

RB-1: Birth

Halbi Text Tape 3a:346-378 (CA) circa 1967-8. Narrator: Ramboti. Researchers: Betsy Schuyler and Fran Woods.

A. Giving Birth

This descriptive expository text by Ramboti provides a helpful glimpse into the birth process among the Raj Mureas of Bhatpal.¹

The researcher asked many questions seeking clarification on a number of the things described. It is now clear that many more questions needed to be asked in order to gain a clearer picture of all involved. We had the privilege of being present at the birth of a dear little girl named Sukuntula.

A.1 Free translation of text

Whenever pain and suffering occurs here those people will bring a shaman in our country. And they will call up the spirits. And two old ladies will sit behind and in front, midwives. They will be in front. And later, ummm, first the 'tora' will come out. And later the amniotic fluid comes.

When the amniotic fluid comes out again later the baby girl will come, the child. She will fall (out) and later again the afterbirth (will come). When that comes later they will wrap a cloth around (the child). After having bathed they will put the baby girl to sleep.

Researcher: What do the suin do?

The midwives later they they bathed (the child?) will go to bathe themselves at the river. Having bathed they will return. And clothes, head, everything they will wet. And they will rub on oil and turmeric. And later they will enter the house.

Researcher: Who is a suin?

They all are. Tati's mother also is one. And also Tetergurin's mother. Also there are many in that hamlet in our country.

Researcher: If there's a difficulty what do you do?

Later, if it (the birth) absolutely doesn't occur, if great difficulty occurs, they will call up many spirits. If the spirit also absolutely doesn't work later they will take to the hospital. In our country, they people who take will take to the hospital otherwise they won't take.

They will just depend on the spirits. If the spirits come it will be alright. The people of our country will call up many spirits.

Researcher: If the child dies what then?

Whenever a child dies they won't give the sacred kasa drink. They won't do anything. They will cry a lot. And later again ...

Researcher: What do you do with the dead child?

Whenever a child dies they will bury it, of course.

Researcher: Where?

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Beside the house. They won't take a little child to the wilderness area (for burial). They will bury closeby, beside the house.

And later they will take there. And they will bathe, having prepared food they will eat.

Researcher: What about the afterbirth?

(The afterbirth) is to be placed in this floor. We don't throw (the afterbirth) out anywhere else.

Researcher: Why?

Just because it's like this.

Researcher: Where?

A hole is to be dug there. And with that leaf basket (it) is to be placed in the ground. The soil is to be covered over. And many fires are to be lit, it will burn there.

It's not like that in your country? We will burn like this, our country's people.

Researcher: What is the leaf thing?

Leaf basket.

Researcher: tʃipta?

Yes, it is a leaf basket.

Researcher: What kind of leaves?

The siāri plant's leaf. It is to be filled up there. And it is to be burned.

When it is burned there won't be a smell. And (if) the fire hasn't burned a lot there will be a smell. We lit many fires (over it). It burned.

It's finished (that's all).

A.2 Giving Birth Interlinear

RB-1:1.1

हून लोग	ए	बाटे	दूका सूका	होलेने	आमचो	देस
hun log	e	baṭe	duka suka	holene	amtʃo	des
CN	DEM	N	N	V	POSSPRON	N
that person-people	this	direction=LOC	pain	become-CNSUF-temporal-condition	we=POSS	country

ने	सीरहा	आनूआत
ne	sirha	anuat.
POSTP	N	V
=LOC	shaman	bring-3P.F2

Whenever pain and suffering occurs here those people will bring a shaman in our country.

RB-1:1.2

आऊर	देओ	बोसाऊआत
aur	deo	bosauat.
CONJ	N	V
and	spirit	to cause to sit-3P.F2

And they will call up the spirits.

RB-1:1.3

आऊर	दूई	झान	डोकरी	मन	पाटे	फूरे	हूआत	सूईन	मन
aur	dui	dʒʰan	ɖokri	mən	paṭe	pʰure	huat	suin	mən.
CONJ	NUM	CLSS	N	PRT	N	ADV	V	N	PRT
and	two	person	old woman	=PL	behind=LOC	first-ON	become-3P.F2	midwife	=PL

And two old ladies will sit behind and in front, midwives.

RB-1:1.4

फूरे हूआत
p^hure huat.
ADV V

first-ON become-3P.F2

They will be in front.

RB-1:1.5

आऊर पासे ए आगे तोरा जाऊआत
aur pase e age tora dzauat.
CONJ ADV DEM ADV N V

and later this before amniotic sac go-3P.F2

And later, ummm, first the 'tora' will come out.²

RB-1:1.6

आऊर पासे चार हाँडी
aur pase tʃar hāḍi.
CONJ ADV idiom

and later amniotic fluid

And later the amniotic fluid comes.

RB-1:2.1

चार हाँडी गेली आले फेर पासे नोनी एऊआए पीला
tʃar hāḍi geli ale p^her pase noni euae pila.
idiom V ADV ADV ADV N V N

amniotic fluid go-3S.NM.PC when again later girl come-3S.F2 child

When the amniotic fluid comes out again later the baby girl will come, the child.

RB-1:2.2

हून घसरूआए आऊर पासे फेर कचरा
hun g^həsrueae aur pase p^her kətʃra.
PRON V CONJ ADV ADV N

she fall-3S.F2 and later again afterbirth

She will fall (out) and later again the afterbirth (will come).

RB-1:3.1

हून गेली आले पासे फोटई फींदाऊआत
hun geli ale pase p^hoʈəi p^hiḍauat.
PRON V ADV ADV N V

IT go-3S.NM.PC when later cloth wear-CAUS-3P.F2

When that comes later they will wrap a cloth around (the child).

RB-1:3.2

आऊर नाहान देऊआत
aur nahān deuat.
CONJ V

and bathe-CONJ.COMP-BEN-3P.F2

When that comes later they will wrap a cloth around (the child).

RB-1:3.3

नाहान भाती नोनी के सोआन देऊआत
nahān b^hati noni ke soān deuat.
V PRT N CASE V

bathe-CONJ.COMP after girl GOL sleep-CAUS-CONJ.COMP-BEN-3P.F2

After having bathed they will put the baby girl to sleep.

Researcher: What do the suin do?

²What is <torā>? It's not water but something that comes out first.

RB-1:4.1

सूईन मन पासे नाहाकोर करून दीला आले आपून मन नाहाक जाऊआत ए
 suin mən pase nahakor kərun dila ale apun mən nahak dʒauat e
 N PRT ADV V ADV PRON PRT V V DEM
 midwife =PL later bathing-do-CONJ.COMP-BEN-3P.PTC when one's self =PL bathe-INF go-3P.F2 this

नँदी बाटे
 nādi baṭe.

N N
 river direction=LOC

The midwives later they they bathed (the child?) will go to bathe themselves at the river.

RB-1:4.2

नाहाकोर होऊन एऊआत
 nahakor houn euat.
 V V

bathe-CONJ.COMP come-3P.F2

Having bathed they will return.

RB-1:4.3

आऊर फोटई के मुंड के सब के भीजाऊआत
 aur phoṭɛi ke mūṅ ke səb ke bhidʒauat.
 CONJ N CASE N CASE ADJ CASE V

and cloth GOL head GOL all GOL cause be wet-3P.F2

And clothes, head, everything they will wet.

RB-1:4.4

आऊर तेल हरदी घसूआत
 aur tel hərdi ḡḥəsuat.
 CONJ N N V

and oil turmeric rub-3P.F2

And they will rub on oil and turmeric.

RB-1:4.5

आऊर पासे घरे ओलूआत
 aur pase ḡḥəre oluat.
 CONJ ADV N V

and later house=LOC enter-3P.F2

And later they will enter the house.

Researcher: Who is a suin?

RB-1:5.1

ए सब आत
 e səb at.

DEM ADJ EQ

this all is.3P

They all are.

RB-1:5.2

ताती चो आएआ बोले आए
 tati tʃo aea bole ae.

PN PRT N ADV EQ

Tati =POSS mother also is.3S

Tati's mother also is one.

RB-1:5.3

आऊर तैतरगूडीन चो आएआ बोले आए
 aur tetərguṛin tʃo aea bole ae.

CONJ PN PRT N ADV EQ

and Tetergurin =POSS mother also is.3S

And also Tetergurin's mother.

RB-1:5.4

हून पारा चो बोले खूब आसोत आमचो देस ने
 hun para tʃo bole k^hub asot amtʃo des ne.
 DEM N PRT ADV ADV ST POSSPRON N POSTP
 that hamlet =POSS also much is.3P we=POSS country =LOC

Also there are many in that hamlet in our country.

Researcher: If there's a difficulty what do you do?

RB-1:6

पासे ए थाने नी ची होले खूब तकलीप होले खूब देओ
 pase e t^hane ni tʃi hole k^hub təkliɸ hole k^hub deo
 ADV ADV NEG PRT V ADV N V ADV N
 later at this place not absolutely become-CNSUF much difficulty become-CNSUF much spirit

बोसाऊआत
 bosauat.
 V

to cause to sit-3P.F2

Later, if it (the birth) absolutely doesn't occur, if great difficulty occurs, they will call up many spirits.

RB-1:7.1

देओ बोले नी ची होलोलने पासे अस्पताल ने नेऊआत
 deo bole ni tʃi hololone pase əspətəl ne neuat.
 N ADV NEG PRT V ADV N POSTP V
 spirit also not absolutely become-COND-temporal-condition later hospital =LOC take-3P.F2

If the spirit also absolutely doesn't work later they will take to the hospital.

RB-1:7.2

आमचो देस ने नेती लोग नेऊआत नाहाले नी नेओत अस्पताल ने
 amtʃo des ne neti log neuat nahale ni neot əspətəl ne.
 POSSPRON N POSTP ADJ N V CONJ NEG V N POSTP
 we=POSS country =LOC taking people take-3P.F2 otherwise not take-3P hospital =LOC

In our country, they people who take will take to the hospital otherwise they won't take.

RB-1:7.3

देओ ची मन बोसूआत
 deo tʃi mən bosuat.
 N PRT PRT V

spirit absolutely =PL sit-3P.F2

They will just depend on the spirits.

RB-1:8.1

देओ बोसले नँगत हूआए
 deo bosle nəŋət huae.
 N V V

spirit sit-CNSUF give birth-3S.F2

If the spirits come it will be alright.

RB-1:8.2

खूब देओ बोसाऊआत आमचो देस चो लोग
 k^hub deo bosauat amtʃo des tʃo log.
 ADV N V POSSPRON N PRT N

much spirit to cause to sit-3P.F2 we=POSS country =POSS people

The people of our country will call up many spirits.

Researcher: If the child dies what then?

RB-1:9.1

पीला मोरली आले कसा कसी नी देओत
pila morli ale kasa kasi ni deot.
N V ADV N NEG TR
child die-3S.NM.PC when ceremonial drink not give-3P
Whenever a child dies they won't give the sacred kasa drink.

RB-1:9.2

काई नी करोत
kaĩ ni kərot.
PPRON NEG V
anything not do-3P
They won't do anything.

RB-1:9.3

खूब गागूआत
k^hub gaguat.
ADV V
much cry-3P.F2
They will cry a lot.

RB-1:9.4

आऊर पासे फेर
aur pase p^her...
CONJ ADV ADV
and later again
And later again ...

Researcher: What do you do with the dead child?

RB-1:10.1

पीला मोरली आले माटी देऊआत काए
pila morli ale maṭi deuat kae.
N V ADV V EXCL
child die-3S.NM.PC when bury-3P.F2 EXCL(certain)
Whenever a child dies they will bury it, of course.

Researcher: Where?

RB-1:10.2

हून घर लगे
hun g^hər ləge.
DEM N N
that house place=LOC
Beside the house.

RB-1:10.3

नानी पीला के भाटा ने नी नेओत
nani pila ke b^haṭa ne ni neot.
ADJ N CASE N POSTP NEG V
small child GOL wilderness area =LOC not take-3P
They won't take a little child to the wilderness area (for burial).

RB-1:10.4

लगे देऊआत घर लगे
ləge deuat g^hər ləge.
N BITRANS N N
place=LOC give-3P.F2 house place=LOC
They will bury closeby, beside the house.

RB-1:10.5

आऊर पासे हूता नेऊआत
aur pase huta neuat.
CONJ ADV ADV V
and later there take-3P.F2
And later they will take there.

RB-1:11

आऊर नाहाकोर हूआत रांद बाड़ करून खाऊआत
aur nahakor huat rāḍ baḍ kərun k^hauat.
CONJ V N TR TR
and bathe-3P.F2 food preparation do-CONJ.COMP eat-3P.F2
And they will bathe, having prepared food they will eat.

Researcher: What about the afterbirth?

RB-1:12.1

ए भूई ने गाड़तोर आए
e b^huī ne gaḍtor ae.
DEM N POSTP V
this floor =LOC place in ground-CONJ.INC-is.3S
(The afterbirth) is to be placed in this floor.

RB-1:12.2

आमी आरू बाटे नी पोकाऊँ आमी
ami aru baṭe ni pokaū ami.
PPRON ADV N NEG V PPRON
we-EMP other direction=LOC not throw out-1P we-EMP
We don't throw (the afterbirth) out anywhere else.

Researcher: Why?

RB-1:13

असनी
əsnī.
ADV
like this-EMP
Just because it's like this.

Researcher: Where?

RB-1:14.1

हून लगे खोदरा खोड़तोर आए
hun ləge k^hodra k^hoḍtor ae.
ADV N V
at that place hole dig-CONJ.INC-is.3S
A hole is to be dug there.

RB-1:14.2

आऊर हून चीपटा संगे हूता गाड़तोर आए
aur hun tʃipta sɔ̃ge huta gaḍtor ae.
CONJ DEM N POSTP ADV V
and that leaf basket with-EMP there place in ground-CONJ.INC-is.3S
And with that leaf basket (it) is to be placed in the ground.

RB-1:14.3

माटी फाटतोर आए
maṭi p^haṭtor ae.
N V
ground cover up-CONJ.INC-is.3S
The soil is to be covered over.

RB-1:14.4

आऊर खूब आईग धरातोर आए हूता डसूआए
aur k^hub aig d^harator ae huta d̪əsuae.
CONJ ADV N V ADV V
and much fire take hold-CAUS-CONJ.INC-is.3S there burn-3S.F2
And many fires are to be lit, it will burn there.

RB-1:15.1

तूमचो देस ने नाई?
tumtʃo des ne nai
POSSPRON N POSTP ADV
you==POSS country =LOC is not
It's not like that in your country?

RB-1:15.2

आमी असनी डसाऊआऊँ आमचो देस चो लोग
ami əsni d̪əsauaũ amtʃo des tʃo log.
PPRON ADV V POSSPRON N PRT N
we-EMP like this-EMP burn-1P.F2 we=POSS country =POSS people
We will burn like this, our country's people.

Researcher: What is the leaf thing?

RB-1:16

चीपटा
tʃipta.
N
leaf basket
Leaf basket.

Researcher: tʃipta?

RB-1:17

होऊ, चीपटा आए
hou tʃipta ae.
ADV N EQ
yes leaf basket is.3S
Yes, it is a leaf basket.

Researcher: What kind of leaves?

RB-1:18.1

सीआड़ी पान चो
siãɽi pan tʃo.
N N PRT
plant type leaf =POSS
The siãɽi plant's leaf.

RB-1:18.2

हूता सँगा भोरतोर आए
huta s̪əga b^hortor ae.
ADV N V
there put fill-CONJ.INC-is.3S
It is to be filled up there.

RB-1:18.3

आरू डसातोर आए
aru d̪əsator ae.
CONJ V
and burn-CONJ.INC-is.3S
And it is to be burned.

RB-1:19.1

डसली आले नी बास देए
ɖəsli ale ni bas dee.
V ADV NEG N V
burn-3S.NM.PC when not smell give-3S
When it is burned there won't be a smell.

RB-1:19.2

आऊर आईग खूब नी धरली बास देऊआए
aur aig k^hub ni d^hərli bas deuae.
CONJ N ADV NEG TR N V
and fire much not take hold-3S.NM.PC smell give-3S.F2
And (if) the fire hasn't burned a lot there will be a smell.

RB-1:19.3

आमी खूब आईग धरालू
ami k^hub aig d^həralu.
PPRON ADV N V
we-EMP much fire cause to take hold-1P.PTC
We lit many fires (over it).

RB-1:19.4

डसली
ɖəsli.
V
burn-3S.NM.PC
It burned.

RB-1:20

सरलीबे
sərliβe.
V
finish-3S.NM.PC-AB
"It's finished.

Abbreviations

1P	=	first person, singular
3S	=	third person, plural
3P	=	third person, singular
AB	=	ablative
ADJ	=	adjective
ADV	=	adverb(ial)
BEN	=	benefactive
BITRANS	=	bitransitive
CASE	=	case marker
CAUS	=	causative
CLSS	=	classifier
CN	=	compound noun
CNSUF	=	conditional/temporal suffix
COMP	=	complete
COND	=	condition
CONJ	=	conjunctive
DEM	=	demonstrative
EMP	=	emphatic marker

EXCL	=	exclamation
EQ	=	equative
F2	=	future 2
GOL	=	goal marker
INC	=	incomplete
INF	=	infinitive
IT	=	intransitive
LOC	=	locative
N	=	noun
NEG	=	negation, negative
NM	=	non human-male
NUM	=	cardinal number
ON	=	onomatopoetic nominal
PC	=	present complete
PL	=	pluraliser
PN	=	proper noun
POSS	=	possessive particle
POSSPRON	=	possessive pronoun
POSTP	=	post position
PPRON	=	personal pronoun
PRON	=	pronoun
PRT	=	particle
PTC	=	past complete
ST	=	stative
TR	=	transitive
V	=	verb