

Section 12: Text.

The Old Woman who Disliked her Son.

m̄ múrá n̄én dò / nìháhéhéé dígírè à lùl
my story lives there / old woman certain and born

ò bisá ná bátùrà / díglí sòn yá Yámá-
her children people three / one name is is

yámáwè / díglí sòn yá Dígílí kànčá / díglí
one / one name is is one

sòn yá Kánábù / tò ò zí kaal kòhá /
name is is then she went bush /

à là sà dè dó / à číksí / à kpá
and go build room there / and stand / and take

bá dò déé tí nì / dèè tí wà kpák
them there room the in / room the not have

čóónò / ò yá déé bimbísi / tò Dígílí
door / it is room without a door / then

kànčá tí ò yé nìbáállè / à ká gíl
the he is boy / and remain

nìhá nár bálè nìbáál bégám / ò zí yaa
girl person two boy one / she do

là lí / à člqč dōoni muni / a zí yé lí
go out / and stand there outside / and do

bòòl Yàmàyámáwè Yámángàlwé Dígílí sáámáwè Yámán-
sing Song....

kàncá kúnábùù dúgúlú kàncá kúnábùù / dóóné n'háàn
then girl

náá bálé tà lí / à dí / n'ábáál tí lí
person two the out and eat boy the out

yĕĕ / ò dúṅ hùn / dí ó tá dílí /
come she drive away him that he not eat

dóóné ó b'r káàlí zàzón ó wà bùrà wà /
then she return went evening she come return come

à vèn wà ló / ò ló cénè / n'háàn tà
and again come sing she sing on and on girls the

vèn bùrà wà dí líwé tà / n'ábáál káàlí /
again return come eat food the boy went

ó dúṅhí n'ábáál tí / dí ó tá lélí dóóné /
she chase boy the that he not come there

ò lá / gbìhá ká ná hùn / à ká káàlí /
she go wolf also see her and also went

gbìhá wáí / dí ó ló ó tà gbìhé tà
wolf come out that he sing his voice wolf voice

zénú / dóóné bá káàlí / n'ábáál tí tíín
big then they went boy the one

ṅó bà / má tà lélí, yà níín tá làlá /
tell them you not go out our mother voice not

má lí yè kùndón nò zí kpáksí mā /
you out if something this will catch you

á sè-ó / á dàhá má !tá lélí yòò /
and eat and so that you not go out

dóóné bá vè kaa kpák hún / á daú / à
then they refuse and hold him and put down and

túk hún / bà níin wá !búrá wá / à wà
beat him their mother come return come and come

ló / bá !píllí bà níin ní / bà níin
sing they start their mother to their mother

ḡó díwé tóma ò vè díllí čéndàhá ó ḡò /
say food the he not eat so that he say

dí má lí yèò kùndón kpáksí mā sé / à dàhá
that you out if something catch you eat and that

ñ wá búr wà à ló / ká ó čaa dí má
I go return come and sing and he say that you

!tá lélí má !túk hún daú tééné ní / dóóné
not go out you beat him put ground on then

gbíhá búr kaaíli máčéré wáá tí / á lá lók
wolf return went blacksmith to the and go make

ó tà máčéré ḡó hún díí ó lè wána kaa
his voice blacksmith say him that he is coming and

wà ná hók ñinbàan ní ó tá zír sééllí doóné
come see bone road on he not take chew then

ó he wà come / à wá / à wà ná see hók hínbáún
and come and come see bone road

ní on kú and ó it kùr just cò lie / à wá nù à ǵmérí
and with oil and shining

nù oil / ò he gálí pass hùn it ní by / à wà ná see díǵí /
and come see one

à and ná see díǵí one ò he gálí pass hùn it ní by / à lá / à
and go and

zǐ wá ná see díǵí one / ká and ó it kùr just sáǵí wá nù
come see one and it just lie big with oil

ní on [it] and páí / ò he ǵó say díí that nòńó wàrà ò zǐ
running he say that this one he will

sè hùnù / à zǐ káálí / dóóné ò ló /
chew it and went then he sing

bà vèn káálí / nùbáál tí tíńá ǵó dí bá
they again go out boy the one say that they

tá lélí / à vèn nǵǵ bà và lélí / bà
not go out and again win them not go out their

nín wá bà ǵó bá nínà / dí ó 'búr wá
mother come they tell their mother that she return come

bùrà kǵá ló ká ó cǵá dí bá tá lélí /
again and sing and he say that they not go out

bá túk hùn dǵú pásà / dóóné ǵbíhà zǐ búr
they beat him down make weak then wolf return

kààli máčéré zí ọ́ọ́ hún búléénà / è búrá
went blacksmith say him second time you return

wá bûtùrà tííná / ì waa zí búr lók è
come third time I not will again make your

tà tí 1pé hún / gbíhá sí / à vé dí
voice the give you wolf get up and refuse that

ó wàrá túṅ ñínbààn kàà vàn túṅ kòhá /
he not pass road and immediately pass bush

sáp sáp sáp sáp / à lè ǎṣṣ dèè tí múní
noise of wolf's legs and go stand room the outside

kàà yéí tà / bà ká kaalí ǎ / bà màkpáá
and open voice they and went now they all

wá lágámì à lí / bà lí ní bégám ní 1bégám
come together and out they out one by one

bégámné / doóné nínhá bégám lí / gbíhé 1pótí
one then girl one out wolf kill

à zèr dí / dígí bú lí / ọ́ pótí à
and take eat one again out he kill and

zèr dí ká n1báál tì tííná / zàzòón bá 1níná
take eat remain boy the one evening their mother

wá wà / à ló bóól ǎ / ọ́ ló wà kóó /
come come and sing song now she sing come tired

nàn dígí wàrà lí / doóné ó pòk dè kàà
nobody not out then she open room and

là zò / à pù n̄báál tì t̄iná / à
go enter and meet boy the one and

péésí hún dí lēn̄eē k̄l̄n̄ún t̄ómà kà ò ɲó
ask him that where others the and he say

díí n̄àn d̄l̄ḡl̄ w̄álí b̄ànò à l̄ó b̄óólà / ò
that somebody come here and sing song he

ɲó díí bá tá lélí / b̄à v̄ē kaalí /
tell that they not go out they refuse went

ń w̄à z̄ím d̄ōon̄è b̄à kp̄al̄àmì / d̄ōon̄é ò n̄ín
I not know where they are then his mother

tí kp̄ák hún / à t̄úk hún à ɲó hún dí
the hold him and beat him and tell him that

d̄ōon̄àní è t̄ó t̄òòr̄ì óó lá / ò k̄á vāan
wherever your heart desires he go he and immediately

zò k̄òhá / à w̄í / à lá / lá lá lí dí
enter bush and cry and go and go out

k̄ákáhá k̄áká hólé / à ̄č̄l̄ɲ̄ / à w̄í / k̄ákáhá t̄ì
tree tree dry and stand and cry tree the

péésí hún dí b̄áɲ̄n̄è ò d̄ēū b̄án̄ò ní / ò ɲó
ask him that what he find there in he say

díí bá l̄n̄íná l̄ól b̄à n̄á b̄átúrà / ò d̄ùɲ̄d̄ùɲ̄ yá
that their mother bore them persons three he only is

n̄báál à gb̄ar̄t̄ n̄háán l̄n̄ábál̄è t̄òm̄aní / d̄ōon̄é
boy and others girl two instead then

bá 'nín há h'n kaa tók hún kaa čaa
their mother dislike him and beat him and say

díí ó tóhá tóórí doonani ó lá / kákáhá tí
that his heart desires wherever he go / tree the

ḡó h'n dí ó 'kpák hémbiá / ò ḡó dí mm
say him that he take heart / he say that yes

tò dí ó búrígí ló dáwi hólénà á daū dín tí
that he break its branches dry and put fire the

zig zig / ó zá čel dín tí ní / dooné
noise of fire he jump fall fire the in then

ò búrígí lá daū dín tí bù zig zig / ò zàà
he break and put fire the burn noise of fire he jump

čel dín tí ní biū / dooné búrégé tó
fall fire the in sound of falling then become town

bírígí / á člɔl dooni pá / tò ó waa búrégé
good-big and stand there big / now he come become

kórrè čì bisí sú / dooné ó páani ò háan
chief now children many then his 1st wife his wife

hēē ò tú là pùl / dí ó lá dò ní /
old she down go river / that she go draw water

ò bùtè kò gbèrègé tà ní ní wòzò kámà cènè /
she pour food leftover the water on day every on and on

òò yà háan tí ká wá kpák níbíni doonani /
she do woman the and come have nobody there

ò zí ná díwé / àà dí / síkiré / ò
she see food and eat it is sad she

zí yá ò lélí dí háán kà pélèè p' llè' àà
do she go out that woman and lean against river and
bank

ló / dooné nìháán tì ò ká nú c̄c̄ dómí
sing then woman the she also hear now because

nìbáál tì tīn s̄ón ká yá Dúgílí kànčá / ò
boy the owner name and is Dúgílí kànčá / she

ká wá sàù bá nàm̀ dàm ní / à wàà nám
also come millet grinding house in and come grind

sàù ká lè ló / ò ká ló c̄c̄ / ò ká nú
millet and come sing she also sing now he also hear

à ȳr hún dí ó wá p̄èèst̄ lèènéé ó pù bó
and call her that she come ask where she get song

lém nó à kpák à lò / ò n̄ó dí n̄hàh̄éé
sweet this and have and sing she say that old woman

d̄l̄ḡl̄ n̄én p̄ól n̄í / à yàà ló ká bá kpà
one lives river in and do sing and they take

kó gbèrègé tà / à n̄é hún / ò dí /
food leftover the and give her she eat

dooné ó n̄è bá v̄o záágá / à n̄é hún /-
then he let them untie horse and give him

ò z̄ání / bà léé dí ò pélè àà ló /
he mount they go that she lean and sing

ò kpá hún wà dàmá / à wà kpó núhà /
 he take her come house and come kill cow

à n̄é / bà tük kápálá / ò dí púú /
 and give they pound fufu she eat satisfy

sáhà tí ò níín tí wà búzím hìn / ò pèésù
 time the his mother the not know him he ask

ò nííná dí ó ɪzím húnù / ò ɪjó dí àyí /
 his mother that she know him she say that no

dí ó wà zím húnù / sáhà ná ò ȳr ò
 that she not know him time this he call his

són Dúgílí kánčá ɛ́ / sáhà tí ò níín zím
 name now time the his mother know

dí ó bēē ɛ́ / tò h̄físá zú kpák ò nííná /
 that her child now then shame take his mother

ò níín zú s̄ou / m̄ múr tí màgá ɛ́ //
 his mother died my story the all now

This is my story. Once upon a time there was an old woman who had three children. The first was called Yama Yamawe, the second Digili Kancha, and the third Kanabu. The old woman went into the forest and built a house there which did not have a door. Then she put the children inside. Digili Kancha was the boy, and the other two were girls.

The next day the old woman went and stood outside the house and sang calling the children's names. The two girls came out and began to eat, but when the boy came out his mother drove him away so that he could not eat. She went home and returned in the evening, and began to sing again. The girls came out to eat but the boy was again driven away. As she returned home, the wolf saw her going, so he came out and sang with his big voice. Then the boy told the girls not to go out as it was not their mother's voice. 'If you go out something will get you and eat you.' Then the girls took hold of him pushed him down and beat him. The mother soon returned to sing, and

the girls started to tell their mother that the boy would not let them go out and eat, because if they did something would catch them and eat them.

Then the wolf went to the blacksmith to fix his voice. The blacksmith did so on the condition that if he saw a bone on the road he was not to chew it. The wolf went along the road and saw a bone on the road shining with oil. He passed by it and saw another one, passed by it and saw another one, and passed by it and saw yet another one. This one was big and shining with oil, and he said that he would eat this one. Then he began to sing, but the boy told them not to go out. The wolf returned to the blacksmith and had his voice fixed again, went back to the house and tried singing once more. Then the children began to come out one by one. When the first girl came out the wolf ate her, and when the second one came out he ate her too, until only the boy remained.

In the evening their mother returned to sing. She sang until she was tired, but no one came out. So she entered the house and met the boy and asked him where the others were. He told her that somebody came and sang, and that he told the girls not to go out, and that now he did not know where they were. Then the mother took hold of him and beat him, and told him to go wherever his heart desired. Then he went out into the forest and stood under a dead tree crying. The tree asked him what was the matter, and he told it of how his mother disliked him and had told him to go wherever his heart desired. Then the tree told him to make a fire and to jump into it. So he jumped, and the tree became a town, and the boy became a chief and had many children.

Then the chief's first wife who was very old went down to the river to fetch water, and to pour the leftover food into the river. An old woman was down there. She had no friends and used to see the food and would eat it. Then she would lean against the river bank and sing the song of the children's names. The first wife then went to the grinding mill to grind corn, and began to sing the same song. Her husband heard her singing, and inquired where she had heard it. She told him that there was an old woman down by the river who liked to sing it.

Then the chief told them to get the horse ready, and he mounted and they all went down to the river. There the old woman was leaning against the river bank singing. He picked her up, took her home, and they killed a cow and pounded fufu. The old woman ate until she was satisfied, but his mother did not know him. He asked her if she knew him, but she said she did not. So he told her his name. Then his mother knew that he was her child, and she was ashamed of the way that she had treated him. Eventually she died, and that is the end of my story.

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