Solution/Explanation

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Ipwar > English Translation

Kersiqsei revered as the sacred guide of her people will decree:

Heikuasa will punish all who dare defy her

At the peak of summer's heat
Give Heikuasa one-eighth of your wealth
And many sacks of wheat
Or, two big ships
of soldiers will wage war on Kersiqsei

Failure to hand over the sacks, And the penalty will continue

English > Ahale Translation

First Stanza

(1) Kelexaikise lana?e
[kəˈle.xai.ki.sə ˈla.na.?ə]
Kelexaikise lana ?e
NAME sacred ASSOC

'Kelexaikise, the sacred one.'

No case marking is necessary here, since this is not being used as an argument of a verb. *?e*-ellipsis is simply being used to associate Kelexaikise with their title. This is also significant in that it avoids reduplication of the name itself, which is avoided as often as can be done. Using *?e* to apply an honorific adjective is the most common of such strategies, particularly in formal, poetic, or other artistic uses of language which prioritize aesthetic beauty over strictly efficient communication.

(2) lana?e iфu wamewainu, lulu tiname ta
['la.na.?e 'i.фu 'wa.mə.wai.nu | 'lu.lu 'ti.na.mə 'ta]
lana-?e iфu wa<me>wainu lu~lu tiname ta
sacred-?e revere ERG<PL>~person ERG~OBV guide PROX
'People revere the sacred one, their guide.'

More literally this could be interpreted as: People revere the sacred one, they guide the people. This method of translation was used because Kelexaikise is not 'owned' by the people, Kelexaikise does not guide these people, the people are guided by Kelexaikise. The difference is slight, but important in not seeming disrespectful. The pronouns ta and lu are used resumptively, and lu is now marked ergative because the role of its referent has changed.

(3) lana?e ahanu

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[ˈla.la.na.?e aˈya.nu]
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lana-?e a-hanu sacred-?e NPST.PFV~say
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'The sacred one will say:'

Fairly straightforward use of NPST as future tense here. Notably though, *hanu* is used intransitively here. The phrase which is being said simply follows the verb phrase.

Second Stanza

(4) Xikuasa ukula mewainu?e anaku

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[ˈxi.ku.a.sa u.ku.la ˈme.wai.nu.?ə ˈa.na.ku]
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Xikuasa ta u~kula <me>wainu ?e anaku
NAME prox NPST.PFV~hurt <PL>person ASSOC defiance
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'Xikuasa will punish defiant people.'

Fairly straightforward use of NPST as future tense here.

Third Stanza

(5) mai ?e mai su eha ausina

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[ˈmai ˈʔe ˈmai ˈsu əˈɣa ˈau.si.na]
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Mai ?e [ mai su eha ausina ] time ASSOC time AUG be hot summer
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'At the peak of summer's heat'

The first thing to note here is that a question has been embedded, function-ing to describe the time. The question is 'When is the sun hottest?'. Also important is that mai cannot be ellipsed with ta or lu because mai, used to describe the nature of the question is crucial in correct interpretation of the commands of Kelexaikise.

(6) tutu i xami lu Xikuasa aitelaxetu-ila ['tu.tu 'i 'xa.mi 'xi.ku.a.sa 'ai.tə.la.xə.tu 'i.la] tu~tu i xami lu Xikuasa ai-tele-axetu ila ERG~2SG inside give OBV NAME one-part-eight wealth 'Give Heikuasa one-eighth of your wealth.'

As a message from Kelexaikise, this is automatically a command. The 'your' in the translation is implied because the verb for 'to give' is being used. Additionally, *aitelaxetu*, a compound, has been orthographically attached to make it abundantly clear what it describes a part of. This is particularly important because the next thing which follows, in a list such as what is being constructed here, will not be affected by the fraction.

- (7) tutu i xami lu Xikuasa metapa?e tuase
 ['tu.tu 'i 'xa.mi 'xi.ku.a.sa 'me.ta.pa.?ə 'tu.a.sə]

 tu~tu i xami lu Xikuasa <me>tapa ?e tuase

 ERG~2SG inside give OBV NAME <pl>bag ASSOC wheat

 'Give Heikuasa bags of wheat.'
- (8) ma. ni a?awinau ?e ta sali meakatewi ['ma | 'ni 'a.?a.wi.nau '?e | 'ta 'sa.li 'me.a.ka.tə.wi] ma ni a?awinau ?e [ta sali <me>akatewi] or two erg~ship ASSOC PROX have <pl>soldier 'Or two ships, having soldiers'

This uses a relative clause to show that the ships are specifically one's which contain soldiers.

(9) su ukula Kelexaikise.

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[ˈsu uˈku.la kəˈle.xai.ki.sə]
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su u~kula Kelexaikise
AUG NPST.PFV~war NAME
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'will wage war on Kelexaikise'

Fourth Stanza

(10) tutu i xami lu Xikuasa metapa

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[ˈtu.tu ˈi ˈxa.mi ˈxi.ku.a.sa ˈme.ta.pa.?ə ˈtu.a.sə]
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tu~tu i xami lu Xikuasa <me>tapa ERG~2SG inside give OBV NAME <pl>bag

'Give Heikuasa the bags,'

(11) ma imi?i

[ˈma iˈmi.ʔi]

ma i~mi?i

or NPST.PFV~continue

'or it will continue,'

These last lines illustate similar concepts as noted previously.