

“Smooth” or “Final” English Translations Only

Original English

This is the sad story of Sassaššaš and Neḑemmi.

A long time ago, when the sun and the moon were young, Sassaššaš and Neḑemmi loved each other very much. He thought that Neḑemmi was as beautiful as the liana flower. She thought that Sassaššaš was as sturdy as the umbrella tree. Their mothers and maternal aunts had arranged a marriage. The wedding would happen tomorrow.

Sassaššaš walked into the forest. Up high in a tree he saw a hummingbird’s nest. He thought: Beautiful Neḑemmi would surely like some hummingbird’s eggs. Sassaššaš climbed high in the tree and he took the eggs. He brought them to Neḑemmi.

Neḑemmi said: Thank you, O my Love. Sassaššaš grinned. She opened the eggs to cook them. Inside there were baby hummingbirds.

Neḑemmi grasped her stomach in fear. She said: Inside my womb our baby is growing. Because you took these eggs, the baby hummingbirds have died. Now our baby will die at birth the same! Now I shall never marry you!

Sassaššaš’s heart was filled with sorrow. He ran into the forest and he climbed the high tree. He threw himself down onto the rocks and he died.

From Beltös (translated by Francesco Bravin)

(Italian)

Si racconta la triste storia di Sassaššaš e Neḑemmi.#

Tanto tempo fa, quando il sole e la luna erano giovani, Sassaššaš e Neḑemmi si amavano davvero moltissimo.

Egli pensava che Neḑemmi fosse bella come un fiore di liana. Ella pensava che Sassaššaš fosse forte come l’albero ombrello. Le loro madri e le loro zie materne avevano concordato il matrimonio. Lo sposalizio avvenne l’indomani.

Sassaššaš camminava nella grande foresta. Vide il nido di un povero colibrì dentro un albero molto alto. Egli pensò che Neḑemmi sarebbe stata soddisfatta di sicuro dalle belle uova del

povero colibrì. Sassaššaš si arrampicò molto in alto sull'albero e prese le uova. Egli le portò a Nefemmi.

Nefemmi disse: "Grazie, amore mio!". Sassaššaš fece un grande sorriso. Ella ruppe le uova per cucinarle.

Dentro le uova c'erano dei piccoli colibrì.

Nefemmi spaventata si afferrò la pancia. Ella disse: "I nostri piccoli crescono dentro il mio utero. Poiché io ho preso queste uova, i poveri piccoli colibrì sono morti. Adesso i nostri piccoli moriranno durante la nascita allo stesso modo! Adesso io ti rifiuto per sempre!"

Lo spirito di Sassaššaš era davvero molto triste. Egli corse dentro la foresta e si arrampicò su un albero molto in alto. Egli si lanciò giù sulle rocce e morì.

(English)

It is told the sad story of Sassassas and Nefemmi.

Once, when the Sun and the Moon were young, Sassassas and Nefemmi loved each other a lot indeed.

He thought that Nefemmi was as beautiful as a rose flower. She thought that Sassassas was as strong as an oak tree. Their mothers and maternal aunts agreed/arranged the marriage/wedding. The marriage/wedding took place the day after.

Sassassas was walking in the respectful forest. He saw the nest of a poor sparrow on a very high tree. He considered that Nefemmi would be really happy with the beautiful eggs of the poor sparrow. Sassassas climbed very high on the tree and grabbed the eggs. He brought them to Nefemmi.

Nefemmi said: "Thank you, my love!". Sassassas smiled a lot. She broke the eggs so that she would cook them.

In the eggs there were baby sparrows.

Nefemmi scared held her belly. She said: "Our babies grow in my womb. Since I have taken possession of those eggs, the poor baby sparrows have died. Now our baby will die during birth in the same way! Now I reject you forever!"

The spirit of Sassassas was very sad. He ran in the forest and climbed very high on a tree. He threw himself down on the rocks and died.

From Danan (translated by Aneurin Underhill)

Such is told the sad story of Sassassas and Nefemmi: At the time when the sun and moon were young, Sassassas and Nefemmi loved each other very much. Sassassas thought that Nefemmi was as lovely as a rose. Nefemmi thought that Sassassas was as strong as an oak. Her head of household said that Nefemmi might marry Sassassas, so, when a day had passed, she married him.

Later, Sassassas was walking around in the auspicious forest. He noticed up above a pitiful bird's nest in a tree. He thought about the nice bird's eggs, and he thought that they would make Nefemmi happy. Sassassas climbed high up in the tree and took the eggs. He brought them back to Nefemmi. Nefemmi said, "Thank you, my love!" and Sassassas smiled greatly.

After, in the course of boiling the eggs, the eggs broke. Those eggs held little sparrows inside. Nefemmi held her belly suddenly, afraid. She said, "I carry our growing children in my womb. Because I received these eggs carelessly, the poor birds died. Thus, our children shall die when they are born. For this reason, I now disown you."

The person formerly known as Sassassas became very sad. He ran into the forest, and he climbed up far in a tree. He threw his body down onto some rocks, and he died.

From Kooskeve (translated by Daniel Swanson)

The sad story of Sasonaso [he who has applause] and Nemfik [looks at death] is generally told like this: In the time in which the sun and moon were young, Sasonaso and Nemfik loved each other very much. According to Sasonaso, Nemfik's aroma was as pleasing as a rose. According to Nemfik, Sasonaso was as strong as an oak tree. <The house-leader> permitted their marriage and so the next day they got married.

After that, Sasonaso was fatefully walking in the forest. Upon a tree near a cute bird's nest he noticed something. In his opinion, the bird's eggs were beneficial and would be pleasing to Nemfik. Sasonaso very much climbed the tree and he lifted the eggs with his hands. He transported the eggs to Nemfik. Nemfik said "Thank you for 6 and 6, my love." Sasonaso smiled greatly.

After that, they boiled the eggs and they opened them. The eggs contained little birds. Nemfik suddenly hugged her stomach with her hand and she was afraid. She said "In my womb I hold the growth of my child-to-be. The little bird in this egg was injured by carelessness and died because of me. Similarly, my child-to-be will die when I have given birth to him. <Because I have disregarded a name due to you.>"

Her happiness was erased. She fled into the forest and she very much climbed a tree. She threw herself and she very much threw her onto a rock and she died on it.

From Sajem Tan (translated by Carl Avlund)

They tell this story, which is about Aphu and Thithi. Before the sun and the moon were old, Aphu and Thithi loved each other. To Aphu, Thithi smelled of pear flowers. To Thithi, Aphu was strong like an oak. Because the leader of the house allowed them to ceremoniously become a couple, they ceremoniously became a couple during the next day.

Then Aphu came upon an egg in the forest because life had planned this action. In a tree he saw something next to the nest of a cute bird. He suspected that the bird's egg would be healthy and that Thithi would enjoy the bird's egg. Aphu climbed into the tree and then grabbed an amount of eggs with his hand. He brought the eggs to Thithi. Thithi said "Thank you for these twelve! Their wonderfulness is overflowing!" Aphu smiled brightly.

Then they boiled the eggs, and then they lifted them. The eggs has contained chicks Suddenly Thithi put her hand on her stomach and panicked. She said "In my womb, there is a baby that grows. The bird's chicks became injured with me being inconsiderate, and because of me they died. This is just like my own baby dying while I'm giving birth to it. I didn't know your name."

Her happiness disappeared. Fleeing she ran into the forest and then climbed the tree. She jumped from the tree, and she jumped down onto a rock and then died.

From Pakan (translated by Noah Schorr)

They continue to tell the story of Apfu and Sithi. Apfu and Sithi loved one another in the times before the sun and Galehaven were old. Sithi showed Apfu the blossoms of a tree. Apfu showed Sithi the strength of the tree. Because the master of the house allowed it, they married the next day.

And then Apfu found an egg in the forest because fate allowed it. He saw a river falcon perched in a tree. He suspected that Sithi would enjoy the falcon's eggs. He climbed up into the tree and grabbed many eggs. He brought the eggs to Sithi. Sithi said "Thank you! You have brought me twelve splendid things." Aphu smiled.

And so they cooked the eggs and lifted them. The eggs were hiding the eggs' hatchlings. Suddenly, Thithi put her hand to her belly and panicked. She said "A baby is being grown in my

womb. I accidentally hurt the eggs' hatchlings and I think that they are dead because of me. It is a sign that my baby will die when I give birth. I didn't know your name."

She and her happiness abandoned one another. She ran into the forest and climbed up a tree. She jumped from the tree onto a rock and died suddenly.

From Amaktiri (translated by Joey Windsor)

This is the story of Ovah and Shildam. Ovah and Shildam had loved each other in the era before Beda. Shildam showed the blossom of the date palm tree to Ovah and Ovah showed the strength of the date palm tree to Shildam. As a result of their encounter with the date palm tree, Beda named the fourth day Shildam's hand and the fifth day Ovah's hand.

Ovah went to the date palm grove to get a gift for Seon. There, he noticed a hawk in a date palm tree. He thought that Shildam might like a hawk egg. And so, he climbed the date palm tree and he grabbed all the eggs and he brought them to Shildam. Shildam said: "Thank you for these twelve eggs" and Ovah smiled.

And so, they cooked the eggs to have a feast. However, there were baby hawks inside the eggs.

Suddenly, Shildam put a hand onto her belly and she began to panic. She said: "An infant is growing in my womb. We have unintentionally hurt these baby hawks and I think that this is an omen that our baby may never know our names."

The lovers' happiness abandoned them. They ran into the grove and climbed a date palm tree and leapt over the rocks below them.

But, they didn't die. They flew into the sky as hawks themselves.

From Dal'a (translated by Tony Harris)

The Story of Kovane and Atrelana

In the time before time when the Silver People were young, Kovane and Atrelana love each other. While they are exploring Paradise Atrelana finds a fig flower and shows it to Kovane. And Kovane shows Atrelana the strong fig tree. Their love is celebrated because of this meeting, as is told in the Book of the Ancestors.

The couple received a gift from the Beloved Creator, and Atrelana's womb was filled. Kovane goes to fetch figs for Atrelana, and he notices a hawk that lands in a tree. He decides to give the

hawk's eggs to Atrelana as a gift. So he climbs the tree and grabs the eggs and brings them back to Atrelana. Atrelana says "Thank you for the eggs", and Kovane smiles.

They cook the eggs and feast. But the hawk had found that her children had been stolen and asks them to be avenged by the Spirits of the Forest, and the Spirits curse the smoke from the cooking fire.

Suddenly Atrelana panics and clutches her belly. Atrelana says "Without understanding we killed these hawk-children and so this curse has arrived. The name of the child of my womb will never be known by me."

In that moment the couple's joy is broken. They run to the fig grove and climb the tree to throw themselves against the rocks below.

But God listens to all that the hawk asked, and causes them to become hawks, in order to replace the hawk-children, and they fly away into the vast sky.

From Alurhsa (translated by Padraic)

The Dream Flyer's Tale

Their voices spoke from afar; so very far away, I knew not whence. I crouched, my wings lifting me high; leaping, I brought them down and as in a gale I flew up over the pale sky of Yeola. From this end of the heavens to that end of the heavens I flew and me following their voices. Tales they told of wonder & of dread as are our own tales. People like us they seemed to me; perhaps even Denê like us? They know the Creator & whom they name Wônyadis, the Mother of All, the Heavenly Father. They venerate the mighty Powers & whom they name Teshen. And they revere Encanicco, the first mated couple, & whom they name Cwenyatreliyana.

In the youth of the Denê, Enca & Nicco loved each other greatly. While they were walking, they went into a new land, into the East; Enca found there beautiful flowers, the deep red of the curiyom; and Nicco gathered its fruit, the deep black-red of the curiyom.

There in the orchard the couple embraced and under the boughs of the wood they sang. And Annanay blessed them & Enca's belly filled with life. Nicco went out one morning to fetch curiyom for his Enca, and climbing a very tall tree found that a great bird had made its nest. The bird flying away, Nicco grabbed what he could from the nest and brought eggs and younglings to Enca. Again the couple embraced and they sang and they feasted.

But the bird had seen Nicco's deed and she prayed for vengeance and the Treewarden spoke doom on the Denê couple. And in speaking doom, the smoke from their cooking fire grew and

choked them, and Nicco fell. It snuffed the fires dead; and it snuffed Enca's baby dead. She grasped at her lifeless belly and she too fell, and she dreamed.

"We took your younglings not knowing your nature!" Enca said.

"Sarcaysarcayan are we, a tribe of raptors. Hunters are we, as are you and your mate." As the great bird spoke, she saw his teeth, and she knew.

She felt sorrow, and said: "A right doom was laid upon us and the child of my belly."

When they awoke, grief overcame them. They lifted up their baby and allowed the bird to consume its body. Now when the bird of prey hearkened to all that had been said and done, it too was grieved.

The Treewarden came then again, speaking to them, bound the Denê and the Raptorfolk together as one. Ever after, the children of Enca and Nicco wear wings of deep red and black, trimmed with black-green and blue; and Sarcaysarcayan taught the Denê all about squimb and monocq the toothless; and the children of Sarcaysarcayan hunt upon their arms, flying high into the pale sky over Yeola.

From Morcangdie (translated by Josef Wolanczyk)

They called me from afar, from very far away. I do not walk. I sit in meditation; I lift high my arms, now wings; I leap; I bring down my wings. Flying like a hummingbird I pass through the spirit-sky lit by the Midnight Sun. The heavens flew past me, and the voices summoned me. They told me a story, of wonder and dread, like the tales we tell. They seemed to be people; perhaps like my people? They know the Creators, whom they call *Nichimunchatu*, whom we call *Rinah*, the High One, and *Galah*, the Low One, and *Uñśah*, the Third One. They know of the jinn, whom they call *Qawquchatu*. They revere their First Parents, whom they call *Nuaqaatuysa*.

Under the light of the Blue Sun, Eka and Naku loved each other strongly. They flew, they did not walk, and they came to a new country, to the south. Eka found in this place beautiful red horn-flowers, and Naku gathered black-red gooseberries.

In this faraway place, in the orchard, the couple embraced; in this faraway place, under the boughs, the couple sang of the puna. Galah blessed them and filled the belly of Eka with life. And then in the morning Naku went to fetch gooseberries for his Eka, and while he climbed to the top of a tall tree, he found a large bird nest. The beautiful bird flew away, and Naku grabbed everything that he found in the nest, and he brought the eggs and younglings to Enca. They embraced again, and they sang, and they feasted.

But the bird saw the thing that Naku had done, and then the bird prayed for vengeance, and bade *Uuñu Mayuqhuysa*, the Tree-Warden, bring doom upon the Qumor couple. Their doom was spoken; the smoke from their fire grew and held them and choked them and Naku fell. It smothered the fire, then Eka's baby, to death. It held Eka down, her belly lifeless, and then Eka fell like the others; and she dreamed.

Eka said: "We took the babies, but we did not know thy nature, Lady."

The bird said: "I am Machiputa, of the Llasurtanka Tribe, the phoenixes. We are hunters, like you and your mate." While the bird spoke, Eka saw its crest, and then she knew.

She grieved and said: "What doom is upon us, and upon the child in my belly?"

Thereupon she awoke, and grief overcame them. They lifted up their child and allowed the bird to consume its body. Now, when Machiputa remembered everything she had said and they had done, she grieved as they did.

Uuñu Mayuqhuysa came forth again, and he said to them: "I bind the Qumor and Llasurtanka, human and phoenix, to be as one." And then, ever after, the children of Eka and Naku wear black and gold wings and trim them with all colours. Machiputa taught them of the crestless duck and goose. And the children of Machiputa hunt in the forests, flying high across the bright skies of the mortal and spirit realms.

From Classical Salvian (translated by Enrique Gamez)

<Pay attention, everyone, for I will now tell you a tale that I learned while I was on my moweber journey. One day, while the sun shone in the sky, a lark landed before me to sing, and in its song I heard this tale from another plane of existence. Even to this day, I am actually unable to understand it, but nevertheless I assure you it is important, for a tale from a lark is always true! Therefore I am going to narrate it for you - pay attention and remember it well!>

<In Zelev times or even before lived a woman and a man whose names were Ekah and Nakuh; they were the *Nuaqaatuyasa*, the first people in this alternate reality who begat all other people there, who are the *Qumor* people. Each loved the other very much.> They flew and walked to the south and after a long while they reached a new land. <There Ekah noticed some ripe red flowers, and Nakuh gathered their dark *kullu* fruits, similar to huge strawberries.>

<Far from the kullu patch, the couple hugged and had sex under the branches of a tree, and Ekah became pregnant.> Some time later, Nakuh was gathering kullu fruits in the morning for Ekah, and while climbing a tall tree, he found a large nest. A beautiful bird flew away and Nakuh

seized the entire nest, and carried the eggs and babies to Ekah. They hugged and had sex again and thereupon, enjoyed a feast.

But, the bird had been watching Nakuh and was preparing to strike back; she called the *Uuñu Mayoqhoysa*, the Treeguard, so as to bring about the doom of the Qumor couple. To that end this spirit started a fire and the smoke spread everywhere, and it (the smoke) choked Nakuh and knocked him unconscious. It (the spirit) smothered the fire and Ekah's child. It pinned Ekah and, her womb lifeless, the woman fell unconscious like the others and she began to sleep and dream.

In the dream Ekah said to the bird, We took the children, but we knew they were yours. The bird said, I am *Machiputa Llasurtanka*, <one of the fire spirits>. We are hunters the same as you and your lover. As she listened to the bird's words Ekah realized this was true and understood.

Thereupon she was sad and said, What of the child in my womb?

She awoke grieving because they had stolen the babies. She lifted up her child and allowed the bird to eat it. Machiputa told her of her words and deeds, grieving also.

And it seemed as if Uuñu Mayoqhoysa came then and said, Bind together the Qumor and Llasurtanka so that they become one people.

From then on, the children of Ekah and Nakuh had black and gold wings that shone in all colors. Machiputa showed them places where there were ducks and animals they could eat. With the fire spirit, Machiputa, they gathered food and flew through the sky of <both the Fey Realm and the Mortal Realm.>

From Tallfellow (translated by Jeffrey Brown)

Listen, everyone, for now I shall tell you a story that I heard during my expatriation. On that day, while the sun was shining brightly in the sky, a lark perched in front of me to sing. I listened to the lark's song and its story was about an alternate world different from ours. Today, I understand that this story cannot actually be factual, but I assert that it is nevertheless significant because a story from a lark is forever true! So, I shall recite it for you – pay attention and consider it well.

At the time of the Zelev Empire or even before, a woman and a man lived and their names were Ega and Nago. They were the First Woman and the First Man of the Qumor people in that different place. Each loved the other very much. They flew and walked south and after a long time arrived at a new land. In that place Ega noticed budding red flowers and Nago gathered wild blackberries as huge as strawberries.

For a long time in the berry bushes under the branches of a tree, the lovers embraced and lay one with another. Ega became pregnant. Nago gathered wild blackberries at dawn for Ega and climbed a tall tree. He found a big nest. A beautiful bird flew away and Nago grabbed the whole nest and carried its eggs for Ega's baby. They embraced and again lay one with another. Then they feasted upon the eggs.

But the bird was watching Nago and she planned her revenge. She called to the Protector of the Forest to kill the Qumori lovers. Then a Fire Spirit ignited a fire and caused it to spread throughout. It choked Nago and made him sleep. It suffocated him and Ega's baby. The fire pinned down Ega and her lifeless womb. She fainted away and began to dream.

In the dream Ega told the bird: "We took your babies, yet we knew they were yours." The bird said: "I am a Qumori Spirit, one of the Fire Spirits. We are hunters the same as you and your lover." While she was hearing this speech, Ega realized the truth and understood. Then she grieved and said: "What shall happen to the baby in my womb?"

She awoke still grieving because they had stolen the bird's babies. She lifted her baby and let the bird eat it. The spirit-bird showed by speech and deeds that she also was grieving. At that moment, the Protector of the Forest came and said: "Bind the Qumor people to the Qumor spirits so that they shall become the first race of hobbits."

Since that time, the children of Ega and Nago have black and golden wings that shine spectacularly. The bird-spirit explained to them the places where there were ducks and animals that they could eat. They, with the bird-spirit, hunted and flew in the sky both in the Fairy Realm and the Mortal Realm.