>previously presented in Lesson 9</i>
lalewida	to be joyfully pregnant
lewidan	to be pregnant for the first time
lóda	to be wearily pregnant
widazhad	to be pregnant, late in term and eager for the end

## Menopause

zháadin	to menopause <i>previously presented in Lesson 3</i>
azháadin	to menopause uneventfully
elazháadin	to menopause when it's welcome

While we'd seen **zháadin** before, what we hadn't seen was its etymology: [**zháa** (wrinkle (in the skin))].

## Blood

We've already seen **ili** (water) and **óol** (moon), the bases for most of these words.

luhili	blood [ <b>ili</b> (water)] {SH}
luwili	birth blood [ <b>luhili</b> (blood)] {SH}
óolewil	menstrual blood [ <b>óol</b> (moon) + <b>luwili</b> (birth blood)] {SH}
óolewod	sanitary napkin [ <b>óolewil</b> (menstrual blood) + <b>od</b> (cloth)] {SH}
nilewod	tampon [ <b>nil</b> (inside) + <b>óolewod</b> (sanitary napkin)] {SH}

## Male Sexual Anatomy

bom	penis
bom	household oil
hibid	testicle(s)
hibidim	scrotum [ <b>hibid</b> (testicles) + <b>dim</b> (container)] {YML}

Beware puns “confusing” **bom** (penis) with **bom** (household oil)! Hee hee!

## Exercises

Some friends have agreed to help by providing sentences for us to translate—and one even gave us some short poems! The exercises for this lesson are going to be a little different from what we've seen before; the original English will be followed by a note or two as to the why and wherefore of the translation provided, and then space for you to translate into Láadan and then back into English. A translation will follow, along with morphemic analysis and a re-translation into English.

You may want to cover the provided translation, do your own, and then compare the two.

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**From Heather:**

- 1 She menstruated joyfully when she knew that she was **not** pregnant.

This sentence is translated using “beróo” (because) rather than “úyahú” (when).

La: \_\_\_\_\_

En: \_\_\_\_\_

Bíi eril ásháana be wáa beróo lothel be lawida rahóo behé.

Bíi    eril    ásháana    be    wáa    beróo    lothel    be  
DECL   PAST   MENSTRUATEJOY   X1   TRUSTED   BECAUSE   KNOW   X1

lawida    rahóo    behé.  
BEPREGNANT   NEG + FOCUS   X1 + EMBED

She menstruated joyfully because she knew that she was not pregnant.

- 2 Bethany, being very pregnant, dreams of chocolate.

Heather made it clear that her intention was for the English phrase “very pregnant” to be translated “widazhad” (pregnant, late in term and eager for the end).

Do you remember the idiom for “about X”? We use “bethu” [be (X) + -thu (PARTV)], literally “of him/her/it”. This is what we would use for “of chocolate” in #2.

La: \_\_\_\_\_

En: \_\_\_\_\_

Bíi ozh widazhad Bétheni beháa ahanath bethu wáa.

Bíi    ozh  
DECL   DREAM

widazhad    Bétheni    beháa  
BEPREGNANTNEARTERMEAGER    BETHANY    X1 + EMBEDREL

ahanath    bethu    wáa.  
CHOCOLATE + OBJ    X1 + PARTV = ABOUT    TRUSTED

Bethany, who is pregnant, near term and eager for the end, dreams about chocolate.

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3 No one understands her clitoris like her new lady lover.

Grammatically, we cannot modify “lover” with both “new” and “lady”; the relativizer will operate on only one verb at a time. We’ll therefore incorporate “lady” into “lover”: “lilahá” (doer of the female sex act). The feminine suffix is superfluous when considering the verb “lila;” it is the female sex act, after all.

La: \_\_\_\_\_

En: \_\_\_\_\_

Bíi en rawith nemeháalish bethath zhe en wobun wolilahá betho wáa.

Bíi	en	rawith	nemeháalish	bethath	zhe
DECL	UNDERSTAND	NoONE	CLITORIS	X1 + POSS <sub>BIRTH</sub> + OBJ	BE <sub>ALIKE</sub>
en	wobun	wolilahá	betho	wáa.	
UNDERSTAND	REL + Be <sub>NEW</sub>	REL + FEMALE <sub>SEXACT</sub> + DOER	X1 + POSS	TRUSTED	

No-one understands her clitoris like her new lover does.

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**From Layne:**

4 Hot flash at midnight! She runs naked out into the Blind Snow Storm.

The first sentence isn't, in fact, a sentence; it seems more in the nature of a warning.

We needed a word for "hot flash"; that word is "zháahóowadin" (hot flash, primary indicator of full menopause) [zháadin (menopause) + óowa (fire)] {AB & LA}; it was coined during the writing of this lesson in response to Layne's expressed need for a word for this meaning and has been added to the official Láadan dictionary.

Another word we require is "honáal" (the hours between midnight and dawn) {SH}.

The phrase "Blind Snow Storm" doesn't really mean that the storm cannot see; it means that the storm is so severe that we cannot see in it—seems like a job for a degree marker.

La: \_\_\_\_\_

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En: \_\_\_\_\_

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Bée zháahóowadin honáaleya wo! Yime be, bud raden, rohorothúul hishethudi nil.

Bée	zháahóowadin	honáaleya	wo!	Yime	be,
WARN	HOTFLASH	HOURS MIDNIGHT DAWN + TIME	MADEUP	RUN	X1

bud	raden,	rohoroháalish	hishethudim	nil.
CLOTHING	NON + ASSOC = WITHOUT	STORM + DEGEXTRAORD	SNOW + PARTV + GOAL	INSIDE

[warning] Hot-flash in the wee hours! She runs, without clothing, into the extraordinarily intense snow-storm.

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- 5 She is the wrinkled Sage  
 She turns blood into water  
 And then drinks her fill  
 Beneath the blood moon

We're translating "turn blood into water" as "[CAUSE<sub>TO</sub> + Change] [Blood + OBJ] [Water + GOAL]".

"To drink her fill" we're translating as "[Drink] [X1] [Be full] [X1 + EMBED + TIME] [Until]". The rest should be fairly straightforward.

La: \_\_\_\_\_

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En: \_\_\_\_\_

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Bíidu bi wozháa wowothám;

Bíidu	bi	wozháa	wowothám;
DECL + POETIC	XHON1	REL + WRINKLE	REL + WISDOM + DOER = SAGE + IDENT

[Statement, poetic] She is [a/the] wrinkled sage;

Dósheb bi luhilith ilidim

Dósheb	bi	luhilith	ilidim
CAUSE <sub>TO</sub> + CHANGE	XHON1	BLOOD + OBJ	WATER + GOAL

She changes blood to water

Id rilin bi ume bihéya hathobéeya

Id	rilin	bi
ANDTHEN	DRINK	XHON1

ume	bihéya
BEFULL	XHON1 + EMBED + TIME

hathobéeya

UNTIL  
 And then she drinks until she is full

Óol luhilithusha yil wo.

Óol	luhilithusha	yil	wo.
MOON	BLOOD + PARTV + PLC	BELOW	MADEUP

Below the moon of blood.

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6 **desháana**: a rose tattoo left behind on the upholstered seat

This is given as a definition, so it is translated as “in teaching”—despite the poetic nature of its form.

We have no word for “**tattoo**”; we’ll use “**uzh**” (**symbol—of notation, alphabet, orthography**)—loosely, “**glyph**.”

We also have no word for “**upholstery**” or “**upholstered**”; we’ll translate this as “**the cloth of the chair**,” the word for “**chair**” is **dalewodewan** [**dalel** (**object; made-thing**) + **wod** (**sit**) + **-wan** (**PURP**)].

The phrase “**left behind**” is an idiom for which we have no counterpart in Láadan; we’ll render it using the clause “**she departs**” as an embedded Time-case element.

La: \_\_\_\_\_

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En: \_\_\_\_\_

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Bíidi desháana náham woshahina wohuzh od dalewodewanethusha nasháad behéya arileháam wa.

Bíidi	desháana				
DECL + DIDACT	MENSTRUATEEARLY				
náham	woshahina	wohuzh	od	dalewodewanethusha	
CONT + BePRESENT = REMAIN	REL + ROSE	REL + SYMBOL	CLOTH	CHAIR + PARTV + PLC	
	nasháad	behéya			
	BEGIN + COMEGO = DEPART	X1 + EMBED + TIME			
	arileháam				
	FUT + EMBEDREL + IDENT				
wa.					
MYPERC					

Early menstruation is the rosy glyph that remains on the fabric of a chair after she departs.

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7 wesháana was her worry, but all she could do was wait

Note how Láadan is creeping into Layne’s sentences; it’s so much more convenient to have the *right* word!

We’ll need a word we haven’t seen heretofore: “neril” (to wait).

La: \_\_\_\_\_

En: \_\_\_\_\_

Bíi eril wesháana lhitharil bethom, izh thad neril neda be wa.

Bíi	eril	wesháana	lhitharil	bethom,
DECL	PAST	MENSTRUATELATE	WORRY	X1 + POSS + IDENT

izh	thad	neril	neda	be	wa.
BUT	BEABLE	WAIT	ONLY	X1	MYPERC

Menstruating late was her worry, but she could only wait.

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8 with herb tea and a pillow nest,  
painful menstruation made her take a rest

It feels odd in Láadan, but for poetic emphasis we're deviating from standard Láadan word-order to more closely mirror the English.

We'll also need a verb here that we haven't seen before: "dul" (to refresh; to give rest); in this construction husháana, rather than "refreshing" (dul) her, causes her to "refresh" (dódul) "herself" (beth beyóoth).

We also lack a word for "nest", so we'll use a circumlocution, drawing a word-picture of many pillows around her.

La: \_\_\_\_\_  
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En: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Bíidu zhu theshethunan i thomenan menedebe besha o,  
 Bíidu zhu theshethudan i thomedan menedebe besha o,  
 DECL + POETIC TEA HERB + PARTV + INSTR AND PILLOW + INSTR #>5 X1 + PLC AROUND  
 With tea of herbs and many pillows around her,

eril dódul husháana beth beyóoth wo.  
 eril dódul husháana beth beyóodim wo.  
 PAST CAUSETO + GIVEREST MENSTRUATEPAIN X1 + OBJ X1 + REFLX + GOAL MADEUP  
 painful menstruation caused her to give herself a rest.

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- 9 Labia hide the beautiful clitoris,  
Both wet with wanting  
to share  
sweet lover's touch

We'll need a verb we haven't seen before: "rumad" (to hide; to cover; to put away) {SH}.

Another word we'll need is "shimá" a straightforward "doer" form derived from "shim" (to sex-act).

La: \_\_\_\_\_

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En: \_\_\_\_\_

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Bíidu merumad liliháaláa woháya wohabathedeth,

Bíidu	merumad	liliháaláa	woháya	wohabathedeth,
DECL + POETIC	PL + HIDE	LABIA	REL + BeBEAUTIFUL	REL + CLITORIS + OBJ

Labia hide the beautiful clitoris,

Melili bezh woho mahawáan;

Melili	bezh	woho	mahawáan;
PL + BeWET	X2-5	#ALL	SEXDESIRE + COZ

They all are wet from sexual desire;

Menéde mehedethi bezh woho

Menéde	mehedethi	bezh	woho
PL + WANT	PL + SHARE	X2-5	#ALL

They all want to share

wolema wodama shimáthoth wo.

wolema	wodama	shimáthoth	wo.
REL + BeGENTLE	REL + TOUCH	SEXACT + DOER + POSS + OBJ	MADEUP

sexual partner's gentle touch.

No

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- 10 All she did was sit and weep  
 But the other got busy and began to sweep  
 All she did was wonder why  
 As the other washed the windows and looked out to the sky

Notice the parallel construction in the English distinguishing “she” from “the other.” In Láadan we have no way to phrase “the other” so Layne approved the recasting of the poem in terms of “I” and “she.”

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En: \_\_\_\_\_

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Bíidu eril wod i delishe neda lehóo,

Bíidu	eril	wod	i	delishe	neda	lehóo,
DECL + POETIC	PAST	SIT	AND	WEEP	ONLY	I + FOCUS

I only sat and wept,

Izh nahal i nawush behóo wo.

Izh	nashóod	i	nawush	behóo	wo.
BUT	BEGIN + BeBUSY	AND	BEGIN + BROOM	X1 + FOCUS	MADEUP

But she began to be busy and sweep.

Bíidu dibáa neda lehóo bebáawáanehéé,

Bíidu	dibáa	neda	lehóo
DECL + POETIC	QUESTION	ONLY	I + FOCUS

bebáawáanehéé

QPRN1 + COZ + EMBEDQ

I only asked why

Úyahú dóhéthe behóo demeth i il behóo thosheth wo.

Úyahú	dóhéthe	behóo	demeth	i	il	behóo	thosheth	wo.
CONJTIME	CAUSETO + BeCLEAN	X1 + FOCUS	WINDOW + OBJ	AND	PAYATTN	X1 + FOCUS	SKY + OBJ	MADEUP

When she cleaned the window and regarded the sky.

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- 11 Put some bom in the palm before putting the palm on the bom and the bom palm will palm the bom quite pleasantly.

There's a new word (invented for this exercise, and since added to the official Láadan dictionary): "niloma" (palm of the hand) [nil (inside) + oma (hand)] {AB}. Added to the dictionary along with "niloma" was "raniloma" (back of the hand) [ranil (outside) + oma (hand)] {AB}.

There's another word that we're encountering for the first time: "méeshim" (sexual pleasure) [méesh (pleasure, not sexual) + shim (to sex-act)].

As with so many plays on words—even ones, like this one, intended to work on puns in another language—the translation is nowhere nearly so elegant as the original. Indeed, part of my difficulty with the punning aspect of this piece is that we're not using "niloma" (palm) as a verb. Try your hand (oh, my! pun discovered) at it; you may do better than I.

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En: \_\_\_\_\_

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Bíida bere dóham ne bom nilomasha nil dama ne bometh nilomananehéya eril, ébere dama wobom woniloma bometh méeshimehalenal wa.

Bíida	bere	dóham	ne	bom	nilomasha	nil
DECL + JEST	If...	CAUSE <sub>TO</sub> + BE <sub>PRESENT</sub> = PUT	You1	OIL	PALM <sub>OF</sub> HAND + PLC	INSIDE

dama	ne	bometh	nilomananehéya	eril,
TOUCH	YOU	PENIS + OBJ	PALM <sub>OF</sub> HAND + INSTR + EMBED + TIME	PAST

ébere	dama	wobom	woniloma	bometh	méeshimehalenal	wa.
...THEN	TOUCH	REL + OIL	REL + PALM <sub>OF</sub> HAND	PENIS + OBJ	SEXPLEASURE + DEGUNUSUAL + MANN	MYPERC

[Jest] If you put oil in the palm before you touch the penis with the palm, then the oily palm touches the penis quite sexual-pleasurably.

Nc

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On the other hand (there's that pun again), what if we *did* use “**niloma**” as a verb? And, if we're going that far, what about using “**bom**” as a verb, as well? We might come up with something quite a bit more elegant....

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En: \_\_\_\_\_

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Bíida bere bom ne nilomath niloma ne bomethehéya eril, ébere niloma wobom woniloma bometh méeshimehalenal wa.

Bíida	bere	bom	ne	nilomath
DECL + JEST	IF...	OIL	YOU	PALMOfHAND + OBJ

niloma	ne	bomethehéya	eril,
PALMOfHAND	YOU	PENIS + OBJ + EMBED + TIME	PAST

ébere	niloma	wobom	woniloma	bometh
...THEN	PALMOfHAND	REL + OIL	REL + PALMOfHAND	PENIS + OBJ

méeshimehalenal	wa.
SEXPLEASURE + DEGUNUSUAL + MANN	MYPERC

[Jest] If you oil the palm before you palm the penis, then the oiled palm palms the penis quite sexual-pleasurably.

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