

Dalatə's prayer at Yawal

On the first day of Yawal, 960220

Dalatə, head of the descent group that furnished the previous dynasty of Sukur chiefs, prays at an important shrine on the first day of Yawal, a ceremony held every few years at the chief's discretion, and which celebrates the chief and his kin group.



Here Dalatə removes a beer jug from the mouth of the large vessel that constitutes an altar to God, having placed a calabash of beer in its place.

He prays:

Accú+a Zhigila

There for God

Take your offering God

Liling a nda

Health for person

May the people be healthy

Rama nda pə zamba, yaha nda

Go+up person on spiderweb, come+down person

Let the people move about, up and down, doing what they want, like a spider in its web

Ha powa məxyen a nda

Like gruel white for person

May everyone's heart be white (without anger for anyone)

A nda d̄um dzəghiy mə ʃoèn

For person eat ceremony in good

Let the people complete the ceremony in beauty

Or is this initial *a* a past marker?

Aa-a-cú

There