

HOW TO SAY “NO” IN EARLY JUDAEO-PERSIAN

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1. Manuscripts:

The Tafsīr of Ezekiel (TE): MS Firkowicz I 1682

Part 1 (northeast) pp. 1-169, 221-226

Part 2 (southwest) pp. 170-220

The Small Tafsīr of Ezekiel (STE): JTS ENA

2. Phonology:

Part 1: **n'**, vocalized *na*.

Twice **ny**, *nē*.

Note **n' p'k**, *nā pāk*.

Part 2: 215 times **n'**, when vocalized – *nē*. Ten times **ny**, *nē*.

STE: All **ny**

Interrogative:

Part 1 only **hny** vocalized *hanē*.

Part 2 only **hn'**

3. Syntax:

**n' hr 'n ksy ky** “not every man that...” (6:19)

**n' p' kšrwt** (*kəšērw*) **by kwšhyst** “It was killed in a non-kosher manner” (183:36)

**n' 'b' qwmy** (*qawmē*) **hmy prystwm twr' ky...** “Not to a people I am sending you...”  
(6:34, in commentary)

3.1 Negation in the simple verb

after the prefix **by**:

**'z ks by n' trsd** “she does not fear anyone” (67:1)

**'b'z by n' myrnd** “they will not die again” (209:20)

before the prefix **(h)my**

**ks 'z dws'mn'n tfr n' hmy y'pt 'br 'w** “none of the enemies [did not] win victory against him” (28:8)

**'wgb' n' hmy krd** “did not make it necessary” (206:31)

### 3.1.1. Negative Copula

Part 1 – 21 time **nyst**, hundreds of **n'...hst**.

Part 2 – 6 times **nyst**, [4 in possessive expressions, one **nystnd** (3<sup>rd</sup> pl. 194:29)].

STE – no **nyst**.

**n' drwst hst** “it is incorrect/it is not correct” (5:8 etc.).

**w'yn n' m'nyš 'n hyst ky...** “it does not mean that...” (173:29)

**wny cwn ml'kym sbylyš hyst** “and his way is not like the angels” (STE 1:14)

With **bwdn** as copula:

Immediately preceding the predicate:

**n' bymwmnd b'šd** “It is not frightening” (1:10)

**n' 'dm bwd p' tḥyq** “It was not really a man” (2:31-32)

**'gr n' 'ydw n bwd ky...** “if it will not be [thus] that...” (19:38)

**n' 'z gns 'n skwn bwd** “it was not of the kind of that speech” (182:35)

Treated as a verb (rare):

**p' 'n wqt ky b'ng pryh' ḥywt hmy šnyd. 'gr 'yn b'ng by 'mdy c'py n' bwdy 'wr'**  
“had that voice come when he heard the noise of the living creatures, it would not have been clear to him”(2:26-27).

In functions other than copula:

Existence:

**wyky 'z yky zyy'dh wnwqc'n n' bwd** “and there was no addition or diminution to one against the other” (1:19)

**'zyr wb'l' pdyš b' b'šd** “There is no below and above in it” (1:21)

**yr't y'y p' dyl 'yš'n n' b'šd** “There is no fear of the Lord in their heart” (4:11)

**mrđwm wch'rb' pdyš n' b'šd** “not having people and quadrupeds in it” (173:21-22)

**t' tkr'r n' b'šynd** “so there is no repetition” (176:23)

**'n čyz ky p'l 'zyš čḥ' n' b'šd** “that thing by which there is clearly no action” (196:19)

**'yn gwn'h' n' b'šyd** “These kinds (of things) will not be”( 201:28-29)

Becoming:

**t' mw'gyb by n' b'sd p' kwyštn** “that he should not become conceited” (3:20)

Possession:

**przd'n n' bwd 'yš'n r'** “they had no offsprings” (78:5)

**pr'h bs qwwty n' bwd 'wr'** “Pharaoh did not have much power” (78:11-12)

**w'yq'byš n' b'syd** “(he) will have no punishment” (182:3-4)

**'lm ('ilm) 'b's n' bwd** “(he) had no knowledge” (190:36)

Auxiliary (debatable):

**br gšth by n' b'sy** “that you do not turn” (14:31)

**wqp' n' bwdy** “he would not have realized it” (31:18)

3.2 Complex verb

3.2.1 Verbs with a preverb

**n' 'ndr 'brd** “he does not bring” (15:18)

**n' 'br 'ptd (aftad)** “he does not understand” (17:2)

**n' 'b'z grdd** “he will not return” (26:16 etc.)

**n' 'b'z hmy gšty** “you were not returning” (71:22)

**n' 'ndr bst' 'md** “he was not bound” (163:11)

**n' 'b'z gštnd** “they did not return” (176:3 etc.)

**wn' 'b'z gšt** “he did not return” (178:15)

**n' 'br d'ry** “you will not lift up” (201:25)

But also

**'b'z n' 'mdnd** “They did not return” (50:19)

3.2.2 Compound verbs

**kwm'n' n' kwnd** “he would not liken” (3:25)

**kylyp n' kwnd** “he does not transgress” (5:9)

**y'y 'b'z d'sth n' hmy kwnd 'wr'** “The Lord will not hinder him” (25:26)

**'wgb' n' hmy kyrd** “It did not necessitate...”(175:19)

**wphryz n' kyrd** “and he did not warn” (178:21)

**wmrdwm'n r' 'gh n' kwnd** “he does not inform the people” (179:2)

**šrh by n' kwnd** “he did not explain” (217:25)

All exceptions in commentary:

**n' ndrzk krđy** “you did not warn” (9:31)

**wn' tym'r d'rd 'wr'** “and he does not care” (84:9)

**n' tpsyr krdh 'yyd** “it may not be interpreted” (92:9)

In translation (partial list):

**n' n' p'k krdh 'md** “was not defiled” (16:34)

**w' mtl gwynd y' n' mtl kwnnd 'wr'** “They will not allegorize” (48:1, glosses)

**n' gwšd d'štnd** “they did not listen” (95:34)

**n' y'd krd' 'yyd** “will not be mentioned” (138:18)

**n' drn'n krđyt** “you did not cure” (186:32)

The same verb in translation and in commentary:

**wn' 'b'd'n krd' 'yyd** in translation and **'b'd'n n' krdh 'yyd** in commentary (157:17 and 18-19 respectively)

3.2.2 Periphrastic verbs

Periphrastic future/modal “to want”:

**n' kw'hwm ky kwnwm** “I will not do” (19:16-17)

**rħmt 'br 'yš'n n' kw'hwm krdn** “I will not pity them” (33:19)

**mn n' kw'hwm ky by r'ynwm** (*rāyānōm*) “I do not wish to consider” (54:35)

Periphrastic passive:

**n' brydh 'md** “It was not severed” (13:22)

**n' nybysydh hst** “it is not written” (18:31)

**n' knhyst' (kanhiyasāta!) 'yym** “we would not be uprooted” (40:16)

**n' 'gndh 'yyd** “you will not be cramped” (41:15)

**wn' p'k n' krdh 'yynd** “(they) may not be defiled” (56:23-24, in translation)

But:

**nybysydh n' 'mdndy** “They may not have been written” (50:31)

**rst' n' 'mdnd** “they were not saved” (57:22)

**p'k krdh n' 'md** “it was not cleaned” (60:38)

**pdrypth n' b'šd** “it will not be accepted” (102:20)

Periphrastic Perfect:

**w'gr kbr n' d'dh bwdy** “had he not informed” (86:21)

**n' bwd hst** “there was not” (110:37 Translating Hebrew לא היה);

Plus quam perfectum:

**n' 'wpt'd bwd** “it had not occurred” (39:37)

**n' gwpt bwd** “he had not said” (116:30 etc., 220:7-8)

**n' b'yyst bwd** “it was forbidden” (127:6)

Periphrastic future and future perfect:

Whole situation negated:

**'gr n' 'ydw n' bwd ky ġyz' 'yn ky mqdš r' t'm' by krdy 'yn gwn' p' pswq b'l' gwptwm p' tw by kwnwm...**

“if it will not be thus, that as retribution for your defiling my sanctuary, I will do unto you that kind (of things) which I said in the verse above” (19:38-39)

Verb in situation negated:

**p' my'n 'yš'n hmy rwd hr ksy ky čyzy by prwkt mwcyb n' gyrd. W'n ks ky xryd (xarīd) š'd n' b'šd**

“it will be current among them that every one who sold something will not be grieved, and that person who bought will not be joyful” (26:14-15)

**'nyz 'yn mlkw cdqyh w' ydw n' b'šd ky m'nyd ky n' bwdgy**

“This kingdom of Zedekiah will also seem like it (never) existed” (111:2-3);

3.3 Sentence negation

Much more in Part 1 than in Part 2.

3.3.1 Personal negation

**šwm' n' 'n bwdyt (bwdēt) ky p' 'n wqt ky y'y skty 'br ysr'ln kw'sty ky by 'brd dw' krdyty (kardēt)** “you are not those who prayed when the Lord was wishing to bring hardships on the Israelites” (49:18-19)

**w'yš'n n' 'n bwdnd ky 'b'z gšnd** “And they were not those who returned” (57:28)

**ky šwm' n' 'n hyt (hēt) ky xw'hyd (xāhēd) byhtr bwdn** “For you are not those who want to be better (you do not want to be better)” (101:18)

**mn n' 'n hwm ky pšym'n by b'šwm** “I am not that who regrets (I will not regret)” (134:35)

**'yn'n mšk wtwbl n' 'n bwdnd ky p' dwlt by mwrndnd cwnyn 'rlym 'yl'**... “these Meshech and Tubal were not those who died (did not die) with wealth (in government?), like the *uncircumcised*, but” (177:3)

### 3.3.2 Impersonal negation

**n' 'n hst ky tgyyr p' mwr'd 'w bwdg' (bwdge)** “It is not that there was a change in his will” (16:14)

**b'd 'z 'n ky p' hzymt by rpt wškst' 'md n' 'n bwd ky 'b'z zwhr bwd 'wr' p' tn kwyštn 'w** “after he fled and was broken, it is not that he had (or: that he will have) splendor again in his own body” (163:8-9, tentative translation).

**n' 'n bwd ky rħmt p' dylyš b'šd 'yl' hr'n ky kwnyd p' 'kzrywt kwnyd** “It is not that he will have mercy in his heart, but each one who acts, will act with cruelty” (172:23-25)

**n' 'n hyst ky km wbyšy d'ryd p'n nyky ky y'y 'b' ġm'tyš kw'hyd kyrdn** “it is not that there will be less or more of the good which the Lord will bestow on his community” (178:33-34)

**wny 'n hyst ky cyzy 'zyš kpy' by bwd** “it is not that something of it is concealed” (197:22)

### With modal Past:

**'b' 'n ky 'yn bwq by zdndy n' 'n bwd ky byrwn šwdndy** “although they would blow the trumpet, it is not that they would go out” (26:31-32)

**w'gr hr 3 p' qybl 'yn yky ħ'ġt kw'stndy n' 'n bwdy ky ħ'ġt 'yš'n rw' bwdy** “And if all three would have prayed for this one, it would not have been so, that their wish were possible” (57:15-16)

**wn' 'n bwd ky p' wqty str' (sətra) by krdndy y' šrm bwdy 'ys'n r' wby hyštndy** “it was not that at a (certain) time they concealed (it) or had shame and left (their wicked ways)”(132:35-36)