

MAJUBA

A. 71/66-8

1902
27-02
Sunday

Conversation with Majuba of Tongaland

Present: Dhlozi, Ndebeu, ~~Ndaba~~

Dhlozi, Makwana, and Ndaba, when, at Silverton Road, I had a conversation for several hours this day with Majuba, one of the Royal Family of Tongaland. He belongs to the Ingubokamanaba Regt. (says he is ^{of the age of 43} ~~43~~ ^{43 to 46} years of age). His grandfather Bungane was a son of the great ^{king} Makasane and his father's name is Sibukula. He says he used to nurse Ngwanaza (not Ngwanazi) when a baby and knows him very well. Ngwanaza is at present living in British Territory at the Eku Pelandaba kraal. His principal kraal, Imfihlweni, was set fire to by the Portuguese. It is said 36 Europeans attacked Ngwanaza and he fled. He was afraid to fight for Europeans help one another. Ngwanaza has 58 wives, there may be 60 now. ^{He has children.} Majuba has been 5 months in Durban. He has been engaged making wire bracelets and abusenga for legs. He once worked 4 years at Port Elizabeth, a place he likes because wages there were £4 and £4.10 a month. This was when the railway in those parts was being constructed. Thinks Port Elizabeth is a more moral place to live in for natives than Durban. Natives there are more civilized. Wages are very low in Durban.

The Tonga kings are buried ^{at} kwa Mwalizi (Mwali), which is a small bush or forest a mile and a half or so from Imfihlweni. Mwali, Makasane, Kluma + Nziyigili are buried there. Mwalizi's kraal originally stood where the bush is now, he was buried there, trees grew up & the place has become the Royal burial ground, no trees or wattles ever being cut there.

Spirits are still being freely drunk in Portuguese territory, over which a man Mapoloba (I think he says) is chief, ^{being} appointed by the Portuguese, but not a man who would have dared to eat out of the same ^{isitebe} with Majuba, he is not a man of rank. No liquor to speak of is now drunk in British Tongaland. The Tongas (this name, M. says, is an ^{ancient} ~~ancient~~ ^{the proper} designation being a ba kwa Mabudee) have a wish to be under the British Govt. The Tongas did not fight, for it was useless, seeing so powerful a state as Zululand came to grief.

I read him over my list of Tonga kings, genealogical tree & regiments, but he had nothing to add thereto & appeared surprised.

He is on the point of returning home; ^{he} wants to leave on Tuesday, but I persuaded

him to stay over next Sunday to afford me an opportunity of having another chat with him. ¹¹ Sedeza, Ngwanaza's ^(induma) is still living. One of his wives got the amandiki disease or complaint. This disease, known in Swaziland as amandawu, has spread over Tongaland and ^(Naba add) come as far as the Mpuku-niyoni Dist. Ngwanaza has twice come down ~~as~~ to Darban. Last time he came he went to P. M. Burg and there saw Samuelson, the Under Secy for Native Affairs. Samuelson then asked him if amandiki existed in his country & he said 'yes', whereupon S. said this was not to be allowed, the people were to stop the practice altogether. This order seems to have had some effect. M. says that going back at this time of year he is likely to get an attack of fever, but with a little doctoring will soon get over it. M's people have for very many years lived in Tongaland.

9.2.1902, Sunday. Selwate Road.

file 71, pp. 67-8.

Further talk with Majuba.

9.2.02
Sunday
Selwate Road

Present: Dlozi, Nankwana, Ndaba

Present: Majuba, Dlozi, Nankwana & Ndaba. Majuba & Ndaba are going home in a day or two. Majuba tells me that Ngwanaza has very few people with him now, when he went to see Ngini (Sir W. Clarke) at Ukombo several years ago, Ngini expressed surprize at no old men being with him. Ngwanaza quarrelled with the Portuguese. They first summoned him but he failed to go. Afterwards they asked him to help them against Ngungunyana. ^{Ngwanaza} He called up his forces and sent them forward to Delagoa en route to Ngungunyana. On the way, in spite of warning given by ^{to Portuguese} Ngwanaza, the troops broke into and looted stores, drinking the liquor & taking the guns. When they got to Delagoa a rumour got about to the effect that they were to be taken to Ngungunyana's by ship. This rumour being found true caused so much dissatisfaction & distrust that the men turned homewards. The Portuguese said that as soon as they had dealt with Ngungunyana they would come & deal with Ngwanaza. Bruheim (Madore) was sent to P. M. Burg to tender the people's allegiance. ¹² After the Ngungunyana expedition, which had proved successful, the Portuguese sent 37 men to Ngwanaza. Ngwanaza fled. He was afraid of fighting because he thought that if defeated & he took refuge in British Territory, the British would hand him over. The Portuguese had previously called on

(N.P.)

Ngwanaza to pay hut tax. Ngwanaza refused. The 'amadoda' however disagreed with Zambili (Dhlamini) and said they ought to pay taxes seeing they were far lower than those claimed by the British Govt. This difference arose in intensity. When Ngwanaza fled the 'amadoda' remained, Mapobobo was appointed chief and the main body of the people very rarely visit their rightful king. Mapobobo is to all intents and purposes now king over the Mabudu people. The Portuguese have raised the taxes. It was the Queen Regent Zambile who stood out saying she had given her allegiance to the British Government (at P. M. Burg) and would not fail. I told Majuba I did not think the Mabudu people had taken proper ^{into} account the MacMahon Award of 1875. I explained as well as I could.

Majuba says the allegiance of the Nation was tendered at the conclusion of the Zulu war of 1879. This act tends to show that the Tongas did not know anything about ^{that cruel act} the MacMahon award.

The kraal Ngwanaza is now living in is called Dunfihlweni, for the old kraal name has been preserved at the new site.

I told Majuba not to be downhearted. The Boer war is nearing conclusion and there is a possibility that England will obtain possession of Delagoa Bay when the MacMahon Award would vanish and Zambile and her son be restored to their proper country. This may not happen in a year or two, it may take twenty but what is twenty in the history of a nation?

It is not known when the Tongas first came to Tongaland. The people are called neither Abenguni or Amanungwa. One might glean particulars from the old people in the country.

I asked Majuba if he thought he could get two or three old men to come down and stay here with me 2 or 3 months and educate me in Tonga affairs. He said he thought this could be done Ndaba suggested Luhoho and Majuba said Mapoyi both about 67 years old. I said I would pay their railway fares to + fro. and fumbatisa them ^{each} with something on their return as well as find ~~be~~ food & lodging for them. Majuba perceived I took a keen interest in Tongaland & I warned him to be careful not to excite people. He was not to ask either Zambile or Ngwanaza for the people but might speak about the matter if he liked.