

KERNEWEK DRE LYTHER.

Dyskans hwegh warn ugens.

Hweghves dyskans warn ugens

(“Yn unn²” with Verb-Noun. Imperfect of “bos.” Pluperfect of “bos” and “gul.” “Drefenn” & “Kyns” with verb-noun “bos.”)

Karesk 936 A.D.

(This tale was first written for the 1983 Gorsedh Kernow Cornish Language Prose Competition and was awarded first place. It was later serialised to form the story back ground for the K.D.L. Second Grade Course, which is now the Second/Third Grade Course. It is based on the historical expulsion of the Cornish from Exeter by Athelstan, but all the characters in the story, except Bishop Asser and King Athelstan are fictitious.)

An Tas-gwynn.

Ass ova skwith! Tewdar re bia ow⁴ konis y'n gwel yn-mes a'n fos a-ban² dhrehevis an howl, ha pur² doemm o an gewer. Res o dhodho kerdhes ryb fos an² ger bys y'n yet, hag alena a-hys an stret erna² dhrehedhas an chioiw ha'n krowjiow may triga an² Gernowyon. Chi Tewdar o nebes brassa ages an chioiw erell a'n kwartron. Y² das o hembrenkyas an bagas a² Gernowyon re² wrussa triga yn Karesk gans an Sowson dres lies blydhen. Y² das-gwynn re wrussa dos dhe² Garesk nans o dewgens blydhen yn termyn Epskop Asser drefenn bos Kembro an Epskop da na. Kar an² Geltyon ha kar an myghtern sowsnek kekeffrys ova.

Lemmyn pur² goth, ha pur² glav o an tas-gwynn. Hag ev ow nessa daras an chi, Tewdar a omwovynnas fatell o gans an den koth. Yn sur, nyns esa dhodho lies dydh dhe² vywa. Y⁵ teuth ev bys y'n daras ha mos a-ji. Pur² dewl o a-bervedh. Kales o gweles y² das-gwynn a'y² worwedh yn korn an stevell, ha'y² vamm a'y esedh war skavell rybdho.

“Fatell yw ganso?” a² wovynnas Tewdar.

Nyns esa gorthyp, mes y² vamm a sevis yn lent ha dos war-tu ha'n den yowynk. Wor'tiwedh hi a² gewsis yn unn hwystra. Yn-medh hi,

“Dha² das-gwynn yma ow merwel. Res yw porres mos dhe'n managhti ha kavoes onan a'n² bronteryon rag y assoylya kyns hy bos re² dhiwedhes.”

“Ass ov vy skwith, a² vamm”, yn-medh Tewdar. “Gas vy dhe bowes kyns, ha ro dhymm korev dhe² eva.”

Troblys o an² venyn² dha. Pyth o an moyha bysi, enev divarow an den koth, po korf skwithys hy mab? Hi a ros hanaf a² gorev dhe² Dewdar, ha leverel,

“Wel, gwra gortos gans dha² das-gwynn. Mos ow honan a² wrav.”

Tewdar a esedhas war an skavell yn le y² vamm ha mires orth y² das-gwynn. Nyns esa arwoedh bywnans war y enep, mes movyans y skevens a² dhiskwedhas ev dhe² vywa hwath.

Gerva.

Karesk	= Exeter.	a-ban ²	= since.
tas-gwynn	= grandfather.	drehevel	= to rise.
Ass ova skwith!	= How tired he was!	ker (f) (p) keryow	= fortified city
re bia	= had been.	yet (f) (p) yettys	= gate.
gonis	= to work.		
toemm	= hot.		

K.D.L.Dyskans hwegh warn ugens.folenn 2.Gerva.

a-hys	= along.	rybdho	= by him.
erna ²	= until.	sevel	= to stand.
krowji (p) krowjiow	= cottage	yn lent	= slowly.
war-tu ha	= towards.	porres	= urgently.
may ⁵	= in which, where.	managhti (p) managhtiw	= monastery, minster
brassa	= bigger.	pronter (p) pronteryon	= priest.
ages	= than.	assoylya	= to shrive.
kwartron	= quarter.	(kyns hy bos	= (before it is
hembrenkyas	= leader.	re ² dhiwedhes)	too late.)
re ² wrussa triga	= had lived.	gasa	= to allow, let.
Sows (p) Sowson	= Saxon.	ro	= give (imperative)
re ² wrussa dos	= had come.	troblys	= troubled.
epskop (p) epskobow	= bishop.	moyha	= most.
drefenn bos)	(because that	bysi	= important
Kembro an)	= (good bishop	enev (p) enevow	= soul.
epskop da na.)	(was a Welshman.	divarow	= immortal.
nesa	= to approach.	korf (p) korfow	= body.
omwovynn	= to wonder.	ros (past t. of "ri")	= gave.
fatell o	= how it was	gortos	= to wait, stay
bywa	= to live.	ow honan	= myself
a-ji	= indoors.	enep (p) enebow	= face.
a-bervedh	= inside.	movyans	= movement
a'y worwedh	= lying.	skevens	= lungs.
korn (p) kernow	= corner.	hwedhel (p) hwedhlow	= story.
a'y esedh	= sitting.	kar (p) kerens	= kinsman, friend
skavell (f) (p) skavellow	= stool, bench.		

Govynnadow.

- 1) Ple hwer (happens) an hwedhel ma?
- 2) Prag yth o Tewdar skwith?
- 3) Prag yth o chi Tewdar brassa es an chioiw erell a'n kwartron?
- 4) P'eur⁵ hwrussa tas-gwynn Tewdar dos dhe² Garesk?
- 5) Piw o Asser?
- 6) Prag yth o kales gweles tas-gwynn Tewdar?
- 7) Prag yth esa mamm Tewdar a'y esedh?
- 8) Fatell² gewsis mamm Tewdar?
- 9) Pandr'a² wrug mamm Tewdar pan na² vynna ev mos dhe'n managhti?
- 10) Fatell² wodhya Tewdar an tas-gwynn dhe² vywa hwath?

Gramasek.

"Yn unn²" with verb noun.

e.g. Hi a² gewsis yn unn hwystra. = She spoke in a whisper.

The verb-noun used in this way is, in fact, more noun than verb, and the whole phrase acts as an adverb to show how the action of the main verb is carried out. Here are more examples:

e.g. Ev a² dheuth yn unn² boenya. = He came at a run (He ran up.)
 Hi eth yn unn fistena. = She went in a hurry. (She hurried off.)

There are a number of ways of expressing these adverbial phrases in English. The exercise below shows some of them.

Exercise 1. Translate the following sentences into Cornish, using one of the phrases starting with “yn unn²” which are given below. In some cases two English versions are given, one normal English, the other a little closer to the Cornish.

- 1) He went into the house at a walk. (He walked into the house.)
- 2) He went to Truro in a hurry. (He hurried to Truro.)
- 3) They worked in a tiring way.
- 4) He laughed playfully.
- 5) They spoke in a whisper.
- 6) She talked with a song. (in a sing-song voice).
- 7) He went down (yn-nans) the hill sliding. (He slid down the hill)
- 8) They went to New Zealand sailing. (They sailed to N.Z.)

yn unn² gerdhes; yn unn skwitha; yn unn hwystra; yn unn slynkya; yn unn fistena; yn unn² wari; yn unn² gana; yn unn² woelya.

Imperfect of “bos” (to be). As with the present tense (Dyskans 12), there is a short and long form, with the long form showing where a person/thing was, or what it was doing. The short form shows who, what, or how he/she/it was.

Long.

esen	= I was/used to be.	esen	= We were etc.
eses	= You were etc.	esewgh	= You were etc.
esa	= He/She/It was etc.	esens	= They were etc.

Short.

en	= I was/used to be.	en	= We were etc.
es	= You were etc.	ewgh	= You were etc.
o	= He/she/It was etc.	ens	= They were etc..

The long forms are used in the present and imperfect tenses to translate “There is/are/was/were.”

e.g. Nyns esa gorthyp. = There was no answer.

These forms are often used with suffixed pronouns as given in dyskans 12 and there is an example of another one in the story:

e.g. Ass ova skwith! = How tired he was!

Exercise 2. Translate the following into Cornish.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1) I was very troubled. | 6) There was no sign of life. |
| 2) We were in Exeter. | 7) I was working in the field. |
| 3) They were Cornish. | 8) How tired he was! |
| 4) The Cornish were in Exeter. | 9) We were tired also. |
| 5) You were Tewdar’s mother. | 10) His father was the leader. |

Pluperfect of “bos.”

bien	= I had been.	bien	= We had been.
bies	= You had been.	biewgh	= You had been.
bia	= He/She/It had been.	biens	= They had been.

The perfect verbal particle “re” is commonly used with the pluperfect tense in nominal sentences, though “a²” is used when the tense is used conditionally. (e.g. = “I would be” etc. This will be dealt with later, dyskans 31.) “A²” is also possible, though less usual with the pluperfect use. Although “re” normally causes second state mutation, it does not do so when used with “bos.”

In verbal sentences the particle “y⁵” is used.

The normal negative particle is “ny².”

e.g.

Tewdar re bia ow konis.	= Tewdar had been working.
My re bia yn Aberfal.	= I had been in Falmouth.
Y ⁵ fien trist kyns dha ² weles.	= I had been sad before seeing you.
Y ⁵ fiens i yn Truru.	= They had been in Truro.
Ny ² via ev ow kewsel.	= He had not been talking.

Exercise 3. Translate the following into Cornish.

- 1) The Cornish had been in Exeter.
- 2) Tewdar had been working since the sun rose.
- 3) We had been ill.
- 4) Asser had been Bishop of Exeter.
- 5) He had been sitting in the corner.
- 6) I had been in Tewdar’s house.
- 7) Tewdar’s father had been in the monastery.
- 8) They had been too late.
- 9) She had been sitting on the stool.
- 10) There had been no sign of life on his face.

Pluperfect of “gul.”

gwrussen	= I had done/made.	gwrussen	= We had done/made.
gwrusses	= You had done/made.	gwrussewgh	= You had done/made.
gwrussa	= He/she/It had done/made.	gwrussens	= They had done/made.

Verbal particles are as shown above for “bos” except that “re²” does cause the normal second state mutation. As you know, “gul” can be used as a verb by itself, or as an auxiliary with other verbs.

e.g.

Mamm Tewdar re ² wrussa sevel.	= Tewdar’s mother had got up.
An ² Gernowyon re wrussa triga yn Karesk.	= The Cornish had lived in Exeter.
Y ⁵ hwrudden vy mos dhe’n managhti.	= I had gone to the monastery.
My re ² wrussa gweles fos Karesk.	= I had seen the wall of Exeter.
Ny ² wrussens i triga yn Kernow.	= They had not lived in Cornwall.

Exercise 4. Translate the following into Cornish, using the pluperfect tense of “gul.”

- 1) The Cornish had lived there many years.
- 2) Tewdar had gone to see his grandfather.
- 3) His mother had sat on the stool by his bed.
- 4) The mother had not answered.
- 5) The priest had shriven the old man.
- 6) We had lived in Cornwall in the time of Bishop Asser.
- 7) She had stood up slowly.
- 8) He had drunk the beer.
- 9) I had come to Exeter twenty years ago.
- 10) We had walked by the city wall.

“Drefenn” (because) and “kyns” (before) with “bos” and noun subject

A number of prepositions, including “drefenn” and “kyns” can govern verb-nouns just like normal nouns, but they are often best translated by a clause in English, which may be any tense, according to the context.

e.g. drefenn bos Kembro an Epskop da ma. = because this good Bishop is/was a Welshman.

drefenn bos Tewdar skwith. = because Tewdar is/was tired.

This construction can only be used with the verb “bos” and with a noun subject. The same construction is used with “kyns.”

e.g. kyns bos Asser Epskop Karesk. = before Asser was Bishop of Exeter.

Exercise 5. Translate into Cornish.

- 1) because his grandfather was ill.
- 2) because Tewdar is tired.
- 3) because his mother was on the stool.
- 4) because his father is the leader.
- 5) because Asser was the Bishop.
- 6) because his grandfather is dead.
- 7) before Tewdar was a man.
- 8) before his father was the leader.
- 9) before his father is troubled.
- 10) before there was a stool in the corner.

“Drefenn” and “kyns” with “bos” and pronoun subject.

In this case the English pronoun subject, in the form of a possessive adjective (Dyskans 14) comes after “drefenn” or “kyns” and before “bos.”

e.g. kyns y² vos re² dhiwedhes = before its being too late (before it is too late)
drefenn ow bos yn Kernow. = because I am in Cornwall.

Exercise 6. Translate the following into Cornish.

- 1) because I am/was too late.
- 2) before you are too old.
- 3) because she is Tewdar's mother.
- 4) before he was in the house.
- 5) because we are happy.
- 6) before you were an old man.
- 7) because he is Cornish.
- 8) before we are tired.
- 9) because he is dying.
- 10) because he was a friend of the English king.

(Again, the Cornish phrase is the same, no matter what was the tense of the English clause.)