

DAVIT THE LAD

**Told by Davit from the Tadeos Apostle Church village
Recorded by Khachik Dadayan in 1985**

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1. DAVIT THE LAD'S FIGHT AGAINST MELIK OF MISIR

King Mher was a mighty king:

He had two wives.

One day he came and saw a man sleeping

Next to his younger wife.

The King exclaimed:

“Holla! I am Mher the King,

And my wife does such things.

If I give a kick now

The both will go forty feet under the ground,

But this is not worthy of my name”.

The nobles wondered “What has happened to younger wife?

Could it be so that he has witnessed something and killed the younger wife?”

In fact, Mher took off his sheepskin coat and covered them with it

And went away without saying a word.

When the woman came to consciousness,

She felt that it was impossible to make a stir.

“Oh, has the roof crumbled or something?” she wondered.

Finally the woman managed to move about a bit,

Raised her head from the pillow and saw the king’s sheepskin coat over them.

“Come on, a silly one, there is no escape for us any more” she told her lover.

“It’s not so, don’t be afraid,

If he had a mind to kill us,

He would simply give a single kick.

But he hadn't got such an idea, as I see.”

The lover replied.

The wife felt sorry and left,

Promising herself not to meddle in such affairs again.

The lover ran away too.

The woman got pregnant.

The King’s elder wife also got pregnant.

When the time came,

The younger wife delivered a baby.

They came with congratulations to King Mher “You have got a son, My Lord.”

The wonderful news went forth.

The town was in merry celebration

“Our King got a boy!”

The Nobles gathered around the king and said

“Long live the King,

How would you like to name the child?”

“Dog Melik” he exclaimed.

“Long live the King,

Dog Melik can’t be a name for a child.”

“Hey you,

Isn’t he my son? And the name for him will be as I said.”

As the King knew the secret

The nobles weren’t aware of.

So, “Dog Melik” was scripted on the child’s arm...

His elder wife also delivered a baby.

More congratulations again.

When the news went forth

For seven days and seven nights joy was in the town.

Folks came and said “Long live the King,

How would you like to name the child?”

“Go and bring the child”

The baby was taken to the King.

He saw that baby’s right palm was closed.

No matter how hard he tried, the palm wouldn’t open.

He ordered then “Let my mighty warriors come here.”

Seven warriors he had,

All seven came.

One by one they tried to open the child's palm; hopeless.

"Give up and take the child away" shouted the King.

The child was taken away,

The Dog Melik came.

He wrote on Melik's arm.

"Dog Melik, Davit is your younger brother,

You are his elder brother,

Davit is your servant."

2. MHER'S WILL AND DEATH

And Davit was sent to be schooled.

Melik was already grown up and smart enough,

While Davit was still a naive child.

One day King Mher was sleeping,

When someone came at night and kept calling "Mher, Mher."

Mher jumped up and asked "Who are you?"

No response, he fell asleep again.

The same voice "Mher, Mher."

He woke up "Who are you?"

Again no response. The King went back to bed.

The same voice once more "Mher, Mher"

“Who are you?” he asked.

“I am the Archangel Gabriel” was the response.

“Get ready, I’ll take your soul away.”

“Gabriel the Archangel!” Mher exclaimed

“Glory to you and your God,

Give me another forty days, I have too many sins

Need to repent the sins, and then let it be your will:

Take away whatever belongs to you.”

Forty days passed.

He shared all his wealth among the poor and gave alms.

Brought all his belongings, his wife, his Lightning Sword and

Davit to send to Sassoun, to Davit’s uncle.

He could clearly imagine that Dog Melik would become a king

And deprive Davit.

“So, let his mother take Davit to his uncles’ place to survive.”

Mher got sick.

Archangel Gabriel took his soul.

The body was buried.

3. DAVIT IN DUNGENON

Dog Melik was made a king and sat on the throne.

As soon as he sat on the throne,

Told the men who took food to Davit

“When you take food to Davit, take the bones out of the meat

And take the pits out of the fruit.”

One day the person who usually carried

Food to Davit got offended for some reason -

He said to him “Today I’ll not separate the meat from the bones.

Let Davit choke.

Then he’ll become angry and kill everyone who has dared to offend me.”

In the evening he took the food

And in the morning gave it to Davit.

Davit bit the bone while eating the meat.

His teeth could not cut the bone while the meat had gone.

He took the bone out and threw it towards the window.

The bone broke the closed window

And the sunbeam fell on the floor.

“What the hell fell into my room?” asked Davit.

To catch the beam of light he struck himself to the floor very hard.

For a long time all in a sweat he was trying to catch the ray.

The Master who was teaching him

Came in, saw Davit rising and falling, rising and falling.

“Davit, I would die for you”, he said “for what do you strike yourself on the floor?”

“This beam of light has entered my room and does not come out” answered Davit.

“Just shut your eyes” the Master said.

And when Davit closed his eyes

He plugged the hole with his handkerchief.

“Listen” said Davit “I got exhausted since morning trying to make that ray vanish.

How did you manage? Are you stronger than me?”

“It’s not a man, son, my soul,

Just a sun ray” the Master told.

“If there is Sun, then

Why am I here?” said Davit.

“There is Sun and there is Night as well”

Master responded.

“Then why don’t you take me out of here?”

Davit asked.

“Let me ask the King” said the Master.

He went to the King and told him

That the man who delivered food to Davit

Had not taken the bones out of the meat.

Davit had eaten the meat

And broken a window with the bone.

Then Davit had thrown himself to the floor

To catch the ray in the room.

“I came in and released him from the anguish.”

“Take him out for a walk.”

The King ordered.

4. DAVIT COMES OUT OF THE DUNGEON: CATCHES AND THROWS AWAY MELIK’S LANCE

Walking along the street

Davit kept asking about everything he saw –

Cattle, buffalo, horse:

“What’s this and what’s that?”

The Master kept answering

“This is called this way and that is called that way...”

They came out of the town;

Davit looked and saw that the old town folks had gathered there.

“Let’s go there” he said.

“Nothing special there” said the Master

“Let’s take this way.”

“No, take me there” Davit said.

“Nothing to see there” the Master said.

“Take me there, otherwise...”

“No.”

He twisted his Master’s ear ...

“Well, let’s go” the poor Master agreed.

They went and reached the far end of the square.

A lance-throwing competition

Was taking place there.

One of the lances landed next to Davit.

Davit caught Melik’s lance

And threw it for ten yards away.

“Oho!”, said the Dog Melik

“Who was that strong man that threw my lance away?”

The Nobles of Melik went to see it and said

“Long live the King, that’s Davit.”

“Bring him here. I’ll cut his head off.”

The Nobles started to seek mercy falling upon their knees

“Long live the King, why do you want

To cut off the head of that poor child?”

A man was sent to the Master.

Master was strongly warned too:

“You, a stupid one, couldn’t you

Get another place to take him for a walk?

Next time take him to a safer place.”

The Master took Davit back to his room.

The night came.

Davit could not sleep.

Thinking all the time

“When the light will be back?”

At dawn he told the Master

“Get up. Let’s go.”

They went out of the town.

This time Master didn’t take him to that place.

“Where is the place we were yesterday?” Davit asked.

“Nobody is there” the Master said.

Davit twisted the Master’s ear and said

“No, you take me to yesterday’s place.”

They approached and saw men hanging around again

Playing yesterday’s game:

Throwing a lance.

Davit caught the lance

And threw it for twenty yards now.

Melik got crazy and exclaimed

“Get there and see who that warrior is.

Who could be that enemy of mine

That came across my thrown lance?”

Men went, saw it, came back and reported

“Long live the King, it was Davit.”

“Get him here” said Melik, “I’ll cut his head off.”

The Nobles again kept seeking mercy, kissing King’s feet and hands,

Trying to prevent Davit’s beheading.

They came to the Master again

“You, stupid man, don’t take him here any more.”

“You think, I take him here?

“That’s him who forces me by

Twisting my ear.”

“Be smarter, take him away.”

Again Davit was taken back to his room.

The night came again

And again Davit could not sleep

Thinking “When will the morning come...”

At dawn he told the Master

“Let’s go.”

This time the Master took him to another place.

“Where is yesterday’s place” he asked the Master again.

“They do not gather every day,

And do not play.”

“No” he said, “Take me to yesterday’s place.”

He insisted again.

The Master saw that he had no choice -

Took him there again.

Davit saw men hanging there and playing;

Throwing lances again.

He caught the lance and threw it.

The lance passed thirty yards with the last throw.

And again Dog Melik sent his men

To see who had caught his lance.

Men came, saw it and went back to Melik saying:

“Long live the King, that was Davit again.”

5. MELIK TESTS DAVIT WITH RAISINS AND FIRE

Melik told his Nobles “You don’t let me

Cut Davit’s neck,

So go and bring him here.”

They brought him.

Everybody saw that Davit was still a child.

“Call an executioner to cut off his neck.”

The Nobles kept seeking mercy and said

“Long live the King; he is still a child,

Soft in the head.

Why do you want to cut off his neck?”

“Still a child but applies force against me.”

The king responded

“Some day he may ruin the world when grown up.

No, I will cut off his neck.”

“Long live the King, test him

Before you make your decision:

Put two pots in front of him

One with raisins and

The other - with flame.

If he stretches his hand to the raisins

Then he is smart enough –

And it’s up to you

To cut his head off.

And if he stretches his hand to the flame

Then, for sure, it’s still a naive child -

You let him go.”

Two pots were put in front of Davit:

One full of raisins – the other with flame.

Davit reached for the raisins,

And only with God’s will the Angel took his hand

And turned it to the fire.

When he put his hand into the fire

It burnt his hand.

He put his hand into his mouth

And started crying.

When he started crying the Nobles rose up saying

“Long live the King,

You could see yourself-

That he is still a child and understands nothing;

Stretched his hand to the fire and even burnt the tongue -

Becoming a lisper.

No sense of cutting his head off.”

“Just a favor to you,

Granting him the life” said Melik.

6. MOTHER AND DAVIT TAKE THEIR WAY TO SASSOUN TO THE UNCLES’ PLACE,

MELIK ORDERS TO KILL DAVIT,

DAVIT TAKES A VICTORY OVER THE WARRIORS AND CAUSES TROUBLE TO THEM

They took the news to Davit’s mother

Saying that Melik was going to kill Davit,

That the Nobles hardly managed to save him.

“Do something,

Or else your son will be killed sooner or later.”

At night the Mother took her son

And left for her father's place.

Melik got that news in the morning

"The mother has taken her boy and gone to her father's place.

What will be your decision?"

Melik called five of his best warriors

Saying "Go and bring me Davit's head."

Warriors moved ahead.

They saw a bridge over the road

And Davit with his mother at the bridge.

They called the mother and told her

"Come here, you, damned woman,

We are here to take Davit's head to Melik."

The mother lost her strength and fell down hearing that.

Davit was busy playing with a stone, playing with a stick.

He came to his mother and said

"Let's go, Mom"

"We can go nowhere" she said "Don't you see these men;

They are here to take your head to Melik."

"Let's go, Mom" he said

"They cannot cut my head,

The one who may cut my head off has not come out of his mother's belly yet,

Let's continue our way."

The Mother saw that he was only a child and they were warriors,

Lost her strength, sat down on the ground.

Davit could not make her rise.

When he saw that she wouldn't come to her feet

Went forward

And shouted to warriors

"Hey Warriors,

Have I taken the treasures of your king?

Or his wealth?

Or his kingdom?

Why has he sent you after my head?

I have just taken my mother to go to my uncle's place.

What has he given to me that he may not receive back?"

"We do not know anything" they responded

"We are sent after your head,

And here we are"

"So, now you are here to cut my head off?"

"Yes"

Davit rolled his sleeves and exclaimed

"Bread and wine - the Lord is alive,

Our Lady of Maruta

Upon our arms"!

He grabbed those warriors,
Tied four of them to each-other and hung them down the bridge,
Pulled out the ear and a tooth of the last, the fifth warrior
Put the toe on his forehead and knocked it.
“Go and tell all this to your king.
Let him do all in his power.”

The Mother saw what Davit did,
Came to her feet, hugged Davit, kissed his forehead
And said “Davit, I did not know you were that mighty!”
“Let’s go, Mom
The one who may take my head off has not been born yet.”

7. DAVIT AS SHEPHERD AND HUNTER

They continued their way and reached Sassoun.
They saw a man and told him
“Go and pass congratulations to my brothers
And tell them their sister has arrived.”
In fact her brothers were the owners of Sassoun,
They took their men,

Came and took their sister and Davit to their place.

One of the uncles said

“Well, we don’t have a shepherd

Davit will become a shepherd for us.”

They were three brothers:

One was called Dzenov Ohan,

The second –Tevatoros, and the third Tsrar Vergo.

They brought the sheep to Davit and he took them to pasture.

When Davit was tending the grazing sheep

Saw a hare among the sheep jump out and run away

Said “Hey, I saw a kid with fixed rigid ears running away.”

He ran after it, caught it, brought and placed again among the lambs.

Leading the lambs, he brought them back, made them lie on the ground.

Took home the sack of bread tied on his back and lengthened himself out on his back.

His uncle, Dzenov Ohan came and saw that he

Hadn’t taken any bread, the sack was tied the way it had been;

Asked “Davit, why haven’t you eaten the bread?”

Davit answered “Uncle, there was a kid with fixed rigid ears,

It didn’t let me have a rest and take my food,

Hardly managed to bring it and mix with the flock”.

Uncle said “Davit, son, my soul,

We don't have a kid with fixed rigid ears."

Davit said "No, uncle, you are not aware of it.

The sheep will come now, I'll let it free, and you'll see it."

The sheep came back to the barn, where women milked them

He let goats and lambs out and said

"Uncle, wait a bit; I'll let the lambs out,

So that the kid with fixed rigid ears won't run away."

When the lambs were gone

The hare jumped out from the flock and ran away.

Davit ran after it.

Uncle saw sparks flying from Davit's heels,

Called him and said "Come back, hey, come back.

Let that kid go, we don't need it, let it go".

Davit said "That is, Uncle, what I was telling you."

Uncle said "My dear boy, that wasn't a kid,

It is a beast from the mountain, it's a hare, let it go."

Uncle kept wondering "Tending lambs is not for him;

Let him pass to his paternal craft,

We will give him his father's bow and arrow, let him hunt".

They brought and gave him his father's bow and arrow

Saying "Go to the mountains for hunting and be back at dusk."

Davit would go, wander around,

Play knuckle-bones with town kids in the evenings

And come home when the darkness fell.

Let's leave Davit alone with his hunting and talk about the warriors

That took their news to Dog Melik.

8. MELIK DEMANDS DAVIT'S HEAD FROM SASSOUN OR FORTY VIRGIN GIRLS. DAVIT SETS THE GIRLS FREE AND TURNS DOWN MELIK'S DEMAND

Melik looked and saw

One of the warriors coming with something sticking out from his forehead;

Saw that it was his warrior

With a tooth on the forehead and with a torn ear.

Asked what the matter was.

The man said "It was Davit that had played the trick on us."

Melik said "You see, Nobles,

You didn't allow me to cut off his head.

No chance to catch him anymore, it's over, he's gone."

The Nobles said

"Long live the King,

He hasn't taken your wealth and treasures,

He hasn't done any harm to you,

He has left for his uncle's

What has he done to you to cut his head off?"

Melik said "Any ways, I am going to send my people to bring his head."

Melik stood up and sent a warrior.

That warrior had seven foot height.

Melik said “Go and tell his uncles:

Either they give Davit’s head

Or send forty virgin girls to Misir.

Otherwise, the land, the water, the horses of Sassoun will be taken to Misir.

Tell them I’ll ruin everything.”

That warrior found his way to Sassoun.

The uncles got the news:

That Melik of Misir had sent a warrior asking them to come.

The Sassoun Nobles went out of their houses.

The warrior said “Tevatoros, Dzenov Ohan,

The King demands

Either Davit’s head or forty virgins.”

The Nobles returned home with bowed heads.

They said “It’s impossible, how can we give Davit’s head,

We would rather give forty virgins than Davit’s head.”

The folks passed from house to house and collected girls,

Took them to a place

And put a guard at the door.

There was a poor old woman who had a daughter;

They took her as well together with the other girls.

It was evening

When Davit came back

He entered the town and saw

As if the town was under ashes:

On other days he used to see town folks talking and laughing -

That day he saw weeping and moaning:

An awful mess where even a mother could renounce her child:

Found an old woman, her arms crossed over her breast

Weeping and moaning, walking back and forth and saying

“Ruin, ruin upon you...

I had just a daughter and she became a prisoner of Misir.”

Davit heard her voice.

He came up and said “What’s up, old woman?”

She said “Don’t you know?”

“No, no idea.”

She said “Melik of Misir had sent a warrior to your uncles -

Demanding either Davit’s head or forty virgins.

Your uncles didn’t agree to give your head -

Had chosen forty girls and

My only girl was among them...

That’s why I am weeping and moaning.”

He said “Just show me where they are.”

She opposed “I can’t come with you

They have put a guard at the door, they will kill me.”

He said “Let’s go, point me the place from a distance and go back.”

They went and saw it.

Davit went, kicked the door and smashed it.

He said “Sisters, go to your places.”

Called the old woman “Take your daughter and go home.”

The word reached the uncles

That Davit broke the door, let the girls out and set them free.

Davit went home and saw his uncles bowed and crying;

He said “Uncles, shame on you,

Why have you lost yourselves and cry?”

I am just a single person and I will give my head

But not grant the honor of forty virgins:

I won’t give forty heads instead of one.”

He left and Melik got the news

That the uncles had chosen forty virgins

And Davit had set them free and had even added:

“Let Melik do whatever he can; let him stop at nothing...”

9. HUNTING AND CURSE OF AN OLD WOMAN OWNING A CORNFIELD

Davit left and went to the mountains for hunting.

An old woman had a cornfield in the mountains.

Davit was hunting quail and sparrows there.

He trampled down the cornfield so that

It became fully leveled to the ground.

The old woman had seven daughters

And she had married off all seven:

All seven widowed and went back to their mother.

The mother said "Let's go, girls,

And see if the corn has ripened, harvest it and bring home for our living."

They went and saw no cornfield:

Davit had leveled it to the ground.

The old woman called Davit and said, "Davit, what the hell you have done?:

Let your heart be struck by an arrow and bow of the Landbad king;

As you have played this trick on us.

This little corn was hope and support for my seven girls."

Davit said "Old woman,

Let your month be crooked, why did you curse me?

Come on, I'll tell you something."

The old woman approached him.

Davit put his hand into his pocket

Took out a handful of gold and gave it to the woman.

He said "Go and buy bread to survive."

The old woman said- "Let my soul be a sacrifice for you

What keeps you here at your uncle's place, in these mountains?

Go to that mountain: the hunting preserve of your dad.

The real hunting is there, beasts and animals, hunt them, and kill them

See nice places, see nice men and grow up a man.”

Let Davit stay at the hunting preserve of his father.

1. SARA TRIES TO TEMPT DAVIT

A couple of months passed like this

To tell the truth, Sara, the wife of Dzenov Ohan,

Had put an eye on Davit.

One day she said to Davit

“You should come with me...”

Davit understood her intention and said

“Wife of my uncle, you are my mother and I am your son...”

The uncle's wife thought “I'll go and wash my hair

And have Davit pour water on my head.

He will see my body and his heart will be full of sin...”

She took water, called Davit to pour water on her head.

Davit closed his eyes

Not to see the aunt's body and not to have his heart full of sin.

So he poured water on Sarah's head.

The aunt washed her head

And then saw that Davit had firmly shut his eyes.

She cried, struck a blow to her head,

Made her face bleed, ruffled up her hair on her head,

Went home and waited till her husband - Dzenov Ohan came.

"Hey, wife, what's wrong with you?"

The wife said "What else could happen -

I thought you had brought a son for me.

I didn't know that you had gone and brought another husband for me."

"No, wife, it can't be true, you are lying."

The wife said. "I am not,

He came and touched me

I didn't allow him..."

Dzenov Ohan said "If this is the truth, let's lock the door tonight".

That night Dzenov Ohan locked the door

And didn't allow Davit in.

Davit said, "Uncle, I may kick

And you together with your door would disappear in the bottom of the earth,

Alas, what can I do, you are fooled by a whore."

1. MOBILIZATION OF TROOPS BY MELIK OF MISIR, MOTHER'S DREAM AND ADVICE, MELIK'S INVASION TO SASSOUN

Let's go back to that warrior, who

Took the news to Melik: how Davit had set the virgins free.

When he learnt this

Melik called his Nobles

To assemble troops and invade Sassoun.

The mother of Melik of Misir went to sleep and

Saw a dream:

A big star from Misir

And a small star from Sassoun

Came up and had each other;

She saw the smaller star beating the big one.

She woke up, called Melik and said

"My son, if you listen to my words - you would give up with the troops:

Don't go to Sassoun, the war isn't good for you."

Melik said "No, mom, I will go

She said "For the sake of the milk I suckled you with, don't go;

Sassoun is small but has big power."

Melik said "Listen, mom,

I will choose a thousand men

Who have just grown mustaches."

Mother insisted "Son,

If you don't renounce my breast-milk, you would not go."

He turned to his mother and said, "Hey, mom

I will choose a thousand men

Who already roll the ends of their mustaches."

Mother said "Son, I'll curse you with my breast milk, don't go."

The son said "Hey, mom

I will choose a thousand men

Who have black beards..."

The son didn't obey his mother,

Marched up to Sassoun.

Reached Sassoun and camped his army in the land of Sassoun.

Sent a message to Davit's uncles

"My fight is a real fight:

Either give me Davit's head

Or I destroy Sassoun"

The uncles gathered their Nobles and put heads together.

1. DAVIT GETS HIS FATHER'S HORSE AND ARMAMENT AND GOES TO FIGHT MELIK OF MISIR

Davit came down from mountains and saw

An awful mess where even a mother could renounce her child:

He asked “What’s up?”

They said “Don’t you know?”

The Melik of Misir has arrived with his troops

Either to take your head or ruin the town of your uncles,

Devastate it.”

Davit went to his uncles’ place

Saw them sitting noses down and confused.

He said “Why are you sitting confused?”

Does it make a sense let the town be ruined for one man’s sake only?

Give me a horse and I will go

Let them take my head - if they can.”

The uncles said “Go to the stable,

See, which one you like, just saddle it and go.”

Davit went to the stable

All the horses bent when he put his hand on their backs,

At last he reached a foal tied in the corner of the stable.

He put his hand on its back

The foal twice kicked Davit’s breast.

Davit lost his consciousness and fell down.

They poured some water on him, he regained his consciousness.

He said “Take that foal out.”

They took the foal to the river

Davit rolled his sleeves and carefully washed the foal,
Then said to the horse keeper
“Take him and let’s go”. They went.
When Davit came out of the river he saw a script on his arm.
In fact that was his father’s script
Describing all his arms and armors that had been sent to his uncles.
He went to uncles’ and said
“Bring here and give me everything my father has had;
Bring father’s clothes,
Bring fathers arms and armament.”
They went and brought Davit’s father’s arms, armament and clothes.
He took everything, put on horse’s back
Straddled the horse and rode to the troop’s
The uncles saw that Davit had gone:
Dzenov Ohan uprooted a tree
Put on his shoulder and followed Davit.

1. DAVIT DRINKS SPRING WATER AND GETS POWER: DZENOV OHAN SMASHES ENEMY TROOPS

Davit went and stood at a river bank.
He saw a spring at the opposite side:
Waters of the spring would cross main waters,
Then flow aside and mix up with the river again.

Davit exclaimed “Hey, God, the creator of the Heaven and the Earth!

You, that have empowered the waters of that spring

To cross the main waters: empower me as well -

To be able to cut Melik’s army through.”

Exclaimed and rode his horse, crossed the river and stopped by the spring.

The uncle came, took the horse and tied to graze.

Then took food, drank fully the water of the spring, lay down to sleep.

Davit felt as if his heart was going to blow

Untied the belt, threw away his hat,

Took off his shoes and had a nap.

When woke up he saw his horse near to blowing up as well.

Went and untied the horse’s waist-belt.

The uncle woke up too, corrected the horse’s waist-belt,

And Davit put on his clothes,

Straddled the horse, rode to the army camp.

The uncle closely followed him.

He looked and saw the army was too big.

An old man was coming from the other side.

Davit asked “What do you think

Am I able to scatter this army?”

The old man said “You, stupid boy,

Even the Fire from the Heaven

May not scatter this army, how can you do it?”

Davit said “Get aside, old man, get aside
May the fire from the horse’s mouth burn you.”
And rode straight to the army,
Took out his sword, rushed into the army,
Smashed it to smithereens
And the Uncle was smashing it from the other side.

1. DAVIT AND MELIK OF MISIR FIGHT A DUEL; DAVIT KILLS MELIK OF MISIR, GOES TO MISIR AND REIGNS THERE

Melik got the news
That Davit had smashed to smithereens half of his army.
He said “Go and tell Davit
That he has no business with the army;
Let him come and fight with me.”
When they came and told him, Davit rode to Melik.
Melik shouted
“Come on, come on.
Dust you were, to dust you will turn.
You have no business with that army,
Let us have a fight”
Davit said “All right, let’s fight
But I am afraid, you will be unfair.
Just swear that you won’t be.”

Melik swore. When he swore Davit came down from the horse,

He went and sat next to Melik

And said talking to him

“Melik, what have I taken from you

That you won’t leave me alone:

Have I taken your kingdom?

Have I taken your stocks and treasures?”

Melik laughed and said “Ha, ha, ha

I’ll cut your head off, you should obey me.”

Davit said “Listen, Melik,

I’ll lie down, you cover me with forty bodies;

Strike with your sword

If you kill me, then you kill me...

If not, than you should lie and I will strike.”

Melik thought “Everything goes so nice and easy.

He is ready to lie down. I’ll just strike him and kill.”

Davit lay down,

Forty corpses were put over his back.

Melik struck a blow, cut thirty corpses: eleven remained uncut.

Davit jumped up and asked

“Melik, it is my turn, or should I take my turn by force?”

Melik said “It is your turn.”

Davit said “Then lie down and I’ll strike now.”

They put forty men on Melik's back.

Davit came closer

Took out his sword and exclaimed

“Bread and wine - the Lord is alive,

Our Lady of Maruta

Upon our arms”!

He exclaimed and struck with his sword.

He struck a blow and cut through the earth seven feet deep.

The nobles of Melik threw themselves to Davit's feet,

They said “Davit, above is God and below are you”

Don't kill us.”

Davit said “I won't kill common people.”

They took off Melik's clothes to bury him

Saw a sign on his arm.

Davit looked carefully and saw his father's script

“He is Davit's elder brother

Davit is his younger brother.”

After he had read the script he wept a bit

The Nobles consoled him

“Davit, we didn't know either.”

Davit left the troops to the Nobles and said

“Pick up and go to Misir, till I come back.”

Davit went to Sassoun, took his mother

Went to Misir with Dzenov Ohan.

Went to Misir, sat on throne and reigned.

1. DAVIT THE LAD AND KHANDUT THE LASS

Davit's fame reached to everyone,

Khandut Khanum from Qilise also got it:

That in the entire world there had never been one

So powerful and strong, so majestic.

Khandut Khanum thought "What should I do

To see him,

To enjoy his height and strength.

It's not worthy of me to go myself and he wouldn't come.

I have given an oath

To find a husband equal to me and then marry.

This one looks equal to me."

She called a bard and said

"Go to Misir, Bard,

And sing my praise to Davit.

I'll give you a lot of gold

Go and praise my beauty, who knows, maybe you will be back with him."

The bard took his saz and started for Misir.

For seven days and nights he sang

Khandut Khanum's praise over and over again.

Finally Davit said

“Who is that pretty maiden, Bard,

That you keep praising for seven days and nights

And cannot stop yet?”

The bard said

“King Davit, that maiden is a very beautiful and worthy one

And for sure deserves you.

It would be good for you to go and see her.

People arrive from different places

To admire her beauty.

Long live the King, I am going back now,

It's up to you, upon your will to follow me or not.”

Davit's heart was full of joy,

He agreed to pay the seven years tribute of Misir,

Ordered to knit a handkerchief,

Put down on the handkerchief everything what was in his heart,

Added valuable presents to the handkerchief,

Send the bard to Qilise saying

“Go and give the handkerchief to Khandut Khanum,

Tell her “Davit will be your guest on a certain day in a certain month.
Be ready.””

1. DAVIT AT KHANDUT’S

The bard went and passed the message to Khandut,
Gave the handkerchief and said
“Davit will be your guest in a certain month”.
Khandut Khanum arose, completed the things,
Cleaned her house and sat in front of the window,
Put the binnacle on her eyes and watched the road for Davit,
She saw Davit coming at last.
Davit came; they took his horse and tied it,
Went down to the room and took food,
Sat down and had a chat together,
Then the night fell and they went to sleep.
When Davit touched Khandut Khanum
Khandut caught his hand and said
“Davit, you are allowed, but...
Davit asked “So, what’s the matter?”
She said “Seven warriors had arrived and waiting at Nalbayzhan mountain gate
In a hope to marry me.
If they come and fight, win and marry me

They can call me then “a fallen whore”
Saying “A guy arrived from Misir
And you threw yourself into his embrace.”
When Davit heard those words
Stood up and said “Hurry up and bring my horse.”
Straddled the horse and said “Where are those warriors?
Show me them.”

1. DAVIT KILLS THE WARRIORS

When Davit straddled his horse
His uncle put a tree on his shoulder
And followed him.
They went and saw the warriors
Sitting there, eating and drinking, having a feast.
He shouted “Hey, you warriors, why are you sitting there.
I know you are here because of Khandut Khanum,
I pity you; go back to your homes
As I have taken Khandut Khanum.
Me, Davit the lad, the reigner of Misir.
I have met many warriors
Who have lost their teeth, ears, hands and legs.”
When warriors heard that he was going to marry Khandut Khanum

All got mad and said

“A guy from Misir to come and marry Khandut Khanum...It is not acceptable for us,

Let’s kill him as well.”

As soon as they left their seats Davit rushed,

He tied all the seven, cut their noses and ears,

Stuck at the end of his spear,

And returned to Khandut Khanum.

Khandut Khanum saw him and said to herself

“Seems like he wasn’t able to defeat the warriors and came back.”

Davit came, went down from the horse, threw the spear

And spread their ears and noses in front of Khandut Khanum

Saying “And those were your Warriors?”

1. DAVIT GOES AGAINST LANDBAD; FOLLOWING KHANDUT'S ADVICE HE TRIES HIS STRENGTH ON THE OAK TREE AND THEN KILLS LANDBAD , A SUITOR FOR KHANDUT KHANUM’S HAND

They went to the room, ate and drank

Had joy and then went to sleep.

Davit again tried to touch Khandut Khanum.

Khandut Khanum said

“I have already told you, it’s possible if...”

Davit said “What else?”

Khandut said “I’ll tell you what else ...

King Landbad has arrived in Pera village and

Put an army near that village to take me.”

Khanum said those words to Davit

And got rid of trouble again.

Davit jumped up and said

“Uncle, straddle the horse, let’s go.”

They straddled the horse and mounted forward.

Khandut Khanum saw

That he mounted restlessly and said to herself

“It’s a pity; he will go and not win...”

She told Davit “If so, than go to Kresadzor:

Beneath the Dastadadar mountain-gate there is a big oak tree.

Go and first try your arm and sword on that tree:

If you cut it through, than go ahead

If not, then come back and we will leave together.”

Davit went to Kresadzor,

Went down from his horse, stopped under the tree,

Took out the sword and exclaimed “Oh, my Lord!”

Struck the oak tree, cut it like a cheese.

The tree didn’t fall down, he cursed his sword

Saying “You have cut bodies of forty men;

What is an oak tree for you not to cut?”

Then turned to his uncle and said “Bring the horse and let’s go.”

When the uncle brought the horse, Davit said

“What can I do? Let me have another try

In the name of God!” and struck once again.

Wind stopped by God’s will,

And the oak tree fell down;

Here Davit blessed his arm and sword.

He mounted the horse, passed the Dastadadar gate;

Went to Pera.

He saw the King’s army standing like a forest.

He asked “Which one is King Landbad’s tent?”

They said “He is in the green - red tent,

Sitting and having his hair dressed

To go and marry Khandut Khanum.”

When Davit the lad heard those words –flew into a rage

Struck his horse so hard

That smashed the army and the tent like fire.

Then caught King Landbad and his seven barbers cutting his hair,

Cut their noses and ears and stuck at the end of his spear,

The rest of the army when viewed that sight ran away.

He collected the entire trophy –

And returned to Khandut Khanum.

18. THE DUEL FIGHT OF DAVIT AND KHATUN AND THEIR MARRIAGE

Let's see what happened to Khandut Khanum.

When sending Davit off Khandut was very sorry

And her heart ached for him.

She thought "I won't be able to find such a handsome young man.

I shouldn't let him alone, shouldn't send him away."

As she got very worried as she straddled the horse

Saying "I'll go and back up Davit,

Otherwise I have no choice than to marry Landbad."

Davit the lad from one side,

Khandut Khanum from the other

Unaware of each other reaching the mountain-gate.

Khandut Khanum looked and saw Davit coming from a distance

A bunch of ears at his spear.

She kept thinking "What a mighty man he is!

Let me try and see his strength and power."

She called and said "Hey Davit the lad, stop here,

You are used to fight with the weak.

Get ready; we'll have a real fight."

Davit thought "These are still the tricks of that bitch;

So many men I have killed so far

And is not enough for her...

Now she has sent this one against me.”

He said “Get away, I don’t need that bitch any more,

Go and have her.”

Khandut said “I’ll take her anyway, you like it or not;

Khandut Khanum is not worth a coward man.”

These words hurt Davit.

He said “Get ready, I am attacking.”

With these words he threw his lance to the battle field.

The lass caught the lance.

Then it was her turn and she threw the lance,

She didn’t dare to hit Davit with the lance,

She threw it askew and it pierced into the ground.

Lance throwing did not have a result.

Davit said “Come down from your horse and let’s wrestle.”

They started wrestling and Davit exclaimed

“Bread and wine - the Lord is alive,

Our Lady of Maruta

Upon our arms”!

Davit took the lass and threw her to the ground.

She tried to unbutton herself

And bared her breasts.

The uncle reached

And saw Khandut Khanum in front of him.

Davit said “God is witness,

That I’ll strike you with one sword stroke and no more!”

The uncle started to seek Davit’s mercy,

He said “Keep your wits about you.

You have killed so many men-

Kings and warriors because of this lass.

Now if you kill her

What was this entire story about?”

Davit replied “No uncle, I have sworn and

If I don’t kill her I’ll die myself!”

The uncle put Khandut’s sword

Into the horse’s mouth as a curb-bit,

Then he tied the lance from the horse’s tail,

Put the lass on his horse and tried to take her away.

As soon as the lass got on the horse

She ran away, Khandut the lass,

Davit dashed after her.

The lance tied to Davit’s horse’s tail

Till now to this very day is in flight tearing the soil.

From that day the name of Khandut Khanum’s land became Sokman avan: torn, broken land

Khandut ran away

Davit the lad followed her: the lass in front and the lad behind her

Davit was close to reaching her - Khandut stepped in;

When he reached, he threw the sword, cut the stone of the castle

Broke his oath, came down from the horse and stepped in.

They had a feast,

And had joy.

Then started for Misir.

Had a wedding which lasted seven days and nights,

Their desires came true.

And I came to bring the message to you

And told the story of Davit the lad and Khandut the lass.