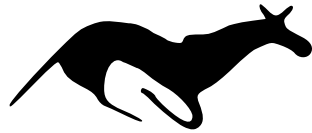


# Dictionary of qâ

CrazyEttin



CrazyEttin 2016–2020 (<http://ahti.space/~crazyettin/>)

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# Table of Contents

Introduction .....	1
Ethnography .....	3
Phonology .....	5
Syllabics .....	7
Grammar .....	9
Dictionary .....	11
Example Texts .....	17
The Buran and the Sun .....	19
Schleicher's Fable .....	21



# Introduction



# Ethnography

## History

The qâ (𐌲) emerged as a distinct ethnicity of mixed origin in the early 33rd century BCE when the tewtéh<sup>1</sup> migrations reached the εέκωεεεεhkωqa (𐌲𐌲𐌲𐌲𐌲) Pass<sup>2</sup> from the north<sup>3</sup>. They rapidly adopted the horse from their new neighbours and began raiding<sup>4</sup> passers-through in the Pass<sup>5</sup> and their southeastern neighbours<sup>6</sup> and traditional enemies the d̄zeʔη<sup>7</sup>. This era, however, lasted only a couple of generations before the d̄zeʔη had enough horses of their own to challenge the qâ, restricting their raiding outside the Pass considerably. The present of the timeline is the early 32nd century BCE.

## Society

The most defining feature of the qâ society is that they consider meat and organs, but not animal products such as eggs or milk, unhealthy. As primarily gatherers they require more land to feed themselves than farmers, pastoralists, or even hunters. This has led to a preference for small and extremely mobile extended family bands and a lack of complex social hierarchies and structures. Familial ties remain important even between bands, however, and blood feuds are common. Some other peculiarities of their society is their complete lack of the concepts of gender, marriage, and belief in the supernatural<sup>8</sup>.

## Art

qâ music is built around traditional repeating rhythmic patterns depending on style and theme and uses a scale of five roughly equidistant pitches per octave. The most common instruments are various types of flutes and idiophones<sup>9</sup>. Poetry is mostly sung and instead of fixed forms its structure is usually defined by the music.

Carving of and painting on rock and wood and pyrography on wood are extremely common. Cloth is usually dyed with various locally available earth pigments and plant dyes.

## Technology

qâ technology is Eneolithic, or Chalcolithic, and they mostly use tools made of ground stone. Instead of a knife their most common tool is a unifacial hand adze used for digging as well as cutting.

Their metallurgy is limited to cold-working native copper, whose practical application is thus limited to small items such as nails, needles, and jewellery. String, rope, and cloth

made of nettle fibres are used instead of sinew and leather. Items made of materials or with techniques not available to the qâ are, however, often acquired through trade and raiding.

## Notes

1. Lit. ‘People’. A Proto-Indo-European group analogous to the Afanas’evans (афанасьевские, *afanas’evskie*) of our timeline, see J.P. Mallory and D.Q. Adams, ed. *Encyclopedia of Indo-European Culture* (London and Chicago: Routledge, 1997), 4–6 and 417. The IPA transcription of tewtéĥ is based on James Clackson, *Indo-European Linguistics: An Introduction* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007).
2. Lit. ‘Windmouth’. The Dzungarian (𐰉𐰺𐰽𐰸 𐰤𐰆, *Zöün yar*) Gate of our timeline. The qâ mostly inhabit the area from its top to the southern shores of the qáṭehæekwkuhtēĥ (𐰇𐰆𐰽𐰸𐰤𐰆𐰽𐰸, lit. ‘Salt Lake’) Lake, the Alaköl (Алакөл) Lake of our timeline, and the associated river valleys.
3. The tewtéĥ extend farther to the south than the Afana’evans did.
4. Mounted warfare has not been invented, so the horses are used only for transport.
5. Reducing migration, trade, and other contacts between the Central and Eastern Steppes compared to our timeline.
6. In the  $\widehat{d}zeʔη$  Steppe, the Dzungarian Steppe of our timeline.
7. Lit. ‘People’. A Pre-Proto-Yeniseian (енисейский, *jenisejskij*) group with no direct counterpart in our timeline.
8. This does not, however, mean they are atheists in the modern sense either.
9. Chordophones have not been invented.



# Phonology

## Phonemes and Allophones

Consonants	Alveolo-palatal	Peripheral		Debuccalised	
	Plain	Plain	Emphatic	Plain	Emphatic
Plosives	/t̪/	/k̪p̪/	/q̪p̪/		
Fricatives	[ɕ]			[h̪f̪]	[h̪ɸ̪]
Glide	[j]				
Vowels	Front	Raised	Retracted		
Advanced tongue root	+ /e/	[u̠~u̠]			
	- /ɛ/	[ω̠~v̠]	[ɑ]		

The emphatic labials [p̪] and [ɸ̪] are realised as pharyngealised. The nonstandard IPA letters t̪ and ω are used and vowels transcribed based on their acoustics instead of their articulation to increase legibility.

In normalised transcriptions allophony is written out but free variation is not. In the latter case the most common form, listed first in the table above, is used.

## Phonotactics

The syllable structure is (C)V(C). /e/ does not occur after onset /q̪p̪/. Vowel-initial syllables and adjacent syllables with identical bodies are rare. The domain of syllabification is the phonological word, corresponding to the morpheme.

## Allophony

Adjacent vowels are separated by an epenthetic [j]. Onset /t̪/ is lenited into [ɕ] before /e/. Vowels are raised after onset /k̪p̪/ and retracted after onset /q̪p̪/. Codas are debuccalised into [h̪f̪] after /e/ and into [h̪ɸ̪] after /ɛ/, and assimilate to a following onset in emphaticness and labialness. The domain of epenthesis and coda assimilation is the intonational phrase.

## Prosody

The isochrony is syllable-based. The first or only phonological word of an accentual phrase, corresponding to the morphological word, has a falling tone [ $\hat{\sigma}$ ] that spreads into a high [ $\acute{\sigma}$ ] one on its first syllable and a neutral one on the following ones if possible. Unaccented phonological words have a neutral tone. The falling tone is longer than the high and neutral ones.

Intonation is not prosodically meaningful and tends to be level. Prosodic stress /' / on the first syllable of an accentual phrase can be used for emphasis. The boundaries of intonational phrases /| / and utterances /|| / are marked by preboundary lengthening and pauses. Clauses always form distinct intonational phrases.

# Syllabics

The phonology of qâ is not well suited for an alphabet, and IPA transcriptions of it are practically a dyslexia simulator even with the non-standard letters and conventions adopted in this work. The Syllabics are a non-canonical writing system designed to address this problem.

## Conventions

The writing direction is from left to right. Words are separated by spaces and can be hyphenated at syllable borders for line breaking. Monosyllabic compound heads are separated by non-breaking hyphens except for those ending in ı and followed by օ. Emphasis is can be marked with overlining above the x-height.

## Graphemes

Letters							Vowel sign	Punctuation		Other	
[ε jε]	[qɑ]	Ligature of ε and γ	[kω]	[tε]	[εe]	Iteration mark	[h ħ]	/e/	//	/  /	Coördinator sign
օ	ε	Ϸ	ב	ך	ך	⌞	ı	◌̣			:

There is a separate letter for each syllable body with a phonetically distinct onset. Except for γ, the nucleus /ε/ is inherent to the body letters and the nucleus /e/ is marked with the diacritic ◌̣. Codae are written with the letter ı.

⌞ iterates the preceding base letter. The domain of its use is a sequence of letters uninterrupted by spaces or non-breaking hyphens.

| and || are used after prosodic units separated by a non-breaking space. || can also be used at the beginning of units of text such as paragraphs or headings. : can replace the coördinating conjunction êh (օı).

The order of the letters is օ, ε, ב, ך, ך, ⌞, and ı. Despite its nominal place in the order ⌞ is collated as the letter it represents. Letters with ◌̣ are collated after their plain forms. Orthographic hyphens have secondary collation weight.

## Stylistic Considerations

As q̂ is unwritten in-universe, texts should be written as close to spoken language as possible. Initial ¶ should not be used in indented paragraphs because they originally developed from the omission of the roughly analogous pilcrow (¶).

# Grammar

## Lexicology

The open lexical word classes are verbs and nouns and the closed grammatical ones the conjunction *êh* (᠑ᠢ, ᠰ), the conjunction and prefix *kôh* (ᠪᠢ), and the particle *æ* (ᠵ). Adjectival functions are taken by abstract nouns and adverbial ones by verbs. There are no words for numbers. Loaning is rare.

## Morphology

qâ has an exclusively analytic grammar and thus no inflectional morphology. Lexical words can be compounded with each other, mixed compounds taking the class of their head. The prefix *kôh*- is used to derive nouns from verbs and abstract nouns from concrete ones. Verbs acting as modifiers in compounds are not explicitly nominalised.

## Syntax

qâ has neutral alignment and right-branching syntax with topic fronting. Topics are dropped if they can be inferred from context. Transitive verbs are ambi-valent and can drop their comment. Verb phrases can be chained in serial constructions ordered according to causation and order of occurrence. Noun clauses are introduced with the conjunction *kôh*. Clauses within a sentence usually form separate intonational phrases.

Nouns can be modified by other nouns or noun clauses describing or delimiting the head or indicating a relationship with it. Describing or delimiting modifiers come before those indicating a relationship and the two are not linked with a conjunction.

Negation is marked with the word *æ*, acting as a preceding particle for verbs and a head noun for nouns. A verb does not take the negative particle if one or both of its arguments are negative.

Commands, questions, and conditionals are not distinguished from statements. The indefinite pronoun *æ* (ᠵ) is used in non-polar questions. Polar questions are answered with the verb *kúhtæ* (ᠪᠵ) ‘do’ with or without the negative particle.

The coördinating conjunction *êh* is placed before all non-initial coördinated elements. Conjoined comparatives are used for comparison.



# Dictionary





## Dictionary

### || ◦ ||

ዐፄ *éqa* Noun: right (direction). Cf. ታጋ.

ዐገፄ *ésehqa* Noun: heart, centre.

ዐታ *ékwise* (tewtéh *lékwos* 'horse') Noun: 1. horse. 2. mount.

ዐገ (:) *éh* Conjunction: coöordinator (COORD).

### || ε ||

ፄ *qâ* Noun: 1. person, people. 2. human. 3. qâ. ~ ገገ Phrase: (poetic) qâ.

ፄፅ *qákω* Noun: little, few, less. Used with nouns. Cf. ታገ. ታገ~ Intransitive verb: little, less. Used with verbs.

ፄፅገ *qákwiseh* Noun: proximity, immediacy.

ፄፅጋ *qákukw* Transitive verb: cover, surround, around.

ፄፇ *qátε* Noun: definite pronoun (DEF). Used for second and third persons.

ፄፇገ *qátchε* Noun: (body of) water. Proper noun: (colloquial) Jalaḡaşköl (Жалаḡашкөл) Lake. ~ ታገገገ Noun: 1. salt water. 2. salt lake. Proper noun: Alaköl Lake. ~ ገገገ Proper noun: Jalaḡaşköl Lake.

ገፄ *qáseqa* Noun: 1. morning, dawn. 2. east. Cf. ታገገ, ታገፄ, and ገገፄ.

ገፅ *qásekω* Noun: strength, power.

ገፇ *qásetε* Noun: 1. tongue. 2. language.

ፄፅገ *qáhkwε* Noun: size.

ፄፇገፅ *qáhፄhku* Noun: speed.

ፄገ *qáhε* Noun: 1. self. 2. reflexive, reciprocal pronoun (REFL).

ፄገፄ *qáhsehqa* Transitive verb: tell. ታገ~ Noun: story, literature, poem, song, poetry.

## || 6 ||

ბოგი *kójeqaḥ* Noun: back (direction), lastness. Cf. ბიგიბი.

ბე *kóqa* Transitive verb: with, by (means), about, because of, from (ADV). Used for adverbial abstract nouns. Cf. ბეი.

ბიგი *kókuiḥḥ* Noun: 1. salt. 2. bitterness.

ბიგი *kókuiḥe* Noun: fibre.

ბიბ *kóḥḥ* Intransitive verb: prevail, win.

ბი *kóḥḥ* Noun: much, many, more. Used with nouns. Cf. ებ. ბი~ Intransitive verb: much, more. Used with verbs.

ბი *kóḥe* Noun: fish, aquatic animal. Obligatory reference to *ghoti*.

ბი *kóḥ* Conjunction: clause nominaliser (NZ). Prefix: action, state, quality (NZ). Used for deriving nouns from verbs and abstract nouns from concrete ones.

ბიგიბი *kóḥqahkḥ* Noun: front, firstness. Cf. ბოგი.

ბიბი *kóḥkuḥe* Noun: 1. sun. 2. day, noon. 3. south. Cf. ზე, ბიგი, and ჯიგი.

ბები *kúqakḥ* Transitive verb: break, hurt.

ბეი *kúqah* Transitive verb: in, on, at, by (location), to, into (LOC). Used for recipients, beneficiaries, and results. Cf. ბე.

ბი *kúkw* Noun: left (direction). Cf. ბე.

ბიგი *kúkwḥe* (tewtéḥ *kʷékʷlos* ‘wheel’) Noun: wheel.

ბიგი *kúkḥqah* Transitive verb: greet. Interjection: greeting.

ბიგი *kúḥḥe* Noun: sheep, goat.

ბიგი *kúḥḥe* (tewtéḥ *kʷsós* ‘vehicle’) Noun: 1. cart, wagon. 2. vehicle.

ბიგი *kúḥḥqa* Transitive verb: carry, pull.

ბიგი *kúḥḥqah* Noun: 1. evening, dusk. 2. west. Cf. ზე, ბიბი, and ჯიგი.

ቅደቅ *kúh̄qatēh* Noun: fabric, (outer) garment.

ቅገ *kúhtē* Transitive verb: do, cause, make. Used for answering polar questions.

ቅገብ *kúh̄æhkωh̄* Transitive verb: 1. give, give up, renounce. 2. shine, emit.

## || ቅ ||

ቅ *k̄* Particle: negation (NEG). Noun: negative pronoun (NEG).

ቅጸ *ékakω* Transitive verb: hear, listen.

ቅጺ *éqae* Noun: 1. friend, ally. 2. *ékqae*.

ቅጻብ *éqahkuh* Transitive verb: speak, say.

ቅጻገ *éqah̄tē* Noun: warmth.

ቅጺ *ékω* Copula: be. Intransitive verb: exist.

ቅጻብ *ékωh̄qah̄* Noun: 1. night. 2. north. Cf. ጺ፩, ቤብገ, and ቤገብ.

ቅጻብ *ékωhku* Transitive verb: agree, promise, swear. Cf. ገብብ. ቤ-~ Noun: agreement, promise, contract, oath.

ቅጻገ *ékūe* Noun: 1. everything, all. 2. world.

ቅጻገ *ékūhtē* Intransitive verb: travel, migrate. ቤ-~ Noun: trip, journey, migration.

ቅጻገ *éeqah̄* Noun: 1. shelter. 2. leeward. 3. northwest (winter) 4. southeast (summer). Cf. ገ-  
ቤ፩.

ቅጻብ *éhqaku* Transitive verb: remove.

ቅጻቅ *éhqatēh* Noun: weight.

ቅጻብ *éhqah̄* Noun: thing, object.

ቅጻገ *éhkωe* Intransitive verb: run. Transitive verb: escape, flee.

ቅጻብ *éhku* Transitive verb: have, possess, own.

## || 7 ||

ᠭᠡᠨ Noun: indefinite pronoun (INDEF). Used in non-polar questions.

ᠭᠡᠨᠠ Noun: first person pronoun (1P).

ᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡ Noun: 1. buran (a strong winter wind). 2. (cold, calculating) determination.

ᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠬᠡᠨ Noun: 1.  $\widehat{d}ze\eta$  2. foreigner, barbarian.

ᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨ Noun: 1. mouth. 2. entrance, door. 3. mountain pass.  $\sim$ ᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨ Proper noun: Dzungarian Gate.

ᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨ Noun: rock, stone.

ᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨ Transitive verb: search, track (down), chase, drive.

ᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨ Noun: place, land.

ᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨ (tewtéh tewtéh 'people') Noun: tewtéh.

ᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨ Intransitive verb: disagree, argue, fight. Cf. ᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨ Noun: disagreement, argument, conflict, fight.

ᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨ Intransitive verb: blow (of wind by default). ᠰᠡᠭᠡᠨ Noun: 1. right of windward. 2. southwest (winter) 3. northeast (summer). ᠰᠡᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨ Noun: 1. wind. 2. windward. 3. southeast (winter). 4. northwest (summer). Cf. ᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨ Noun: 1. left of windward. 2. northeast (winter) 3. southwest (summer).

ᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨ Intransitive verb: come, arrive. Transitive verb: enter.

ᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨ Noun: plain, steppe.

ᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨᠠᠭᠡᠨ Transitive verb: see, watch.

# Example Texts



# The Buran and the Sun

*The North Wind and the Sun*, attributed to Aísōpos (Aΐσωπος), is commonly used as a parallel text in comparative linguistics. This version of the text is translated and adapted from The International Phonetic Association, *Handbook of* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), 44.

## Text

|| 1. ḡʒ : bɪbɔḡ bɛ | bɪ ḡ ʒ bɔḡ bɔḡ ʒb | ḡɪbɪ | : ɛ-ʒbɔḡ bɛ bɪɛʒ ʒɛʒ ḡbɔḡ || 2. ʒbɪb | bɪ ɛʒ bɛ bɪɛɪbɪ bɔḡɪ | bɪ ɛ-ʒbɔḡ ʒɛb bɪɛʒ | bɔḡb || 3. ḡʒ bɛ ʒbɔḡ ʒb ɛʒ ḡbɛ | : bɔḡbɔḡ ḡbɛ | : ɛ-ʒbɔḡ bɛ bɔḡ ɛbḡ bɛ bɪɛʒ ɛʒ ɛbɔḡ ɛḡ | : ḡʒ bɛ bḡɪ bḡɪ bɪbɪ || 4. bɪbɔḡ bɛ ʒɛʒ bɪbɪ | : ɛ-ʒbɔḡ bɛ ɛbḡ ʒɛb bɪɛʒ || 5. : bɪ ḡʒ ʒbɪb | bɪ bɪbɔḡ ʒɔḡ bɔḡ ʒb | bɔḡ ||

## Transcription

1. ɛ́qasɛ jêh kôhkɛɛ kôqa | kôh ɛê téhkɛ kóʔɛh qásekɛ | ɛ́hɔqahkɔh | êh qâtekɛhɛ kôqa kúhɔqatɛh téqahɛ ɛ́hkɔʔɛ || 2. tékɔhkɛ | kôh qáʔɛ kôqa kôhɔqahkɔh kúkwôhɔqah | kôh qâtekɛhɛ téhɔkɛ kúhɔqatɛh | kóʔɛkɛ || 3. ɛ́qasɛ kôqa tékɛɛ qásekɛ qáʔɛ ɛ́hkɔqɔ | êh kúhɛkɔʔɛh ɛ́hkɔqɔ | êh qâtekɛhɛ kôqa kóʔɛh qákwɛh kôqa kúhɔqatɛh qáʔɛ qákɛkɛ qáhɛ | êh ɛ́qasɛ kúqah kóʔɛqah kúhɛhkwôh || 4. kôhkɛɛ kôqa téqahɛ kúhɛhkwôh | êh qâtekɛhɛ kúqah qákɛɛh téhɔkɛ kúhɔqatɛh || 5. êh kôh ɛ́qasɛ tékɔhkɛ | kôh kôhkɛɛ téhkɛ kóʔɛh qásekɛ | kúhɛ ||

## Gloss

1. buran COORD sun ADV | NZ INDEF have more strength | argue | COORD person:travel ADV cloak warmth arrive || 2. Ø agree | NZ DEF ADV firstness cause | NZ person:travel remove cloak | win || 3. buran ADV all strength DEF blow | COORD Ø do:more blow | COORD person:travel ADV more proximity ADV cloak DEF surround REFL | COORD buran LOC end give.up || 4. sun ADV warmth shine | COORD person:travel LOC immediacy remove cloak || 5. COORD NZ buran agree | NZ sun have more strength | make ||

## Translation

1. The Buran and the Sun were disputing which was stronger, when a traveler with a warm cloak arrived. 2. They agreed that the one who first made the traveler remove their cloak

would win. 3. The Buran blew with all of their strength, but the more they blew the more closely the traveler wrapped their cloak around themselves, and in the end the Buran gave up. 4. The Sun shone warmly, and immediately the traveler took off their cloak. 5. And the Buran was made to agree that the Sun was stronger.



# Schleicher's Fable

*Schleicher's Fable*, also known as *The Sheep and the Horses*, was written in 1868 by August Schleicher in reconstructed Proto-Indo-European. This version of the text is translated and adapted from R. S. P. Beekes, *Comparative Indo-European Linguistics: An Introduction*, 2nd ed. (Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamin's Publishing Company, 2011), 287.

## Text

|| 1. בִּבְרֵי | יֵבִי בְּרֵי | רֵיבֵי | רֵיבֵי | רֵיבֵי || 2. עֵבֵי עֵבֵי עֵבֵי | : עֵבֵי עֵבֵי עֵבֵי | : עֵבֵי עֵבֵי עֵבֵי ||  
3. בִּבְרֵי עֵבֵי עֵבֵי || 4. רֵיבֵי | יֵבִי | רֵיבֵי | יֵבִי | רֵיבֵי | יֵבִי || 5. עֵבֵי עֵבֵי עֵבֵי || 6. עֵבֵי | בְּ-  
רֵיבֵי | רֵיבֵי עֵבֵי | : עֵבֵי עֵבֵי עֵבֵי || 7. עֵבֵי עֵבֵי עֵבֵי עֵבֵי עֵבֵי עֵבֵי עֵבֵי || 8. : עֵבֵי עֵבֵי עֵבֵי ||  
9. עֵבֵי עֵבֵי עֵבֵי עֵבֵי עֵבֵי ||

## Transcription

1. kútece | kôh téhku tē kókuihce | éhteeku qákω jékωce || 2. qáte kútehqā kútece téh-  
qateh | êh qáte kútehqā téhqah qáhkuce | êh qáte kóqa qáhtehku kútehqā qâ || 3. kúte-  
ce téqahkuh qáte kúqah ékωce || 4. séqa éhteeku | kôh qâ sétekuh ékωce | êh ésehqa sé-  
qa kúqakωh séqa || 5. ékωce téqahkuh qáte || 6. téqakω | kútece | séqa éhteeku qáte | êh  
ésehqa séqa kúqakωh séqa || 7. qâ kóqa kókuihce kútece kúhte kúhqateh téqahce kú-  
qah qáhce || 8. êh kútece téhku tē kókuihce || 9. kútece téqakω qáte téhkωce kúqah séh-  
teqa ||

## Gloss

1. sheep | NZ Ø have NEG fibre | see few horse || 2. DEF pull wagon weight | COORD DEF carry  
thing size | COORD DEF ADV speed carry human || 3. sheep say DEF LOC horse || 4. 1P see | NZ  
human drive horse | COORD heart 1P hurt 1P || 5. horse say DEF || 6. Ø listen | sheep | 1P see  
DEF | COORD heart 1P hurt 1P || 7. human ADV fibre sheep make garment warmth LOC  
REFL || 8. COORD sheep have NEG fibre || 9. sheep hear DEF flee LOC plain ||

## Translation

1. A sheep that had no wool saw horses: 2. one of them was pulling a heavy wagon, one carrying a big load, and one carrying a human quickly. 3. The sheep said to the horses: 4. "I see humans driving horses and my heart pains me." 5. The horses said: 6. "Listen, sheep,

we see this and our hearts pain us: 7. a human makes a warm garment for themselves from the wool of the sheep. 8. And the sheep has no wool.” 9. Hearing this, the sheep fled into the plain.