

## Arabic (Classical)

### Alf Laila wa-Laila

Analysis, glosses and (literal) translation: © Wolfgang Schulze 2004

*ḥukiya* 'anna *hārūn-a* *r-rašīd-a* *stadʿā* *rağul-a-n*  
say:PASS:PV:3SG:M TOP Harun-ACC ART-Rashid-ACC summon:PV:3SG:M man-ACC-UNSPEC

*min* 'a<sup>c</sup>*wān-i-hi* *y-uqāl-u* *la-hu* *ṣālih-u-n*  
of helper:PL-GEN-3SG:M:POSS 3SG:M:IPV-call:IPVF-IND to-3SG:POSS Salih-NOM-UNSPEC  
'It is told that Harun arRašid called a man of his helpers who was called Salih'

*fa-lammā ḥaḍara* *bayna yad-ay-hi* *qāla* *la-hu:*  
SQU-when be=present:PV:3SG:M between hand-DU:GEN-3SG:M:POSS say:PV:3SG to-3SG:POSS  
'and when he presented himself between his two hands he said to him.'

*yā ṣālih-a - sir* 'ilā *manṣūr-i-n* *wa-qul* *la-hu:*  
oh Salih-ACC go:IMP:2SG towards Mansur-GEN-UNSPEC and-say:IMP:2SG to-3SG:POSS  
'Oh Salih go to Mansur and tell him.'

'inna *la-nā* 'inda-ka 'alf-a 'alfi *dirham-i-n*  
TOP to-1PL:POSS with-2SG:M:POSS thousand-ACC thousand-GEN dirham-GEN-UNSPEC

*wa-l-ra'ā* *qadi qtaḍā* 'anna-ku *t-aḥmil-u*  
and-ART-opinion:NOM just want:PV:3SG:M TOP-2SG:M:POSS 2SG:M:IPV-carry:IPV-IND

*ḍālika l-mablağ-a la-nā* *fī hāḍihi s-sā'a-t-i*  
DIST:M ART-sum-ACC to-1PL:POSS in PROX:F ART-hour-F-GEN  
'Indeed you owe us thousand of thousands of dirham and the wish arose that you carry that sum to us in this hour.'

*wa-qad 'amar-tu-ka* *yā ṣālih-a* 'anna-hu 'in lam *y-aḥṣul*  
and-just order:PV-1SG:PV-2SG:M:O oh Salih-ACC TOP-3SG:M:POSS if not:PV 3SG:M:IPV-obtain:IPV:JUSS

*la-ka* *ḍālika l-mablağ-a min hāḍihi s-sā'a-t-i*  
to-2SG:M:POSS DIST:M ART-sum-ACC from PROX:F ART-hour-F-GEN  
'and I just have given order to you, oh Salih, that if he does not deliver to you that sum from this hour'

'ilā *qabla l-mağrib-i* 'an *t-uzīl-a* *ra's-a-hu*  
towards after ART-sunset-GEN that 2SG:M:IPV-remove:IPV-SUBJ head-ACC-3SG:POSS

'an *ğasad-i-hi* *wa-t-a' tiy-a-nā* *bi-hi.*  
from body-GEN-3SG:M:POSS and-2SG:M:IPV-come:IPV-SUB-1PL:O with-3SG:M:POSS  
'till sunset, you shall cut his head from his body and bring it to us.'

*tumma sāra* 'ilā *manṣūr-i-n* *wa-'aḥbara-hu*  
then go:PV:3SG:M towards Mansur-GEN-UNSPEC and-report:PV-3SG:M:O

*bi-mā* *ḍakara* 'amīr-u *l-mu'min-īna.*  
with-what mention:PV:3SG:M commander-NOM ART-believer-PL:GEN  
'Then he went to Mansur and reported to him what the commander of the believers had said.'

*fā-qāla maṣūr-u-n qad halik-tu*  
squ-say:PV:3SG:M Mansur-NOM-UNSPEC just perish:PV-1SG:PV  
'and Mansur said: I just perished!'

*w-aḷḷāhi 'inna ta<sup>c</sup>alluq-āt-ī wa-mā t-amlik-u-hu*  
VOC-god:GEN TOP property-PL:F-1SG:POSS and-what 3SG:F:IPV-possess:IPV-IND-3SG:O

*yad-ay 'idā bī<sup>c</sup>a-t bi-'aḡlā qim-at-i-n lā*  
hand-DU:GEN:1SG:POSS if sell:PV-3SG:F:PV with-high:ELAT:F worth-F-GEN-UNSPEC not

*y-azīd-u ṭaman-u-hā <sup>c</sup>alā ma'it-i 'alf-i*  
3SG:IPV-increase:IPV-IND price-NOM-3SG:F:POSS on hundred-GEN thousand-GEN  
'Oh God, really my properties and what my hands possess if they sell for the highest price do not increase its price to more than 100 thousand.'

*fā-min 'ayna '-aqdir-u ya ṣāliḥ-a*  
SQU-from where 1SG:IPV-reach:IPV-MOD oh Salih-ACC

*<sup>c</sup>alā l-tis<sup>c</sup>amā'it-a 'alf-i dirham-i-n l-bāqiy-at-a*  
on ART-ninehundred-ACC thousand-GEN dirham-GEN-UNSPEC ART-remain:PART:ACT-F-ACC  
'and wherefrom can I get, oh Salih, the remaining ninehundred thousand Diham?'

*fā-qāla la-hu ṣāliḥ-u:*  
SQU-say:PV:3SG:M to-3SG:M:POSS Salih-NOM  
'and Salih said to him:'

*dabbir la-ka ḥīl-at-a-n ta-taḥallaṣ-u*  
plan:IMP:2SG to-2SG:M:POSS trick-F-ACC-UNSPEC 2SG:M:IPV-be=saved:IPV-IND

*bi-hā <sup>c</sup>āḡil-an wa-'l-lā halik-ta*  
with-3SG:F:POSS be=quick:PART:ACT-ACC-UNSPEC and-so-not perish:PV-2SG:M  
'Plan a trick for yourself, you will be saved through it and so you won't perish.'

*fā-'inn-ī lā '-aqdir-u 'an tamahhala <sup>c</sup>alai-ka*  
SQU-TOP-1SG:POSS not 1SG:IPV-reach:IPV-IND that be=slow:PV:3SG:M on-2SG:M:POSS

*lahz-at-a-n ba<sup>c</sup>da l-mudd-at-i llatī*  
moment-F-ACC-UNSPEC after ART-period-F-ACC REL:F

*<sup>c</sup>ayyana-hā l-ī l-ḥalīfat-u fa-'-sri<sup>c</sup> bi-ḥīl-at-i-n.*  
announce:PV:3SG:M-3SG:F:O to-1SG:POSS ART-Khalif-NOM SQU-hurry:IMP:2SG with-trick-F-GEN-UNSPEC  
'and really I cannot make that time slows down after the period (of time) that has announced the Khalif, so hurry up with a trick.'

*fā-qāla maṣur-u-n:*  
SQU-say:PV:3SG:M Mansur-NOM-UNSPEC  
'And Mansur said:'

*yā ṣāliḥ-a '-as'al-u-ka 'an t-aḥmul-a-nī*  
oh Salih-ACC 1SG:IPV-ask:IPV-IND-2SG:O that 2SG:M:IPV-bring:IPV-SUBJ-1SG:O

*min faḍl-i-ka 'ilā bayt-ī*  
of kindness-GEN-2SG:M:POSS towards house:GEN-1SG:POSS

*li- 'uwaddi<sup>c</sup>-a*                      *'awlād-ī*  
that-1SG:IPV-say=goodbye:IPV-SUBJ    child:PL:ACC-1SG:POSS  
'Oh Salih, I beg you that you bring me to my home so that I (ca) say goodbye to my children'

*wa- 'ahl-ī*                      *wa- 'awṣiy-a*                      *li- 'aqārib-ī*  
and family:ACC-1SG:POSS    and-1SG:IPV-hand=over:IPV-SUBJ    to-relative:PL:GEN-1SG:POSS  
'and my family and so that I hand over (my affairs) to my relatives.'

*qāla*                      *ṣāliḥ-u-n:*  
say:PV:3SG:M    Salih-NOM-UNSPEC  
'Salih said:'

*fā-maḍay-tu*                      *ma<sup>c</sup>a-hu*                      *'ilā*                      *bayt-i-hi*  
SQU-pass=by:PV-1SG:PV    with-3SG:M:POSS    towards    house-GEN-3SG:M:POSS

*fā-ḡa<sup>c</sup>ala*                      *y-uwaddi<sup>c</sup>-u*                      *'ahl-a-hu*  
SQU-begin:PV:3SG:M    3SG:M:IPV-say=goodbye-IPV-IND    family-ACC-3SG:M:POSS  
'And I went with him to his house and he began to say goodbye to his family.'