This is a fable of Aesop. This translation subtracts the gender of the parent and the offspring and alters the "enemies" frame to a "life-burden" frame; even so, its core message retains its integrity.

## Vocabulary

nedebosh          stick [nede (one) + bosh (wood)] {AB}

menedebosh        faggot; bundle of sticks
                  [me– (bigger, greater, more important) + nedebosh (stick)] {AB}

thamesho          to wrap [tham (circle) + mesh (across) + o (around)] {SH}

## English Text

### The Father and His Sons

A father had a family of sons who were perpetually quarreling among themselves. When he failed to heal their disputes by his exhortations, he determined to give them a practical illustration of the evils of disunion; and for this purpose he one day told them to bring him a bundle of sticks. When they had done so, he placed the faggot into the hands of each of them in succession, and ordered them to break it in pieces. They tried with all their strength, and were not able to do it. He next opened the faggot, took the sticks separately, one by one, and again put them into his sons' hands, upon which they broke them easily. He then addressed them in these words: "My sons, if you are of one mind, and unite to assist each other, you will be as this faggot, uninjured by all the attempts of your enemies; but if you are divided among yourselves, you will be broken as easily as these sticks."

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# Láadan Translation & Retranslation into English

The Father and His Sons

**L:** _____

**E:** _____

A father had a family of sons who were perpetually quarreling among themselves.

**L:** _____

_____

**E:** _____

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When he failed to heal their disputes by his exhortations, he determined to give them a practical illustration of the evils of disunion; and for this purpose he one day told them to bring him a bundle of sticks.

**L:** _____

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**E:** _____

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When they had done so, he placed the faggot into the hands of each of them in succession, and ordered them to break it in pieces.

**L:** _____

_____

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**E:** _____

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They tried with all their strength, and were not able to do it.

**L:** _____

_____

**E:** _____

_____

He next opened the faggot, took the sticks separately, one by one, and again put them into his sons' hands, upon which they broke them easily.

**L:** _____

_____

_____

**E:** _____

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He then addressed them in these words: "My sons, if you are of one mind, and unite to assist each other, you will be as this faggot, uninjured by all the attempts of your enemies; but if you are divided among yourselves, you will be broken as easily as these sticks."

**L:** _____

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**E:** _____

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# My Láadan Translation with Morphemic Analysis & Retranslation into English

The Father and His Sons

Thul i Shem Betha

| Thul | i | Shem | Betha |
|------|---|------|-------|
| PARENT | AND | OFFSPRING | X1 + POSSBIRTH |

Parent and Her/His Offspring

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A father had a family of sons who were perpetually quarreling among themselves.

Bíide thi thul merashon i menárashon shem hin hinedenehé wáa.

| Bíide | thi | thul |
|-------|-----|------|
| DECL + NARR | HAVE | PARENT |

| merashon | i | menárashon | shem |
|----------|---|------------|------|
| PL + NON + PEACE = QUARREL | AND | PL + CONT + QUARREL | OFFSPRING |

| hin | hinedenehé |
|-----|-----------|
| DEMO>5 | DEMO>5 + ASSOC + EMBED |
| | EACHOTHER>5 + ASSOC |

| wáa. |
|------|
| TRUSTED |

A parent has many offspring that quarrel and keep quarrelling with each other.

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When he failed to heal their disputes by his exhortations, he determined to give them a practical illustration of the evils of disunion; and for this purpose he one day told them to bring him a bundle of sticks.

Úyahú rathad dóshon be rashon benethoth dibóonan, nanédeshub ban be woduthel wodadem rathalethu rashishidethuth benedim; hiwan, dibó be benedim mebel ben menedebosheth bedimehé.

| Úyahú | rathad | dóshon | be | rashon | benethoth |
|-------|--------|--------|-----|--------|-----------|
| CONJTIME | NON + BeABLE | CAUSETo + PEACE | X1 | QUARREL | X>5 + POSS + OBJ |

| dibóonan, | nanédeshub | ban | be | woduthel |
|-----------|------------|-----|-----|----------|
| SPEAK + REQ = REQUEST + INSTR | BEGIN + INTENTION = DECIDE | GIVE | X1 | REL + USE + MAKE = BeUSEFUL |

| wodadem | rathalethu | rashishidethuth | benedim; |
|---------|-----------|-----------------|----------|
| REL + PICTURE | NON + BeGOOD = BeBAD + PARTV | NON + BeUNITED + PARTV + OBJ | X>5+ GOAL |

| hiwan, | dibó | be | benedim |
|--------|------|-----|---------|
| DEMO1 + PURP | SPEAK + MAND = COMMAND | X1 | X>5 + GOAL |

| mebel | ben | menedebosheth | bedimehé |
|-------|-----|---------------|----------|
| PL + BRINGTAKE | X>5 | #>5 + WOOD = FAGGOT + OBJ | X1 + GOAL + EMBED |

When s/he is unable to pacify their quarrels through requests, s/he decides to give them a useful picture of the badness of disunity; to this end, s/he commands them to bring her/him a faggot of sticks.

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When they had done so, he placed the faggot into the hands of each of them in succession, and ordered them to break it in pieces.

Úyahú methóbel ben beth bedim, dóham be beth oma benethasha, nade nodim, i dibó be benedim methen ben bethehé.

| Úyahú | methóbel | ben | beth | bedim, | dóham |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CONJᴛɪᴍᴇ | PL + JUST + BʀɪɴɢTᴀᴋᴇ | X>5 | X1 + OBJ | X1 + GOAL | CAUSEᴛᴏ + BᴇPʀᴇsᴇɴᴛ = Pᴜᴛ |

| be | beth | oma | benethasha, | nade | nodim, | i |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| X1 | X1 + OBJ | Hᴀɴᴅ | X>5 + POSSʙɪʀᴛʜ + PLC | BEGIN + SRC | FINISH + GOAL | Aɴᴅ |
| | | | | | Fʀᴏᴍ Fɪʀsᴛ ᴛᴏ Lᴀsᴛ | |

| dibó | be | benedim |
|---|---|---|
| Cᴏᴍᴍᴀɴᴅ | X1 | X>5 + GOAL |

| methen | ben | bethehé. |
|---|---|---|
| PL + Bʀᴇᴀᴋ | X>5 | X1 + OBJ + EMBED |

When they had brought it to her/him, s/he puts it their hands, from first to last, and commands that they break it.

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They tried with all their strength, and were not able to do it.

Meduthen ben beth do benethanan woho, izh methad ra ben.

| Meduthen | ben | beth | do | benethanan | woho, |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PL + TRYᴛᴏ + Bʀᴇᴀᴋ | X>5 | X1 | BᴇSᴛʀᴏɴɢ | X>5 + POSSʙɪʀᴛʜ + INSTR | #Aʟʟ |

| izh | methad | ra. |
|---|---|---|
| Bᴜᴛ | PL + BᴇAʙʟᴇ | NEG |

They try to break it using all their native strength, but they cannot.

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He next opened the faggot, took the sticks separately, one by one, and again put them into his sons' hands, upon which they broke them easily.

Id rathamesho be menedebosheth, i nedóham be nedebosheth nedenal, nade nodim, oma shemetha bethasha, i methen ben beneth dozhenal.

| Id | rathamesho | be | menedebosheth, | i | nedóham | be |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AɴᴅTʜᴇɴ | NON + Wʀᴀᴘ = Uɴᴡʀᴀᴘ | X1 | Fᴀɢɢᴏᴛ + OBJ | Aɴᴅ | AGAIN + Pᴜᴛ | X1 |

| nedebosheth | nedenal | oma | shemetha | bethasha |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| #1 + Wᴏᴏᴅ = Sᴛɪᴄᴋ + OBJ | #1 + MANN | Hᴀɴᴅ | Oғғsᴘʀɪɴɢ + POSSʙɪʀᴛʜ | X1 + POSSʙɪʀᴛʜ + PLC |

| i | methen | ben | beneth | dozhenal. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aɴᴅ | PL + Bʀᴇᴀᴋ | X>5 | X>5 + OBJ | BᴇEᴀsʏ + MANN |

And then s/he unwraps the faggot, and again puts the sticks singly in the hands of her/his offspring, and they break them easily.

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He then addressed them in these words: "My sons, if you are of one mind, and unite to assist each other, you will be as this faggot, uninjured by all the attempts of your enemies; but if you are divided among yourselves, you will be broken as easily as these sticks."

Id di be benedim dáanenan hin: "Bíidi bere ril mezhelith nan, shem letha, i meshishid nan úwanú meden nan hin hineth, ébere mezhe nan i menedebosh hi; aril olob ra dosh wíthu naneth wa. Izh, shinesha, bere ril menárashon nan hin hineden, ébere aril naneth methen dosh wíthushub zhehóo methen nan nedebosheth hin dozhenal."

| Id | di | be | benedim | dáanenan | hin: | "Bíidi | bere |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AndThen | Speak | X1 | X>5 + GOAL | Word + INSTR | Demo>5 | DECL + DIDACT | If... |

| ril | mezhelith | | nan, | shem | letha, | i |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PRES | PL + BeAlike + Think = AgreeThink | | YouLove>5 | Offspring | I + POSSBirth | And |

| meshishid | nan | úwanú | meden | nan | hin | hineth |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PL + BeUnited | YouLove>5 | CONJpurp | PL + Help | YouLove>5 | Demo>5 | Demo>5 + OBJ |
| | | | | | | EachOther>5 + OBJ |

| ébere | mezhe | nan | i | menedebosh | hi; | aril | methad |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ...Then | PL + BeAlike | YouLove>5 | And | Faggot | Demo1 | FUT | PL + Be able |

| meholob | ra | dosh | wíthu | naneth | wa. | Izh, | shinesha, |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PL + BlowTrauma | NEG | Burden | Life + PARTV | YouLove>5 + OBJ | MYPERC | But | #2 + PLC |

| bere | ril | menárashon | nan | hin | hineden, | ébere |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| If... | PRES | PL + CONT + Quarrel | YouLove>5 | Demo>5 | Demo>5 + ASSOC | ...Then |
| | | | | | EachOther>5 + ASSOC | |

| aril | naneth | methen | dosh | wíthushub |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| FUT | YouLove>5 + PATIENT | PL + Break | Burden | Life + PARTV + PASSV |

| zhehóo | methen | nan | nedebosheth | hin | dozhenal. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BeAlike + FOCUS | PL + Break | YouLove>5 | Stick + OBJ | Demo>5 | BeEasy + MANN |

And then s/he speaks to them didactically using these words: "If you, my beloved offspring, agree-in-mind and are united in order to help each other, then you and this faggot will be alike; the burdens of life will not harm you. But if you continue to quarrel with each other, you will be broken by the burdens of life just as you easily broke these sticks."

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# Láadan Text

## Thul i Shem Betha

Bíide thi thul merashon i menárashon shem hin hinedenehé wáa. Úyahú rathad dóshon be rashon benethoth dibóonan, nanédeshub ban be woduthel wodadem rathalethu rashishidethuth benedim; hiwan, dibó be benedim mebel ben menedebosheth bedimehé. Úyahú methóbel ben beth bedim, dóham be beth oma benethasha, nade nodim, i dibó be benedim methen ben bethehé. Meduthen ben beth do benethanan woho, izh methad ra ben. Id rathamesho be menedebosheth, i nedóham be nedebosheth nedenal, nade nodim, oma shemetha bethasha, i methen ben beneth dozhenal. Id di be benedim dáanenan hin: "Bíidi bere ril mezhelith nan, shem letha, i meshishid nan úwanú meden nan hin hineth, ébere mezhe nan i menedebosh hi; aril olob ra dosh wíthu naneth wa. Izh, shinesha, bere ril menárashon nan hin hineden, ébere aril naneth methen dosh wíthushub zhehóo methen nan nedebosheth hin dozhenal."

## Comments

We introduce a new idiom here in the form of the word "shinesha" (on the other hand) [shin (#2) + –sha (PLC)]. It forms a rhetorical alternative to whatever has been said in the preceding clause. In Láadan it would be perfectly reasonable to include a third and successive alternatives using the appropriate numbers—which is a bit more difficult in English because just whose *is* that third hand? If one wished, one could set the expectation that such a list would be forthcoming by introducing the *first* alternative with "nedesha" (on the one hand) [nede (#1) + –sha (PLC)].

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