

6. Takum Texts.

6.0. Texts were recorded only in Takum. These texts are given below with a fairly literal interlinear translation. In the translation, the word order is transposed for a few common constructions like those ending in /ní/ 'the' and negatives, and a few morphemes like recapitulating pronouns are not translated. In the text, dots under the line indicate a morpheme or construction that has not been definitely analyzed, and of which the transcription may be dubious. Foreign names not assimilated to the Takum phonemic system are italicized. Word spaces in the text are primarily for the purpose of fitting the translation into the same space. However, where possible long spaces indicate phrase boundaries as well.

6.1. The Conquest of Kunabe.

ánđi wá kuru ibiráhim syí kí yô kuru bá ní. yúnu

Long ago chief Abraham is in his chieftaincy. Time

mbá rá bá hwá be sôna. ákú kuru ibiráhim kú sô
came (") they-will pay taxes. So chief Abraham he sent

sôkuru bá zú di dyíra kí yá pã be sôna kí kunabè.
his officer a that he-should go collect taxes at kunabe.

ákú sòkuru bá ní kú pā gba yá kí kunabè. kú dǎ yá kuru
So his officer he took road went at Kunabe. He said to their

bú bé rá, kuru sò m dá rá í bí pā be sòna.
chief "Chief sent me saying I-should come collect taxes".

kí yǎkè bwà a syí ní, ábè kunabè ká bé du tété bé ká.
After this thing, Kunabe people the rose all the drove him

kú bé dǎ rá bá hwà bé be sòna mbá. ákú
away and-they said (")they-would not pay taxes. So the

sòkuru ní kú ka sè yá á kí tána. kú yá fo kí pyè
official he returned went to home. He went arrived at

bú kuru ibiráhim kú kè kí dyina. kú na kuru
front of chief Abraham he knelt to ground. He greeted chief

ibiráhim kú dǎ yá kú rá, syídi bú kú kpá syí yá kí pyè.
Abraham he said to him "Your life may-it advance go ahead."

kí yǎkè bwà a syí ní, kú dǎ ya kuru dá yá, kunabè ká bé ña
After this thing, he said to chief, "Kunabe people they have

bé rá, bá hwà bé be sòna aná. azú a kuru ibiráhim kú
rebelled, they will not pay taxes." When chief Abraham he

fò nù má ní, kù du bá ngô kù bá kò. pu ká bá ká, kù
heard just, he rose with anger he called his people, he

dá yá bé dá rá bé ze zù bú ká kana. pu ká
said to them (") they-should take out things of war. People

tété bé ze zù sò bá tika bá káfara bá páná.
all they took out spears and arrows and swords and shields.

kuru ibiráhim bá bé bí 'zú kí kunabè. kù sá
Chief Abraham and they came together at Kunabe. He did

syí rá ká nú kana bá ábe kunabè ká. áfunú kí
as-though he-will fight war with Kunabe people. Then after

yākē bwà a syí ní, bé sye dyína bé ze nde rá bá hwá
this thing, they had fear they agreed (") they-will pay

be sòna. ákù kuru ibiráhim bá pu ká bá ká bé ka zé yá
taxes. So chief Abraham and his people they returned went

kí yô ka tírí.

to town again.

6.9. The Ten Commandments. This tentative translation illustrates some respects in which linguistic techniques may be applied to translation. Many of the details of constructions are taken bodily from the texts above. It is worth noting that such modes of expression, perfectly natural to the language, are frequently not suggested first by an informant. An informant, who is not a translator, tends to offer slavishly literal equivalents. A linguist, even when he is far from fluent in the language, can often suggest types of construction which the informant will, with fair dependability, accept or reject according to their structural and stylistic accuracy. This translation is tentative -- even preliminary -- in the sense that a linguist-translator-Hebraist-exegete-theologian working with intelligent informants, Christian and pagan, can undoubtedly make many improvements. It is not tentative in the sense that casual changes can be justified simply because a native Christian who reads the Hausa Bible has always said it differently.³⁸ A fairly literal translation is given with some explanatory footnotes.

ákú syidò dǎ dyíra ká a syí
ní tété

He-God said these
words all

kú dǎ rá, ám syí "ni syindò
ú syidò bú

he said "It is I who am
your Lord your God.³⁹

a ze zú u kí dyina bú
másar,

who took took-out you from
land of Egypt,

kí tana bu fo.

from house of slaves.⁴⁰

1. ú ká ze du syidõ zú
kí pyẽ m aná.

1. Do not take-meet any God
in front of me.

2. ú ká mbyá búsum a
hónwá zú

2. Do not make any carved
fetish⁴¹

di dyíra bú aná, bá bwà
zú syi rá kí

for you, and anything like in

bira kú dõ, bá a syi kí
bira

place above (sky), and what is
in place

kí dyina, bá a syi kí yô
zape kí

below (earth), and what is in
water on

syina bú dyina. ú ká kē
kí dyina

top⁴² of ground. Do not kneel
to ground

yá bē aná, ú ká wò bē aná.
di dyíra

for them, do not serve them.⁴³
Because

ám syindõ ú syidõ bú m syi
syidõ a

I your Lord your God I am
God who

ri sá kiba. m ri ze bwà a
bébé

is jealous. I take⁴⁴ bad
things (deeds)

bú tá ká yá kí syina bú yí
ká há.

of fathers go on head of
children and

yí ká dá ká ka sù, bá yí
ká dá ká

grandchildren again, and
grandchildren

a kò 'pina,

who are second, (i.e., great-
grandchildren),

bè syí pu ká a rí ña m.
m rí me

they are people who hate me.⁴⁵
I see

syísyí bú pu ká di pere
di pere

pitiableness⁴⁶ of people
twenty-twenty

wuwe númá a rí syò m, bè
syí

a whole lot⁴⁷ who love⁴⁸ me,
they are

pu ká a rí kò dò m.

people who keep my law.⁴⁹

3. ú ká bá dyina bú

3. Do not call the name of

syíndò ú syidò bú 'te aná.
di dyíra

your Lord your God merely.⁵⁰

Because

syíndò ú kwá ze zú pere a

your Lord will not take take-
out the person who

rí bá dyina bá 'te kí
kwè mbá.

merely calls his name from
justice.⁵¹

4. ú kyé pã bá yúnu a
ña wò

4. Recall (?) catch with
day of rest⁵²

| | |
|---|--|
| ú kò kú kyekye. númá. . . sá búwò bú | guard it (as) entirely clean. Do your work |
| fo yúnu 'syidyí ú sá víní tété. | reach six days do finish all. |
| yúnu a kò 'syípi á yúnu a na wò | Day which is seventh it is day of rest |
| di dyíra bú syíndò ú syidò bú. | for your Lord your God. your Lord. |
| ú ká sá búwò zú kí yô bá aná, áu bá | Do not do any work in it, you and |
| wú bú a wúnu, bá wú bú a wúwa, | your male child, and your female child, |
| bá fo bú a wúnu, bá fo bú a wúwa, | and your male servant, and your female servant, |
| bá bú ká bú a u rí pyé, bá | and the things which you feed ⁵³ , and |
| kyona bú a ka kí tána bú. | the stranger-to-you who entered your house. |
| di dyíra kí fúna bú yúnu 'syidyí | Because within six days |

syíndó ú sà bira kú dóbà
bira kí

your Lord made the sky and the

dyina, bázape bábù ká a
syí kí fúna

earth, and the water and things
which are in

bá tété, kú ña wó kí fúna
bù yúnu

it all, he rested in the day

a kó 'syípi. di dyíra bwà
a syí ní,

which is seventh. Because of
this thing,

syíndó ú dā sā yúnu a ña
wó

your Lord spoke made-good the
day of rest,

kú tū kye kú.

he washed it clean.

5. ú yá tá ú bā nǎ bú
hwe,

5. Give your father and your
mother honor,

a dyí syídi bú kú kpá syí
yá kí pyē

that your life it-may advance
go to front⁵⁴

nínú númá kí fúna bú dyina
a syíndó ú

very far in the land which your
Lord

syídbó bú rí yá u ní.

your God is giving you.

6. ú ká gbǎ pere aná.

6. Do not kill people.

7. ú ká sà gyá aná.

7. Do not commit adultery.⁵⁵

8. ú ká ví ví aná. 8. Do not steal a stealing.
9. ú ká ze dyíra bú 9. Do not bring a word of
músâ bí kí syína
bú vyó ú aná. lying on the head of your
fellow.⁵⁶
10. ú ká su sú pikína 10. Do not set your heart on
bú kí tána the house
of your fellow. Do not set your
bú vyó ú aná. ú ká su sú heart on
pikína bú kí place of wife of your fellow,
bára bú wa bú vyó ú aná, and his servant
bá fo bá a male, and his servant female,
wúnu, bá fo bá a wúwa, and his cow,
bá nè bá, and his donkey⁵⁷, and any things
bá dyaki bá, bá bú ká zú of your fellow.
bú vyó ú tété.

JUKUN of WUKARI

and

JUKUN of TAKUM

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