This e-book is written in Mehri, an endangered Semitic language within the indigenous Modern South Arabian language family, spoken in southern Oman, eastern Yemen and parts of Saudi Arabia. This is the fifth e-book produced in Mehri, using an orthography designed by the authors for a language that is not formally recognised as a written language. The full e-book is designed to be heard and read, and the multimedia PowerPoint will soon be available at the Mehri language archive housed by ELAR. The motivation for producing these books was to encourage children and younger adults alike to read in Mehri, and to appreciate a natural environment that is becoming increasingly strange. Through urbanisation, a previously almost entirely nomadic people no longer engage with the natural environment in the way of their forefathers: older people tell stories about fetching water from huge distances by camel or on their backs, sourcing wood for fuel, foraging for fruit, encountering wild animals, and travelling at night by the stars. Knowledge of the natural world among younger speakers today is a pale reflection of that of the past.

Selim and the Dom Fruit is the first in a series of adventures that the little boy Selim undertakes. In each adventure, he seeks to learn something about the natural world. This adventure starts when he hears his grandparents discussing the dom fruit in their cave home. He has not tried dom fruit before and is not sure what it is, so he seeks it out.

He walks first to his favourite tree, the frankincense tree, *Boswellia sacra*, and asks her, ‘Are the things that glimmer on you dom fruit?’ She tells him, ‘No, those things that glimmer are just frankincense, and frankincense is not good to eat like dom fruit.’ He asks her, ‘Do you know where I can find dom fruit, as you have been in the wadi for a very long time?’ She tells him, ‘In front of you, you will find four plants, and one of them produces dom fruit.’

He walks and walks and walks. Then he comes to another tree. He asks, ‘What type of tree are you? Those things that are hanging from you, are they dom fruit?’ The tree says, ‘No, I am just *Acacia tortilis* and the things hanging from me are pods, and pods are eaten by goats. Keep going and you will find dom fruit among those [other trees].’

He walks and walks and walks. Then he reaches another plant. He asks, ‘What sort of
tree are you? And what are those stalks you have?’ The plant says, ‘I am just an arf plant, Nannorrhops ritchieana, and I used to have fruit called miṣḥ, but I don’t produce dom fruit.’ She then says, ‘Other people have finished up my fruit. Keep going and ask the tree in front of you whether it produces dom fruit.’

He walks and walks and walks. Then he says, ‘I am tired of walking. What sort of tree are you? Do you have any dom fruit?’ The tree says, ‘I am Ziziphus leucodermis, and I do produce dom fruit, but the goats have finished them up. Keep going and you will find dom fruit.’

He walks and walks and walks. Then he reaches another tree. He says, ‘I’m absolutely exhausted! What sort of tree are you? Do you produce dom fruit?’ The tree says, ‘You’ve arrived. I am Zizyphus spina christi. If you want dry dom fruit, collect them from beneath me, and if you want fresh dom fruit, eat them from my branches.’

Selim ate and ate and ate until he was full. And then he walks back to the cave to his grandparents.
جهنم توولي اريباته امغرات

ذيشخبرس امور هيس اد تافان اليبك اتضافن بيش جيريم؟
ردوت ليه امورت: ويلوب اليوه ذيافام بي اريبحز وايطحز لهيه مطق لهيبس اجيريم لا
امور: ىيهت بر هيش سات بومه وتغريف ادودي كلس – حوه اجيريم؟
امروت: فنووك ربوت هرميت طاد منهيم يخروج جيريم
وهام هوام — ذيذخبره امور هيه: هيه هيه من هوام واد نافان الييك أيتدولون بوك

چيريم؟

ردّ ليه امور: هوه ار حروض واليومه اتندولون بي ار حبلين واحبلين تتبين تيس ار حارون جره

فموك كسيونا اجيرييم هل الييك
ويصل سيلم هل هروم ، ذيشخبره امور هيه: هيت هاه من هروم وهاين من قون ذكمه ذبوك - شوك
بي جيريم؟
امور: هوه ار ارفيت وذومه ذبي مانين ويكون بيت فونا مشح وامول جيريم لا
امروت ارفیت: حابو بر سهیلم لی امشحی کله جههم توویل اهروم ذفنووک وشخبره من اجریم

جهنم جهلم جهلم جهلم

[تصویری از یک زمینه دارای گیاه شستن در صحرا]
امور سيلم: هوه قطك من امسير – هيت هاه من هروم – شوك جيريم؟

امور هوه حيبظ: هوه فونا امول جيريم لهنا حارون بر اختياريسن كل جهوم فنووك كسيونا ار جيريم
ويصل هروم امور: لاد شي دريك لا — هيت هاه من هروم؟ ولا تخّروف جيريم؟
امور هيه: وصلك — هوه أضوود — تحوم جيريم قايا هبلد من نخايا وتحوم ثبري ته من اهذليلي
سيلم توه توه توه توه
اذ تيبا

ومغورن ردّ اضياء توولي اعمها