Text 1. Č'iš:i

Traditional mourning song

Recorded 07.2005.
Speaker/Singer: Patimattaj Magomedova
Transcription and translation into Russian: Zumzum Magomedova and Marina Chumakina
Morphological analysis and translation into English: Michael Daniel and Marina Chumakina

Archi mourning songs seems to be the only true Archi folklore. The mourning song is sang at the wake (after the funeral) where women sit together in a special mourning room (nibqin nokť; room/house of tears in sentence (4)). The mourning song has a structure but the actual content is improvised each time the song is sang. Here the singer, Patimattaj,Improves specially for the recording. The mourning is for her mother-in-law Pazirat who died some 20 years before the recording time.

(1) yejb a-r-digi lo-bur čom žwen
  guilt(IV)[SG.ABS] IV.SG.do-IPFV-PROH child(IV)-PL.ABS woman(II).PL.ABS 2PL[ERG]
  zon e’mmu-li bo-na
  1SG.ABS weep.PFV-CVB say.PFV-CVB
You, children and women, don’t blame me for weeping.

(2) di-s čala-t:u-r jakľad e:r-di yejb-u a-r-digi
  ILSG-2SG.GEN be.old-ATTR-ILSG mother.in.law(II)[SG.ABS] <ILSG-be.PAST guilt(IV)[SG.ABS]-AND IV.SG.do-IPFV-PROH
  d-i-t’u-t:t:i-u-r
  I had an old mother in law, don’t blame me.

(3) došdur-u d-i-t’u-t:t:i-u-r dišdur-u d-i-t’u-t:t:i-u-r
  sister(II)[SG.ABS]-AND ILSG-be.PRS-NEG-ATTR-ILSG daughter(II)[SG.ABS]-AND ILSG-be.PRS-NEG-ATTR-ILSG
  She didn’t have a sister or a daughter.

(4) nibqi-n nokť’ q’ibeh-du-t i
  tear(IV).SG.OBL-GEN house(IV)[SG.ABS] be.poor-ATTR-IV.SG IV.SG.be.PRS
  bo-na yejb-u a-r-digi
  say.PFV-CVB guilt(IV)[SG.ABS]-AND IV.SG.do-IPFV-PROH
Don’t blame me for the fact that mourning house is poor (has few people).

(5) kulů lo-bur barhu-t:t:i-u-r q’ibeh q’urid-kul kunne-t:t:i-u-r
(Mother in law) who brought up orphan children, who went through humiliation and poverty.

Happy for one who's happy, sad for one who's sad

Not proud, old Pazirat.

She who experienced so much poverty

(who) never ate to the full [= she didn't eat food to fill her stomach]

(who) never dress up enough (who did not feed her body with beautiful clothes)

oh, how much she had to keep inside (herself)

(who) experienced grief and humiliation and though time has changed for the good, didn't change

time is good, world is beautiful,
How much did she work for her children?

She didn't give in to the old age, was light like a bird and flying parχːar be.worn.off and l.SG.do.PFV-RPRT

Though she has enough of her own misery, she had to look after her grandchildren.

She didn't give in to the old age, was light like a bird (lit: was light and flying),

How much did she work for her children,

How much humiliation she took without letting people know.