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Resumo

O mundo dos provérbios contém numerosas máximas sobre as mulheres. A pesquisa paremiológica sobre estes provérbios mostra as mulheres nos seus papéis tradicionais, indispensáveis à família, mas servís e dependentes do sexo masculino. Uma mentalidade patriarcal domina estes provérbios e outros relacionados com as características das mulheres. Assim, neste contexto, "Ser mulher é uma tarefa extremamente difícil, uma vez que consiste principalmente em lidar com homens" (como disse uma vez o romancista Joseph Conrad). É interessante investigar os provérbios sobre as mulheres a partir dos livros de provérbios malteses. Como é que os provérbios malteses retratam as mulheres? Serão dominados por um enviesamento anti-feminino, tal como se vê em outros idiomas? Este artigo analisa a forma como as mulheres são apresentadas em alguns provérbios malteses, revelando a mentalidade e os costumes da sociedade maltesa da época. Esperamos assim incentivar o leitor a reflectir sobre os progressos que muitas sociedades modernas têm feito em relação ao antifeminismo. Também se inclui uma lista de provérbios malteses relacionados com as mulheres, juntamente com as suas traduções em inglês, para ajudar os analistas paremiológicos a estudar comparativamente os provérbios sobre as mulheres.

Palavras-chave: género, inventário, provérbios malteses, estereótipos, mulheres.



MALTESE PROVERBS ON WOMEN

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Abstract

The world of proverbs contains numerous maxims about women. Paremiological research on such proverbs presents women in the position of traditional roles, indispensable to the family but servile and dependent on males. A patriarchal mentality dominates similar proverbs and others related to women's characteristics. Thus, in this context, "Being a woman is a terribly difficult task, since it consists principally in dealing with men" (Conrad 1913). It is interesting to investigate Maltese proverbs involving women. How do Maltese proverbs portray women? Does antifeminine bias dominate them, as seen in other languages? This paper analyses the way women are presented in some Maltese proverbs, revealing the mentality and customs of Maltese society at the time. This will encourage the reader to reflect on the progress many modern societies have made regarding antifeminism. The paper also includes a list of Maltese proverbs related to women, alongside their English translations, to help paremiological analysts comparatively research proverbs on women.

Key-words: Maltese proverbs, women, gender, stereotypes, inventory.

Introduction

The Maltese islands are situated in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea and have a population of over 400,000. The national language of Malta, *il-Malti*, mirrors the Maltese history, and in fact it has a Semitic stratum deriving from the Arabs (870AD), a Romance superstratum deriving from the Normans (1091AD) until the end of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem's rule (1530AD) and an English adstratum deriving from British rule. The islands' culture is an interesting blend of Mediterranean influences. Maltese folklore, including proverbs, features a similar blend, and it 'preserves the soul of the past, embodying the mode of life and the beliefs and practices of preceding centuries' (Cassar Pullicino 1994, 181). The biggest collection of Maltese proverbs is *A Comparative Dictionary of Maltese Proverbs* (1972), which was compiled by Joseph Aquilina, a distinguished Maltese linguist. The work contains 4,630 proverbs categorised into 45 sections, including the Maltese proverbs that had appeared in previous Maltese paremiology publications. All subsequent publications on proverbs were based on this dictionary. In this paper, the main themes related to women are discussed based on a corpus of proverbs that was collected from different sections in Aquilina's dictionary and another collection of proverbs compiled by Joseph De Conti Manduca named *Il-Qawl Iqul* (1989), which was edited by Ġorġ Mifsud. These amounted to 380 proverbs, or over 8% of Aquilina's dictionary.

The aim of this plenary paper is to examine the representation of women in Maltese proverbs, their roles and the perception of them. The aim is not to provide a literature review of different works concerning proverbs on woman from different countries because this can be found in various books and research papers. Instead, this paper will focus on the chronological life of a Maltese woman from birth until old age, as seen through a sample of proverbs. All the Maltese proverbs related directly or indirectly to women are listed alphabetically, translated and explained in an appendix annexed to this paper, serving as a springboard for further comparative studies on proverbs related to women.

Baby Girl

In the past, when a baby girl was born, it was not as welcomed as a boy (Cassar Pullicino 1994, 182). A girl in the family was considered a burden, particularly due to the costs related to her clothes and her dowry. These concerns are reflected in proverbs:

Meta titwieled tifla l-omm tiflef il-gradenza.

'When a girl is born, the mother loses her chests of drawers.

Min ghandu l-bniet jehtieg l-utied.

'He who has girls needs pegs'.

As the last proverb indicated, the father had to provide the dowry for his daughters, and as Aquilina (1975: 175) put it, 'the poor man cannot afford his daughter's trousseau; [therefore, she is] a burden to him'. Furthermore, from birth, a girl was associated with housework:

Għal hafna subien lesti l-bsaten u t-tmiem; għal hafna bniet lesti è-èraret u l-biecciet.

'For many boys keep ready walking sticks and top hats; for many girls keep ready rags and pieces of cloth'.

Meta titwieled tiffa l-ixkupa tiehu qatgha.

'When a girl is born, the broomstick will have a fright'.

Young Lady

Time flies, and from the cradle, the girl soon finds herself in adulthood. The fact that girls grow up quickly is recorded in one of the proverbs:

Illum fin-nieqa, għada fit-tieqa.

'Today [your girl is] in the cot and tomorrow at the window'.

The window is the place where a young lady would stay hoping to attract the attention of a young fellow (Lanfranco 2011, 16). However, as the following proverb indicates, when girls are in the cradle, they offer less trouble than when they grow older:

Ahjar fin-nieqa milli fit-tieqa.

'She is better in the cradle than in the window'.

This preoccupation is mainly family honour. At this stage, young ladies are able to procreate, and if this is done outside of wedlock, it would tarnish the family reputation. Thus, there are also proverbs that indicate the moments that a girl turns into a young lady:

Il-frawla saret, u x-xebba hmaret.

'The strawberry is ripe and the young woman has grown red'.

This means that the young woman has menstruated, symbolised by the red colour; thus, she has matured and is ready for marriage. Two other proverbs show that a woman who has started her menstrual cycle is ready for mating:

Min ihammar jghammar.

'[She] who has grown red mates'.

Il-mara thammar u r-raġel jghammar.

'The woman has grown red and the male mates'.

Getting Married

Traditionally, a young lady's main aim is to marry and have children. In the past, there were traditions that dictated how a woman could get engaged with a man. A house with 'a pot of sweet basil placed on a stone bracket on the outer house of the wall where the girl lived' (Cassar Pullicino 1994, 185) was a sign that a young lady was available for marriage. This sign would help the young lady in the window or balcony to attract more attention. This tradition is reflected in the proverb:

Saqqi ohti u baqqi lil dak il-habaq ghadsi.

'My sister, water that basil'.

In this case, the proverb means that a young woman will do anything to grab the attention of a future husband. The prevailing mentality was that a young lady who does not marry reflects badly on her family, and this is indicated in certain proverbs:

Ahjar mart min hi, milli bint min hi.

'It is better who are you married to than whose daughter you are'.

Even when a young lady decided to become a nun, it was not good news to the family:

Ahjar tifel il-habs minn tifla soru.

'It is better [to have] a son in prison than a daughter who is a nun'.

This must be considered in the context that the vows of a nun were perpetual; thus, one had a better chance to get out of prison than the convent.

Once a young man was interested in a young lady, he chose an intermediary, known as a *huttab* in Maltese, to arrange the match (Cassar Pullicino 1994, 185). The involvement of a matchmaker is reflected in proverbs as well, and they demonstrate that matchmakers would search for certain qualities. One such quality was the menstrual cycle:

Meta x-xebba ma tarax, il-huttab ma jirkantax.

'When the young lady doesn't see, the matchmaker doesn't auction'.

Another issue that the matchmaker will search for is the woman's seriousness, and as the following two proverbs indicate, a woman without shame should not be admired, looked at or married:

Xebba bla mishija la fiha hajr anqas htib.

'A girl without shame has no charm and no matchmaking'.

Ghonq bla ras, tina bla toqba, u tifla bla mishija la fihom hajr u la hotba.

'A neck without a head, figs without holes, and a girl without shame have no charm and no matchmaking'.

Therefore, ladies are given advice on how to properly behave so as to find the ideal man; however, choosing a partner was not easy:

Il-ġewwieni jaqlik, il-barrani jieklok.

'The relative fries you, the foreigner eats you'.

Once again, the issue of decency and making a good impression emerges:

Meta xebba xawwatha tghatti, hajjitha opra bi tliet atti.

‘When a young woman shields her prudency, her life will be an opera with three acts’.

When a young woman shields her prudency (i.e. does not fall easily for the first man she meets), she will find a good man and live a happy life.

Ix-xebba li tiekol fit-triq ma ssibx tiżżewweġ.

‘The young woman that eats in the street doesn’t find marriage’.

Women had to make good impressions to marry. However, proverbs also indicate other good qualities that a man should seek when choosing a woman, as indicated in the next section.

Decency, Honesty and Modesty

Many proverbs indicate that honesty, decency and modesty are three qualities that a good woman should have. Some proverbs indicate this in relation to the way a woman dresses, the way she positions herself or the way she behaves. Short skirts are associated with provocation and indecency:

Id-dbielet twal ikarkru t-trab, imma d-dbielet qosra jkaxkru l-erwieh.

‘Long skirts drag dust but miniskirts drag souls’.

Il-mara li tilbes imqaċċat max-xitan ghamlet rabta.

‘A woman that wears short clothing has made a pact with the devil’.

Mara mfeṭṭha, boxxla mbettha.

‘A woman with spread legs [is like] an open door of an antechamber’.

Thus, the last proverb indicates that a woman must place her legs in the correct position so as not to send the wrong message. Even the way a woman greets someone shows her modesty. According to the proverbs, if a woman’s behaviour is exemplary and not tempting to men, she is priceless:

Selma b’rasek ‘l isfel u mhux tinza’ int u tiżfen.

‘Greet with your head down and do not undress during dancing’.

Wiċċha ma jidher, mad-deheb jinbidel.

‘A woman’s unseen face is purchased with gold’.

Thus, men are advised that honesty is the most important thing for marriage, not money or the dowry:

Fiz-zwieġ tfititixx is-sorra, hu tifla fqira u horra.

‘For marriage, do not search for the bundle; take a young woman that is poor but honest’.

Thriftiness vs Overspending

Thriftiness is an exceptional quality for a bride or housewife, and it is reflected in many proverbs:

Il-mara ġabbara għana ta' darha.

'A thrifty woman [is the] wealth of her house'.

Jekk ir-raġel ikun sieqja, il-mara tkun ġiebja.

'If a man is a water channel, a woman must be a reservoir'.

Thus, these proverbs show that a woman's good financial management is critical for the family. However, overspending women are criticised, and proverbs show that if the woman spends large amounts of money, her husband suffers:

Il-mara tghabbi daqs bagħal, ir-raġel jimla daqs għar.

'The wife piles up like [a load of] a mule, the husband fills up [to a size of] a cave'.

Il-mara thott u r-raġel jitgħabba.

'The wife tears down and the husband loads himself'.

Ma jistax ikun il-bettija mimlija u l-mara sakrana.

'It is not possible to have a full barrel and a wife who is drunk'.

Practical Wisdom

A woman with intellectual capacity is considered an asset as a bride:

Ahjar gherfha minn mielha.

'It is better [to have a lady with] practical wisdom than with wealth'.

L-għaqal sabih fuq id-debba, ahseb u ara fuq ix-xebba.

'Good sense is nice on a mare, let alone on a young woman'.

Sewing

The skill of sewing is also an asset because a woman that knows how to sew saves money for the family:

Il-labra ġabra.

'The needle [is] thrifty'.

Labra f'dar l-gharef ahjar mid-deheb.

'A needle at the intelligent [man's] house is better than gold'.

Furthermore, a mother who knows how to sew can help the family income by earning extra money:

Bil-pont tas-sahra żżomm il-hmara.

'With the stitch done overtime, she keeps the jennet (female donkey)'.

Hardworking

A strong work ethic is another good quality that proverbs depict in women. With a hardworking mother, the family lives in comfort and makes tremendous progress:

Mara biežla l-kumdità.

'A hardworking woman [is] a comfort'.

In-nemla l-mara biežla, u n-naħla r-raġel għaqli.

'The female ant [is] hardworking and the male bee [has] good sense'.

Woman's Physique

The woman's physique is also mentioned. The proverbs indicate that a female's appearance must not be boyish; women need to have developed breasts so they will be able to breastfeed, they should not be skinny and they should have full hair:

Sider iswed ma jkabbarx il-miżwed.

'A black breast does not grow pod'.

Is-simna sabiħa f'debba aħseb u ara f'xebba.

'Stoutness is nice on a mare, let alone on a young woman'.

Meta s-sider ma jinfirixx il-hannieqa ma tissensilx.

'When the breasts do not spread, the necklace does not hang properly'.

Il-mara b'sufħa mbiegħed ir-raġel tbiegħed.

'The scant-haired woman puts off her husband'.

Male Dominance vs Female Dominance

Some proverbs show that the male must dominate the woman and keep control or else there will be trouble:

Il-mara li ma tifhimx b'daqqa t'għajn ma tifhimx b'daqqa ta' ponn.

'The woman that does not understand with a stare doesn't understand with a strike of a fist'.

Mara hobbħa u turihiex u milli jkollok tagħtihiex.

'Love a woman and don't show her and don't give her from what you have'.

Women are advised to marry a man that is dominant and energetic because a weak man would be useless:

Minn żewġħa mara tieħu xi ħaġa; minn bajtra raġel ma tieħu xejn.

'From her man the wife takes something; from an unenergetic man she does not get anything'.

However, the dominant woman is not pursued because she is associated with trouble. In fact, the following proverb suggests that it is better to marry a widow, with all her difficulties, than a woman who wants to control everything:

Hu mara armla u mhux wahda ta' żmien it-tamla.

'[It is better to] take (marry) a widow, not a woman from the time of date'.

As Aquilina (1975: 175) put it, 'a women born at this time is believed to be so domineering as to be very hard to live with'. Another proverb indicates that dark-skinned women are highly demanding of their husbands:

Il-mara sewda r-raġel tagħmlu ghuda.

'The black woman makes her husband a piece of wood'.

Another proverb compares the man with a hen and the woman with a cock, meaning that when the wife is dominant and manages everything on her own, there will be trouble in the house:

Ir-raġel tigieġa u l-mara serduq, id-dar tinqaleb ta' taht fuq.

'If the husband is a hen and the wife is a cock, the house goes upside down'.

Another proverb advises the man not to give everything to his bride/wife because she will take advantage of him:

Tweghedhiex li tehodha l-Imnarja, għax tul żmienek tagħmillek l-arja.

'Don't promise to take her to *Imnarja* (the feast of St Peter and St Paul) because during your lifetime she will reign over you'.

Money Diggers

Some proverbs warn the man that if he shows his wealth to his woman before the right moment, i.e. before being married, she will marry him for money:

Kemm iblah dak li 'l mara qabel il-waqt jikkfilha l-qargha.

'How foolish is the individual who exposes the pumpkin to his lady before the right moment'.

Jekk ir-raġel jikkxef il-karus, il-mara tiehdu għall-flus.

'If a man exposes his savings box, the woman will marry him for money'.

Crying Woman

The crying woman is a subject that appears in many proverbs. The general idea behind this is that women try to deceive or fool men; therefore, men are warned beforehand not to believe them:

Bikja ta' mara qanpiena tal-kabuċċini.

'A woman's cry [is like] the bell of Capuchins'.

Id-dmugh f'għajnejn in-nisa sponza.

'The tears in the eyes of women [are like] a sponge'.

Id-dmugh tal-mara bħall-bnazzi fix-xitwa.

'A woman's tears are like fine weather in winter'.

Il-mara meta tidhak trid iqarraġ bik u meta tibki tkun qarrqet bik.

'When the woman smiles, she intends to deceive you, and when she cries, she has already deceived you'.

Women's Tongue

Some proverbs indicate that women talk too much. In some cases, proverbs show that their speech is also full of insults:

In-nisa lsien ghandhom.

'[The only good thing that] women have [is their] tongue'.

In-nisa lsienhom twil.

'Women have a long tongue'.

In-nisa kollha fis.

'The women are all tattlers'.

Ibza' minn geddum ta' hanzir, sieq ta' tigieġa u lsien ta' mara.

'Be aware of a pig's snout, a hen's leg, and a woman's tongue'.

Isien ta' mara jxoqq il-ghadam.

'The tongue of a woman cracks bones'.

Therefore, in some proverbs, men are warned not to trust women:

Bin in-nies trabbihx; xbinek bi zbirr tehdux u l-mara turihiex kollox.

'Don't raise another's son; don't choose a policeman as [your child's] Godfather; don't tell your wife everything you know'.

Żaqq ta' mara tesa' hobża u kelma ma tesaghihex.

'A woman's belly can hold a loaf but cannot hold a word'.

Canniness and Deception

Some proverbs indicate that women are extremely cunning and that they can even cheat the devil. Therefore, women are not to be trusted:

Dak li taghmel mara ma jaghmlux ix-xitan (or id-demonju).

'What a woman can do cannot be done by the devil (or demon)'.

Mara dahket bix-xitan.

'A woman cheated the devil'.

In-nisa xibka tax-xitan.

'The women are the devil's net'.

Furthermore, some proverbs indicate that women can hide the dark side of their character. In the following three proverbs, the appearance of being gentle and respectful or beautiful hides the woman's true character:

Bosta drabi l-mara hi bhat-tuffieha, minn gewwa mherrija u minn barra sabiha.

'Many times women are like apples: rotten on the inside but beautiful on the outside'.

Quddiemek mara, warajk imqass.

'In front of you [she is] a lady, and behind you [she is a pair of] scissors'.

Mara meta tkun qed tfitixha taqrahiex minn wiċċha.

'When you are searching [for a] woman, don't read her from her face'.

Honour vs Woman with Loose Morals

Certain proverbs warn about women with loose morals. Proverbs warn that these women will not show their true nature:

Hemm dwieb tal-ghenienel u bil-mantiet.

'There are mares with faldettas and [others that wear] mantillas'.

Mhux dik li tikxef id-dublett biss tinsieh qahsba.

'It is not just the [woman] who uncovers her skirt that is called a slut'.

Furthermore, some proverbs show that certain women will engage in sexual activities to obtain money:

Ghall-hwietem u ghall-imsielet in-nisa jghollu d-dbielet.

'For rings and earrings, women lift their skirts'.

Ix-xebba fraxketta, deheb dubluni mimli kaxxetta.

'The young woman with loose morals [has] a small box full of gold coins'.

A few proverbs also reflect the habits and customs of prostitutes. Some prostitutes would leave their house gate open to indicate that there was a client inside:

Ix-xatba miftuha, il-bejta maghluqa.

'The gate is open and the nest is closed'.

Another custom was that when the prostitute whistled to her pimp, it was time to pay:

Mal-ewwel tisfira thalli t-tifikira.

'With the first whistle, you leave the remembrance'.

Some proverbs regarding prostitution also reflect Maltese history. Woman offered sexual services to Knights, and some Knights took them even though it was against their order's principles.

Il-kavallier irejjex fuq is-swar u l-qahba minn ġol-logġ tixghel in-nar.

'The Knight shows his feathers from the bastion, and the prostitute ignites the light in the arch'.

Rożanna tarma s-sodda bit-tornalett u mhix hlief trejjex ghal La Valette.

'Rożanna sets up the bed with flounces, and she is only fishing for La Valette'.

Proverbs indicate that these people are out of control and that one must keep a distance from them:

Ix-xebba mibjugha, l-ebda ziemel ma jghaddiha.

'A young lady [that] sold [her honour], no horse will surpass her'.

Ibza' mill-fqir li jsir sinjur, u mill-qahba li tigbor l-unur.

'Be afraid of a poor man who becomes rich and of a dissolute woman who recovers her reputation'.

Thus:

Mara sabiha ġmielha jibqa' sakemm tittief giehha.

'A beautiful woman's charm remains until she loses her honour'.

Dowry

As previously mentioned, it was a Maltese custom that the bride's family had to pay the dowry; thus, there are many proverbs related to it:

Mar-rabta taz-zwieġ, l-omm tahseb għal dak li jkun mehtieġ.

'With the engagement, the mother thinks for what is needed'.

Bil-ġmiel biss ma nimlewx żaqqna.

'Beauty alone will not fill your belly'.

Bil-ġmiel ma tikolx.

'With beauty you don't eat'.

Some proverbs even indicate that if the family does not provide the dowry for their child (bride), she must do so to get married:

Qabel mal-gharusa tiġbed flusha, mill-but tiġi maqrusa.

'Before the bride withdraws her money, her pocket becomes pinched'.

Meta x-xebba tkun gharusa, tidba tahseb għaliha nfusha.

'When the young woman is engaged, she starts thinking for herself'.

Meta x-xebba għaž-zwieġ mixhuta tixxabat ma' xi tuta biex biha tikseb f'butha.

'When a young woman throws herself for marriage, she climbs up a blackberry tree so that she acquires [money] in her pocket'.

Mother-in-law vs Daughter-in-law

The Maltese proverb makes it clear:

Żewwieg u bewweg.

'Give your daughter in marriage and let her go away'.

Once children are married, they should not live under the same roof with their parents; they should live separately to eliminate any chance of conflict. Trouble between family members is mentioned in proverbs, particularly between the son's mother and the son's wife:

Biex l-imdanna toqghod mal-kenna, id-dar trid tkun ġenna.

'If the mother-in-law lives with the daughter-in-law, the house must be heaven'.

Li l-imdanna thobb il-kenna kien l-infern jinbidel f'ġenna.

'If the son's mother loves the son's wife, hell would change to heaven'.

Omm ir-raġel taqlik fit-taġen.

'Your husband's mother fries you in the frying pan'.

Omm ir-raġel moqlija fit-taġen.

'Your husband's mother is fried in the frying pan'.

Pregnant or Not Pregnant

Once a lady married, she was expected to have children. A proverb shows that, with her pregnancy, the woman demonstrates to the world that she served her purpose and that she has courage:

Il-mara tqila ġo did-dinja turi l-hila.

'The pregnant woman shows her ability to the world'.

However, certain proverbs also show that married women without children are unfulfilled:

Mara bla żaqq bhal tieg bla daqq.

'A woman without belly is like a wedding without music'.

For this reason, there are also proverbs that tell women how to get pregnant. If a woman wants to get pregnant, she should walk under the moon:

Jekk fil-qamar thuf issaħħan il-ġuf.

'If you wander (walk about) under the moon, you warm the womb'.

The moon will also indicate when the woman becomes pregnant:

Il-qamar mimli; imma le jsellemli.

'The moon is full but it doesn't greet me'.

According to Aquilina (1975: 205) this means that when the moon is full and menstruation has not occurred, then the woman is pregnant. And, as a proverb indicates:

La hablet jeħtiġilha tiled.

'Once she gets pregnant, she needs to deliver'.

However, some proverbs describe the difficulties women must endure to deliver their children. Another proverb indicates that a woman who is pregnant with twins faces a longer labour:

Kull min itewwem fil-helsien idewwem.

'Everyone that produces twins, takes longer during labour'.

Sal-erbghin il-qabar miftuh.

'Till forty [days] the grave is open'.

This proverb shows that a woman who has delivered a child must take care of her health for 40 days after delivery.

Wives' Responsibilities

Proverbs indicate that wives have extensive responsibilities, as listed below.

Housekeeping

Women are associated with housework. Proverbs indicate that a woman is indispensable in the house:

Il-mara żżomm id-dar.

'The woman keeps the house'.

Dar bla mara xejn ma fiha x'tara.

'A house without a woman has nothing to look at'.

The management of the house is in her hands, and the husband should not be in the home while the woman is performing the housework:

Mara fid-dar demonju fin-nar; raġel id-dar ġamra fil-fardal.

'A woman in the house [is like] a devil in a fire; a man in the house is like a coal in the apron'.

Proverbs also indicate that a man is fortunate to find a woman who can manage the house for him:

Fortuna fit-treġġja tad-dar l-ahjar fortuna.

'Fortune in the management of the house is the best fortune'.

Il-ġabra fil-mara bhal qligh tar-raġel.

'A woman's good domestic management is like her husband's financial profit'.

Furthermore, as the proverb states:

Xogħol id-dar ma fihx tmiem.

'The house work has no end'.

Thus, due to the work she must perform, the woman spends the majority of her time at home and reflecting on her husband. However, one proverb indicates that the wife cannot know what her husband is doing when he is away from home:

Mara tahdem il-bizzilla għal qrun ir-raġel ma tistax tiddwella.

'A lace working woman cannot fight a duel for her husband's horn'.

Supporting the husband

According to the proverbs, another good quality for a woman is her ability to support her husband. The following proverb indicates a good woman is able to keep her man loyal to her and on the right track::

Il-mara tajba żżomm ir-raġel.

'The good wife keeps her husband'.

Some women prepared food for their men and took it for them in the fields, and this was another means of support:

Fix-xitwa minn nofsinhar 'il quddiem ir-raġel jagħmel imtira wil-mara tagħmel ftira.

'In winter, from noon onwards, the husband makes a furrow [in the field] and his wife makes a cheese-bun'.

Ir-raġel jiżra' mtira u l-mara tagħmillu ftira.

'The husband makes a furrow [in the field] and the wife brings him a cheese-bun'.

F'San Martin, il-mara taqli l-ftira u r-raġel jiżra' mtira.

'On St. Martin's Day, the wife fries the cheese-bun and her husband makes a furrow [in the field]'.

These proverbs indicate that both the man and the woman have their respective roles in raising the family, and as this proverb indicates:

Il-mara żzejjen id-dar u r-raġel jimla d-dar.

'A woman embellishes the house while the man fills it'.

The Woman as a Mother

One of the wife's responsibilities is taking care of her children:

Il-qroqqa tiġborhom il-flieles.

'The hen gathers the chickens'.

The wife helps in forming the children's character:

Ir-raġel kif iddarrh u t-tifel kif trabbih.

'The husband [behaves] how you teach him and the son [behaves] how he is brought up'.

Mothers have the responsibility to correct bad habits as soon as possible. The mother that does not discipline her children will not be respected by her own children when they get older:

Li kont habbejtmi, kieku mill-bajda raddajtmi.

'If you [mother] had loved me, you would have turned me back with the egg'.

This proverb is based on an anecdote recounted by Vassalli (1828, 56) about a boy who stole an egg and was not disciplined for this by his mother. As an adult he turned into a thief and ended up hanged as a consequence of this. Aquilina (1975: 78) further explains this by saying 'bad tendencies must be nipped in the bud or else one must suffer the consequences'.

Mothers must lead by example. Children will copy the mother's character; therefore, she has the responsibility to be well behaved because she has significant influence on her children.

Skont l-omm l-ulied.

'Like the mother the children'.

Il-borma taqlibha għal fommha, il-bint tixbah 'l ommha.

'She serves the cooking pot to her mouth; the daughter resembles her mother'.

Jekk l-omm tiżzeġleg, bintha taraha tibda tiżzeġleg bhalha.

'If the mother wriggles her hips, her daughter sees her, and will wriggle her hips like her mother'.

Qabel ma tiehu tifla staqsi ghal ommha.

'Before you take (marry) a girl, ask about her mother'.

Debba gerrejja taghmel uliedha gerrejja.

'When a mare gads, her offsprings gad'.

Bint id-debba l-gerrejja, jekk ma tihux is-sena, tiehu li ġejja.

'The daughter of a mare that gads about, if it doesn't carry the prize this year, she will next year'.

Jekk l-omm tkun zemlija, il-bint tkun imdorrija.

'If the mother is horse like, her daughter is used to it'.

The majority of proverbs give the responsibility of raising children and forming their character to the mother. Furthermore, the mother is depicted as the reference point for the children even when they get into trouble, and she will do anything to see her children live better lives:

Qatt hadd ma kellu xejn u qal, 'Ajma, Ta!'

'No one ever had [pain] and said, "Alas, dad"'

L-omm mhux talli twieled, imma ghal kull holqien tigġielel.

'The mother not only gives birth but fights for each of her offspring'.

L-omm ghal uliedha giddieba u halliea.

'The mother, for her children, [is] a liar and a thief'.

L-omm il-madmad tal-ulied.

'The mother is the yoke of the children'.

Another good quality for mothers is mercifulness:

L-omm tal-hniena.

'The mother of mercifulness'.

Qalb ta' omm tahfer u thenn.

'A mother's heart forgives and is merciful'.

Some proverbs also show the mother as the person who feels the most for her children, and nothing surpasses a mother's love:

L-omm dejjem omm.

'A mother is always a mother'.

Ma hemmx akbar mill-hasra tal-omm.

'There is no bigger grief than that of the mother'.

Another good quality for the mother is being able to give advice:

Min ma jismax minn ommu l-hemm jhemmu.

'He who does not obey his mother will come to grief'.

It-twissija tal-omm tibqa' tinfirex bil-fomm.

'A mother's warning is spread by the mouth'.

The last proverb indicates that the mother's advice is crucial and will be passed on from one generation to the next.

The House Is the Woman's Place

Proverbs indicate that the ideal place for the women is the house, particularly when they have children:

Mara bit-tfal fir-rokna tad-dar.

'A woman with children in the corner of the house'.

Mara b'tarbija ma tesagghiex ta' Brija.

'A woman with a baby Ta' Brija (road) is not enough for her'.

Omm l-ulied taqfel u taghlaq il-bieb.

'The children's mother closes and secures the door'.

Il-mara sewwa tidhak u tgawdi ġewwa.

'The good wife smiles and enjoys herself indoors'.

As one proverb indicates, being only a housewife does not make a woman inferior to others:

Ir-rokon tad-dar ma jaghmlux aghar.

'The corners of the house do not make worse'.

Widows

The married woman can become a widow, and some proverbs show the hardships that widows must endure, including food shortages, thus highlighting their dependence on males:

La tittief ir-raġel ikollok tbakkar u taghġen.

'Once you lose your husband, you have to wake up early to knead'.

Armla ma tistax tghin lil miżżewġa.

'A widow cannot help a married woman'.

Il-mara armla tqabbaq 'l uliedha jhufu fir-ramla.

'The widow orders her children to prowl on the sandy beach'.

Older widows are more mature than young ones; hence, the former choose their new husbands more carefully than young widows:

Armla ta' tletin tfittex wieħed bħall-ghamjin; armla ta' hamsin taghzel mill-qalbenin.

'A thirty-year-old widow searches for a man like a blind person; a fifty-year-old widow chooses from brave men'.

However, as the following proverb indicates, a widow without children can more easily find someone interested in her:

Armla bla tfal, żejt fin-nar.

'A widow without children is oil in fire'.

Some proverbs also indicate that women and children are dependent on the man's income:

Dar bla raġel, niexfa bhal taġen.

'A house without a man is as dry as a frying pan'.

Min jitlef 'l ommu jirbah l-ghera; min jitlef 'il missieru jirbah il-ġuh.

'He who loses his mother wins bareness; he who loses his father wins hunger'.

A proverb shows that since a widow has to face many difficulties, it is not easy to marry again:

Armla bhal ġemel: għaliha z-zwieġ mimli nemel.

'A widow is like a camel: for her, the marriage is full of ants'.

However, if the widow remarries, it is a financial relief, and the widow's children will respect the new man:

Min jiehu 'l ommna jsir għammna.

'He who [marries] our mother becomes our stepfather'.

Old Ladies

Those women who are fortunate enough to get older must face their own hardships. As the proverb indicates, elderly women had to continue working to live since there were no pensions:

Nahdem sa nsir kaghba, imqar ġie x'hadu l-ghada.

'I [must] work until I am an old woman, even if [my work] came to nothing the following day'.

Some proverbs poorly depict old ladies:

Għax-xiha t-tahdit u l-imghazel.

'For the old lady, gossip and spindles'.

Il-ghaġuza ehzen mix-xitan.

'The old woman is worse than the devil'.

Ma tridx temmen l-ghaġuza.

'You must never believe an old lady'.

However, a grandmother's attitude towards her grandchildren is represented in a positive way in this proverb:

Bewsa tan-nanna helwa manna, bewsa ta' missier iżzommok ilsir.

'A kiss from your grandma is very sweet, but a kiss from your father keeps you a slave'.

This shows that the grandmother is sweet with her grandchildren, but while the father loves his children, he is strict.

Men's Superiority

The superiority of men over women is another recurring theme. The first proverb in the following list is the strongest because it shows that the best woman is inferior to the worst man.

Seba' nisa f'sensihom, mignun jghaddihom.

'Seven women in their right senses, one mad man surpasses them'.

Il-mara tilbes minn rasha u r-raġel jilbes minn saqajh.

'The woman dresses from the head and the male dresses from his legs'.

Min jikser it-tub bin-nisa ma jahsadx (or jilhux) bosta.

'He who breaks clod by women does not reap (or take) much'.

Kliem il-mara isimgħu u aghmel rajk.

'Listen to what your wife says, but then do what you want'.

A proverb also states that women have short intellects:

In-nisa xagħarhom twil u s-sens qasir.

'Women have long hair and short intellects'.

Men sometimes view women as objects, and the following proverb shows some men do not even think of women at all:

Il-mara bħal-lumija tagħsarha u tarmiha.

'A woman is like a lemon; you squeeze her and dump her'.

Għagin u torti u nbid bil-karawett, u aħjar zaqqi minn zaqq marti.

'Pasta and pies and wine together with peanuts, and better [in] my belly than [in] my wife's belly'.

However, men are also warned that:

Il-mara li turiha turik.

'The woman shows you what you show her'.

Conclusion

The female-centred Maltese proverbs reviewed for this study clearly reflect an anti-feminine sentiment. As Aquilina (1975: 149) states, proverbs regarding women can be 'described as characteristically aggressive, bearing the stamp of the male as the originator of most of them'. This study revealed how women are depicted in traditional roles as being indispensable to the family yet servile and dependent on males. Notably, all positive representations of women in the proverbs are associated with traditional roles and indispensability to the family. The proverbs consider the following characteristics as virtuous for women: seriousness, decency, honesty, modesty, thriftiness, practical wisdom, sewing skills, a strong work ethic and proper financial and house management. In addition, they reflect that women offer familial support,

willingly procreate, raise children, including nurturing their minds and supporting their character formation, show mercifulness and unconditional love and offer advice. Although women are represented in positive and complimentary ways towards men in these themes, 'these also tend to serve the interests of man, as they sustain or reinforce traditional gender stereotypes and ideals' (Amfo and Diabah 2014: 22). Moreover, a dominant patriarchal mentality is evident in the negative representations of women such as the view of girls as burdens, the dominance of men and the views of women as objects and being submissive to men. In addition, women are viewed as opportunists, gold diggers, gossipers, liars and deceivers of men, who talk too much, are financially dependent on men, generally inferior in every way; dominant women are seen as trouble makers. The misogyny represented by these proverbs does not represent the reality of women in Malta today. Malta is a member state of the European Union, where women play vital roles in both executive and political positions. For this reason, many of these proverbs 'have dropped out of use because their message or metaphor does not fit the times any longer' (Mieder 2004: XI).

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List of Maltese Proverbs related to Women

This list contains proverbs which are related directly or indirectly to women, alongside their English translations. For some of the proverbs a definition was added for better understanding. The proverbs are listed in alphabetical order. Due the space restrictions the variants of the proverbs were not included.

	Maltese Proverb	English translation and Definition
1.	Aghtini r-ragel minghajr shabu.	"Give me a man without his friends."
2.	Ahjar fin-nieqa milli fit-tieqa.	"She is better in the cradle than in the window." When girls are in the cradle, they offer less trouble than when they grow older.
3.	Ahjar ġara fil-qrib minn ommok bghid.	"It is better [to have] a neighbour close than your mother far away." If your mother lives far away and you need help, it is easier to obtain help from your neighbour than your mother.
4.	Ahjar ġerrejja tiġbor ġieha milli l-fqir isir sinjur.	"It is better [to have] a dissolute woman who becomes serious than a poor man who becomes rich."
5.	Ahjar gherfha minn mielha.	"It is better [to have a lady with] practical wisdom than with wealth." A woman's intellectual capacity is more important than her wealth.
6.	Ahjar id-duda f'tamla milli f'qalb t'armla.	"It is better to have a bug in a date palm than in the heart of a widow." The remorse that a widow continually feels is too big.
7.	Ahjar imqattgħa u horra milli għanja u zorra (or morra).	"It is better [to marry a] poor and honest [woman] than a rich and rude (or bitter) [one]."
8.	Ahjar imraddgħa Qormija milli wahda Żebbuġija.	"It is better [to marry] a breast-fed [woman] from Qormi than one from Haz-Żebbuġ." Since the plague outbreak hit the village of Haz-Żebbuġ harder, a woman from the village of Hal Qormi was preferred.
9.	Ahjar mara armla nkella bint il-qamla.	"It is better [to marry] a widow than the daughter of a stingy person."
10.	Ahjar mara ratba minn mara qahba.	"It is better to have a sluggish woman than a slut."
11.	Ahjar mara ta' bahri milli ta' ragel jistad għall-kahli.	"It is better [to be] the wife of a sailor than that of saddled seabream fisherman." The wife of a sailor would be more financially well off than that of a saddled seabream fisherman.
12.	Ahjar mart min hi, milli bint min hi.	"It is better who are you married to, than whose daughter you are." For a woman, it is better to be married than single. It could also be interpreted as, it is important to marry into a family with a good reputation.
13.	Ahjar tifel il-habs minn tifla soru.	"It is better [to have] a son in prison than a daughter who is a nun." The vows of a nun were perpetual, so you had a better chance to get out of prison.
14.	Ahjar tiġġieled m'ommok milli mal-ġara.	"It is better to quarrel with your mother than with your neighbour."
15.	Ahjar xih u għaref milli zagħżuġ u ibleh.	"It is better [to marry an] old and clever man than a young and foolish one."
16.	Ara bint min hi u ngħidlek min hi.	"Tell me whose daughter is she and I will tell you what she is."
17.	Armla bħal ġemel: għaliha ż-żwieġ mimli nemel.	"A widow is like a camel: for her, the marriage is full of ants." A widow has to face many difficulties so it is not easy to marry again.
18.	Armla bla tfal, żejt fin-nar.	"A widow without children is oil in fire." A widow without children can more easily find someone interested in her.
19.	Armla ma tistax tgħin lil mizzewġa.	"A widow cannot help a married woman." A widow has many difficulties so cannot help someone who is in a better position than she is.
20.	Armla ta' tletin tfittex wiehed bħall-ghamjin; armla ta' hamsin tagħzel mill-qalbenin.	"A thirty year old widow searches for a man like a blind person; a fifty year old widow chooses from brave men." An old widow chooses more carefully her new husband than a young widow.
21.	Bewqet xaqqa biex żejnet zaqqa.	"She hollowed her pudenda to decorate her belly." She lost her honour to obtain money.

22.	Bewsja ta' żewġek xhin tiftakar fiha terġa' tmewġek.	"When you remember a kiss from your husband, it will arouse you." A kiss can bring back many memories or even arouse you.
23.	Bewsja tan-nanna helwa manna, bewsja ta' missier iżżommok ilsir.	"A kiss from your grandma is very sweet, but a kiss from your father keeps you a slave." The grandma is very sweet with her grandchildren, but although the father loves his children, he is strict.
24.	Bhal tal-ewwel la tiżra' u lanqas thawwel.	"Like the first one, you can't sow or plant." You can never find a wife or sweetheart like the first one.
25.	Bieħ l-imdanna toqghod mal-kenna, id-dar trid tkun ġenna.	"If the mother-in-law lives with the daughter-in-law, the house must be heaven."
26.	Bikja ta' mara qanpiena tal-kabuċċini.	"A woman's cry [is like] the bell of Capuchins." Do not believe a woman crying.
27.	Bil-ġmiel biss ma nimlewz zaqqna.	"Beauty alone will not fill your belly." When marrying, a woman's beauty is not enough. She has to bring the dowry.
28.	Bil-ġmiel ma tikolx.	"With beauty you don't eat." Being a beautiful woman is not enough. Your father has to give you the dowry too.
29.	Billejl (or Fid-dlam) in-nisa kollha xorta.	"During the night (or When it is dark), all the women are the same." For sexual purposes, all women are the same. Or, whether women show it or not, they are attracted to men.
30.	Bil-pont tas-sahra żżomm il-hmara.	"With the stitch done overtime, she keeps the jennet (female donkey)." When a mother knows how to sew, she helps the family save money.
31.	Bin in-nies trabbiħ; xbinek bi żbirr teħdux u l-mara turihiex kollox.	"Don't raise another's son; don't choose a policeman as [your child's] Godfather; don't tell your wife everything you know."
32.	Bin it-tifla tilqghu f'hiġrek u bin it-tifel tagħtihi b'riġlek.	"You welcome your daughter's son in your lap and you hit your son's son with your leg." The mother loves her daughter's children more than she loves her son's.
33.	Bint id-debba l-ġerrejja, jekk ma tihux is-sena, tiehu li ġejja.	"The daughter of a mare that gads about, if it doesn't carry the prize this year, she will next year." Eventually, the daughter of a woman that gads about will end up in trouble.
34.	Bosta drabi l-mara hi bhat-tuffieha, minn ġewwa mherrija u minn barra sabiha.	"Many times women are like apples: rotten on the inside but beautiful on the outside." A woman's beauty can hide the defects of her character.
35.	Dak li ma qattgħetx bi snienha qattgħetu b'islenha.	"What she did not cut with her teeth, she cut it with her tongue." She prefers to gossip about people instead of working.
36.	Dak li tagħmel mara ma jagħmlux ix-xitan (or id-demonju).	"What a woman can do cannot be done by the devil (or demon)." Nothing is more cunning than a woman.
37.	Dar bla mara xejn ma fihix x'tara.	"A house without a woman has nothing to look at." A woman makes the house more complete and beautiful.
38.	Dar bla raġel, niexfa bhal taġen.	"A house without a man is as dry as a frying pan." A widow must do without many things.
39.	Dar b'zewġ nisa mahmuġa.	"A house with two women is dirty." Two women cannot manage a house.
40.	Darba l-ghadma ta' raġel mejjet resqet mal-ghadma ta' mara mejta.	"Once the bone of a dead man came close to the bone of a dead woman." The sexual attraction is immense.
41.	Debba bla lġiem fis tikser għonqha.	"An uncontrolled mare soon breaks its neck." A young woman, without control, will get into trouble.
42.	Debba ġerrejja tagħmel uliedha ġerrejja.	"When a mare gads, her offsprings gad." If a mother gads, so will her children.
43.	Dik mara li tibki llum u tidhaq għada.	"That is a woman who cries today and smiles tomorrow." She is working hard and suffering today and will reap the benefits in the future.

44.	Dik soru msawra u fuq bejt imtajra.	"She is a nun and flies over the roof." She appears to be honest, but actually, she is horny.
45.	Din hi l-gharusa; ghannaqha u busha.	"This is the bride; hug her and kiss her." Sometimes we have to accept the situation or an offer as it is.
46.	Din hi l-gharusa; jekk toghgbok aqbadha; jekk ma toghgbokx hallini nraqqadha.	"This is the bride. If you like her, take her, and if you don't, leave me to put her to sleep." This is it. There is no choice.
47.	Fil-harifa l-mara timla l-qaleb bil-gejna u thawwad il-brejma bin-nejna.	"In autumn the wife fills the cheese form with curdled milk and stirs the soup in a small cooking pot." A housewife's work is vast and she has to prepare beforehand for the whole family.
48.	Fir-raġel prudenza u fil-mara paċenzja.	"In the man prudence and in the woman patience." Mothers are associated with patience.
49.	Fix-xitwa minn nofsinar il quddiem ir-raġel jagħmel imtira wil-mara tagħmel fira.	"In winter, from noon onwards, the husband makes a furrow [in the field] and his wife makes a cheese-bun." The husband works in the field and his wife prepares him food.
50.	Fiz-zwieġ tfitixx is-sorra, hu tifla fqira u horra.	"For marriage, do not search for the bundle; take a young woman that is poor but honest." Honesty is the most important thing for marriage, not money/dowry.
51.	Fortuna fit-treġġja tad-dar l-ahjar fortuna.	"Fortune in the management of the house is the best fortune." A woman who can manage the house is the best fortune a man can have.
52.	Gmielek ward tas-silla, li titriegħa, jifli minn qabel tghaddi r-rebbiegha.	"Your beauty [is like] French honeysuckle blossoms, which is grazed, [and] fades before spring is over." The beauty of a young woman will fade with time.
53.	Għad li kerha s-sura, sabiha l-ventura.	"Although ugly in shape, the adventure is beautiful." An ugly woman can also find luck in marriage.
54.	Għagin u torti u nbid bil-karawett, u ahjar żaqqi minn żaqqi marti.	"Pasta and pies and wine together with peanuts, and better [in] my belly than [in] my wife's belly." Some men forget their wives and think only of themselves.
55.	Għajjarha qabel tghajrek.	"Insult her before she insults you." We tend to blame others for our faults, though we have some guilt, too, in the matter.
56.	Għal hafna subien lesti l-bsaten u t-tmiem; għal hafna bniet lesti ċ-ċararet u l-biċċiet.	"For many boys keep ready walking sticks and top hats; for many girls keep ready rags and pieces of cloth." Boys are ready for a career and girls are ready to do housework.
57.	Għal kull nittiena hemm zmienha.	"For every perverted woman there is a time." There are bad times for bad people, too.
58.	Għall-hwietem u għall-imšielet illum baqghet bla ma kielet.	"For rings and earrings, today she hasn't eaten." For money, some women do not take care of their health.
59.	Għall-hwietem u għall-imšielet in-nisa jgħollu d-dbielet.	"For rings and earrings, women lift their skirts." Certain women will engage in sexual activities to obtain money.
60.	Għalqa mghallqa u mara mghallqa iżba minnhom.	"A narrow field and an envious woman beware of them." A narrow field and an envious woman are the source of many troubles.
61.	Għarusa ġdida, kulma tmiss kollu jfuh.	"With a new girlfriend, everything she touches smells nice." During courtship, everything appears very amusing.
62.	Għawdxija u Rabtija xejn la tistaqsi għaliha.	"Don't ask about a Gozitan woman and a woman from Rabat (Malta)." Women from these two villages have very good reputations for practical wisdom and thriftiness.
63.	Għax-xiha t-tahdit u l-imghazel.	"For the old lady gossip and spindles." Old women are associated with the weaving of fabric and gossip.
64.	Għonq bla ras, tina bla toqba, u tifla bla misthija la fihom hajr u la hotba.	"A neck without a head, figs without holes, and a girl without shame have no charm and no match making." A shameless girl should not be admired or married.

65.	Ghors bla għarus u newwieha bla mejta għoddmom mistednin bla mejda.	"Pleasure without a bride and whimperers (people who cry) without death are like guests without a table." The bride is the centre of attention during a wedding.
66.	Hemm dwieb tal-ghenienel u bil-mantiet.	"There are mares with faldettas and [others that wear] mantillas." Every society has women with loose morals; some of them make themselves visible while others do not.
67.	Hadd ma jgib xejn minn zaqq ommu.	"No one brings anything from his mother's belly." Everyone begins his life from scratch.
68.	Hadd ma jtalla' lil nanntu fis-sala.	"No one brings up his grandmother to the hall". Snobbish people do not narrate the history of their ancestors, who may have endured a lower standard of living.
69.	Hares lejn il-qamar bil-hajra, għax għalik ikollu l-ghira.	"Look at the moon with whim, because he will be jealous of you." A woman who wants to find a man has to look at the moon.
70.	Hobbli u tredda' għandek qawwi ssibha, għajr jekk tkun xi fenka.	"It is difficult to find her pregnant and breastfeeding unless she is a rabbit." Do not pretend too much.
71.	Hu l-inbid biex isir hall u mhux il-hall biex isir inbid.	"Have wine so that it turns to vinegar not vinegar to become wine." Marry a good woman even though, with time, she may bother you, because with a bad woman you will have only trouble.
72.	Hu mara armila u mhux wahda ta' zmien it-tamla.	"[It is better to] take (marry) a widow not a woman from the time of date." It is better to marry a widow than a woman who wants to control everything.
73.	Hu raġel akbar minnek u mhux sżaghżugh jixba' minnek.	"Take a man older than you, not a young man who gets fed up of you."
74.	l-bza' mill-fqir li jsir sinjur, u mill-qahba li tiġbor l-unur.	"Be afraid of a poor man who becomes rich and of a dissolute woman who recovers her reputation."
75.	l-bza' minn geddm ta' hanzir, sieq ta' tiġieġa u lsien ta' mara.	"Beware of a pig's snout, a hen's leg, and a woman's tongue." The pig's snout and hen's leg are continually moving, and so is a woman's tongue.
76.	Id-dawrien billejl qatt ma jgib ġid.	"Gadding at night never brings benefit." Arriving home late, especially for women, is associated with women of loose morals.
77.	Id-dbielet twal ikarkru t-trab, imma d-dbielet qosra jkaxkru l-erwieh.	"Long skirts drag dust but miniskirts drag souls." Short skirts are associated with provocation and indecency.
78.	Id-dmugh f'ghajnejn in-nisa sponża.	"The tears in the eyes of women [are like] a sponge." Women have many tears and can easily fool you with them.
79.	Id-dmugh tal-mara bħall-bnazzi fix-xitwa.	"A woman's tears are like fine weather in winter." Do not believe a crying woman.
80.	Il-baqra bin baqartek, u t-tfal ulied martek.	"The cow is the offspring of your cow and children are the offspring of your wife." This saying is said to persons that bring up children that are not their own and sometimes get disillusioned.
81.	Il-beccun qatt ma zaqq l'ommu.	"The pigeon never fed its mother." The mother/parents must take care of their children and not the other way round.
82.	Il-bint għandha tiskot, toqghod fir-rokon, tilbes il-ghoqod, tiekol il-loqom.	"The daughter has to hold her tongue, stay in the corners, dress in rags, and eat bits of bread." A woman's place is in the house and with little or no liberty.
83.	Il-borma taqlibha għal fommha, il-bint tixbah l'ommha.	"She serves the cooking pot to her mouth; the daughter resembles her mother." Daughters base their behaviour on their mother's example.
84.	Il-frawla saret, u x-xebba hmaret.	"The strawberry is ripe and the young woman has grown red." The young woman that picks the strawberry has menstruated, thus she has matured, too, and is ready for marriage.

85.	Il-gabra fil-mara bhal qliegħ tar-raġel.	"A woman's good domestic management is like her husband's financial profit." A woman's good domestic management is as important as the profit that her husband brings.
86.	Il-ġewwieni jaqlik (<i>or</i> jahlik), il-barrani jieklok (<i>or</i> jisbik).	"The relative fries you, the foreigner eats you." It is difficult to choose a partner.
87.	Il-ġhaġuza eħżen mix-xitan.	"The old woman is worse than the devil."
88.	Il-ġhaġuza f'nofs ir-randan tinqasam.	"The old lady is split in the middle of Lent." This is a superstition: The oldest woman jumps from the belfry during Lent.
89.	Il-ġhaġuza ma tridx tmut; għax iktar ma tikber iżjed titgħalliem.	"The old lady doesn't want to die, because the older she gets the more she learns." The older you get the more you learn, and there is no specific time for learning.
90.	Il-hafa jitfi z-zina.	"Bare feet extinguish her decoration." A beautiful young woman loses her beauty if she walks barefooted.
91.	Il-hajja tal-bnejta bhal mindil fil-bejta.	"The life of the daughter is like a napkin in the nest." In the past, young women suffered greatly in the house due to hard work.
92.	Il-karba tal-hlas iġġiblek in-nghas.	"[A woman's] groaning during childbirth causes drowsiness." He who listens to a woman's groaning feels a sense of pathos.
93.	Il-kavallier irejġex fuq is-swar u l-qahba minn ġol-loġġ tixgħel in-nar.	"The Knight shows his feathers from the bastion and the prostitute ignites the light in the arch." Though it went against their vows, some knights used the services of prostitutes.
94.	Il-kliem tan-nisa jahraq bhan-nar.	"The words of women burn like fire." The words of women can hurt.
95.	Il-kliem zejġed halliħ għan-nisa.	"Leave excessive words for women." Those that are serious do not speak randomly.
96.	Il-kokka (<i>or</i> iċ-ċawla) 'l uliedha tara l-isbah.	"The owl (or the crow) sees her children nicest." The mother always sees her children as the best.
97.	Il-labra ġabra.	"The needle [is] thrifty." A woman that knows how to sew saves a lot of money.
98.	Illum fin-nieqa, għada fit-tieqa.	"Today [your girl is] in the cot and tomorrow at the window." Girls grow up very quickly.
99.	Il-Malti u l-far iddahhux id-dar għax jahxilek il-mara u t-tfal.	"The Maltese and the rat; don't let them enter your house because they can fuck your wife and children." A Maltese person sometimes can be worse than a rat.
100.	Il-mara (<i>or</i> ix-xebba) għad-dnub imdawra, m'għonqha dejjem imġawhra.	"The woman (or young lady) turned to sin, always [has] jewels around her neck." A prostitute always finds clients and money.
101.	Il-mara armla tqabbad 'l uliedha jhufu fir-ramla.	"The widow orders her children to prowl on the sandy beach." Widows have to face many problems, including food shortages.
102.	Il-mara bhal-lumija tagħsarha u tarmiha.	"A woman is like a lemon; you squeeze her and dump her." Take what you need from a woman and dump her.
103.	Il-mara b'sufha mbiegħed ir-raġel tbiegħed.	"The scant-haired woman puts off her husband." A woman with hair loss turns off a man.
104.	Il-mara demonju (<i>or</i> xitan).	"The woman [is a] devil."
105.	Il-mara ġabbara għana ta' darha.	"A thrifty woman [is the] wealth of her house." A woman's good domestic management is very important for the family.
106.	Il-mara għandha sebat irwieħ.	"The woman has seven souls." The woman is able to avoid many dangers and live more.
107.	Il-mara li ma tifhimx b'daqqa t'għajn ma tifhimx b'daqqa ta' ponn.	"The woman that does not understand with a stare doesn't understand with a strike of a fist." If a woman is stubborn, no one can change her mind.
108.	Il-mara li tilbes imqacat max-xitan għamlet rabta.	"A woman that wears short clothing has made a pact with the devil." An honest woman dresses appropriately.

109.	Il-mara li turiha turik.	"The woman shows you what you show her." The way you behave with your woman is the way she behaves with you.
110.	Il-mara meta tidhak trid tqarraq bik u meta tibki tkun qarrqet bik.	"When the woman smiles she intends to deceive you, and when she cries she has already deceived you." Women are ready to deceive man.
111.	Il-mara mzejna, minn butha mdejna.	"The decorated woman [is] debited from her pocket." A woman should take care of her family first, not decorate herself, because if she spends too much she will become indebted.
112.	Il-mara sewda r-raġel taghmlu ghuda.	"The black woman makes her husband a piece of wood." Black women are very demanding from their husbands.
113.	Il-mara sewwa tidhak u tgawdi gewwa.	"The good wife smiles and enjoys herself indoors." A good woman enjoys time with her family.
114.	Il-mara sieqha wara.	"A woman [has] her foot behind her". Women are not important.
115.	Il-mara tad-dnub b'hilitha stess iddub.	"The woman of sin, ruins herself with her own skill." The prostitute's attractiveness ruins her.
116.	Il-mara taf tghollik fis-sema u taf titf'ghek l-infern.	"The wife can raise you to the sky or throw you in hell." A wife can give her husband a lot of joy or can make his life hell.
117.	Il-mara tajba żżomm ir-raġel.	"The good wife keeps her husband." A good woman is able to keep her man loyal to her and on the right track.
118.	Il-mara tal-fqajjar qatt ma tmur tittajjar.	"The woman of a poor person never goes to gad about." The woman of a poor man is occupied with domestic work and has no time to roam about.
119.	Il-mara tal-kaċċatur hi bhall-mara tal-furnar, bi driegh wiehed.	"The hunter's wife is like the baker's wife: with one arm." Hunter's and baker's wives suffer financially.
120.	Il-mara tas-sajjied taghġen b'id wahda, tas-suldat ma taghġen b'xejn.	"A fisherman's wife kneads with one hand, while the soldier's wife doesn't knead at all." A soldier's wife suffers more financially than that of a fisherman.
121.	Il-mara tentazzjoni.	"A woman is a temptation."
122.	Il-mara tghabbi daqs bagħal, ir-raġel jimla daqs għar.	"The wife piles up like [a load of] a mule, the husband fills up [to a size of] a cave." If the woman spends a lot of money, her husband suffers.
123.	Il-mara thott u r-raġel jitgħabba.	"The wife tears down and the husband loads himself." If the woman spends a lot of money, her husband suffers.
124.	Il-mara tilbes minn rasha u r-raġel jilbes minn saqajh.	"The woman dresses from the head and the male dresses from his legs." A man is superior to a woman.
125.	Il-mara tingħaraf minn għadietha.	"The woman is recognised from her habits." One can assess a woman from behaviour.
126.	Il-mara tqila ġo did-dinja turi l-hila.	"The pregnant woman shows her ability in this world." With her pregnancy, the woman shows to the world that she served her purpose, and shows her courage, too.
127.	Il-mara tqila ttrabha il-ghazz u ttlef il-hila.	"The pregnant woman wins the laziness and loses the ability." A pregnant woman has to rest a lot and is not able to do certain things.
128.	Il-mara u l-pinna (or il-mus tal-lehja or il-karozza) ma jissellfux.	"The woman and the pen (or shaving knife or the car) are not lent." Men do not lend their women just as they would not lend their car/shaving knife/pen.
129.	Il-mara żzejjen id-dar u r-raġel jimla d-dar.	"A woman embellishes the house while the man fills it." Both the man and the woman have their roles in raising the family.
130.	Il-mara żżomm id-dar.	"The woman keeps the house." A woman in the house is indispensable.
131.	Il-muluda stabiet u l-qabla hterqet.	"The mother giving birth consoles and the midwife is restless." Some people worry that do not need to and some who are supposed to worry do not.

132.	Il-musbieh gewwa l-innara u l-gharusa gewwa darha.	"The wick lamp stays in the lantern and the bride stays in her house." A bride's place is at home.
133.	Il-paroli huma nisa, izda l-fatti huma rgiel.	"Chatter is a woman but facts are men." It is easier to say something than to do it.
134.	Il-qahba milli jkolha taghtik.	"The whore gives you of what she has." No one can give you what he does not have.
135.	Il-qahba ruhha dejjem imsahha.	"The whore's soul is always cloudy." Those who lead a life of sin have no peace of mind.
136.	Il-qamar jekk tfittxu jfittxek; jekk ma tfittxux ma jfittxekx.	"If you look for the moon, the moon will look for you; if you don't look for it, the moon will not look for you." It is believed that the moon increases a woman's sexual appetite, but if the woman is occupied with other things, she will not be affected.
137.	Il-qamar mimli; imma le jsellemli.	"The moon is full but it doesn't greet me." The moon is full and menstruation has not occurred, therefore the woman is pregnant.
138.	Il-qroqqa tigborhom il-flieles.	"The hen gathers the chickens." The mother takes care of her children.
139.	Il-sien ta' mara jxoqq il-ghadam.	"The tongue of a woman cracks bones." Women tell too many insults.
140.	Il-wicċ fil-mara jixhed giehha.	"A woman's face witnesses her honour." An honest woman is recognised from her face/look.
141.	Imhabba fil-vava titthajjem il-mamma.	"Thanks to the child, the mother gets pampered." Sometimes one person gets the praise that is owed to another.
142.	Inhobbok kemm in-nwar il-ful; issa li drajtek sejra tmur.	"I love you as much as the blossoms of beans; now that I got used to you, you are going to leave." Some couples do not stick together.
143.	Inkejt inkejja daret f'widnejja; inkejt ommi, qlajt ghajnejja.	"I was spiteful and that spite turned into my ears. I spited my mother, and pulled out my eyes." He who teases, or competes for the pleasure of teasing, is doing harm to himself.
144.	In-nemla l-mara l-bieċla, u n-nahla r- raġel ghaqli.	"The female ant [is] hardworking and the male bee [has] good sense." If the wife is hardworking and the husband has good sense, the family makes a lot of progress.
145.	In-nisa kollha fisa.	"The women are all tattlers." The women talk a lot.
146.	In-nisa laham il-kelb.	"The women are dog's meat." Women have vindictive spirits.
147.	In-nisa lsien ghandhom.	"[The only good thing that] women have [is their] tongue." Women talk a lot.
148.	In-nisa lsienhom twil.	"Women have a long tongue." Women talk a lot and cannot be trusted.
149.	In-nisa griezċ u l-irġiel mazzit.	"Women [are like] remnants of fried fat and men [are like] blood puddings." Women always grumble and men have to bear it.
150.	In-nisa sbieħ biex thares lejhom.	"The women are nice to look at." Marriage has many responsibilities beyond a woman's beauty.
151.	In-nisa twal ma jhottux swar.	"Tall women do not tear down bastions." Tall women are not better than short ones.
152.	In-nisa wil-mutur, ferh u duluri.	"Women and a motorbike [are] happiness and grief." Woman can give you joy and grief.
153.	In-nisa xagharhom twil u s-sens qasir.	"Women have long hair and short intellects." Women do not have common sense.
154.	In-nisa xibka tax-xitan.	"The women are the devils net." Women can fool you like the devil.
155.	Int trid tgħallew lil ommok bennen.	"Do you want to teach your mother to rock [the pram]?" Do not try to teach the person that knows more than you.

156.	Ir-raġel ġiebjja, u l-mara sieqja.	"The man [is a] water reservoir and the woman a water channel." The man brings the money at home and his wife spends it.
157.	Ir-raġel ikaxkar, il-mara tgeddes, tal-ewwel demonju, tal-ahhar infern.	"The husband drags, the wife heaps, the former a devil the latter in hell." The wife that has a dominant husband will suffer.
158.	Ir-raġel kif iddarrih u t-tifel kif trabbihi.	"The husband [behaves] how you teach him and the son [behaves] how he is brought up." Children behave the way they are brought up, but husbands need to be taught how to behave by their wives.
159.	Ir-raġel kif iħossu u l-mara kif turihom.	"The man how he feels and the woman how she shows them." Age depends on how a person feels, takes care of him/herself, and how s/he looks at life.
160.	Ir-raġel qalbu kaboċċa (or qaqoċċa), jaghti werqa lil kulhadd imma l-qalba jaghtiha l-mara.	"A man's heart is a cabbage (or an artichoke); he gives a leaf to everyone but reserves the heart [of the cabbage/ artichoke] for his wife." A man may look at other women, but he reserves his affection for his wife.
161.	Ir-raġel tieghek sal-kantuniera.	"The husband is yours until the corner." The wife has to be attentive to her husband, especially when he is not near her.
162.	Ir-raġel tiġieġa u l-mara serduq, id-dar tinqaleb ta' taht fuq.	"If the husband is a hen and the wife is a cock, the house goes upside down." When the wife is dominant and manages everything on her own, there will be a lot of trouble in the house.
163.	Ir-rokon tad-dar ma jaghmlux aghar.	"The corners of the house do not make worse." Being a housewife only does not make a woman inferior to others.
164.	Is-simna sabha f'debba aħseb u ara f'xebba.	"Stoutness is nice on a mare, let alone on a young woman." A woman has to have a strong body and not be too skinny.
165.	Is-sindku jwisji u l-qabla tfsiqi.	"The mayor issues warnings while the midwife wraps babies in cloth garments." Although girls were warned about the dangers of having sex out of wedlock, some continued to do so and got pregnant.
166.	Is-subien jahsu fix-xwieni u l-bniet jahsu fil-gejjieni.	"The boys think of galleys and the girls think of the future." The careers of men and women are different.
167.	It-tfal kif trabbihom, in-nisa kif iddarrihom.	"The children [behave] how they are brought up and women [behave] how they are taught." Children behave the way they are brought up and wives behave how their husbands teach them.
168.	It-Tramuntana mra, tnixxef il-mizwed u tghaqqad il-qanqha.	"North wind is a woman, dries the pod and congeals the pumpkin." When the wind is from the north, the pods dry and the pumpkins begin to form.
169.	It-twieqi jzejnu l-palazzi.	"Windows embellish palaces." The eyes make a woman look more beautiful.
170.	It-twissija tal-onim tibqa' tinfirex bil-fomm.	"A mother's warning is spread by the mouth." A mother's advice is given from one generation to the next.
171.	Lx-xatba miftuha, il-bejta maghluqa.	"The gate is open and the nest is closed." The prostitute would leave her house gate open to indicate that there was a client inside.
172.	Lx-xbejba fit-tieqa ma turikx ghamieqha.	"The young woman at the window doesn't show her full length." The women that expose themselves at the windows have lost their honour or are half-crazy.
173.	Lx-xebba fraxketta, deheb dubluni nimli kaxxetta.	"The young woman with loose morals [has] a small box full of gold coins." For money, the prostitute does everything.
174.	Lx-xebba li tiekol fit-triq ma ssibx tiżzewweġ.	"The young woman that eats in the street doesn't find marriage." Women have to make good impressions to marry.
175.	Lx-xebba mibjugha, l-ebda żiemel ma jghaddiha.	"A young lady [that] sold [her honour], no horse will surpass her." A woman of loose morals is out of control.

176.	Ix-xitwa mara sewwa, is-sajf raġel xalatur.	"The winter is a good woman, the summer is a hedonist." During winter, we stay at home, but in summer, we enjoy ourselves more.
177.	Ix-xoqqa u l-mara f'dawl il-musbieh qatt la tara.	"The linen and the woman: never see them in the light of the oil lamp." Before you marry, check that you have grace with your bride.
178.	Iż-zina tixraq lill-mara.	"Ornamentation suits the woman." Woman who embellish themselves appear more beautiful.
179.	Jekk fil-qamar thuf issahhan il-ġuf.	"If you wander (walk about) under the moon, you warm the womb." If a woman wants to get pregnant, she should walk under the moon.
180.	Jekk il-qahba tkun xahxehija għaliha m'hemmx xjuhija.	"If a prostitute is self-indulgent she will never grow old." If a prostitute gives clients what they want, she will continue to find work.
181.	Jekk ir-raġel ikun sieqja, il-mara tkun ġiebia.	"If a man is a water channel, a woman must be a reservoir." If the husband earns money, his wife needs to be thrifty.
182.	Jekk ir-raġel jikxef il-karus, il-mara tiehdu għall-flus.	"If a man exposes his saving box, the woman will marry him for money."
183.	Jekk l-omm tiżżegleg, bintha taraha tibda tiżżegleg bhalha.	"If the mother wriggles her hips, her daughter sees her, and will wriggle her hips like her mother." If a mother gads, her daughter starts to gad as well.
184.	Jekk l-omm tkun zemlija, il-bint tkun imdorrija.	"If the mother is horse like, her daughter is used to it." If the mother is a whore, her daughter is accustomed to it.
185.	Jekk thares lejn il-qamar u tmiss il-flus tul ghomrok dejjem tbus.	"If you look at the moon while touching money you will be kissing all your life." A woman that wants to marry a rich man has to hold a coin and stare at the moon.
186.	Jekk tiżżewweġ ahjar tiehu bidwi, gabilott jew biċċier milli ferh ta' kavallier.	"If you marry, it's better to take a farmer, peasant, or butcher man instead of a servant of a knight." It is better to marry a humble person than a normal person that serves distinguished people because the latter thinks that he is superior to others.
187.	Jekk tmiss hwejġek ma' hwejjigha jew sentejn jew tiżżewwigha.	"If you touch your clothes with her clothes, either two years [in prison] or you marry her." If you fondle your parts with her, either you get two years in prison or you marry her.
188.	Jekk tohroġ il-vara jkollok iddahhalha.	"If you get out the statute of a saint, you have to get it in." If you marry, you are responsible for your wife's actions.
189.	Jien bin omni ta' zaqqi f'fommi.	"I am my mother's son; what's in my belly is in my mouth." I am outspoken.
190.	Jien insib it-toqba int iġġib il-wied.	"I find the hole and you bring the clothes peg." The housewife has to have a place to hang clothes.
191.	Jiżżewweġ biex jiehu r-ruh u l-mara toqtlu bil-ġuh.	"He marries to get his soul back but his wife kills him with hunger." He married to be in a better position, but his wife does not take proper care of him.
192.	Jum il-magħmudija, għal omm it-tarbija ward u dija.	"Christening day, for the baby's mother, [is a day] of flowers and light." The Christening day is a joyful day for the mother.
193.	Kemm iblah dak li l-mara qabel il-waqt jikxfilha l-qargha.	"How foolish is the individual who exposes the pumpkin to his lady before the right moment." How foolish is that man who shows his wealth to his woman before the right moment.
194.	Kerha fin-nieqa u sbejha fit-tieqa.	"Ugly in the cot and beautiful at the window." With time, a girl can become a beautiful woman.
195.	Kliem il-mara isinghu u aghmel rajk.	"Listen to what your wife says, but then do what you want."
196.	Kliem il-mara żienja bħal bir bla qiegh fih jaqa' min għandu l-Mulej kontri.	"The words of a woman with loose morals is like a well without bottom; in it falls who has God against him." The people that distance themselves from God are more likely to succumb to evil.

197.	Kulhadd jidfien 'l ommu kif jista'.	"Everyone buries his mother as best he can." Everyone does the he can with the money/resources he has.
198.	Kull min itewwem fil-helsien idewwem.	"Everyone that produces twins, takes longer during labour." The woman that has twins will have a longer labour.
199.	Kull qahba ghandha 'l Gakka.	"Every prostitute has her accomplice." There are accomplices during criminal acts.
200.	Kull qoffa ssib mizblietha.	"Every hand basket finds its rubbish dump." Every woman, even if ugly, finds someone that likes her.
201.	La darba tizziegheb, il-qarn aghmlu mad-deheb.	"Once you let yourself loose [to sex], you make the horn of gold." Women who live a loose life do so for money.
202.	La hablet jehtigilha tiled.	"Once she gets pregnant, she needs to deliver." Everything has its consequences.
203.	La mara anqas tfa, u la kera u anqas dar.	"No woman, no children, no rent, and not even a house." If you are single, you have far fewer worries in life.
204.	La titef ir-ragel ikollok tbakkar u taghgen.	"Once you lose your husband, you have to wake up early to knead." Widows have many difficulties.
205.	Labra f'dar l-gharef ahjar mid-deheb.	"A needle at the intelligent [man's] house is better than gold." A woman that knows how to sew saves a lot of money.
206.	L-ghaqal sabih fuq id-debba, ahseb u ara fuq ix-xebba.	"Good sense is nice on a mare, let alone on a young woman." A young woman has to have good sense and behave.
207.	Li kieku s-sbieh jizzewgu kollha, fuq il-koroh taqa' l-folla.	"If all the nice ones marry, the crowd falls on the ugly ones." If a man searches well, he has a chance to find a woman that he likes.
208.	Li kont habbejtni, kieku mill-bajda raddajtni.	"If you [mother] had loved me, you would have turned me back with the egg." Bad habits have to be corrected immediately or as soon as possible.
209.	Li l-imdanna thobb il-kenna kien l-infern jinbidel f'genna.	"If the son's mother loves the son's wife, hell would change to heaven." The son's mother and the son's wife cannot live together in harmony.
210.	Li s-self kien tajieb, kieku r-ragel jislef il-mara.	"If lending was good, a husband would lend his wife." Lending is not good.
211.	Lil min ommu thobbu, ixiddlu l-kabozza f'Mejju.	"He who is loved by his mother, [she] dresses him in a coat in May." In May the weather has still not settled, so one has to be dressed properly.
212.	L-omm basla, il-missier tewma, it-tifla kif tkun tfub?	"The mother [is] an onion, the father [is] a clove of garlic, the daughter, how can she smell good?" Children follow in the steps of their parents.
213.	L-omm dejjem omm.	"A mother is always a mother." Nothing surpasses a mother's love.
214.	L-omm ghal uliedha giddieba u halliela.	"The mother, for her children, [is] a liar and a thief." A mother will do anything to see her children live better.
215.	L-omm il-madmad tal-ulied.	"The mother is the yoke of the children." The mother is the fulcrum of the children.
216.	L-omm 'l uliedha tghajjat.	"The mother calls her children." When in need, a mother relies on her children.
217.	L-omm mhux talli tweled, mma ghal kull holqien tiggieled.	"The mother not only gives birth, but fights for each of her offsprings." A mother strives for her children all of her life.
218.	L-omm tal-hniena.	"The mother of mercifulness." The mother is always compassionate.
219.	Ma hemmx akbar mill-hasra tal-omm.	"There is no bigger grief than that of the mother." The mother is the person who feels the most for her children.
220.	Ma jistax ikun il-bettija mimlija u l-mara sakrana.	"It is not possible to have a full barrel and a wife who is drunk." A wasteful woman ruins the family finances.

221.	Ma tridx temmen l-ghaġuza.	"You must never believe an old lady."
222.	Mal-ewwel berqa, in-nannu jofsdoq il-miżwed u n-nanna tlesti l-imserka.	"With the first lightening, the grandfather husks the pod and the grandmother prepares the reel quill." In autumn, when lightening starts, the farmers would sow the beans and prepare for weaving.
223.	Mal-ewwel tisfira thalli t-tifikira.	"With the first whistle, you leave the remembrance." When the prostitute whistled to her pimp, it was time to pay.
224.	Man-nies jew bla sahha jew bla ġieħ.	"[Working] with people, [you are either] without health or without honour." A woman who worked with others had to do laborious work at the detriment of her health, or else do things through which she lost her honour.
225.	Mara bieżla l-kumdità.	"A hard working woman [is] a comfort." When there is hardworking woman in the house, all the family lives in comfort.
226.	Mara bit-tfal fir-rokna tad-dar.	"A woman with children in the corner of the house." The place for a woman with children is at home.
227.	Mara bix-xewqa lewn uliedha jiġu mżewqa.	"For a woman with a desire, her children come in a variety of colours." A superstition in Maltese culture states that when a pregnant woman craves something to eat, the desired object/thing is formed as a birthmark on the child's body.
228.	Mara bla żaqq bħal tiegħ bla daqq.	"A woman without belly is like a wedding without music." A married woman without children is not fulfilled.
229.	Mara bl-ghonnella qatt ma taf x'ghamlet u x'kellha.	"A woman with a faldetta, you never know what she did or what she had." The faldetta worn by Maltese women was a good cover to hide the progress of her pregnancy.
230.	Mara b'tarbija ma tesagħhiex ta' Brija.	"A woman with a baby Ta' Brija (road) is not enough for her." Women with children have to stay at home to take care of them.
231.	Mara dahket bix-xitan.	"A woman cheated the devil." A woman is very cunning.
232.	Mara dellha tqil.	"A woman has a heavy shadow." If a woman makes a mistake, she is always caught.
233.	Mara fid-dar demonju fin-nar; raġel id-dar ġamra fil-fardal.	"A woman in the house [is like] a devil in a fire; a man in the house is like a coal in the apron." Women do not like their husbands to meddle with the house affairs.
234.	Mara ġġennek.	"A woman can drive you mad."
235.	Mara ghajnejha żoroq issahhar it-toroq.	"A woman with blue eyes delights the street." Women with blue eyes are very attractive.
236.	Mara hobbha u turihiex u milli jkollok tagħthiex.	"Love a woman and don't show her and don't give her from what you have." Husbands have to control their women.
237.	Mara lesta għall-ġlied ma żżarradx żnied.	"A woman ready to fight does not waste the flint." A troublesome woman will hold grudges.
238.	Mara li trabbi t-tjur għall-kexxun iddur.	"A woman that breeds fowl, turns for the drawer." A woman who breeds birds does not make a profit.
239.	Mara ma tahmilx ohra.	"A woman doesn't like another." Women are envious for each other.
240.	Mara meta tkun qed tftitxha taqrahiex minn wiċċha.	"When you are searching [for a] woman, don't read her from her face." When you are searching for a woman, do not judge her from her face but from her character.
241.	Mara mfettha, boxxla mbettha.	"A woman with spread legs [is like] an open door of an antechamber." A woman has to place her legs in the right position so as not to send the wrong message.
242.	Mara mill-lmsida l-gidba f'idha.	"A woman from [the village of] Msida, [has] a lie in her hand." Women from Msida lie too much.
243.	Mara minghajr raġel bħall-hut ġewwa t-taġen.	"A woman without a man is like fish in a frying pan." The father has a vital role in raising children.

244.	Mara mżerrqa u bajdanija, ihdanha dejjem kennija.	"A woman with blue eyes and white skin, her hands are always a shelter." Women with blue eyes are very attractive.
245.	Mara sabiha ġmielha jibqa' sakemm tiflek ġieħha.	"A beautiful woman's charm remains until she loses her honour."
246.	Mara sabiha tal-ghoxrin ġmielha jibqa' u għal raġel issir seher ta' hamsin.	"The charm of a twenty year old beautiful woman remains, and for her husband she becomes a wonder in her fifties." As time goes by, a beautiful woman becomes more accomplished for her husband because she gains wisdom.
247.	Mara sabiha tikber kemm tikber dejjem tajba għat-tieqa.	"A beautiful woman [no matter] how much she grows, still remains good for the window." A beautiful woman always remains good for marriage.
248.	Mara sabiha, id-dota ġewwa.	"A beautiful woman, dowry in." The best thing for a woman is to be beautiful.
249.	Mara ssaffar u tiġieġa tidden la zzommhomx id-dar.	"A woman that whistles and a hen that crows; don't keep them at home." A woman that whistles and a hen that crows bring bad luck.
250.	Mara ta' sultan dejjem tispicċa fi hdan.	"A woman of a king always finishes in somebody else's arms." High-class women are courted by others.
251.	Mara taghmillek sold dejn, u ohra taghmillek sold tnejn.	"A woman makes you a penny debit, and another makes you a penny two." There are two types of women: those who save and those who spend.
252.	Mara tahdem il-bizzilla għal qrun ir-raġel ma tistax tiddwella.	"A lace working woman cannot fight a duel for her husband's horn." The wife cannot know what her husband is doing when he is away from home.
253.	Mara tal-ghaqal iżzomm id-dar, tiġbor l-uliedha u x-xedda fin-nar.	"A woman with wisdom keeps the house, gathers her children, and [keeps] sticks in the fire." A wise woman takes care of her house, children, and husband.
254.	Mara tibki temminhiex.	"Don't believe a crying woman."
255.	Mar-rabta taz-zwieġ, l-omm tahseb għal dak li jkun meħtieġ.	"With the engagement, the mother thinks for what is needed." With an engagement, a mother thinks of her daughter's dowry.
256.	Mart il-bennej trodd il-borma xhin tarah ġej.	"The wife of a builder prepares the cooking pan when she sees him coming." The life of a construction worker is difficult and even his wife does not know when he will come back home.
257.	Mart is-sajjied b'idha wahda taghġen u bl-ohra tkeċci d-dubbien.	"The fisherman's wife kneads with one hand and repels flies with the other." The fisherman earned little money so his wife did not have much to cook.
258.	Marzu Marzelli jtajjar ix-xbejbiet b'dellu.	"March, little March repels young ladies from his shade." During March, young women start to date.
259.	Marzu Marzeġlu n-nanna tahraq ix-xatba u r-rixtellu.	"March, little March the old lady burns the gate and the flax comb." During this month, it is very cold, and since women stay in, they work more on the weaving machines.
260.	Marzu, il-fliss-jonijiet komuni bhax-xebbiet.	"In March, the cold is common like young ladies." The month of March is known for influenza outbreaks.
261.	Mejju l-iblah t'ommu.	"May is his mother's fool." In May, the weather changes continually.
262.	Meta bewsa tagħtik mara, imbagħad trid tara xi jkur ġara.	"When a woman gives you a kiss, you must see what has happened." Intimacy starts with a kiss.
263.	Meta jasal il-Milied, l-omm timla l-platt bil-ftiet, u l-mi-sier iqabblad iż-żnied.	"When Christmas arrives, the mother fills the plate with bread slices, and the father lights [his pipe] with the fray flint." When Christmas arrives, everyone likes warm food and smoking the pipe.
264.	Meta l-mara tiddebbel xagħarha jissebbel.	"When the woman withers, her hair thickens." With time, women get old, neglect their hair, and become less attractive.

168.	Meta l-mara tiżżewweg, tidhol f'darha, u l-mewt biss taqlaghha minn hemm.	"When the woman marries, she enters her house, and only death can remove her from there." Marriage is a lifelong bond.
166.	Meta l-mara tkun se tobloq, bi hsiebha tkun terga' tixtieq tohloq.	"When the lady is growing old, in her mind she would like to procreate." When a woman gets older, her sex drive comes back.
167.	Meta s-sider ma jinfirixx il-hannieqa ma tissensilix.	"When the breasts do not spread, the necklace does not hang out properly." A woman with big breasts is more attractive.
168.	Meta s-sigra tal-armila ma tohroġ qamla, ghan-namur tkun regghet hemla.	"When the widow's tree does not develop a bud, for courtship she is overflowing." When the widow is not taking care of her home, she is searching for a man that will maintain her.
169.	Meta taghġen il-qahba jaqa' bieb il-for.	"When the prostitute kneads, the oven door falls." Unfortunate people do everything wrong.
170.	Meta tasallek il-hasla thabrek il-ghazla.	"When laundry arrives, it announces the choice." When her period arrives, a woman knows if she is pregnant.
171.	Meta titwieled tifla l-ixkupa tiehu qatgha.	"When a girl is born, the broom stick will have a fright." Women are born to do housework.
172.	Meta titwieled tifla l-omm titlef il-gradenza.	"When a girl is born, the mother loses her chest of drawers." When a girl grows up, she needs her own clothes.
173.	Meta t-tarbija tidba thuf, isserrah 'l omm mill-guf.	"When the baby starts moving, the mother will be relieved from the womb." When a baby starts moving in the womb, it will soon be delivered.
174.	Meta xebba xawwatha tghatti, hajjitha opra bi tliet atti.	"When a young woman shields her prudency, her life will be an opera with three acts." When a young woman shields her prudency (i.e. does not fall easily for the first man she meets), she will find a good man and live a happy life.
175.	Meta x-xebba ghaż-żwieġ mixhuta tixxabbat ma' xi tuta biex biha tikseb l'butha.	"When a young woman throws herself for marriage, she climbs up a blackberry tree so that she acquires [money] in her pocket." A young woman that is ready for marriage works hard to have the money needed.
176.	Meta x-xebba ma tarax, il-huttab ma jirkantax.	"When the young lady doesn't see, the match-maker doesn't auction." If the young woman does not have her menstrual cycle, she will not get married.
177.	Meta x-xebba tkun gharusa, tidba tahseb ghalha nfusha.	"When the young woman is engaged, she starts thinking for herself." When a woman gets engaged, she starts thinking of the dowry.
178.	Meta x-xebba tmur tigbor il-kappara, żgur bid-dnewwa tohroġ minn darha.	"When the young woman goes to gather capers, she will come out with harm from her home." A young woman that went to gather capers on her own was considered undisciplined.
179.	Mhux dik li tikxef id-dublett biss tinsieh qahba.	"It is not just the [woman] who uncovers her skirt that is called a slut." Some people have a bad character but they do not show it.
180.	Mietet b'uliedha u lanqas ma halliet ġildha.	"She died with her children and didn't even leave her skin." When something is lent, it is lost.
181.	Migja ta' habibtek rizq iġġiblek.	"A girlfriend's arrival brings about benefit." An adventure with a paramour can bring change to your boring routine.
182.	Migja tal-ġara taghmel il-hsara.	"The arrival of a neighbour can bring harm." Some neighbours are gossipers, so dodge them.
183.	Mill-inbid isir il-hall.	"Vinegar is made out of wine." If you want a good wife, you need to marry a good girl.
184.	Min fit-triq jiekol figolla 'l zewġu jsib qalb il-folla.	"She who stays in the street eating a traditional Easter sweet will find her husband among the crowd." If a young woman wants to marry, she should eat a traditional Easter sweet in the street.

285.	Min ghandu 'l mart missieru ghandu demla fuq ilsienu.	"He who has the wife of his father, he has a piece of dung on his tongue." Children from the first mother do not go well with their father's second wife.
286.	Min ghandu l-bniet jehtieg l-utied.	"He who has girls needs pegs." The father that has girls needs to start thinking of the dowry.
287.	Min ghandu l-bniet jisthi jkolli l-klieb.	"He who has girls will be ashamed to keep dogs." Dogs always behave to their owner's order, but girls will not always obey.
288.	Min ghandu wiċċu ghandu gharustu.	"He who is brazen-faced has his girlfriend." A man who is without shame obtains what he wants.
289.	Min ifittex il-ghiez (or dota) ifittex l-uġigh.	"He who searches for the dowry is searching for pain." The person that is thinking about getting married has to endure the problems that the marriage and family responsibilities bring with it.
290.	Min ifittex 'l ommu wisq isibha mara hazina.	"He who asks for his mother most probably finds her bad." Do not ask too many questions because you might hear things that are not what you want to hear.
291.	Min ihammar jghammar.	"[She] who has grown red mates." The woman that has started her menstrual cycle is ready for mating.
292.	Min ihobb il-bajtar xitli, ma jridx jibza' mix-xewk; min ihobb mara miżżewġa, ma jridx jibza' minnha l-mewt.	"He who loves prickly pears must not be afraid of prickles; he who loves a married woman must not be afraid of death." A man who makes love with married women is looking for trouble.
293.	Min ihobb mara u hmara, wiċċ Alla qatt ma jara.	"He who loves a woman or a jenny never sees the face of God." The farmer loves both his wife and his jenny and when he loses one of them he rebels against God.
294.	Min iqim lil ommu huwa bhal min jahzen teżor.	"He who worships his mother is like someone who stores a treasure." A child's love for a mother brings family unity.
295.	Min jehreż bil-mehrież tan-nisa u tal-loghob bil-lieġa f'idu jibqa'.	"He who plays with a woman's and a gambler's pestle will be left with a smirch in his hand." Gamblers and those who run with women end up in trouble.
296.	Min jiehu 'l ommna jsir ghamma.	"He who [marries] our mother becomes our step-father." The person that helps us in our moment of need will be respected.
297.	Min jikser it-tub bin-nisa ma jahsadx (or jihux) bosta.	"He who breaks clod by women does not reap (or take) much." Men are better workers than women are; or, the person doing the job must have the appropriate skills.
298.	Min jisma' mill-mara wiċċ Alla qatt ma jara.	"He who listens to a woman never sees the face of God." One has to obey God's words first before his woman's advice that may go against God's rules.
299.	Min jitbellah għall-mara jkun wasal għall-hala.	"He who behaves foolishly for a woman would have arrived for wasting." The attraction of a man for a woman can drive him crazy.
300.	Min jitlef 'l ommu jirbah l-ghera; min jitlef 'il missieru jirbah il-guh.	"He who loses his mother wins bareness; he who loses his father wins hunger." Both parents are vital in the family structure.
301.	Min jitlef martu bil-haqq ma ssibax kuntent.	"He who loses his wife with justice, [you] will not find him happy." Separations and divorce makes one's life miserable.
302.	Min jobghod in-nisa ma jhobbx 'l ommu.	"He who hates women does not love his mother." Hatred towards women is not normal.
303.	Min ma jahsibx x'jigri wara la hu raġel u anqas mara.	"He who does not think about what happens next is neither a man nor a woman." A person who does not think about the consequences for his actions is irresponsible.
304.	Min ma jihux mara Ghawdxija ma jkunx jaf id-dinja x'fiha.	"He who does not take a Gozitan woman doesn't know what the world consists of." Gozitan woman are better because they are more practical minded.

305.	Min ma jismax minn ommu l-hemm jhemmu.	"He who does not obey his mother will come to grief."
306.	Min ma jirkellimx, ommu qahba.	"He who does not speak [has] a prostitute as his mother." Some people do not talk about some issues because they are embarrassing.
307.	Min ommu thobbu, taghmillu kabozza f'Meju.	"The mother that loves her son makes him a coat in May." May is still cold.
308.	Min qatt ma ra laham sorm ommu hasbu xaham.	"He who has never seen meat mistakes his mothers' arse for fat." A man who is not used to certain situations will behave erratically when he encounters them.
309.	Min tilef l'ommu mhux ser isibha fi tlitt ijiem.	"He who lost his mother will not find her in three days." Once you lose an opportunity, another will not come quickly.
310.	Minn sinjorina ssir sinjura.	"From a Miss becomes a Mrs." If a woman wants a man to work for her, she has to marry.
311.	Minn tifla johorgu zewg't ihtien.	"From one daughter come two sons-in-law." Sometimes we oblige two persons for something that we want.
312.	Minn zewgħa mara tiehu xi haġa; minn bajtra raġel ma tiehu xejn.	"From her man the wife takes something; from an unenergetic man she does not get anything." A weak husband is useless.
313.	Mis-sliem jiġi l-kliem; mill-kliem jiġu l-hbieb; mill-hbieb jidhol għall-fuqqasijiet.	From greetings to words; from words [they become] friends; from friends [they move forward to] offspring." A woman should or encourage flirting because it will lead to consequences i.e. children.
314.	Mort għand il-gara biex nistrieħ, għamlitli l-karwata (kutra) fil-bieb.	"I went to my neighbour to relax [and] she made the blanket at the door." Neighbours are sometimes not helpful.
315.	Naghġa mahmuġa qatt ma tista' tiġi minsuġa.	"A dirty sheep can never be woven." A woman with loose habits cannot bring harmony to a marriage.
316.	Nahdem sa nsir kaghba, imqar ġie x'hadu l-ghada.	"I [must] work until I am an old woman, even if [my work] came to nothing the following day." When women became old, they had to continue to work to live since in the old times there was no pension.
317.	Nies ir-raġel taqlik fit-taġen.	"The relatives of [your] husband fry you in the frying pan." Generally, the wife and the relatives of her husband are not in a good relation.
318.	Nuqqas il-ġibda tal-ulied għall-missier u l-omm hi ingratitudni viġi.	"The absence of attraction of the children for the father and mother is vile ingratitude." We should respect our parents until the end.
319.	Omm hanina tmūt miskina.	"A tender-hearted mother will die pathetic." Too much love will spoil a child.
320.	Omm il-ġifa qatt ma taghli, imma lanqas ma tifrah.	"The fool's mother never gets into trouble but is not pleased, either." A coward does not take initiative and therefore will not get into trouble, but neither does he reap the benefits of risk.
321.	Omm il-ġifa qatt ma taghli.	"The fool's mother never gets in trouble." A coward does not take initiative.
322.	Omm il-maqtul sogħbiena, iżda omm l-imhedded hosbiena.	"The murdered man's mother is in grief, but the threatened man's mother is worried." Not only troublemakers suffer consequences; so do their relatives.
323.	Omm ir-raġel taqlik fit-taġen.	"Your husband's mother fries you in the frying pan." The husband's mother does not have a good relationship with the wife.
324.	Omm l-ulied taqfel u taghlaq il-bieb.	"The children's mother closes and secures the door." The caring mother takes care of her children.
325.	Omm ma tarax isbah minni.	"My mother sees nothing more beautiful than me." A mother sees her children as the best.

326.	Ommok thares lejn ghajnejk u l-mara thares lejn idejk.	"Your mother looks into your eyes and your wife looks at your hands." A mother is always worried about her child's health and a wife thinks only about money.
327.	Qabel ma tiehu tifla staqsi ghal ommha.	"Before you take (marry) a girl, ask about her mother." Your bride will have much in common with her mother, so inquire about her.
328.	Qabel mal-gharusa tigbed flusha, mill-but tigi maqrusa.	"Before the bride withdraws her money, her pocket becomes pinched." If a father does not give a bride the dowry, she has to fork out the money in order to get married.
329.	Qahba tghajjar lil ohra.	"A whore calls name to another." A person accuses another person of that which they are equally guilty.
330.	Qalb maqsuma fi tnejn, għied bis-sikkina jew bl-idejn.	"A heart which is split between two [women brings about] fights with knives or fist cuffs." Having more than one woman causes trouble.
331.	Qalb ta' omm tahfer u thenn.	"A mother's heart forgives and is merciful."
332.	Qamar Jannar hareġ il-bniet mill-għar.	"January's moon brings out the daughters from the cave." The light of the moon is very bright in January.
333.	Qamar Jannar johroġ ix-xebbiet mill-għar: hasbuh binhar.	"January's moon brings out the daughters from the cave; they thought [it was] day time."
334.	Qatt hadd ma kellu xejn u qal, "Ajma, Ta!"	"No one ever had [pain] and said, 'Alas, dad.'" When one has pain, s/he calls his/her mother.
335.	Qatta' żerġha araha filghodu, u xebba araha filghaxija.	"A bundle of corn see it in the morning and a young lady see her in the evening." Women are best when they are dressed well and with ornaments.
336.	Quddiemek mara, warajk imqass.	"In front of you [she is] a lady, and behind you [she is] scissors." Some women show that they are gentle and respectful but deep down they are not.
337.	Raġel għaref u mara sabiha rari ssibhom umli.	"You rarely find a wise man and a beautiful woman [who are] humble."
338.	Raġel jahlef u mara tibki temminhomx.	"Don't believe a swearing man and a crying woman."
339.	Raġel sidru bis-suf u l-mara bil-halib.	"A man's breast is full of hair and that of a woman is full of milk." Men are associated with manliness while women are associated with food, comfort, and kindness.
340.	Rožanna tarma s-sodda bit-tornalett u mhix hlief trejxex għal La Valette.	"Rožanna sets up the bed with flounces and she is only fishing for La Valette." Some woman offered sexual services to knights and some knights took them (even though it was against their order's principles).
341.	Sabiha fin-nieqa, kerha fit-tieqa.	"Beautiful in the cot and ugly at the window." With time, a girl can become an ugly woman.
342.	Sal-erbghin il-qabar miftuh.	"Till forty [days] the grave is open." A woman that has delivered a child has to take care of her health for forty days after delivery.
343.	Saqqi ohti u baqqi lil dak il-habaq għadi.	"My sister, water that basil." A young woman will do anything to grab the attention of men to marry.
344.	Seba' nisa f'sensihom, mignun jghaddihom.	"Seven women in their right senses, one mad man surpasses them." The best of women is inferior to the worst man.
345.	Selma b'rasek 'l isfel u mhux tinza' int u tizzen.	"Greet with your head down and not undress during dancing." Woman must be honest in their behaviour and not tempting to men.
346.	Sider iswed ma jkabbarx il-miżwed.	"A black breast does not grow pod." A woman's breasts have to develop rightly to breastfeed.
347.	Skont l-omm l-ulied.	"Like the mother the children." The mother has great influence on her children.

348.	Tarbija tikrik u tixtrik.	"A baby hires you and buys you." The mother is constrained by the baby and cannot do whatever she wants.
349.	Tehodhiex ma' mart l-imhallef.	"Don't argue with the judge's wife." Do not argue with powerful people.
350.	Tfajla titwieled nhar ta' Ġimgħa fl-istess jum il-kelb jgħidmha.	"A young lady that is born on Friday, on the same day a dog bites her." A person who is born on a Friday will endure many tragedies in life.
351.	Tghoddx il-granet tal-qamar ghax ma jhallix tistabar.	"Don't count the lunar days because you will be restless." Do not worry too much about your menstrual cycle.
352.	Tifla hudha minn dar ta' nies jistghu u għalqa hudha mingħand wiehed għażżen.	"Marry a young lady from a well-off family and [rent] a field from a lazy person." When marrying a woman from a well-off family, you will gain from the dowry while when renting a field from a lazy person you will gain too because you will rent it for a lower price.
353.	Tifla sabiha tinqala' b'għieha, tifla kerha tinqala' bil-mera.	"A beautiful young lady is made outstanding by her prestige, while an ugly young lady is made outstanding by the mirror." Beautiful woman look beautiful naturally but less beautiful people have to resort to make-up to appear better.
354.	Tifla sabiha ttihiex imhabbtek mal-mument ghax issir iebsa daqs siment.	"Don't give a beautiful lady your love immediately because [she] will become hard like cement." Beautiful woman need to be caressed and pampered before they give you their love.
355.	Tihux gharusa kerha għaliex tistmerrha.	"Don't take an ugly bride because you will detest her."
356.	Tihux gharusa sabiha għaliex ikollok tharisha.	"Don't take a beautiful bride because you have to watch over her." Beautiful brides have to be kept satisfied to remain loyal to you.
357.	Tittantak thallix, mara liebsa tlellix.	"Don't let a woman's dress glimmer tease you." Women dressed in certain ways can provoke you.
358.	Tramuntana isem ta' mara; meta tagħmilha, tagħmilha.	"North wind is the name of a woman and when she makes it, she makes it big." When the wind is from the North it is cold and can sometimes be very stormy.
359.	Tramuntana mara sewwa, imma fuqha ma torbotx.	"North wind is a good woman but you can't rely on it." When the wind is from the north, it can be very cold.
360.	Trid tghallem 'l ommok tfisqi!	"Do you want to teach your mother to swaddle?" Do not try to teach a person who knows more than you.
361.	Trid tkun taf' tbus biex it-tarka tghabbi bil-flus.	"You must know how to kiss to fill in the plate with money." Prostitutes who had money displayed demonstrated that they were sought after.
362.	Trobbija kollha bniet tghajjat l-iġfien, trobbija kollha subien xogħol u turbien.	"Upbringing of [a family of] females [only] calls to sailing ships, upbringing of [a family of] males [only means] work and a lot of dust." Raising girls brings the troubles of courtship with sailors, while raising boys bring other troubles, especially those related to work.
363.	Turix għommtok lill-gara ghax taqa' taht il-mannara.	"Don't show your troubles to your [female] neighbour because you will fall under an axe." Keep your personal life and problems for yourself.
364.	Tweghedhiex li tehodha l-Imnarja, ghax tul żmienek tagħmillek l-arja.	"Don't promise to take her to <i>Imnarja</i> (the feast of St Peter and St Paul) because during your life time she will reign over you." Do not give everything to your bride/wife because she will take advantage of you.
365.	Wara bewsa ta' filghodu saqajk m'hemmx fejn joqogħdu, wara bewsa ta' billejl tinkileb wara xi dejl.	"After a kiss in the morning there is no space for your feet, but after a kiss at night you will lust after a skirt." A woman's sexual appeal is stronger at night.

366.	Wara hlas tajjeb it-tieni jkun ġa mghajjeb.	"After a good delivery the [troubles of] second [delivery] will already be hidden." A woman who delivered her first child without problems will not be afraid of pain during her second delivery.
367.	Wara l-hamsin il-mara tidba tidbiel.	"After the age of fifty, the woman begins to fade." After the age of fifty, a woman will begin to lose her beauty.
368.	Warda bla fwieha ma fihix xi xxomm u mara bla ghaqal ma fihix xi zzomm.	"A rose without scent has nothing to smell; a woman without practical wisdom has nothing [worth it] to keep." A woman without practical wisdom is like a flower without scent.
369.	Warda ta' Mejju u mhux ta' qalb il-plejju.	"[Pick] a rose in May and not one among the pennyroyal mint." Marry a woman when she is young and not when she becomes old.
370.	Wiċċ li jduq it-triq, minn hemm jidra sfiq.	"A face that tastes the street, from there will learn a lot [of imprudence]." Do not let your children, especially girls, roam the streets because they will learn loose morals.
371.	Wiċċha ma jidher, mad-deheb jinbidel.	"A woman's unseen face is purchased with gold." A modest woman is priceless.
372.	Wiehed xih bewsa ta' mara ma taghmilx bih.	"A woman's kiss to an old man does not affect him." Love is for youths.
373.	Wiehed żagħżuġh bewsa ta' mara tohogħlu d-dmugh.	"A woman's kiss to a young man brings him to tears." Love is for youths.
374.	Xebba bla mishija la fiha hajt anqas hitib.	"A girl without shame has no charm and no match making." A woman that does not have embarrassment should not be looked at.
375.	Xebba bla xagħar u bla hobb, la fiha x'jigbdek u lanqas xi thobb.	"A young lady without hair and without breasts has nothing that attracts you and nothing to love." A boyish girl with a short haircut and flat breasts is not attractive.
376.	Xebba la tiġġarrab ma terġax tiġġarraf.	"A young lady who has experienced trouble will not fall again." A lady will learn from the past experiences.
377.	Xebba ta' żmien il-kxi' tal-imżiewed malajr iġġabbar u tweled.	"A young lady [that was born] when the bean pods began to appear soon finds a husband and makes a child." A lady that is born in March can marry and conceive without problems.
378.	Xogħol id-dar ma fihx tmiem.	"The house work has no end." The wife's work in the house is never ending.
379.	Żaqq ta' mara tesa' hobza u kelma ma tesagħhiex.	"A woman's belly can hold a loaf but cannot hold a word." Women are not able to keep secrets.
380.	Żewweġ u bewweġ.	"Give your daughter in marriage and let her go away." Once a daughter and son-in-law get married, they should not live under the same roof with their parents. They should live separately.

Curriculum Vitae

Charles Daniel Saliba, PhD (Sheff.) UK, lectures on Maltese linguistics and literature at the intermediate and advanced levels at the Sir M. A. Refalo Centre for Further Studies. He has published over 40 books on the Maltese language. Saliba won a prize for his book *Realtà in the Prose for Adolescents* category at the Malta National Book Awards in 2007. He specialises in teaching Maltese as a foreign language. He is a member of the Associação Internacional de Paremiologia / International Association of Paremiology (AIP-IAP). For more information, please visit www.charlesdanielsaliba.com

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