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UNPUBLISHED PONTIC STORIES
COLLECTED BY R. M. DAWKINS

In the summer of 1914, having completed the preparation of his monumental work on the dialects and folklore of Cappadocia (*Modern Greek in Asia Minor*, Cambridge 1916), R. M. Dawkins set out on a field trip to Pontos. He had spent just over a month there collecting dialect and folklore material when he was forced to abandon his project by the outbreak of the First World War. «When I was caught up by the outbreak of the war in 1914,» he later reminisced, «I was beginning what I hoped to be a series of visits to Pontos for the purpose of a similar book on Pontic; it has always been a deep regret to me that this was made impossible»¹.

The Dawkins archives at Oxford contain four notebooks that he kept during his visit to Pontos. Most of the pages are taken up with transcriptions of stories, which are interspersed with a large amount of linguistic material. It is clear from his later writings that at that time his interests lay more in 'philology' (in the English sense of the historical and comparative study of language) than in folklore, and that — as with his *Modern Greek in Asia Minor* — his collection of tales was primarily aimed at providing material for the study of traditional dialectal usage: the subject-matter of the Cappadocian tales in that book interested him so little at the time that he got his friend and mentor W. R. Halliday to contribute the chapter on subject-matter, and it is perhaps significant that the hand-written transcriptions and fair copies of his Pontos stories contain comparative references to Halliday's chapter. It was however his collections of stories from Cappadocia and Pontos that eventually fired his interest in Greek folktales, an interest that bore fruit in a number of articles and books, culminating in another monumental volume, *Modern Greek Folk Tales*

1. Quoted from an unpublished memoir in the Dawkins archive, housed in the Taylor Institution Library, Oxford. For a general survey of Dawkins's career, see Peter Mackridge, «Some Pamphlets on Dead Greek Dialects»: R. M. Dawkins and *Modern Greek Dialectology*, *Annual of the British School at Athens*, 85 (1990), pp. 201-212, particularly p. 206. I am grateful to the Rector and Fellows of Exeter College for granting me permission to publish material from the Dawkins archive.

(Oxford 1953)². Sadly, however, in keeping with Dawkins's characteristic reticence, his Pontic notebooks contain no comments on his personal experiences, nor even on the landscape, the appearance of the villages, their inhabitants, and their way of life, with the exception of the occasional tiny pencil-sketch of some implement or utensil to illustrate the meaning of a certain word.

Each of the four Pontic notebooks is devoted to one region of Pontos: Sourmena, Ophis, Sanda and Imera. From the dates given in the notebooks we can conclude that he arrived in the Sourmena region on 11 July 1914; on the 16th he left for the Ophis region, where he stayed until the 21st. There follows a gap of ten days during which it is impossible to follow his movements with certainty, though we can suppose that he spent this period at Trebizond. On 31 July he went to Sanda, where he stayed until 8 August, and the following day arrived in Imera, where he stayed until he had to leave abruptly on or after 14 August. From there he made his way—with considerable difficulty—via Trebizond to Athens.

The notebooks contain twenty-three stories from Sourmena, nine from Ophis, six from Sanda, and twenty-eight from Imera. Each story is numbered but not titled; in some cases titles have been added subsequently, either in the notebooks or on the fair copies. The stories vary significantly both in quality and in length. Some are traditional folktales, while others are humorous anecdotes. Some of the anecdotes are only a few lines in length, while most of the other tales are much longer: at least twenty pages in the case of two of the Sanda stories. He tried as far as possible to find young men to act as his informants, because he felt that youths who were not long out of childhood yet had not achieved the sophistication of adulthood were both the most faithful and the most competent practitioners of traditional storytelling, neither reproducing parrot-fashion what they had heard nor attempting to re-cast the stories in an excessively personal style. The Pontic notebooks contain not a single story told by a woman; likewise, of the Cappadocian stories in *Modern Greek in Asia Minor*, only one was taken down from a woman (with the addition of a second tale that involved the collaboration of a man and a woman). While five stories from Pharasa in *Modern Greek in Asia Minor* were told by a Moslem, Dawkins had no contact with Greek-speaking Moslems in Pontos.

Dawkins normally employed the following procedure in recording the Pontic folktales. Having found a suitable informant, he would write down the story in pencil on the left-hand pages of the notebook, and afterwards he would write out a fair copy in ink on the facing pages; for this he would, if possible, seek the assistance of either the teller of the tale or some other informant, who

2. For a bibliography of Dawkins's publications see Minas A. Alexiadis, «Τὸ ἔργο τοῦ R. M. Dawkins: Βιβλιογραφικὴ συμβολή», *Δελτίο Κέντρου Μικρασιατικῶν Σπουδῶν*, 5 (1984-1985), pp. 361-391.

would correct the transcription. In many cases, however, he was unable to make a fair copy until after his arrival in Athens, where he did not have Pontic-speakers to help him. At a later date (probably some years later) he wrote out a final fair copy of all the stories in traditional orthography. In the meantime he studied the texts of Pontic dialect plays as well as material in the Folklore Archive in Athens. The Dawkins archive also contains typewritten English translations of some of the stories (it may be that he translated them all, but that the rest of the translations were lost).

A number of the stories have been published. A selection of sixteen from Sourmena and seven from Ophis appeared in *Ἀρχαῖον Πόντου* in 1931 (vol. 3, pp. 79-122); one from Sanda and four from Imera appeared in various issues of *Ποντιακή Ἔστία* in 1951; while another one from Imera appeared as early as 1923 in *Λαογραφία* (vol. 7, pp. 285-291). A further two Imera stories were published in English translation (see below). Some of the published stories, together with some of those never published, are referred to by Dawkins in various articles on Greek folktales, and particularly in *Modern Greek Folk Tales*; it is curious, however, that of the Pontic tales that appear in that book he included only those that had already been published in Greek, as if he had forgotten about the existence of the rest. As for the reason why Dawkins published a greater proportion of his Sourmena and Ophis stories than of those from the other places, it may be that he felt attracted by the particularly archaic dialect of these two areas. It may also be that Sourmena and Ophis were rather inadequately represented in the corpus of published stories from Pontos: it is indicative that all the stories from Sourmena and Ophis (two from each region) published in S. Lianidis's *Τὰ παραμύθια τοῦ ποντιακοῦ λαοῦ* (Athens 1962) are taken from the selection published by Dawkins in *Ἀρχαῖον Πόντου*. It seems, however, from the high quality of Dawkins's final fair copies, that he may have intended at some time to publish the whole collection of Pontic tales; it would be pleasant to be able to publish all of them in book form at some future date.

A further word should be said about Dawkins's informants. Although he was not always careful to record their names, let alone any further information about them, the majority of them seem to have been schoolboys, or recent school-leavers. For this reason they were both literate and fluent in non-dialectal Greek and were able to help Dawkins with the correction and interpretation of his transcriptions. It is clear from some of the texts that some of the tellers mixed standard or purist forms with the dialect, and Dawkins even notes in one instance that the young men who had been to school generally conversed with each other in standard Greek, reserving dialect only for their conversations with women (notebook «Sanda», p. 55)³. At Imera Dawkins was for-

3. Examples of non-dialect forms include the following: ἀσκητής (Imera 3), ὅτι (Sourmena 1), νὰ πάρουνε, ἐπαινᾶ (Ophis 2), and in Ophis 1 — aside from the «quotations» in *katharevousa* — λέξεις, ὕψηλό, τελειώνει.

turnate to find an 18-year-old informant, Charilaos I. Photiadis, who must have had a prestigious fund of stories, considering that 27 of the 28 stories from that village were taken down from his mouth. At Ζουρνάτσαντων Σάντας Dawkins collected four of his six stories from Aristidis I. Chloridis, about whom no information is provided, but who, along with the other Sanda informants, had a small repertoire of long and detailed stories. As for Sourmena, the stories published in *Ἀρχαῖον Πόντου* were taken down from two members of the Tachtsidis family at the large village of Tsita, a little boy called Panayotis St. Lazaridis and a 40-year-old country doctor named Christos I. Charitidis (both from Tsita), Pandelis Petrou Kazantzidis and 20-year-old Christos St. Ephraimidis from the nearby village of Karakandzi, and Leonidas Irakleous Adamidis (also aged about 18-20). As for Ophis, Dawkins notes that at the small villages of Krinita and Yiga on the Baltadzi-dere, where he recorded his stories, the men did not talk much, but were apt to speak «a mixed language of the dialect and school Greek» (notebook «Ophis», p. 165); he presumably had little or no converse with the womenfolk. The tellers of the Ophis tales published in *Ἀρχαῖον Πόντου* were Vasilis and Yorgos D. Mavrououlos (both aged about 20) from Yiga and Dimitris Soundoulidis (an old man) at Krinita.

The stories printed below have not been published before in Greek, although one has appeared in English translation only. They include some of the Sourmena and Ophis stories that were not published in *Ἀρχαῖον Πόντου*, followed by a selection of some of the best unpublished Imera stories. Reasons of time and space have unfortunately prevented me from presenting any of the Sanda stories.

The Imera stories published here are good traditional didactic tales⁴. Two of the pieces from Sourmena are stories involving animals, while one is an example of what Halliday and Dawkins termed «noodle stories» —perhaps the forerunners of the modern «ποντιακά ἀνέκδοτα». The stories from Ophis are humorous anecdotes. None of the stories published here has the kind of formulaic beginning and ending characteristic of Greek and Turkish folk tales. In fact, such formulas are largely absent from the Pontic stories published by Dawkins himself, with the exception of a couple from Ophis that end with a phrase containing the words, «Καὶ ἐγὼ ἔρθα,» and another that finishes, «Ἐκεῖνος ἔζησε ἀπὸ τότε πολλὰ καλὰ καὶ ἐμεῖς κι ἄλλο καλλίο ἀπὲς σο Γίγα» (*Ἀρχαῖον Πόντου*, 3 [1931], p. 117).

Linguistically, the dialects of the Ophis and Sourmena stories are similar, not only because of the propinquity of the two valleys, but because (according

4. Such didactic stories are perhaps close to the category that I. T. Pamboukis calls *μύθος*: «διήγηση μικρή, πότε κανονική καὶ πότε παραβολική, ποὺ θέλει νὰ διδάξει κάτω». But these Imera stories, unlike the «myths» from Inoi, are not generally humorous; on the contrary, their message is quite stern. I am grateful to Patricia Fann for pointing out Pamboukis's definition.

to Avraam Papadopoulos⁵) the inhabitants of the Sourmena villages of Tsita and Karakandzi were descended from Christians who had fled the Ophis region when the latter area became largely Islamized in the eighteenth century. While the Greek-speaking Moslems of Ophis continue to this day to use the ancient negative particle οὐ rather than the general Pontic κί, and pronounce *kappa* before a front vowel like the English *ch* (as do the Cypriots)⁶, Dawkins noted in 1914 that these usages were considered to be old-fashioned in Sourmena and Ophis—or at least in the Baltadzi-dere valley, which is the easternmost of the two Ophis valleys; he was informed that the Christians of Zisino, in the western valley which he seems not to have visited, still employed these features (notebook «Ophis», pp. 74 and 165-166).

I have adhered as closely as possible to Dawkins's original transcriptions, taking into account both the corrections he made when writing his fair copy with the help of a native-speaker and any interpretative notes he made in the margins. I have used the historical orthography. (The only symbols that require comment are: *ä*, which represents a vowel between *a* and *e*; the dotted *ṭ* and *ṛ*, which represent voiced *d* and *b* when not preceded by a nasal; *ḡ*, which represents the English *sh* and often originates from *χ* before a front vowel; and the accent on the negative particle κί, which distinguishes it from the contracted form κι from καί.) As far as the language is concerned, the final result is, I hope, representative of the speech of the informants (including their use of «school Greek»), and I have been reluctant to «correct» Dawkins's readings except in the few instances where he has clearly made a serious error; a few uncertain forms have been printed in upright instead of slanting type. I should however record my thanks to Mr. Chrysostomos Savvidis, whose mother tongue is σουρμενίτικα and who suggested a number of emendations to the Sourmena texts; I have adopted the most important of these.

The numbers in brackets at the top of each story are the numbers used in Dawkins's notebooks; the titles, where given, are also due to Dawkins. Instead of giving either a full translation or a glossary I have preferred to provide a summary in English of each story. Some of these summaries are by Dawkins himself; the rest are mine.

5. Avraam Papadopoulos, *Στατιστική τῆς ἐπαρχίας τῶν Σουρμενίων*, Athens 1882, pp. 13-15.

6. Peter Mackridge, «Greek-Speaking Moslems of North-East Turkey: Prolegomena to a Study of the Ophitic Sub-Dialect of Pontic», *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*, 11 (1987), pp. 115-137.

Stories from Imera

1. (Imera 4)

Ἐνας πασᾶς εἶδεν ἕναν κορίτσο. Ἐβουδὸ κορίτσο κρυφὰ σὸν κύρ'ν ἄθες εἶδεν εἶναν ἀγαπητικόν. Ὅταν ὁ πασᾶς ἐπέγγεν σὴ βασιλέα τὰ κονάκᾶ, ἐκοῦζεν τὸν παιδᾶν σ' ὀσπίτ', κὶ ἐκαλάτσεβεν μετ' ἐκεῖνον.

Ἐναν ἡμέραν πού τὸ κορίτσο εἶδεν σ' ὀσπίτ' ἀπὲς τὸν παιδᾶν, ἐντῶκεν τὴν πόρταν ὁ κύρ'ς αὐτῆς. Ἀτὲ ἐφοέθε, καὶ εἶπεν τὸν παιδᾶν νὰ ἐμπαῖν' ἀπὲς σ' ἕναν σαντούχ'. Ἐκεῖνος ἐσέβεν ἀπὲς σὸ σαντούχ', καὶ ἡ κουτσὴ ἐπῆγεν ἔνοιξεν τὸν κύρ'ν αὐτῆς. Ὁ πασᾶς ἐσέβεν ἀπὲς, καὶ κατὰ τύχην ἐπῆγεν ἐκάτσειν ἀπὸν σὸ σαντούχ'. Ποῖος ἐξέρ'; Ἐναν ὥραν ἐκάτσειν, δύο ὥρας ἐκάτσειν. Ὅντες ὄλων ὑστὲρ ἐξέβεν καὶ ἐπῆγεν σὴν δουλειάν αὐτῆς, ἡ κουτσὴ ἀνοί' τὸ σαντούχ'. Καὶ ντό νὰ ἐλέπ; Ὁ παιδᾶς ἔτον ἀποθαμένος, ἀνάσμων ἀσοῦ κ' ἐπόρεσεν νὰ παίρ.

Ἡ κουτσὴ ἐρχίνεσεν νὰ κλαίει ἅμα ντό νὰ ἐφτᾶει; Ἀτώρα θὰ τερεῖ καὶ κάπου θὰ κρύφτ' τὸ λείμψανον. Ἐκοῦξεν τὸν ἀραπατσην ἄτον καὶ εἶπεν αὐτον, «Ἴντᾶν θέλεις δῖγο σε καὶ ἀβούτο τὸ λάσ' ἄς πᾶμε φοσιζομε;». Ἐπαῖραν αὐτο ἡ κουτσὴ καὶ ὁ ἀραπατσην κὶ ἐπῆγαν σ' ἕνα μακρινὸν τόπον ἐφοῖζαν αὐτο. Τὴ παιδᾶ ὁ κύρ', ἕνας πολλὰ ζᾶγκιν' ἀρίφ'ς, ἐροῦξεν ἄν καὶ κά, ἅμα κ' ἐπόρεσε νὰ εὐρίκ' τὸ παιδῖν αὐτῆς. Ἐκεῖνος ἔντον τσῆματουρ.

Ἐναν ἡμέραν ἀπὲς σ' ἕναν χάν' ἐκάθουσαν κάμποσοι ἀραπατσηδες καὶ ἐπὶναν ρακίν. Ὁ ἕνας ἔλεγεν, «Ἐγὼ ἐπορῶ καὶ τὸ δεῖνα κορίτσο φέρω ἀδὰ καὶ χουσιμετεύ' μας». Ὁλ' εἶπαν ἀπ' εἶναν. Ἀτότε καὶ τὴ κοριτοῖ ὁ ἀραπατσην εἶπεν, «Καὶ κιὰμ ἐγὼ ἐπορῶ καὶ φέρω ἀδὰ τὴ πασᾶ τὸ κορίτσο καὶ χουσιμετεύ' μας.» Κανεῖς κ' ἐπίστειπεν αὐτο. Ἐκεῖνος ἔστειλεν ἕναν παιδῖν καὶ ἐγραψεν σὴν κουτσὴν νὰ ἔρται χουσιμετεύ' αὐτῆς, ἄν κ' ἐν θὰ λέει πὼς ἀτὲ ἐσκοτόωσεν τὸν παιδᾶν. Ἡ κουτσὴ ἐφοέθεν καὶ ἐπῆγεν σὸ χάν'. Ὁλ' ἅμον τὸ εἶδαν ἄτεν, ἐχπαράαν. Ἐκέρασεν αὐτῆς ἀπ' ἕνα ρακίν. Εἶπαν ἄτεν, «Φέρεν ἀπ' ἄλλ' ἕνα». Ἐκεῖνος ἐξέβεν νὰ πάγει φέρ'. Καὶ κατὰ τύχην ἐλέπ' ἕναν τᾶνκᾶν σπῖρτον. Ἄμα ἐνοιξεν ἔξεν αὐτο καὶ ἐδῶκεν αὐτο φωτῖαν. Ὁλ' ἐκειαιπὲς ἦντζαν ἔταν ἐκάαν. Ἡ κουτσὴ ἔφυγεν.

Ἐστερον ἐπῆγεν σ' εἶναν ποπᾶν καὶ εἶπεν αὐτον τ' ἄμαρτίας τὸ ἐποίκεν, πωσοτὶ ἐχάσεν δεκαπέντε ἀνθρώπς χωρὶς νὰ θέλ', καὶ αἷτιος ἐγέντον ὁ ἀραπατσην. Ὁ ποπᾶς εἶπεν ἄτεν, «Δέβα καλὸν κορίτσο», ὁ Θεὸς νὰ ἐσχωρᾶ σε. Ἐγὼ, μὴ φοῦσαι, κανᾶν κὶ λέγ' ἀτά.» Τὸ κορίτσο ἐπῆγεν.

Ἐκεῖνα τὰ ἡμέρας ὁ κύρ' τὴ παιδῖ, καμένος ἀσὸ θάνατον ἄθες, ἐκοῦξεν μετὸν τελάλ' πωσοτὶ δᾶκὸσᾶ λίρας θὰ δί' σ' ἐκεῖνον πού κατ' ἐλέγᾶτον γιὰ τὸ παιδῖν αὐτῆς. Ἀτὸ ἔκσειν αὐτο καὶ ὁ ποπᾶς καί, δᾶβολὶ κάλτσαν πού ἔτον, ἐχαντυλλάεν γιὰ τὰ δᾶκὸσᾶ λίρας. Ἐπῆγεν σὴν κύρ' τὴ παιδῖ καὶ ἐλέγᾶτον πὼς ἀέτς κὶ ἀέτς ἔντον τὸ παιδῖν αὐτῆς. Ὁ μαῦρον ὁ κύρτς τὴ παιδῖ θὰ ἐγκαλεῖ ἀτώρα τὸ κορίτσο, φοῦται ἀσὸν κύρ'ν ἄθες, γιὰτὶ πασᾶς ἔν. Ἐφέκεν καὶ ἐπῆγεν σὴν

Ρουσίαν. Καί ἐκεῖ ἐγκάλεσε τὸ κορίτσο καὶ ἔγκεν καὶ μάρτυραν τὸν ποπὰν ἦνζαν εἶπεν ἀτο 'κεῖ. Ἡ Ρουσία ἔστειλεν καὶ ἔκουξεν τὸ κορίτσο με τὸν κύρ'ν ἄθεσ ἐντάμα. Ἐρώτεσεν ἀτεν πῶς καὶ πῶς ἐγέντον ἡ δουλεία. Ἐκεῖνε πα ὅπως ἔτον καὶ ἐγέντον ἀέτς εἶπεν ἀτο. Καὶ εἶπεν πῶς ἀφορεσμένον ὁ ποπὰς κ' ἐκράτεσεν τὸ μυστικὸν καὶ ἐπῆγεν εἶπεν ἀτο τὸν κύρ' τῆ παιδί γιὰ τὰ δάκόσῃ λίρας. Ἀτότε ἡ Ρουσία ἐτέρεσεν πῶς τὸ καταετ' ἔτον τῆ ποπᾶ. Τὸ κορίτσο με τὸν κύρ' ἄθεσ ἐδέβασεν πλάν. Καὶ τὸν ποπὰν ἐσέγκεν ἀτον σῆ τοπί τὸ στόμαν καὶ ἐδῶκεν ἀτο φωτία. Ἀέτς παθᾶνε ἐκεῖν' ποὺ κὶ κρατοῦν τὰ μυστικὰ ντὸ πιστεύκουταν ἄλλ'.

Told by Χαρίλαος Ι. Φωτιάδης (aged about 18), 12 August 1914.

Summary

A pasha's daughter had a secret lover whom she summoned whenever her father was away. One day the father unexpectedly knocked at her door, and she hid the lad in a trunk. The father stayed so long that the lover died of suffocation. In despair, the girl called her coachman to help her bury the body. One day, while the coachman was sitting drinking in a tavern with his colleagues, he boasted that he could get the pasha's daughter to come and serve them raki. When the coachman threatened to reveal her secret, she had no alternative but to obey. But she happened to find a can of paraffin in a back room and she set fire to the tavern, burning all the revellers to death. The girl then went to a priest to confess her misdeeds, and he assured her God would forgive her. But when the dead boy's father announced that he would give two hundred pounds to anyone who had information about his son, the priest revealed the whole story to him. The father brought a court case against the girl in Russia, bringing the priest forward as a witness. The girl confessed, but accused the priest of denouncing her for gain. The court decided the fault lay with the priest and ordered him to be shot and the girl to be acquitted. Such is the punishment reserved for those who divulge secrets that have been confided to them. [Dawkins (*Forty-Five Stories*, p. 470) states that the priest was burned; my reading of the text suggests that he was either shot dead or shot out of the barrel of the canon.]

A very similar story from Kos was published by Dawkins in *Forty-Five Stories from the Dodekanese*, Cambridge 1950, pp. 466-470, where he provides details of parallels in Greek and other cultures.

2. (*Imera 5*): Travellers and their mysterious guide

Τρὶ νομάτ' ἀνθρώπ' ἐπέγναν σ' ἕναν στράταν κές. Καὶ ἔρθεν εὔρεν ἀτς καὶ ἔνα παλικάρ'. «Καλὰ παιδία, ποῦ πᾶτε;» ἐρωτᾶ 'τς. «Πᾶμε σοῦ δεῖνα χωρίον.» εἶπαν τὰ παιδία. «Ἐκεῖ πάγω καὶ ἐγώ. Ἐφτᾶμε ἕναν καλὸν συντροφιάν.» «Ἄς ἔν.» εἶπαν τὰ παιδία, «ἔλα μετ' ἐμᾶς».

Σὴν στράτα σιτᾶ ἐπέγναν ἐπέντεσαν ἕναν χωρίον. Ἄσου ἐβράδυνεν κέλα ἐπαλάφεσαν ἕναν ὀτάν νὰ κοιμοῦνταν. Ἐκεῖν' κ' ἐδῶκαν ἀτς. Ἐδίεξαν ἀτς

ἐπεκές. 'Ατεῖν' οἱ μαῦρ' ἔμναν ὀξῶκὰ μὲ τὰ πρόατα πά, κ' ἐθέλεσαν νὰ μονάζ'ν ἄτς. 'Αποπουρνού ὄνταν ἐσκῶθαν καὶ τεροῦν ἕναν περβόλ' φουσκωμένον· ὀλίγον ἔθελεν νὰ χαλάεται. 'Εκεῖνο τὸ παλικάρ' χαλάνῃτο καὶ σὲ δύο λεφτὰ ἀπὲς ἐβγάλατο ἀπάν.

'Εχπάσταν ἐπεκεῖ καὶ ἐπῆγαν. Σὴν στράταν ἀπάν ἀπαντοῦνε ἕναν κι ἄλλον χωρίον. 'Εψαλάφεσαν καὶ ἐκεῖ νὰ μένε. 'Αμαν καὶ ἐκεῖν' ἄμον τ' ἄλλουνοὺς ἐδίεξαν ἄτς. 'Εμναν ὀξῶκὰ καὶ ἐκεῖνο τὴν βραδὴν. 'Αποπουρνού 'νταν ἐσκῶθαν ἐλέπ'νε ἕναν ὀσπίτ' ὀλίγον κι ἄλλο νὰ χαλάεται. 'Εκεῖνο τὸ παλικάρ' ἐχάλασεν ἄτο κατὰ καὶ ἐκλῶσεν ἐχτ'σεν ἄτο. 'Εχπάσταν καὶ ἐπεκεῖ ἀσὸ χωρίον καὶ ἐβραδᾶσταν σ' ἕναν ἄλλο. 'Εψαλάφεσαν καὶ ἐκεῖ νὰ μένε. 'Εκεῖ οὐλ' ἔταν καλοῖ. 'Ενας καλὸς ἐπαῖρεν ἄτς μετ' ἐκεῖνον. 'Εκάτερον ἄτς σὸ τραπέζ'ν ἄτ, καὶ ἐφάισεν καὶ ἐπότ'σεν ἄτς, καὶ ἐστρωσεν κρεβάτ' νὰ κοιμοῦνταν. 'Εκεῖνο τὸ παλικάρ' ἐσκῶθεν ὀλύχτα καὶ ἐφοῦρκ'σεν τὸ μαναχὸν τὸ παιδὶν τ' ἐκεινοῦ τοῦ καλοῦ τ' ἀνθρώπ'. 'Αποπουρνού ἐσκῶθαν καὶ τ' ἄλλα τὰ παιδία, καὶ ἄμοντο εἶδαν φουρκισμένον τὸ παιδὶν ἐπαῖραν καὶ τὸ παλικάρ' τὸν σύντροφον ἄτου, καὶ ἔφυγαν, γιάμ ἐλέπατς ὁ οἰκοκύρτς.

Σὴν στράταν σιτὰ ἐπέγναν, ἐρωτοῦνε τὸ παλικάρ', «Νέπρε, ἐσὺ τὸ εἶν ἄτὰ τὸ ἐφτᾶς; Σ' ἕναν τὸ χωρίον ποὺ ἐδίεξαν ἕμας, ἐσὺ ἐποῖκες ἄτς καλόν. 'Εχάλασες τὸ περιβόλ'ν ἄτου καὶ ἐχτ'σες ἄτο. Σ' ἄλλο πὰ ποὺ ἐδίεξαν ἕμας, ἐχτ'σες τ' ὀσπίτ'ν ἄτου. Καὶ ἀδὰ ποὺ ἐσέγκαν ἕμας ἀπὲς καὶ ἀοῖκα τιμάντας ἐποῖκαν ἕμας, ἐσὺ ἐφοῦρκ'σες τὸ μαναχὸν τὸ παιδὶν ἄτου.» 'Ατότε τὸ παλικάρ' εἶπεν, «Σ' ἕναν τὸ χωρίον ἐκεῖ ἀφκὰ σὸ περιβόλ' ἔτον κρυμμένον μάλαμ. 'Αμοντο ἐχαλάουτον τὸ περβόλ' θὰ ἐφαίνουτον τὸ μάλαμ, καὶ ἐκεῖ ἀπάν πολλοὶ θὰ ἐσκοτοῦσαν. 'Εχτ'σα 'το ἐγώ, καὶ ἄλλο κι θὰ χαλάεται καὶ ἀνθρώπ' πὰ κι θὰ σκοτοῦνταν. Σ' ἄλλο τὸ χωρίον ἐκεῖ ἀφκὰ σ' ὀσπίτ' ἐκάθουτον ἕναν καλόν ὀσπίτ'. Θὰ ἐχαλάουτον τ' ὀσπίτ' καὶ θὰ ἐσκότωνεν ἄτς. 'Εχτ'σα τ' ὀσπίτ' καὶ ἐγουρτάρεψα ἀσο κακὸν ἄτοσ' ἀνθρώπ'ς. 'Αδὰ πὰ σὸ χωρίον ποὺ ἐσέγκαν ἕμας ἀπὲς, ἐφοῦρκ'σα τὸ παιδὶν ἄτου γιὰτὶ ἄτὸ ἕναν ἡμέραν θὰ ἐγίνουτον ἕναν κακὸ παιδὶ καὶ θὰ ἐχάλανε τὰ κατὰ τῆ κυροῦ ἄθες, καὶ θὰ ἐποῖνε καὶ ἐκείνον κακόν. 'Εφοῦρκ'σα τὸ παιδὶν καὶ ἔμ ἄτὸ ἐγουρτάρεψα ἔμ τὸν κύρ'ν ἄθες ἀσὴν κόλασιν. 'Ατώρα ἐγὼ εἶμαι ὁ Χριστόν. 'Ερθα ἐποῖκα ἄτὰ τὰ δουλείας, καὶ θὰ πάγω σὸν οὐρανόν. 'Εσεῖν' δεβάτε σὸ καλόν.» 'Ατὰ εἶπεν ἄτς καὶ ἐγέντον τσίμ' ἐπεκεῖ. 'Εκεῖν' πὰ ἐπῆγαν σὴ δουλείαν ἄτου καὶ ἦνταν ἐπένταναν ἔλεγαν ὀλὰ τὸ ἐγένταν.

Told by Χαρίλαος Φωτιάδης at the Monastery of the Forerunner, Imera, 12 August 1914.

Summary

«Three men going along a road met a youth. In the first village they reached, they were ill received: the youth before leaving built up a falling wall. So too in the next village, and there the youth repaired a tottering house. In the third village they were well received: before they left in the morning the youth strangled the only son of the house. The [youth's] explanations were that under the falling wall a treasure would have been found;* that the house would have fallen on some good people who lived next door;

that the son would have grown up wicked and ruined his father. Then the youth said: 'Now, I am Christ. I came and did these deeds and now I shall go away to heaven. As for you, farewell.'» (Summary from Dawkins, *Forty-Five Stories*, p. 262.)

* In his translation Dawkins interpolates at this point: «Here the story has gone a little off the rails; the real reason for building up the wall is that the bad inhuman villager should not get hold of the treasure. The avoidance of future bloodshed is a moralizing touch which spoils the regularity and the quite unmoral spirit natural to these folktales.»

The story was published in Dawkins's translation in *Medium Aevum*, 6 (1937), pp. 181-182, and summarized in *Forty-Five Stories from the Dodekanese*, p. 262, where he published a similar story from Kos about Saint Elias. In both these publications Dawkins provides details about the remarkable dissemination of this type of story illustrating the inscrutability of divine ways, from the Koran (ch. 18) and the Talmud to western Europe.

3. (*Imera 8*)

Ἔτον ἕνας ἀσκητῆς καὶ ἐπῆγε σ' ἕνα πεγάδι καικά. Ἐκάτσεν κι ἔτρωγεν τὸ ψωμὶν ἀτ, ὄντες τερεῖ, ἀπὸ μακρὰν ἔρται ἕνας καβαλάρης. Ἐφοέθεν, γὰμ κατ ἐφτάατον, καὶ ἐκρύφτεν ὀπίς σ' ἕναν παρτίν. Ἄτὸς ὁ καβαλάρης ἔρθε σὸ πεγάδι καικά, ἔφαγεν καὶ ἔπεν, καὶ ἐσκῶθεν καὶ ἐπῆγεν. Ἄμαν ἐνέσπαλεν ἐκεῖνος τὴν κᾶσᾶν ἀτ μὲ σίλᾶ λίρας. Ἐκεῖνος ἐπῆγεν, καὶ ἀποπὶς ἀτ ἔρθεν εἷνας ἄλλος νὰ πίν' νερόν. Ἐλέπ' τὴν κᾶσᾶν μὲ τὰ παράδας, καὶ παίρᾶτα καὶ φεύ'. Ἄποπὶς ἄτουν ἔρθεν εἷνας ἐφτωχός. Ἐκάτσεν σὸ πεγάδι καικά καὶ τρώει ξερὸν ψωμὶν. Ἀλλομίαν ἔρται ἐκεῖνος ὁ καβαλάρης: «Σκύλ' νιέ, τὰ παράδας ἰμ ἶ' ἔκλεφτες ἀγλήγορα δὸς μ' ἄτα, ἂν κ' ἔν σκοτῶνν σε». Ὁ μαῦρον ἐφτωχόν, «Ποδεδίζω σε,» λέγᾶτον, «ἐγὼ παρὰν κ' εἶδα». «Ἐσὺ ἐπαίρεις ἄτα,» λέγᾶτον ὁ καβαλάρης. «Δὸς μ' ἄτα, θὰ σκοτῶνν σε». Καὶ ἐβγάλ' τὸ ρεβόλ'ν ἀτ καὶ κρούει καὶ σκοτῶν' τὸν ἐφτωχόν, καὶ ἐπεκεῖ μόνος ἐπῆγεν.

Ἄτὰ οὐλᾶ ἔλεπεν ἄτα ἀποπὶς ἀσὸ παρτίν ἀσκητῆς. Ἐβγαίν' ὀξῶκᾶ ἐφτάγει ἕναν δέησιν σὸν Θεόν, καὶ παρακαλεῖ νὰ φανεράνᾶτον ἀβούτα ντὸ ἐγένταν τό εἶναι. «Δίκαιον ἔν νὰ παίρ' τ' ἀρίφ' τὰ παράδας ἄλλον καὶ νὰ φεύ', καὶ νὰ σκοτοῦται σ' ἐκεινοῦ τὸν τόπον ἐφτωχόν;» Ἄτότεις ἐκατῆβεν ἄγγελος κυρίου καὶ εἶπεν ἄτον, «Ἄτὸς ὁ καβαλάρης ἄτὰ τὰ παράδας ἀτ ἐκλεψεν ἄτα ἀσ' ἐκεῖνον ποῦ ἐπαίρειν ἄτα καὶ ἔφυγεν. Ἄτώρα ἔρθεν ἐπαίρειν ἄτα ἦντζαν εἶσεν ἄτα παλαιοῦ, καὶ ἔρθαν ἴσα καὶ ἴσα. Ἄτὸς ἐφτωχόν π' ἐσκοτῶθεν πᾶ, ἐσκοτῶσεν τὸν κύρ' τῆ καβαλάρ'. Ἄτώρα πᾶ ὁ καβαλάρης ἐσκοτῶσεν ἄτον. καὶ ἔρθαν ἴσα καὶ ἴσα.» Ἀσκητῆς ἐπέμεν ἀχπαραγμένος. «Νὰ λελεύω σε,» εἶπεν τὸν ἄγγελον, «δεῖξο με τὸν τρόπον νὰ ἐγνωρίζω ἀπ' ἄτώρα τῆ καλοῦς καὶ τῆ κακοῦς.» «Δέββα,» εἶπεν ἄτον ἄγγελον, «στὰ σὴν πόρταν τῆ τάδε ζανί, καὶ ἦντζαν ἀποπουρνὸ ἐβγαίν' ἀσ' οὐλῶν ἀγλήγορα, ἐκεῖνος ἔν ἀσ' οὐλῶν κακόν. Καὶ ἦντζαν ἐμπαίν' ἀπὲς ἀποβραδὶς ἀσ' οὐλουνοῦς πρῶτα, ἐκεῖνος ἔν ἀσ' οὐλῶν ὁ καλόν.» Ἀσκητῆς ἐπῆγεν, κι ὄντες τερεῖ ἀποπουρνὸ ἐβγαίν' εἷνας ἐφτωχός μὲ τὸ παιδίν ἀτ. «Ἄβουτος,» εἶπεν ἀπὲς ἀτ ἀσκητῆς, «ἔν ἀσ' οὐλῶν ὁ κακόν. Ἄς τερῶ καὶ ἀποβραδὶς ποῖος θὰ ἐμπαίν' πρῶτα ἀπὲς.»

Ἐπῆγεν ἀσκητῆς σὴν δουλείαν ἀτ, καὶ ἐφτωχὸν μὲ τὸ παιδίον ἀτ σ' ἐκεινέτερον.

Ἐφτωχὸν μὲ τὸ παιδίον ἀτ σιτᾶ ἐλάσκουσαν σὴ θάλασσας σὴν ἄκραν κές, λέει τὸ παιδίον, «Πατέρα, ἀσὸ γοῦμ' τῆ θάλασσας κι ἄλλο πολλὰ ποῖον ἔν;» «Παιδί μ',» εἶπεν ἀτον, «ἀσὴ θάλασσας τὸ γοῦμ' κι ἄλλο πολλὰ ἔν τῆ Θεοῦ ἐσπλαχνία.» Ἀσκητῆς ἀποβραδὶς ἐπῆγεν ἐκάτσεν σὴ χανὶ τὴν πόρταν, καὶ θὰ τερεῖ ποῖος θὰ ἐμπαίν' πρῶτα ἀπές, γιὰ νὰ ἐγνωρίζ', ποῖος ἔν ὁ καλόν. Κι ὄντες τερεῖ, τὸ ἐλέπ': Ἐφτωχὸν μὲ τὸ παιδίον ἀτ ἐσέβεν πρῶτα ἀπές. «Ἄτσαῖπκον ἔρθεν ἀτό· ἀποπουρνὸν νὰ ἔν κακὸς καὶ ἀτώρα νὰ ἔν καλός.» Ἐσίρεψε καὶ ἐπῆγεν σ' ὄσπίτ'ν ἀτ, καὶ ἐνοῦντζεν πῶς νὰ μαθάν' ἀβουτο τὸ θάμαν. Ἐσκῶθεν ἀποπουρνὸν καὶ ἐπῆγεν εὔρεν τὸν ἐφτωχόν. Ἐρωτᾶ τον, «Ὀψὲ τὸ καλὸν ἐποῖκες;» «Τιδὲν καλὸν κ' ἐποῖκα,» λέγ' ἐφτωχόν. «Γιόκ, τσάνουμ,» λέγάτον ἀσκητῆς, «κατ' καλὸν θὰ ἐποῖκες. Πὲ μ' ἀτο.» «Τιδὲν καλὸν κ' ἐποῖκα,» εἶπεν. «Σὸν γιαιλὸν κές σιτᾶ ἐπέγνα, ἐρωτᾶ με τὸ παιδί μ, Πατέρα, ἀσὸ γοῦμ' τῆ θάλασσας κι ἄλλο πολλὰ-ποῖον ἔν;» Ἐγὼ πὰ εἶπα 'τον, Παιδί μ, τῆ Θεοῦ ἐσπλαχνία. Καλὸν ἂν ἔν ἀτό, ἀτὸ τὸ καλὸν ἐποῖκα.» «Κανεῖται ἀτό,» εἶπεν ἀσκητῆς, καὶ ἐσίρεψεν σ' ὄσπίτ'ν ἀτ. Ἐνοῦντζεν ἀπές ἀτ, «Τ' ἐμέτερον ὁ παράδεισον μετ' ἔναν λόγον παίρκεται, καὶ μετ' ἔναν λόγον χᾶται.»

Told by Χαρίλαος Φωτιάδης at the Monastery of the Forerunner, Imera, 12 August 1914.

Summary

An ascetic was sitting by a well when he saw a horseman approaching. He hid behind a bush in fear. When the horseman had eaten and drunk by the well, he set off, forgetting to pick up his purse containing a thousand pounds. The ascetic saw another man come by and take the purse. Then a poor man sat down by the well to eat a crust of bread. The horseman returned and shot the poor man dead, convinced that he had stolen his purse. Puzzled, the ascetic came out from hiding and besought God to explain the justice of what he had witnessed. An angel came down and told him that the man who had taken the purse was the rightful owner, and had been deprived of it by the horseman; furthermore, the poor man had murdered the horseman's father; so that now they were all quits. The ascetic then besought the angel to show him how to distinguish the good from the evil. The angel told him to wait outside the tavern door; the first man to come out in the morning would be the worst man of all, while the first to go in in the evening would be the best. To the ascetic's surprise, the first to come out and the first to go in was one and the same man. The next day the ascetic went to ask the man what good deed he had done between leaving and entering the inn. He replied that he had done nothing good except to tell his son that God's mercy was more abundant than the sand of the sea. The ascetic realized that the kingdom of heaven can be gained and lost with a single word.

The story was published in Dawkins's translation in *Forty-Five Stories from the Dodekanese*, pp. 262-263 (cf. Imera 2).

4. (Imera 15)

Ἐνας δάσκαλος ἐπαίρειν ἕναν ἡμέραν τὸν μαθητὴν ἄτ και ἐξέβαν σὸ λάσιμον. Κατὰ τύχην ἐδέβαν σ' ἕναν χωράφ' κές. Ἐκειπαῖες ἐδοῦλευν ἕνας χωρέτες τσίπ ἐφτωχός. Πλαγκαικά ἀπές σ' ὀρμίν εἶδαν ἕνα ζευγάρ' τσίπ γρασμένα ποστάλα. Ὁ μαθητὴς εἶπεν τὸ δάσκαλον ἄτ, «Λελεύω σε, δάσκαλε, ἄς παίρομε τ' ἄβουτουνοῦ τὰ κουντούρας και κρύφοκομες ἄκαικά σ' ἕναν καφούλ' ἄφκά: ἔκαικά θὰ ἔχομε και ἔβόρα, και ἄς τερούμε, ἄμοντο ἔρται ἀραεῦῶτα και κ' εὐρίκατα, τό θὰ ἐφτάει». «Καλὸν παιδίν,» εἶπεν ὁ δάσκαλον, «τερῶ σε, θέλτς ν' ἐφτᾶς τὸ κέφι ς, σίτᾶ τερεῖς ἐκεῖνον νὰ κρούει τὰ γόνατα 'τ γιὰ τὰ ποστάλα 'τ. Ἐσὺ ἀτώρα βάλον ἀπές σὰ δύο πὰ ἀπ' ἕναν λίραν' θὰ κρύφοκομες ὅπεις σὸ καφούλ' και ἄς τερούμε τό θὰ ἐφτάει ἄμοντο εὐρίκ' τὰ λίρας. Ἀτότες ἐκεῖνος θὰ σάιρεται γιὰ τὰ λίρας, κι ἐμεῖς πὰ θὰ τερούμ' ἄτον και σάιρομες.» Ὁ μαθητὴς ἐποίκεν ἄμοντο εἶπεν ἄτον ὁ δάσκαλον ἄτ: ἐσέγκεν ἀπές σὰ δύο ποστάλα ἀπ' ἕναν λίραν και ἐπαίρειν τὸν δάσκαλον ἄτ και ἐκρύφτεν ὅπεις σὸ καφούλ'.

Ἦστερον ἄσ' ἕναν κάρτον τερούνε τὸν χωρέτεν νὰ ἔρται νὰ φορεῖ τὰ ποστάλα 'τ. Ἐσέγκεν ἀναχάπαρα τ' ἕναν τὸ ποδάρ'ν ἄτ σ' ἕναν τὸ ποστάλ', και ἐπεκεῖ τερεῖ πωσότη και κρούει τὸ ποδάρ'ν ἄτ. Ἐθάρρεσεν λιθαρόπον και ἐροῦξεν ἀπές και ἐξέγκεν τὸ ποδάρ'ν ἄτ νὰ χάν' τὸ λιθάρ'. Μὲ τὸ νὰ λέγω σας κ' ἐπορῶ νὰ φανερώω σας καλὰ πόσον ἐχπαράεν ὄνταν εἶδεν πωσότη ἐκεῖνον τὸ ἐντοῦνεν τὸ ποδάρ'ν ἄτ ἔτον λίρα. Ἐχάρεν, και ἄση χαρὰν ἄτ σκοῦται ἐφτάει ἐκὲς ἄμον παλαλά, και τζαῖζ', χωρὶς νὰ γροικᾶς τό λέει. Ὁ μαθητὴς και ὁ δάσκαλον ἐτέρναν τὴ χαρὰν τὴ χωρέτε και ἐσαίρουσαν και ἐκεῖν'. «Ἐλέπ'ς,» λέει ὁ δάσκαλον τὸν μαθητὴν ἄτ, «ἔ' ἔμορφον ἐν νὰ σάιρεται ἐκεῖνος και ἐμεῖς πὰ μετ' ἐκεῖνον; Κι νουνίεις πόσον ἄσκειμον θὰ ἔτον ἄν ἐπαίρναμε τὰ ποστάλα 'τ, και ἐκλαιγεν και ἐκεῖνος, και ἐμεῖς πὰ θὰ ἔτσίζαμ' ἄτον, και κι θὰ ἐγέλαναμε ἀτόσον.» Ὁ μαῦρον ὁ χωρέτες πάει νὰ βάλ' και τ' ἄλλο τὸ ποδάρ'ν ἄτ σ' ἄλλο τὸ ποστάλ'ν ἄτ και ἀναχάπαρα ἐλέπ' και ἐκεῖ ἀπές ἕναν κι ἄλλο λίραν. Τὸ τό ἐγέντον ἐπεκεῖ και ἕστερον, ἄβουκάτος πὰ νὰ εἶμαι, κι θὰ ἐγροικῶ νὰ λέγ' ἄτο. Ἀτότες ἐστάθεν ὁ χωρέτες και ἐσταύρωσεν τὰ σέρά 'τ, ἐποίκεν τὴν μετάνᾶν ἄτ και εἶπεν, «Θεέ μ, ἀλπάτ θὰ ἔξερεις πὸς ἀπόψ' κ' εἶχα ψομὶν νὰ φάζω τὰ παιδία μ, και ἐστειλες με με κάποιον καλὸν καρδιάν ἄβουτα τὰ παράδας γιὰ νὰ φάζω τὴν γυναικα μ και τὰ παιδία μ.»

Ἀτότε ἐξέβαν ἀποπὶς ἀσὸ καφούλ' και ὁ δάσκαλον με τὸν μαθητὴν ἄτ. «Μετ' ἐμᾶς,» εἶπαν ἄτον, «ὁ Θεὸς ἔστειλε σε ἄβουτα τα παράδας. Δέβα καθ και φά τα με τὸ καλὸν καρδιάν. Ἄν εἶναι ὀλίγα, ἔπαρ' ἄλλα δύο κι ἄλλο.» Και ἐξέγκεν και ἐδῶκεν ἄτον και δύο κι ἄλλα. Ὁ χωρέτες ἀσοῦ εὐχέθεν και ἕστερον, ἐπήγεν σ' ὀσπίτ'ν ἄτ και εἶπεν τὴν γυναικάν ἄτ τὸ καλὸν τὸ χαμπάρ'. Οἱ δὺ' πά, ὁ δάσκαλον και ὁ μαθητὴς, χαρμενέν' γιὰ τὸ καλὸν π' ἐποίκαν, ἐπήγαν σ' ὀσπίτᾶ 'τον, και ἐγροικ'σεν ὁ μαθητὴς πωσότη ἄλλ' ἔμορφον ἐν νὰ δί' κάποιος παρὰ νὰ παίρ'.

Told by Χαρίλαος Φωτιάδης at the Monastery of the Forerunner, Imera, 12 August 1914.

Summary

«A master and his disciple were out walking and they found a pair of shoes which a man had left at the edge of the field when he went to plough. At the master's suggestion they put some money into the shoes and hid themselves. What they wanted was to have the pleasure of witnessing the simple delight of the ploughman when he found this piece of good luck which had come upon him.» (Summary by Dawkins, *Folk-Lore*, 59 [1948], p. 53).

With regard to this story Dawkins comments (*ibid*): «A most attractive trait we sometimes find in Greek stories is the unfeigned delight the narrators show in their hero's happiness and pleasure».

Stories from Sourmena

1. (*Sourmena 16*): The cock and his friends

Ἐναν ἡμέρα ἡ κάτα ν' ἐπέγνε σὴν ξενιτία. Σὸ δρόμο εἶδε ἓνα πετεινό. Ὁ πετεινό εἶπε τὴν κάτα, «Καλημέρα, κάτα, ποῦ νὰ πᾶς;» «Σὴν ξενιτία, πετεινό.» «Ἐγὼ πάλ ἄς ἔρχομαι.» Καὶ ἐπῆγαν ἐντάμα.

Σὸ δρόμο εἶδανε ἓνα ζό. Ἐκεῖνο πάλ ἐπῆε ἐντάμα. Κι ἐπεκεῖ ἐπῆγανε ἔπῆγανε, εἶδαν ἓνα γάιδαρο. Ἐκεῖνος πάλ ἐπῆγ' ἐντάμα. Σίτ' ἐπέγναν ἐβραδονᾶγανε, καὶ εἶδαν ἓναν ἔφκαιρο χαμαιλέτε καὶ ἐσέβαν ἀπές. Σὰ ξημερώματα σιμά ὁ πετεινό ἐκούξε. Ἐκουσαν ἀτο τρὶ νοματοῖ θωπεκάντ' καὶ εἶπανε, «Ποῖος ἀπ' ἐμᾶς νὰ ἐπορεῖ καὶ παίρ' ἀτό τὸν πετεινό;» Ἐνας πάλ εἶπε, «Ἐγὼ ἐπορῶ καὶ πάω παίρ' ἄ». Ἐπῆε ἐπῆε σιμά σὸν πετεινό καὶ ὁ πετεινό ἐποῖκε «κὸ κὸ κὸ». Ἐκεῖνος πάλ ἐθάρρεσε ὅτι ἐν ζουρνατσῆς καὶ ἔφνε. Σίτε πάει, ἡ κάτα ἐτάλεψε σὰ μουντζούρᾶ 'τ. Καὶ ἀτὸς πάλ σίτε φεύ', ἐπῆε σὸ γάιδαρο ἐκεικὰ καὶ ὁ γάιδαρο ἐντῶκεν ἀτονα λάχτας. Κι ἐπεκεῖ ἐπῆε σὸ ζὸ ἐκεικὰ καὶ τὸ ζὸ μὲ τὰ κέρατα ἔθε ἔσκωσε καὶ ἔσυρεν ἀτονα ὀξούκᾶ.

Ἐφρυε ὁ θῶπεκας καὶ ἐπῆε σοὶ συντρόφους ἀτ, κι ἐρωτοῦν ἀτονα, «Ποῦ ἐν ὁ πετεινό;» Ἐκεῖνος πάλ εἶπε, «Κεῖνος πετεινὸς κ' ἔτουνε ἔτουνε ζουρνατσῆς. Ἐντῶκε με μὲ τὸ ζουρνατσῶπον [ζουρναδόπον:] ἀτ. Καὶ σίτ' ἔφνε ἡ καπιτσάραβα ἐντῶκε με μὲ τὸ σπουγγάρ'ν ἀτς, κι ἐπεκεῖ πάλ ἔρθε ὁ ζουρνατσῆς ἐντῶκε με τρία [φαρας] μὲ τὸ ζουρνατσῶπον ἀτ, κι ἐπεκεῖ ὁ καπιτσάρας ἔβαλε με ἀπάν σὸ φτάρ'ν ἀτ κι ἔσυρε με [ὀξούκᾶ].»

Told by Χρῆστος Στ. Εὐφραμιῆδης (aged 20, from Καρακαντζί), at Τσίτα, 14 July 1914.

Summary

The cat was on its way to foreign parts with a cock, a cow and a donkey. They spent the night in an empty mill. At dawn the cock crowed. Some jackals heard him and one of them boasted that he would go and snatch him. The cock made a sound like a pipe, and the jackal fled, thinking it was a piper. As the jackal was running away, the cat pounced at his muzzle, then the donkey kicked him, then the cow tossed him out with

her horns. When the jackal got back to his companions they asked him what had happened to the cock. He replied: «It wasn't a cock, it was a piper, and he beat me with his pipe. Then when I was running away the miller's wife hit me with her sponge, then the piper hit me three times with his pipe, then the miller tossed me out with his shovel!»

Dawkins published a similar story from Axó in *Modern Greek in Asia Minor*, pp. 400-402; on this see Halliday's commentary and references in the same book, pp. 243-244.

2. (*Sourmena 17*): The chain of requests

Ἔνας γυναίκα πάντα ἐπαίρινε κρέας, κι ὄλο ἐρχουτουνε ἔτρωεν ἄ ἓνα πουλί. Ἐναν ἡμέρα πάλ εἶπε τὸν ἄντραν ἄτς, «Ἐπαρε με κρέας, καὶ ἐγὼ τὸ πουλί κὲ νὰ φαῖς' ἄ.» Ἐκεῖνος πάλ ἐγόρασε κρέας. Καὶ πάλ ἀτὲ ἡ γυναίκα ἐφάισεν ἄ τὸ πουλί. Καὶ τῷγκιτὰμ ἐφοβέθε ἀσὸν ἄντραν ἄτς, ἐπῆε παρεκάλεσε τὸ πουλί νὰ δὶ' ὀπίς τὸ κρέας. Ἄμα τὸ πουλί εἶπεν ἄτενα, «Ἄν φέρεις με ἓνα κοσσοπούλ', ἐτότε 'γὼ νὰ δῶ σε τὸ κρέας.» Ἐπῆε σὴν κοσσοῦ καὶ λέει ἄτεν, «Δὸς με ἓνα πουλί γιὰ νὰ φέρ' ἄτο τὸ ἀηδόν' καὶ νὰ δι με τὸ κρέας.» Ἡ κοσσοῦ πάλ εἶπε, «Ἄν φέρεις με τσουπάδ', ἐτότε 'γὼ νὰ δῶ σε πουλί.» Ἐπῆε ἀτὲ σὸν τσουπαδὰ καὶ λέει ἄτον, «Ἐ τσουπαδὰ, τσουπαδὰ, γι-ἀηδόν' ἐμὲν πουλί, ἡ κοσσοῦ ἐμὲν κοκκὶ ἐράεψε.» Τότε εἶπεν ἄτενα ὁ τσουπαδὰς, «Ἄν φέρεις με σπουγγάρ' ἐγὼ νὰ δῶ σε τσουπάδ'» Ἐπῆε σὸ σπουγγαρά καὶ εἶπεν ἄτονα, «Γι-ἀηδόν' ἐμὲν πουλί, ἡ κοσσοῦ ἐμὲν κοκκὶ, ὁ τσουπαδὰς ἐμὲν σπουγγάρ' ἐγαλάφεσε.» Ὁ σπουγγαράς εἶπεν ἄτενα, «Ἄν φέρεις με ἓνα κρωπὶ ἐγὼ νὰ δῶ σε σπουγγάρ'.» Ἐπῆε σὸν κρωπὰ καὶ εἶπεν ἄτονα, «Γι-ἀηδόν' ἐμὲν πουλί, ἡ κοσσοῦ ἐμὲν κοκκὶ, ὁ σπουγγαράς ἐμὲν κρωπὶ ἐγαλάφεσε.» Ἐτότε ὁ κρωπὰς εἶπεν ἄτενα, «Ἄν φέρεις με καρβόνᾶ, ἐγὼ νὰ δῶ σε κρωπὶ.» Ἐτότε ἡ γυναίκα ἐτέρεσε κὲ νὰ ἐπορεὶ ἐπαίρ' τὸ κρέας. Καὶ ἐκλῶστε σ' ὀσπὶν ἄτς.

Ἐκεῖν' τὸ βράδο ἔρται ἄντρας ἄτς καὶ λέει ἄτενα, «Ποῦ ἔν τὸ κρέας;» Ἐτότε ἡ γυναίκα εἶπε, «Ἐ ἄντρα μ, νὰ ἔξερνες τ' ἔπαθα τῆ δουλειά. Σὸ κρέας ἀπὸν ἔρθε ἓνα τρανόο μυία καὶ ἐγέννησε ἀπὸν ὄβγά, κι ἐγὼ ἐνεράστα 'το καὶ ἐχάσα 'το, κι ἄντα ἐλέπω ἐκεῖνο τῆ μυία ἐγὼ νὰ σκοτῶν' ἄτο.» Ἄτὸ σίτ' ἐλέγανε ἔρθ' ἓνα τρανό μυία κι ἐκάτσε σ' ἄντρα σατς σὸ κιφάλ' ἀπὸν. Ἄτὲ ἐπῆρε ἓνα ἀξινάρ' καὶ τεὰμ νὰ χτυπᾶ τῆ μυία ἐντῶκε ἔσκισε τ' ἄντρα σατς τὸ κιφάλ'.

Told by Χρῖστος Εὐφραμιῶδης, Τσίτα, 14 July 1914.

Summary

There was a woman who used to buy meat and feed it to a bird (later a nightingale). One day she asked her husband to buy meat and promised not to give it to the bird. Her husband bought the meat, but she fed it to the bird. Then she became afraid of her husband, and asked the bird to give it back. But the bird refused to give her the meat

unless she brought it a chick. She went to the hen, but the hen refused to give her a chick unless she brought her a corn-cob. The corn-merchant refused to give her a corn-cob unless she brought him a sponge. The sponge-seller refused to give her a sponge unless she brought him a bill-hook. The bill-hook-seller refused to give her a bill-hook unless she brought him some coal. At this, she gave up and went home. When her husband asked where the meat was, she told him a huge fly had laid its eggs in it; she had thrown the meat away and was now waiting to kill the fly. As she spoke, a huge fly settled on her husband's head. The woman grabbed a pickaxe as if to kill the fly, and split her husband's head in two.

3. (*Sourmena* 70)

Ἔσανε δύο νομάτ'. Τρώγοντας καὶ πίνοντας ἀπὸν σὸ δρόμο ἐμέθιζαν καὶ ἐκοιμήθανε. Τῆ νύχτα ἐξύπνησεν ὁ ἕνας καὶ ἔκνεθε τ' ἄλλοινοῦ τὸ κιφάλ'. Ἐτότες ὁ γι-ἄλλο ἐξύπνησε καὶ εἶπεν ἄτονα, «Ρὲ τὸ φτάς ἀτοῦ;» Ἐκείνος εἶπε, «Τὸ κιφάλι μὲ κνέθω». Ἐτότε ὁ γι-ἄλλο εἶπεν ἄτονα, «Ἀτὸ τὸ κιφάλ' τ' ἐμόνα ἔν». Κι ὁ γι-ἄλλο εἶπε, «Κιὰμ τ' ἐμόνα τὸ κιφάλ' ποῦ γι-ἔν»

Told by Λεωνίδας Ἡρακλέους Ἀδαμίδης (18-20 years old) at Sourmena school, 15 July 1914.

Summary

Two men got drunk. During the night one of them woke up and started scratching the other man's head. The other one woke up and asked him what he was doing. 'I'm scratching my head', he replied. And the other one asked, 'So where's mine then?'.

Stories from Ophis

1. (*Ophis* 4): Γλωσσικὸν ζήτημα

Ἐνας Σουρμενίτης ἐπέγινε σὸ Χολὸ μεζέρεσι. Ἐντάμωσε ἕνα Ὀφλή, παλτοῦρι τσιπλάκ, καὶ ἐρώτησεν ἄτονα, «Π' ἐσ' 'αὶ πᾶς, Ὀφλή;». Ὀφλῆς πάλ εἶπεν ἄτονα, «Ἐγὼ τὲ ἐσ' 'αὶ πάω σ' ὄρος. Ἐχω 'τσεῖ ἕνα ἔνοικο· μετ' αὐτοῦ τὸ λυτάρ' νὰ πάω παίρ' ἀτο.» Ὁ Σουρμενίτης τίπο 'κ ἐγρίκεσε ἀσὰ λόγια 'τ. Ἄντα ἐγύρεσε πάλ σ' ὄσπιτ' τὸ βράδο, εἶπε τὸ παιδὶν ἄτ, «Παῦλο, ὀσημερο σίτ' ἐπέγινε σὸ Χόλο μεζέρεσι ἐτσάτεψα ἕνα Ὀφλή. Ἐρώτεσα 'τονε γιὰ μασκαραλοῦκ, γιὰ τῆ γλώσσα 'τοῦνα. Εἶπα 'τονα, 'Ὀφλή, π' ἐσ' 'αὶ πᾶς; Ἐκείνος πάλ εἶπε με, 'ἐσ' 'αὶ πάω σ' ὄρος. Ἐχω 'τσεῖ ἕνα ἔνοικο· μετ' αὐτοῦ τὸ λυτάρ' νὰ πάω παίρ' ἀτο.» Ἄμ' ἀσὰ λόγια 'τ τίπο 'κ ἐγρίκεσα. Ἐσὺ γιὰ ἐξήγεσο τὰ λόγια 'τ.» Τὸ παιδί ἐπειδὴ ἐμαθάνε σὸ σκολεῖο σὸ Χάν', κάποια ἐγρίκεσε. Εἶπε τὸν πατέρα 'τ, «Ἀτὸς Ὀφλῆς παλᾶ ἐλληνικὰ λέξεις ἔλεγε, γιὰ τ' ἐκεῖνο κι ἐγρίκεσες ἀτα. Ὅρος ἐλληνικά, λέγει, ἐμεῖς τὸ λέγομε ὑψηλὸ ρασί. Ἐσ' 'αὶ πάω σ' ὄρος τεμὲκ ἐσ' καὶ πάω σὸ ρασί.» Εἶπεν ὁ κύρης ἄτ, «Τὸ εἶπεν Ἐχω 'τσεῖ ἕνα ἔνοικο, ἐκεῖνο πῶς ἔν;» Ὁ παιδὰς ἐστάθεν,

ἐσυλλοῖστε πολλὰ, τὸ ἔνοικο κι 'πόρεσε νὰ εὐρίσκ'. 'Ἐπῆρε καὶ τὸ λεξικό, ἐτάραξε ἀδὰ, ἐτάραξε ἀκεῖ τὰ φύλλα, εὔρε τῆ λέξη ἔνοικο. 'Ἐρχίνεσε τῆ γραμματικῆ. «'Ἐνοικος, σύνθετον ἀπὸ τὴν πρόθεσιν ἐν και οἶκος, ἐγκάτοικος· τουρκικὰ σενλικ.» Εἶπε τὸ παιδί, «Σὸ ρασὶ ἀπὸν κάτι σενλικ πράμα ἐν.» Εἶπεν ὁ κύρης αὐ, «Τὸ λυτάρ' τὸ πράμα ἐν;» Τὸ παιδί ἐπῆρε τῆ γραμματικῆ, «Λυτάρ' ἀπὸ τὸ ρῆμα λύω ἔλουν, παράγον λυτήριον λυτάριον, δηλαδὴ τὸ ὄργανον μὲ τὸ ὁποῖο λύουν και δένουνε, τεμὲκ τὸ σκοινί. 'Ὅμον τὸ φαίνεται, σὸ ρασὶ ἀπὸν μὲ τὸ σκοινί ν' ἐπαίρινε ἔνοικο, τεμὲκ τὸ λέγομε γουρνία, μελεσιδᾶ, ν' ἐκατέβαζε γουρνὶ ἀσὸ ρασί.» Ἐτότες εἶπεν ὁ κύρης αὐ, «Κρίμα σ' ἐσένα, Παῦλο, κρίμα τ' ἐποῖκα ἔξοδα ἀποπίσα ς. Τὸ σκολεῖο τὸ Χάν' ὀφέτος τελειώνεις, και εἶχα χατεσλοῦκ ν' ἐστείλινα σε σὴν Τραπεζούντα σὸ τρανὸ τὸ σκολεῖο. 'Ατώρα ἐπεκαρδίγα, ἀντζᾶκ ἴσα μ' ἕνα 'Ὀφλῆ χωρότε ἔμαθες. 'Ἐκεῖνο πάλ με τὰ λεξικά και με τῆ γραμματικῆ ἀντζᾶκ ἐπόρεσες ἐξήγεσες τὰ λόγια 'τ.»

Signed Παπαϊωάννης [Χατζή-Ίωαννίδης], priest at Κρινίτα, 19 July 1914.

Summary

A man from Sourmena meets a man from Ophis on the road and fails to understand anything he says. On his return home the man tells his son what has happened, repeating what the Ophite had said. The boy, who goes to the local school, explains that the reason why his father couldn't understand the man from Ophis is that the latter was speaking Ancient Greek; with the help of a dictionary and a grammar he manages to interpret the Ophite's words. The father considers the money he has spent on his son's school fees is wasted. «You've hardly learned as much as a peasant from Ophis,» he declares; «you could scarcely explain his words even with a dictionary and a grammar!»

The story shows that Pontians take pride in the antiquity of their dialect not only vis-à-vis other Greeks, but in competition with people from other parts of Pontos.

2. (Ophis 6)

'Ἐναν καιρὸ ἔτονε ἕνα γυναικά και εἶδε ἕνα παιδί. Και τὸ παιδί ἐκόντεψε νὰ γυναικίς. 'Ἐνα ἄλλε γυναικά, γιὰ νὰ εὐρίσκ' κορίτσ' γιὰ τὸ παιδί, εἶπε τοῦ παιδί ἡ μάνα, «Νὰ πᾶμε σ' ἕνα ὀσπίτ'. 'Ἐκεῖ ἐγὼ νὰ λέγω ἕνα, ἐσὺ νὰ λὲς δύο.» 'Ἐπῆγανε σὸ σπί, ἀπαποῦθ' νὰ πάρουνε κορίτσ'. 'Ἐπῆγανε ἐκεῖ ἐσέβανε σὸ σπί. 'Ἐκάτσανε καὶ και ἐρχίνεσε ἡ γυναικά νὰ ἐπαινᾷ τὸ παιδί, και ἔλεγε, «Ταυτηνῆς τὸ παιδί ἔσ' ἐκατὸ λιρῶν χῶματα.» Και τὸ παιδί εἶπε, «Γιόκ, ἐδάκόσα λίρα εἶναι.» 'Υστὲρ εἶπε ἡ γυναικά, «'Ἐσ' ἐδάκόσα λιρῶν χτήματα.» «Γιόκ,» εἶπε τὸ παιδί, «τετρακόσα λιρῶν.» 'Υστὲρ' πάλ εἶπε ἡ γυναικά, «'Ἐσ' ἐκατὸ κεφάλᾶ πρόβata.» «Γιόκ,» εἶπε τὸ παιδί, «ἐδάκόσα κεφάλᾶ εἶναι.» 'Υστὲρ' εἶπε ἡ γυναικά, «'Ἐσ' κ' ἕνα κουσούρ' τ' ἕνα τὸ μάτιν αὐ ἐν στραβό.» «Γιόκ,» εἶπε τὸ παιδί, «δύο μάτᾶ εἶναι στραβά.» 'Υστὲρ εἶπε ὁ νοικοκύρης,

«Χάρ, ἀμῆτε σὰ καλά.» Ἐκεῖν' πάλ' ἐσκῶθαν κ' ἐπῆγαν, χωρὶς νὰ γίνεταί ἡ δουλεία ἴτουνα νὰ γυναικίζουν τὸ παιδί.

Told by Δημήτριος Παπαδόπουλος, son of the priest at Krinita, 19 August 1914.

Summary

A boy was going to get married. His mother went to the prospective bride's parents with another woman and the woman's son. The woman instructed her son to say twice as much as whatever she said. The woman began singing the praises of the prospective bridegroom, saying, «This woman's boy's got land worth £200.» «No,» said her son, «£400.» «He's got a hundred head of sheep.» «No,» said her son, «two hundred.» Then the woman said, «He's got one defect: he squints in one eye.» «No,» said the son, «both eyes.» Whereupon the father of the prospective bride sent them packing.