

Letter dated 21 April 1897

Archive: Killie Campbell Africana Library, Durban
Letter reference: FUZE, Magera Magwaza Papers, KCM 90/13/1/4.
Letter date: 21 April 1897
From: Magera Magwaza. Civil Hospital, St Helena.
To: Miss A. Werner. 15 Sutherland Road, Tenbridge Wells.
Other details: Hand-written, in English
Transcriber's note(s): The letter that Magera Magwaza asks to be forwarded to someone (not named) is not part of this collection.
Letter contents: Magera Magwaza is writing from the hospital where he is admitted after falling over a cliff. He responds to Werner's query about a king buried in a bush or mountain for the purpose of driving away evil spirits. According to Magera that could not be a Zulu king because Zulu kings' graves were known where they were located, at Mahlabatini.

OFFENSIVE WORDS/TERMS: Nil

Civil Hospital
St Helena
21 April 1897

Miss A. Werner
15 Sutherland Road
Tenbridge Wells

My dear Inkosazana

I am still here, and am getting on better than I was, yet ankles still swelling up and stiff and unable to walk but could by the help of my crotchets. I trust that I will leave the Hospital little before or after the end of this month. I may distinctly state that I am much better now because at the first time I was so sorry thinking my leg was getting crooked and stiff and so that I will move it no more except by sticks; but now the doctor attending me stated it will be all right afterwards, and I am ^now^ agreeing to his opinion although feeling uneasy as I do. Nkosazana, I have no news to tell you but merely feeling of loneliness on my part since I have stayed in the Hospital these six weeks and my people are so afraid of coming to see me because they will catch some bad disease from amongst the patients of different countries except Dr Paul Timothy who use coming to see me – the only one who could come oftentimes if he is not ^so^ busy ^as he is^, is the real Prince Dinuzulu, who does not believe of what they said, and although busy he tried to come and see me.

In your last letter to me you stated that there was a Zulu king who was buried in a bush or mountain (I forget as the letter is not here) for purpose of driving away the evil spirit of another king who always disturbed his people. No, he can't be one of the Zulu kings but must be one of the other tribes, as they (old Zulu kings) are seen and known by their graves at the Mahlabatini from the oldest Mageba, Punga, Ndaba, Jama and Senzangakona (father of Tshaka, Dingane and Mpande.

Please forward the enclose[d] letter
Yours Magera Magwaza

LEGEND:

^ ^ insertion

[] notes/words by transcriber, not part of correspondence

TRANSCRIBER:

Sizakele Gumede for FHYA, 2022.

Student, MA in Historical Studies, UCT.