

Supplement: Psalm 23

English Text

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters;
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me, all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
Amen.

Láadan Translation with Morphemic Analysis & Retranslation into English

Psalm 23

Sháam Thabeshin i Boóya

Sháam Thabeshin i Boóya
PSALM #10 + #2 = #20 AND #3 + TIME = THIRD

Twenty-Third Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Bíidu Lahila nayahá letham wa; rathi le rahóodaleth.

Bíidu nayahá letham rathi rahóodaleth.
DECL + POETIC CAREFOR + DOER I + POSSBIRTH + IDENT NON + HAVE = LACK (NON + THING = NOTHING) + FOCUS + OBJ
Lahila wa; le I
HOLYONE MYPERC

The Holy One is my carer; I lack absolutely nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters;
He restores my soul.

Dóráú Ba leth mewoliyen wodunesha;
Dódoth Ba leth mewowam wohilisha íb;
Dónetháa Ba óotha lethath.

Dóráú	Ba	leth	mewoliyen	wodunesha;
CAUSE _{TO} + LIE _{DOWN}	XLOVE1	I + OBJ	PL + REL + BE _{GREEN}	REL + FIELD + PLC

Dódoth	leth	mewowam	wohilisha	íb;
CAUSE _{TO} + FOLLOW	I + OBJ	PL + REL + BE _{STILL}	REL + WATER + PLC	AGAINST
Ba				
XLOVE1				

Dónetháa	Ba	óotha	lethath.
CAUSE _{TO} + AGAIN + THRIVE	XLOVE1	SOUL	I + POSS _{BIRTH} + OBJ

S/He causes me to lie down in green fields.
S/He causes me to follow next to calm waters;
S/He causes my soul to thrive again.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Dódoth Ba leth weth shadethusha óobe zha Bathada.

Dódoth	leth	shadethusha	óobe	Bathada.
CAUSE _{TO} + FOLLOW	I + OBJ	BE _{PERFECT} + PARTV + PLC	ALONG	XLOVE1 + POSS _{BIRTH} + BENEF
Ba	weth		zha	
XLOVE1	PATH		NAME	

S/He causes me to follow along path(s) of purity/perfection on behalf of Her/His name.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Íizha óomasháad le Yed Rawíthusha obe,
héeya le ramíilith raho úwáanú Na leden;
meshe dáan Natha i oyi Natha leth.

Íizha	óomasháad	le	Rawíthusha	obe,
ALTHOUGH	FOOT + COME _{GO} = WALK	I Yed VALLEY	NON + LIFE = DEATH + PARTV + PLC	THROUGH

héeya	ramíilith	raho	Na	leden;
BE _{AFRAID}	NON + RADIANCE = EVIL + OBJ	#0	YOU _{LOVE1}	I + ASSOC
le		úwáanú		
I		CONJ _{COZ}		

meshe	Natha	i	Natha	leth.
PL + COMFORT	YOU _{LOVE1} + POSS _{BIRTH}	AND	YOU _{LOVE1} + POSS _{BIRTH}	I + OBJ
dáan		oyi		
WORD		EYE		

Although I walk through the Valley of Non-Life,
I fear absolutely no evil because Thou art with me;
Thy word and Thine eye comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

Dóham Na anath i ranath leda ham lebethu letho rawáan.

Dóham	anath	ranath	ham	letho
CAUSE _{TO} + BePRESENT	FOOD + OBJ	BEVERAGE + OBJ	BePRESENT	I + POSS
Na	i	leda	lebethu	rawáan.
YouLOVE1	AND	I + BENEF	ENEMY + PARTV	NON + COZ = DESPITE

Thou causest food and drink to be present for me despite the presence of my enemy(ies).

Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.

Boóbin Na delith lethath oma Nahóothanan; ume ni letho hadihad.

Boóbin	lethath	Nahóothanan;	ume	letho
BRAID	I + POSS _{BIRTH} + OBJ	YouLOVE1 + FOCUS + POSS _{BIRTH} + INSTR	BeFULL	I + POSS
Na	oma		ni	hadihad.
YouLOVE1	HAND		CUP	ALWAYS
delith				
HAIR				

Thou braidest my hair with Thine Own Hand; my cup is always full.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me, all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Aril mesháad thal i yidan leden, hulehul, sháal wíthu lethaya woho;
i habelid le lod Lahila Bathasha ril i aril i rilrili.

Aril	i	leden,	sháal	lethaya
FUT	AND	I + ASSOC	DAY	I + POSS _{BIRTH} + TIME
mesháad	yidan	hulehul,	wíthu	woho;
PL + COME _{GO}	MERCY	FOR _{SURE}	LIFE + PARTV	#ALL
thal				
BeGOOD				

i	le	Lahila	ril	
AND	I	HOLY _{ONE}	i	
habelid	lod	Bathasha	aril	
DWELL	HOUSEHOLD	XLOVE1 + POSS _{BIRTH} + PLC	i	
				rilrili.
			PRES	
			AND	
			FUT	
			AND	
			HYPOTH	
			FOREVERMORE	

Goodness and mercy will go with me, for-sure, every day of my life,
and I shall dwell in the Holy One's household forevermore.

Amen.

Othe.

Othe

AMEN

Amen.

Láadan Text

Sháam Thabeshin i Boóya

Bíidu Lahila nayahá letham wa; rathi le rahóodaleth.
Dóruu Ba leth mewoliyen wodunesha;
Dódoth Ba leth mewowam wohilisha íb;
dónetháa Ba óotha lethath.
Dódoth Ba leth weth shadethusha óobe zha Bathada.
Íizha óomasháad le Yed Rawíthusha obe,
héeya le ramíilith raho úwáanú Na leden;
meshe dáan Natha i oyi Natha leth.
Dóham Na anath i ranath leda ham lebethu letho rawáan.
Boóbin Na delith lethath oma Nathanan; ume ni letho hadihad.
Ari mesháad thal i yidan leden, hulehul, sháal wíthu lethaya woho;
i habelid le lod Lahila Bathasha ril i aril i rilrili.
Othe.

Comments

There are two lines in Psalm 23 in which the Láadan differs quite dramatically from the English. In the first of these, the English refers to “**Thy rod and Thy staff:**” one a weapon and the second an instrument of corporal punishment. Neither of these would be appropriate to the Deity in Láadan culture.

In the second, the English is “**Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup overflows.**” Láadan began as a woman’s language; any woman being offered the “gift” of having her head anointed with oil is going to—more or less graciously—decline; it’s wasteful and messy and requires that her hair, body, and clothes will all need to be cleaned afterward. On the other hand, the Deity Herself braiding her hair is a loving, caring gesture that brings only positive associations. Likewise, an overflowing cup is just a mess that she’s going to have to clean up; the substitution of an always-full cup gives the sense of abundance without the negative consequences.