This is the ending of the BISMILLA Soqotran (Soqotri) folklore tale recorded from Sa'ad al-Keshri from Qalansiya during his study in Aden in 1979-80. The tape-recorded text was transcribed with Sa'ad's help and is presented as it was told orally—with a few repetitions and slips in the narrator's speech (English gloss and following translation my own).

BISMILLA

(PART 2 - ENDING)

103) we 'ebher bi-s ṭot dekf, 'iz'em ḥa-ne ṣuḥar,
and the well (there is ) a ledge in it, the man sat down now on it,

104) 'iz'em di šom di-yella we di ḥte, 'af tsabah.
(he) sat along the day of Alla and the night, until became morning.

105) gidah 'ahdem di yi'emer d-yhen riyho,
servants came to do their water,

106) d-yen d-irhon (d-irohon),
of their goats,

d-yon d-irohon we d-yon gamohel.

of their goats and of their camels.

(he) said, when (they) see [that] a man (is) inside.

(he) said: o, brother! take me out!

- No! I am lying, it was not so! (1)

[1. The informant says his story line here is not true - "it was not so".]

(he) sat, when (he) was sitting until (it) come,

until the night (has come), two jinns came here.

one (of them) said, (he) said: if someone is here -

let us throw a stone!

let us throw a stone?

šuḥar 'eqof, 'ol dala', 'eqof.
the man became silent, didn't speak, kept silent.

117) ṭumar: ’aḥ, qaqa, ’inim ḥet na’ a ʂigek?

(he) said: oh, brother, what did you do now?

118) ḥa d-et bi ḥaya? (2)

here in your life?

119) ṭumar: ho ’ig’ork firhim d-ṣoṭhon,

(he) said: I made the Sultan's daughter ill,

120) we ’ol tsorif, ’af l-igo talat marrat (3) b-tada’.

and (she) will not recover, until she is beaten three times at her back.

121) ṭumar: wa ḥe’r l-irḥad d-raḥad-

(he) said: and today (someone) tried to treat, who treated -

122) we-ol tirefe.

and (she) didn't recover.

123) ṭumar: wa (ha)t?

(he) said: and you?

124) ṭumar: wu ho ’a’yofk hazine d-ṣoṭhon–

(he) said: and I put away a treasury of the Sultan -

125) w-ol tširaqah (tšaqah), ’af l-igdah ṭot qhobs ḥahir,

and (it) will not emerge, until one black sheep will be brought,
126) suleb d-ol ther (to'y l-ther) - tširaqah ḥazine!

will be slaughtered by the door (at one door) - the treasury will emerge!

127) tšiqa' e ḥazine!

the treasury will appear!


(he) said: good! (he) said: enough, good! (they two) went away.

129) 'am tšobah - gidaḥ 'ahdem d-ṣothon yi'amer riho.

when (it) became morning - the servants of the Sultan came to do water.

130) wa yhe yiteme'en, wa yhe, ṣuḥar, sele yhe 'idhan,

and he is hearing, and he, the man, picked up his ears,

131) 'inim ye'omer (h)e-š (ye'omer-eš) (4) d-ki na'a giyon.

what these (two) jinns now do say.

132) ...

133) 'af qariri, 'am tšabaḥ, gedaḥ li l-ye'omer riho

Up to tomorrow, when became a morning, (there) came (those) who are doing water,

134) d-yon gamohil, d-yon 'ileyten, 'imer ḫa d-yon riho.

of their camels, of their cows, did here their water,

135) 'imer ḫa d-yon de ...
did here their ...

136) 'imer: 'inim 'igdaḥk d-ḥa b-'obher?

(they) said: what has brought you there into the well?

137) 'omar: ho 'intofk d-'ebher,

(he) said: I was fallen into the well,

138) naʿa reqaḥ t-(h)o!

now take me off!

139) 'irqaḥ te-y b-miṣiyo.

(they) took him off with a leathern pail.

140) 'omar (h)-ihin: 'ini bile (l)-ḥa (di)-ten bi bilad?

(he) said to them: is there any (one) here in your country?

141) 'ini d-geʾer, 'ini d-hoṭer?

is there who is ill, is there who is suffering?

142) 'omar (5) (h)-i: 'aḥ, 'ini d-geʾer,

(he) said to him: ah, there is who is ill,

143) w-(h)et 'ol mikilhe?

and you - are you a doctor?

144) 'omar: ho mikilhe.

(he) said: I (am) a doctor.

145) 'imir: 'ini d-geʾer - firhim d-soṭhon,
(they) said: there is who is ill - a daughter of the Sultan.

146) *ge`ero wa buk se ḫer*

she is ill and there she (is) today

147) *l-irḥad d-roḥad - wa `ol tirofe, `ol tirofe.*

tried to treat who treated - and (she) did not recover, did not recover

148) *`omar : heyya!*

(he) said: well (come on)!

149) *ṭahar, gedah mo ṣoṭhon, `amar:*

(he) went down, came to the Sultan, said:

150) *(ninhi), `inim ša-k?*

Lord, what (is there) with you?

151) *`omar : d-et firhim, `erimmo raḥaḍk ho se-hen*

(he) said: your daughter, if I cure her

152) *(ti-s) wa tiriфе - `inim ṭof ḥi?*

(her) and became healthy - what do you give me?

153) *ʿuṭof ṣa-k - bile d-ʿik!*

I shall give you - a thing which (you) want!

154) *`omar: ʿik kar `iboʿal-s!*

(he) said: I want to marry her!
155) ʼomar: tiboʿol!

(he) said: marry!

156) ʼomar (h)-i: ten naʿa tšiqah (tšireqah) ther!

(he) said to him: you now go (pl.) outdoor!

157) šeqah ther, ʼigeʾe-s talat marrat (6) (b)-ṭadaʾ.

(they) went outdoor, (he) beat her tree times at the back.

158) ḥalalat wa șahadat (7) -

(she) said tahliil (2) and șahaada (3) -

[2 – i.e., suitable Islamic formulas of lifting the ban]
[3 – i.e., proclaimed her Islamic credo]

159) tirofe firhim d-ṣoṭhon, baʿal-is.

the Sultan's daughter became healthy, (he) married her.

160) ʼomar (h)-i: ʼinim ʾak ʾayofk?

(he) said to him: what else did you lose?

161) ʼomar: ʾayofk d-yo ḥazine.

(he) said: I have lost my treasury.

162) ʼomar: wa ke šiqoḥo ha-k d-yet ḥazine –

(he) said: and if your treasury will emerge for you -

163) ʾinim ḥi ṭof?

what will you give me?
164) ʿomar: we ke ʿiqoḥo ʿinhi d-yo ḥazine -
   (he) said: and if my treasury will emerge for me -
165) (a)ṭof ʿa-k nus min maʿl (8).
   I will give you a half of (the) money.
166) wa rummo ṣamek ho - t(ah)kom!
   and when I[will] die -(you) will rule!
167) wa tawalle d-ḥakom! (9)
   and will succeed the authority!
168) ʿomar: heyya!
   (he) said: well (come on)!
169) ʿomar: gidaḥin ʿinhi ṭot qhobš ḥahir!
   (he) said: give (pl.) me one black sheep!
170) ḥere min qhobš ḥahir,
   (they) looked for a black sheep,
171) ḥise-y 1-ther - ʿiqaḥo ḥazine d-ṣothon.
   cut at the door - emerged the treasury of the Sultan.
172) ʿima (de) d-i ṣaḥab di d-yiʿamer: diyaʿ bismilla,
   (this one) his friend heard that was saying: bismilla is bad,
173) ʿima d-hi qaqa ʿinne baʿal firhim d-ṣothon
   (he) heard that his brother that (he) married daughter of the
Sultan

174) \(w-\text{asba}\text{h} \text{ di - tegir.}\)
and became a rich man (=merchant).

175) \(\text{\tahar} \text{ mo } \text{d-ye qaqa, } \text{\'omar:}\)
(he) went to his brother, said:

176) \(\text{na}\text{'a, } \text{het } \text{\'ol kisek di mel wa di}\text{' } \text{\'afiye d-yella,}\)
now, you did not get this money and this favour of Alla

177) \(\text{kol di}\text{' } \text{min } \text{\'obher!}\)
if not from this well!

178) \(\text{na}\text{'a } \text{\'ik (h)-ak tza}'a tho}\)
now (I) want you to take me

179) \(\text{wa tibuleq tho di}' \text{ di-d-ehe , d-} \text{\'obher!}\)
and abandon me (into) this one, (this) well!

180) \(\text{\'omar: } \text{\'e qaqa, la}'! \text{ \'ol } \text{\'ibuleq-k (h)o!}\)
(he) said: o, brother, no! I shall not abandon you!

181) \(\text{\dib} \text{'ot } \text{min } \text{\_hadam kar yi}' \text{ara}h-k! (10)\)
let (any) one from the servants lead you!

182) \(\text{\rehe-} \text{\'ot } \text{d-min } \text{\'ista} \text{\'al (11) buk d-} \text{\soh} \text{hon,}\)
led one of who were working there by the Sultan,

183) \(\text{\rehe-y d-} \text{\'ebhor wa qos } \text{\'e-y qeyd.}\)
led him to the well and cut the cord of him.

184) ...

185) \textquoteleft am \textquotesingle iken bi-lilhe \textquotesingle hte, gida\textquoteleft ho diki na\textquotesingle a \textquotesingle agi giyon.\textperiodcentered

when the night (darkness) became, these two men-jinns came.

186) \textquoteleft omer : \textquotesingle ah qaqa! \textquotesingle am \textquotesingle ero bi \textquotesingle ini \textquotesingle efe \textquotesingle ha,\textperiodcentered

(he) said: ah, brother! that is, there were people there,

187) ber \textquotesingle hazine d-\textquotesingle so\textquotesingle thon \textquotesingle s\textquotesingle iq\textquotesingle ho,\textperiodcentered

since the treasury of the Sultan emerged,

188) wa firhim d-\textquotesingle so\textquotesingle thon titrefe.\textperiodcentered

and the daughter of the Sultan recovered.

189) lo\textquotesingle qala\textquotesingle o bi hoben?!

let us two throw a stone?!

190) \textquotesingle omar yhi: ya foroh! \textquotesingle a tqima tho,\textperiodcentered

(he) said: o, you bastards! don't hurt me,

191) ya \textquotesingle iyal \textquotesingle haram! (12)\textperiodcentered

oh, children of the sin!

192) \textquotesingle imir: \textquotesingle a! \textquotesingle ini \textquotesingle ha \textquotesingle hiyhi!?\textperiodcentered

(they) said: a! there is a person (human being)!?

193) \textquotesingle alla kidamo \textquotesingle ay d-hi \textquotesingle ebher,
Allah destroyed for him his well,

194) ʼaf t̪ken raml `el-ʼimed! (13)

until (it) became invisible at all!

195) zika’ li-lla kol digdege ʼafiro ḍi-nsa (14) fahṛo!

nothing at all only a red plain this, now (that is) all!

196) we ʼosta’ qissa.

and the story ended.

197) ʼam gidȧhen hadam - kise zika’ li-lla bile.

when the servants came - (they) found nothing at all.

198) same Šu̇har.

the man died.

199) wa ʼaf ḥa-ne na’ a ʼoste’.

and up to here now (the speech) is ended.

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1 - The informant's "own" words saying his story line here is not true - "it was not so."
2 - First the informant used the dual form gi̇ни but then he had doubts and changed it to plural form gi̇yon (< Arab. sg. jinn - pl. jinnah )
3 - Arabic word, in Soqotri it is "'ed" - a life, but there is a possibility of replacement of the Soqotri word with the Arabic one in the dialect of Qalansiya.
4 - Arabic words.
5 - In general Soqotri verbs are "intransitive": they demand prepositions to be used to link them with suffix pronouns.
6 - The saying is one of the servants.
7 - Arabic words.
8 - She said "tahliil" (Arab.) and "šahaada" (Arab.)
9 - Arabic word *maal* - "money" or "property".
10 - *kar yi`araḥ-k* < *kar yi`araḥ ha-k*
11 - Arabic word - "a power".
12 - Arabic word in dialectal form taken to Soqotri with the shift:
   ʝ > ˈ: ʾištaɣal > ʾišta al.
13 - Arabic dialectal: "yaa ʾiyaal ḥaraam" (ʾiyaal = ʾawlaad).
14 - Possibly, a Soqotri pronunciation of the Arabic rumaad ʾal-ğumuud "dust of oblivion(darkness)" > ramd ʾel-ʾimeṯ > ramd ʾel-ʾimed.
15 - dši-na < diš-naʾ a.
FREE TRANSLATION.

But the well had a small ledge over its water and the man sat down on it. He was sitting along the day of Alla until His night has come. When the night came on, two ginns arrived to the well. One of them said: “May be there are people here - let us throw a stone!”

The man kept silent, he didn't say a word ... The second ginn said: “O, brother, what did you do bad in your life?” “Well,” he said: “I made the Sultan's daughter ill. And she will not recover untill they beat her three times at her back! Today [one] tried to treat her, who treated - but she didn't recover.”

“And you?” he said. “And I put a treasury of the Sultan away! It will not emerge until they bring a black sheep and slaughter it at the door. Only then the treasury will appear!” “Good, it'll be enough,” the first ginn said, and they went away. But the man who was sitting in the well picked up his ears and heard all what the ginns said.

In the morning the servants of the Sultan came to make water for His cows and camels. “What has brought you here into the well?” they asked. “I have fallen down,” the man said, “now, take me off!” And they took him off from the well by a leathern pail.

“Hai,” he said, “is there any thing happened here in your country? Is there anyone ill, anyone suffering?” “Ah,” they said, “there is - and are you a doctor?” He said: “Yes, I'am a doctor." “The Sultan's daughter is ill," they said, “today [one] tried to treat her who treated - but she didn't recover.” “Well," he said, “come on!”

When they came to the Sultan the man said: “Your Majesty, what is now here with you? If I cure your daughter and she recovers - what you will give me?” “You will take any thing you like!” the Sultan said. “I would like to marry her," the man said. “You will!” the Sultan said.

“Now, leave her here and all of you go outdoors!” the man said. When they got out he beat her three times at her back, she said thanks to the Allah - and recovered. So the man married her.

“What else did you lose?” he asked the Sultan. “I've lost my treasury," the Sultan said. “And if your treasury will emerge," the man said, “what you will give me?” “If my treasury emerge," the Sultan said, “I'll give you a half of all the money! And when I'll die - you became a Sultan!”

“Well," the man said, “now, give me a black sheep!” They brought him a black sheep, he slaughtered it outdoors - and the treasury of the Sultan emerged!

His friend heard that his “brother” married Sultan's daughter and became a merchant. He came up to him and said: “Brother, you wouldn't get all this money
and all this favour of Alla if not from that well! Now I want you to take me to that well and abandon me in it!" "No!" his friend said, "I will not! Let any one of the servants lead you there!" One of the Sultan's servants led him to the well, put him down into it and cut the cord of him.

When the night came on two ginnns arrived. One of them said to the other: "Brother, It means there were people in the well since the treasury of the Sultan emerged and the Sultan's daughter recovered. Let us throw a stone?!" "You bastards!" the man shouted, "don't hurt me, you children of the sin!" "Ah! Here is a man!" the ginnns shouted. They made a storm over the well until it fully disappeared with the poor man in it. Now there is nothing at this place, only a red desert valley. And this is now the end.