

ወአመንደበ ፡ ነፍሶ ፡ በኩሉ ፡ እስከ ፡ ተአረዘ ፡ መንፈቀ ፡ አነዳ ፡ ዘላሀም ፡  
ወተዓገሠ ፡ ቀኅረ ፡ ሌሊት ፡ ወሐሩረ ፡ መዓልት ፡ ወነፍኒፈ ፡ ዝናም ፡ ዘሐጋ  
ይ ፡ ወዘክረምት ።

ወአመክነየ ፡ ለሥጋሁ ፡ እምቁፅለ ፡ ዓባር ፡ ብስልት ፡ ወልስሕት ፡ ሰርከ ፡ ሰ  
ርከ ፡ ለለዕለቱ ። እመባልዕትሰ ፡ ጥዑማተ ፡ ወቅሱማተ ፡ ወእምስቱ ፡ ወይ  
ን ፡ ተኃረመ ፡ ከመ ፡ ይትፈጸም ፡ ሎቱ ፡ ዘይቤ ፡ እግዚእነ ፡ በወንጌል ፡ ቅ  
ዱስ ፤ ዑቁ ፡ ርእሰክሙ ፡ ኢታክብዱ ፡ ልበክሙ ፡ በበሊዕ ፡ ወበፈጊዕ ፡ ወበ  
ሐልዮ ፡ ንብረተ ፡ ዝንቱ ፡ ዓለም ። ወትበጽሐክሙ ፡ እምይእቲ ፡ ዕለት ፡ ግ  
ብተ ፡ ከመ ፡ መሥገርት ፡ እንተ ፡ ትወርድ ፡ እምሰማይ ፡ ዲበ ፡ ኩሎሙ ፡  
እለ ፡ ይነብሩ ፡ ውስተ ፡ ምድር ። ትግሁ ፡ እንከ ፡ ከመ ፡ ትክሀሉ ፡ አምስ  
ጦ ፡ በጸሎትክሙ ፡ እምነ ፡ ዝንቱ ፡ ዘይመጽእ ።

ወካዕበ ፡ ተጋብኡ ፡ ሕዝብ ፡ እምርሑቅ ፡ ወእምቅሩብ ፡ ወተቀንዩ ፡ ሎቱ ፡  
በፍቅር ። ወተጸወኑ ፡ በረድኤተ ፡ ጸሎቱ ፡ ጸወን ፡ ዘእምእግዚአብሔር ፡ ስ  
ብሐት ፡ ለጸውዖተ ፡ ስሙ ። በእንተሰ ፡ ተጋብዖተ ፡ ሰብእ ፡ ብዙኃን ፡ ተሀ  
ውከ ፡ ወሀለየ ፡ ነዋሐ ። ወይቤ ፡ በነፍሱ ፡ ምንት ፡ ይበቀኦአኒ ፡ ነቢር ፡ ማእ  
ከለ ፡ ሰብእ ፡ ብዙኃን ። አኮኑ ፡ ትፈልስ ፡ ሕሊናየ ፡ እምተዘክሮ ፡ እግዚአ  
ብሔር ፡ \* ኀበ ፡ ተዘክሮ ፡ ሰብእ ፡ ወፍቅሮሙ ፤ ወእምተዘክሮ ፡ ሞት ፡ ኀ  
በ ፡ ተዘክሮ ፡ ተድላ ፡ ዓለም ፡ ወኑኃ ፡ ዕድሜ ። እምይእዜስ ፡ ይደልወኒ ፡  
እሑር ፡ ገዳመ ፡ ድባ ፡ ዘዕፀ ፡ ዋሊ ፡ ከመ ፡ እንበር ፡ በባሕቲትየ ፡ ወእዘከ  
ር ፡ ኃጢአትየ ።

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ወዘንተ ፡ ምክረ ፡ መከረ ፡ በባሕቲቱ ፡ ወተንሥእ ፡ ወሐረ ፡ ወበጽሐ ፡ ኀበ ፡  
አንቀጸ ፡ ሀገር ፡ ዘይሰመይ ፡ ለማልሞ ። ወሰምዓ ፡ ቃለ ፡ እምሰማይ ፡ ዘትብ  
ሎ ፡ ኢትኅሥሥ ፡ ወኢትፍቅድ ፡ ካልእ ፡ ዘኢተአዘዘ ፡ ለከ ። ሑር ፡ ወተ  
መየጥ ፡ ውስተ ፡ ምኔትከ ፡ እንተ ፡ ባቲ ፡ ነበርከ ፡ ቀዲሙ ፤ እስመ ፡ ክፍል  
ከ ፡ ወኅብለ ፡ ርስትከ ፡ ይእቲ ፡ እስከ ፡ ተሐውር ፡ ኀበ ፡ ርስትከ ፡ ሰማያ  
ዊ ። ወዘንተ ፡ ሰሚዖ ፡ ተመይጦ ፡ ውስተ ፡ በዓቱ ፡ ወነበረ ፡ ባቲ ፡ እንዘ ፡ ያ  
ጸምዋ ፡ ለነፍሱ ፡ በጸም ፡ ወበጸሎት ፡ ወበብዙኅ ፡ ትኅርምት ።

ወእምዝ ፡ ሐረ ፡ ኀበ ፡ አሐቲ ፡ ድብር ፡ ዓባይ ፡ ዘይእቲ ፡ ማኅደረ ፡ ማርያ  
ም ። ወፈጸመ ፡ አልባሰ ፡ ምንኩስና ፡ በእደዊሁ ፡ ለጸድቅ ፡ ወንጹሕ ፡ አ  
ባ ፡ ኅርያቆስ ፡ መምሕር ፡ ዘደብረ ፡ ሊባኖስ ። ወእምድኅረዝ ፡ ተመይጦ ፡

COMMENTARY: <sup>47</sup> The dry season. | <sup>48</sup> The rainy season. | <sup>49</sup> Q<sup>w</sup>äslä <sup>c</sup>abar/<sup>c</sup>abar seems to be a special kind of vegetable that grows in dry weather. It comes again on fol. 51v. | <sup>50</sup>

everything [on their behalf], so much so that he covered himself with [only] half of cow skin and bore the cold of the night, the heat of the day, and the shower of rain of the [season of] *ḥagay*<sup>47</sup> and *krämt*.<sup>48</sup>

For his body's survival he prepared evenings everyday drought leaves<sup>49</sup> cooked and unseasoned. He abstained from tasty and spiced foods and from drinking wine, in order that it may be fulfilled for him what Our Lord said in the Holy Gospel, 'Be on guard. Do not let your heart be heavy with eating and gluttony, and worries of the life of this world. That day might come to you, suddenly, like a trap that comes down from heaven upon all who live on earth. Therefore, be diligent to be able to escape by your prayer from that which will come.'<sup>50</sup>

Also, people gathered from far and near, and subjected themselves to him with love. They took refuge at the help of his prayer, the refuge that is from God, glory be to the invocation of his name. He was disturbed, however, by the gathering of many people. He thought hard and said to himself, 'What would living among many people benefit me? Would not my mind be distracted from remembering God \* to remembering people and their love, and from remembering death to remembering worldly joy and long age? As of now, I should go to the monastery of Dəbba at the Wali Tree<sup>51</sup> to live alone remembering my sin.'

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He counseled this counsel alone, and set out and left. He came to the gate of the country called Lāmaləmo. He heard a word from heaven, which said to him, 'Do not look for, or desire, another [place] that is not ordered for you. Go [back]. Return to your convent in which you had been before because it is your lot and your rope-measured inheritance until you depart to your heavenly inheritance.' When he heard this, he returned to his cave and lived in it torturing his soul with fast, prayer, and much asceticism.

Then he went to a big monastery, which is Maḥdärä Maryam<sup>52</sup> and completed [there the ritual of] receiving his monastic garb by the hand of the righteous and pure *Abba* Ḥəryaqos, abbot of Däbrä

Luke 21:34–36. | <sup>51</sup> *Gädämä Dəbba zä-ʿĪšä Wali*. The name of the place and the fact that the road that leads to it was through Lāmaləmo (see next paragraph) suggest that this is the full name of the monastery of Waldəbba. | <sup>52</sup> Maḥdärä Maryam was one of the daughter monasteries of Däbrä Libanos. It was built by Admas Mogäsa, mother of *Aše Šärqä Dəngəl* (1563–1597), and given to Däbrä Libanos, MS EMMML 7346 (twentieth-century manuscript of an Amharic history of Däbrä Libanos of Šäwa), fol. 58v.