



## Bara

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### 1. *te phagerel bara* ("to crush stones")

One of the extra jobs by which Roma supplemented their income was roadwork: they crushed stones with hammers for the reinforcement of roads. Usually whole Roma families shared this activity. In some communities, each family was required to do some communal work. Farmers usually had "Gypsies" do their roadwork for them. Sometimes they paid the "Gypsies" money for this work, but more often they paid them in kind. [ Professions: Historical Development ]

### 2. *te phagerel bara* ("to work in a quarry")

According to traditional beliefs malicious *mule* resided on moors and within stones. If someone stumbled on a stone, the *mulo* within the stone was to blame. One incantation for warding off a *mulo* was " *Dža te daravel andro ml'aki andro bara.*" ("Go haunt in the moors and stones").

If a person utters a curse or a threat which is really not meant seriously or if someone hears evil things and does not want to be touched by them, the evil spirit is warded off by the formula " *Bater, bater, pro kašt pro bar* ". ("Bater, bater, may the evil go into wood or stone.") The same formula is used during a ritual for curing an evil eye. [ *Arman* ]