

yä-nń

This word is a Valence/Version adjunct, which gives information about the following verb. In this case, the adjunct shows RESISTIVE valence and INEFFECTUAL version. The RESISTIVE valence indicates that a second party to the following verb (whether overt or implied) resists participating in the activity of the first party, participates unwillingly or is in an adversarial relationship with the first party in respect to the verb. Note that Ithkuil specifies this relationship between parties even if in English the presence of a second party is covert or merely implied. For example, it is possible in English to say sentences such as *Joe was playing poker*, or *She danced the tango*, which imply the presence of a second complementary party even though they are not stated overtly. INEFFECTUAL version indicates that the following verb represents a failed intention or attempt. Thus, for example, the verb “sing” in the INEFFECTUAL version would mean “fails to sing.”

Ĥuzâņş
[+ rising tone]

The stem here is **ruz** meaning ‘effort/work’. The mutation of the first consonant radical (**r**→**ĥ**) indicates AGGREGATIVE configuration, signifying a collection/set of different entities each describable by the stem. The **ĥ-** prefix indicates both COALESCENT affiliation (previously described) and PROXIMAL perspective. PROXIMAL perspective indicates that the temporal aspect of the verb is during its duration, without consideration for any specific beginning or ending. The **-aņş** suffix signifies that the verb is performed in a strained or difficult manner (strain to X / struggle to X) and furthermore, the mutation of the suffix vowel from **a** to **â** indicates that the degree of strain/struggle involved is not incidental but rather profound and intrinsically part of the verb in a derivational sense, i.e., likely to mean a lexical change when translating. The rising tone on this word signifies the REPRESENTATIVE context, which indicates that the word is being used metaphorically in this sentence.

Second Sentence: **Řo nuilí aúĥûčĥipš/ kaiz po’yoxxroi načĥwib.**

ř-o

This word is a single-referent personal reference adjunct, equivalent to a personal pronoun in natlangs. The consonantal prefix **ř** specifies the person, in this case the IMPERSONAL, equivalent to French *on*, German *man*, the impersonal reflexive in Romance langs, and English impersonal *one, you*, or the passive voice. The vocalic suffix **-o** specifies the case associated with the person, in this case the ERGATIVE (indicating the semantic role of AGENT).

n-ui-Í

This word is a Valence/Version adjunct, which gives lots of auxiliary information about the following verb. The **n-** prefix operates in conjunction with the **aú-** prefix of the following verb to signify a particular Derivation associated with the verb. The concept of “Derivation” in Ithkuil is difficult to explain briefly; it deals with conflation of verb meanings as is common in English in a sentence like *He danced his way toward the door*, in which the overt meaning of the verb *dance* specifies the manner in which the verb’s covert/hidden (i.e., conflated) meaning of “move along/across” is accomplished. Another example would be *She shelved the books*, where the overt meaning of *shelve* specifies the location where the verb’s covert/conflated meaning of “to place/situate” takes place. While such patterns of “conflated” overt/covert meaning are unpredictable in English and dependent on the individual verb and its context, in Ithkuil, such patterns of covert/conflated meanings are systematic and predictable. The Derivation of an Ithkuil verb specifies the covert/conflated meaning of any verb, while the category of Format specifies how the overt meaning of the verb relates to the covert meaning (e.g., how “dance” specified manner in the first example above, whereas “shelve” specified location in the second example above). In this case the **n-** prefix operates in conjunction with the **aú-** prefix of the following verb to signify the derivational (covert) meaning of “hold fast, keep ahold of” for the main verb (which is the next/following word). The **-Í** suffix of this adjunct signifies the Format (described above) of the following verb, in this case INSTRUMENTATIVE, meaning that the function of the overt meaning of the following verb is to indicate the means or instrument by which the covert meaning of “hold fast” is accomplished. The **-ui-** infix is a combination affix signifying both the Valence and the Version of the following verb. The category of Valence in Ithkuil specifies the relationship of two parties to a single predicate or verb, while the category of Version refers to an aspectual distinction indicating whether the verb refers to an act, event or state which is goal- or result-oriented, and/or whether it has been successfully actualized subsequent to one’s initial intention. In this case the **-ui-** infix shows COMPLEMENTARY valence and INCOMPLETEIVE version. COMPLEMENTARY valence indicates that the second party performs a complementary activity to that of the first party. By “complementary” is meant an activity different from that of the first party, but necessary to complete the whole of the joint activity, i.e., the “other half” of the joint activity. This is exemplified in sentences such as *The man and his son played catch*, *Hortense took me into the woods*, *The clown read the children a story*, where ‘played catch’ implies the complementary activities of throwing and catching, ‘took (into the woods)’ implies someone

leading while the other follows, and 'read' implies a reader and an audience. Again note that Ithkuil specifies this relationship between parties even if in English the presence of a second party is covert or merely implied. INCOMPLETEIVE version indicates a two-fold distinction: (1) that the following verb is to be interpreted as goal-oriented or result-oriented (e.g., the difference between *eat* vs. *eat up*, *increase* vs. *maximize*, *study* vs. *learn*, *hunt* vs. *hunt down*, etc.), and (2) represents a failed intention or attempt. Thus, for example, the verb "ascend" in the INCOMPLETEIVE version would mean "fails to reach the top."

aú-ḥûčh-ípš
[+ rising tone]

This word is functioning as a verb, discernable by the fact it is preceded by a valence/version adjunct. As described above, the **aú-** prefix operates in conjunction with the **n-** prefix on the preceding valence/version adjunct to indicate that the combination of the two prefixes operate to indicate a Derivation, i.e., a covert meaning to the verb of "hold fast, keep ahold of". The word carries antepenultimate stress (i.e., on the third-from-last syllable), signifying the NOMIC perspective. The NOMIC designates an action, event, or situation which describes a general law of nature or a persistently true condition or situation spoken of in general, without reference to a specific instance or occurrence of the activity (it is, in fact, all possible instances or occurrences that are being referred to). English has no specialized way of expressing such generic statements, generally using the simple present tense, e.g., *Water is wet*, *Tim has a loud voice*. The syllable **ḥûčh** is a lexical stem derived from the root **H-Čh** 'CONSTRAIN / CONSTRAINT / DETAIN'. The **-û-** infix to the root identifies the particular stem for this root (in Ithkuil, each root has 18 lexical stems), in this case the verbal meaning of the stem is 'seize, capture, hold captive.' The Grade 2 mutation of the initial consonant (**h→ḥ**) indicates the stem is in DUPLEX configuration, signifying a binary, two-halved, complementary, or mirror-image set, e.g., like *wings*, *eyeballs*, *gloves*, etc. The suffix **-ípš** signifies the word as a whole is to be interpreted as meaning a "tool, device, or apparatus specifically designed for X-ing" where X represents the meaning of the stem. HINT: this meaning should be interpreted with the DUPLEX configuration (explained above) in mind. The rising tone on this word signifies the REPRESENTATIVE context, which indicates that the word is being used metaphorically in this sentence.

kaiz

The stem is **kaz**, meaning 'human spirit; one's feeling of spiritual/metaphysical connection with, and purpose in, the universe.' The stem vowel mutation (**a→ai**), indicates the ABSOLUTIVE case (= the semantic role of PATIENT).

po'yoxx-roï

The stem is **pôx**, meaning 'need, necessity' with Series J vocalic mutation (**ô→o'yo**) plus Grade 2 mutation of the second radical consonant (**x→xx**), signifying the SITUATIVE case. The SITUATIVE case identifies a noun as the background context for a clause. To illustrate, it would be used in translating the words *war*, *clowns*, and *plan* in the following English sentences (where whole phrases are required to convey the same function as the Ithkuil SITUATIVE case): *Because of war*, *our planet will never be able to join the Federation*, *Given the presence of clowns*, *we must accept the corruption of our children*, *Using my plan*, *we will defeat the enemy*. The **-roï** suffix is a personal reference (i.e., pronominal) suffix, indicating the possessor of the noun is the nearest preceding inanimate party (i.e., the preceding word **kaiz**). Specifically the **r-** portion of the suffix indicates an inanimate party, and the **-oï** portion of the suffix indicates ATTRIBUTIVE case. The ATTRIBUTIVE is used to refer to a noun which inalienably experiences the effects of, or otherwise has an affective relationship with another noun, either as a temporary or permanent attribute, characteristic, or experience, whether physical or psychological, objective or subjective in nature. Examples: *his pain*, *Mother's guilt*, *the child's cough*, *Dorothy's mood*, *Davey's happiness*, *the teacher's stubbornness*, *my needs*.

načh-w-ïb

The stem **načh** means 'degree of listlessness/vitality/vigor'. (Stems of this sort in Ithkuil refer to the range or spectrum of a quality from one extreme to the other, e.g., *cold* – *hot*; they utilize one of the nine degrees of the EXN (Extent) suffix to indicate where on the spectrum the speaker intends). In this case, the **-ïb** suffix is the EXN suffix in 9th degree, indicating maximal extent, thus "great vigor/vitality." The **-w-** infix is the Coordinative suffix in 5th degree, whose closest English equivalent is "and" indicating nouns in a series. However, it also signifies that the word carries with it all the morphological information (e.g., case and affixes) of the preceding noun (without having to separately show that information).

Translation shown on next page (for the Relay moderator).

Reverse translation of the Ithkuil translation:

People who try to limit standards of moral behavior via religious institutions struggle futilely. One fails to keep the human spirit shackled given its needs and great vigor.

Original English source:

Those who try to limit basic standards of moral conduct to religious observances and theologies are fighting a losing battle. The human spirit is too needy and too vigorous to be kept in shackles.

— passage (edited) from *Humanism As the Next Step* by Lloyd and Mary Morain