

SIMAHLA MSANE - INFORMANT

18.3.70.

Place: Esikhotheni

Umntfhwane nkhosi Ndlela waphuma Ka Zombode

Ndlela was a prince who came from Zombode royal kraal

inkhosike yase insikela lapha wasikelwa yinkhosi

The King gave him land. That King was

Ngwane yamletsa la, kungenamuzi la, Waqalake

Ngwane. He came here at a time when there was no kraal. He started building it.

kwakha, kwekuyindawo ehlezi engkwkwhelwa ngumnntu

It was an empty country without a kraal.

kwema.

That was the end. (1).

Question A.

You have not told us who that was.

Njani phela loku Majula wazala Mandlazi inkosana

This is how it went. Majula fathered Mandlazi, his heir(2)

yakhe - Mandlazike wazala phathwako, uphathwako

Mandlazi was the father of Phathwako. Phathwako

wazala uNdlavela, Ndlaveleke wazala loke

was father of Ndlavela. Ndlavela was father of the present

Mfomubi. kuye make lapho.

Mfomubi. That is the end.

(1)ie. of the story.

(2)ie. Mandlazi was.

Question B

How were they treated? When did they come here after they were sent home by the King?

Aha, kwabate solo bahlezi lapho babekwa khona.

No there was nothing bad. They are still living in the same place here.

Question C.

You say they came from Zombodze. But before they came here did they belong to the King's kraal?

Njengesi Swazi ngithemine ngumntfhwane¹khosi ..loNdelela.

According to Swazi custom I said he was a prince: that is this Ndelela.

Question D.

Tell us how and when the Swazis came here, because we are told that they came through Eshuselweni?

Njengobeke ngamncane kanggaka ngizakwazi

Since I am very young how can you expect me to

kanjani? ngiyezwa ngendaba ukuthi owefika

know? I am told that one who came

kuqala wakhonza lendawo ngu Nggwane inkhosi.

first to occupy this place was King Ngwane.

Ngizwa ngendaba nkuthi ngu Nggwane.

This I am told: that it was Ngwane.

Question E

Where did he settle?

Njengobe kunguka Nggwane

As you that this is Ngwane land

Question F

Where did he live?

abeMlala kaZombode

He lived at Zombode

eShiselweni nakwa Lobamba naka Hhohho imizi

at Eshiselweni, Lobamba and ~~Hhohho~~ Hhohho

yenkosi l ngiyaziko

These ~~xxx~~ were the royal kraals I know.

Question G.

These old kraals of Hhohho eShiselweni, Lobamba, Zombode, where are they?

Zakwa Hhohho nasi sihlahla sivela

The kraal called Hhohho is there by that tree which appears.

Question H

Hhohho?

Yebo nasi sihlahla nasi sivela

Yes, that tree which appears.

Question I

The green tree?

lesi esiluhlata kusetindzaleni kaHhohho ekhaya

The green tree, that is the old place call l Hhohho.

Ka Lobambake nakuya, naso sikhotsha nase sivela

Lobamba is over there where you see that tall grass.

naso sikhotha nayinta tjana iyineanenje nayi

that tall grass where ~~there is~~ a small hill over there

nayi nayi ngaphambidlana inezihlahla ezindateni

this one, this one, a little further which has some trees is the old place,

KaLobamba lapha kwabekwa uSobhuza khona

called Lobamba where Sobhuza **L** was made King.

Omdala wabekwa la, wathutha la wakha

The old Lobamba was built here. It was again removed and rebuilt.

ko Ntjingila phezulu.

at Ko Ntjingila.

Question J.

Did Somhlolo leave this place and go to Ntjingila?

We suku KoNtjingila waya emkhondvo

He left KoNtjingila and went to Mkondo River,

Ebuseleni, wesuka Ebuseleni wakha la ka-

Ebuseleni (1). He left Ebuseleni and went to

Kempa la ukhona. Ka Kempa ---

Kemp's store. (2)

Question K Where we say old Lobamba is?

Ehe, KaSobhuzake omdala

Yes, that was Sobuza's old Kraal.

Question L

What is the name of this mountain that we see in front of us?

Kuse Sikheleni Se Gundwane le, enkulu --

The name is eSikheleni se Gundwane (3) , and the big one

le emhloshane kus eNtunjani ye Gundwane le

the white one eNdunjani ye Gundwane (4)

le ngukulnhlongiwana le--- Ehe, nguLuhlongwane

This is Luhlongwane - Eh it is Luhlongwane.

Inkhosi naluqhamuka lusekwane enhlanganweni

When the Lusekwane appeared at

(1) Present day kraal name.

(2) i.e. Mahlanya

(3) at the mouse's pass i.e. it is narrow.

(4) at the mouse's hole.

yema Qhatha ne Ngovuma nakuya ngale, luqhamuka

~~xxxx~~ Maqhatha near Ngovuma on the other side , the King when it appeared

lusekwane luhambangale Inqhamuka la e inkhosi

-- - repetition - -

yayibe seyima phezulu la entabeni seiyialubuka

The King used to stand on top of these mountains to look at the boys carrying the Lusekwane.

luqhamuku ngesikhala -- lusekwane.

The boys used to come through the mountain passes.

Question M.

Incwala was celebrated here?

E, kwakugidvwinchwala --

Yes incwala was celebrated here.

Question N.

Was that in ~~Somhlolo~~ Somhlolo's time?

E, kuSomhlolo. Sewuyesuka usuka nya koNtjingila.

Yes, it was Somhlolo's time. Then he left to go to koNtjingila.

Question O.

Where was it situated - at koNtjingila?

Waka entabeni kuMqongo nawubona ku Masoka Phezulu .

It was situated on the ~~Mqongo~~ Mqongo Mountain as you look at Ma^sjoka (1)

Question P

Did he build the same Lobamba?

Wakha waja Lobamba -- waka umbekakanye wasuya

Yes it was still Lobamba. He built a kraal which was removed shortly, and went

(1) i.e, When you look towards the kraal named Masoka you can see this mountain.

Phuma, ibambene phela noZulu nabeSuthu , naye

out. The fight was on with the Zulus and the Sothos. He

efuqa abe Suthu X noZulu efuga yena wase uyo

pushed the Suthos and the Zulus pushed him. He then

hlalake emkhondvo, Waphuma emkhondvoke wenza

settled on the Mkondo River; he left Mkondo and built

umbekakanye wayohola kaKempa - la ukhonake

a kraal which was shortly removed and went to Mr.Kemp's store who
you are (1)

Ka Lobamba Lomdala nyalo.

the present old Lobamba.

Question Q

Where at Mkhondvo was Lobamba situated?

NguLonamba solo uhamba nawo ingani

This was Lobamba being built every time where the King was because

Phela yincwala solo yincwala kugidvwincwala

incwala was still incwala to be celebrated (1).

Question R

incwala was still celebrated at Lobamba?

Ehe.

Yes.

Question S

Where exactly was it situated at Mkhondo?

Angati kutshi nguKuphi ngiyeva kona kutshi

I do not know the exact spot. I hear that

(1) i.e. the questioner

(2) i.e. Lobamba is the only place where incwala could be celebrated, so Lobamba had to be rebuilt every time.

Wakha eMkhondvo Wasusuka khona laya

he built at Mkondo. He left there and went

KaLobamba omdala -- Sewuyawuphakake waka Hhohho .

to old Lobamba. He further went on to HoHo.

Question T.

Was Hhohho still this Hhohho here?

Ehe, sewuvusa lo.

Yes he rebuilt this same Hoho.

Question U

We have been told of Hhohho and Lobamba --

E Shiselweni ungale kwanansiya intaba

Eshiselweni kraal is on the other side of that mountain.

la washiswa bakwa Zulu khona ngale, ~~kumaxixilo~~ kulesi^otlo.

where it was burnt down by the Zulus, where there is a store.

Question V

At the store where all the Chiefs meet?

Ehe, nganenoke kwenkundleni, nganenoke,

Yes, a little to this side of the chief's meeting place. This side--

nyobonake nawuthi udlula esitulo sewuyakhona..

You see when you are just passing the store, then you are close to the spot.

Question W

I once got to this place and found the main hut still standing?

O, kusenkundleni lapho ..

O, that is the Chiefs' meeting place. (1)

(1) i.e. not the exact spot but the chiefs' meeting place.

Question X

Was that the Chiefs' place?

Kusenkundleni.

This is the chiefs' meeting place.

Question Y

Is it where there are swamps?

Ayi, kuphambili kakhulu lapho, kunganeno khona.

No that it very far: the palce is this side. (1)

Nako esitolo kulaphoke

It is at the store.

Etindzaleni kaZombodze nazo izihlahla ngale

The old Zombodze is on the other side of those trees.

Question Z

On the other side?

Ngale nazo izihlahla le

On the other side of those trees.

Phezulu ngale, ngale kakhulu nguka Zombodzeke.

On top of the mountain, but on the other side is all Zombodze.

Imizi yenkosi 4.

Royal kraals are 4.

Question A1.

Let me try to remember them, (1) This Hhohho, where there is a tree
(2) Lobamba there (3) Shiselweni on the other side (4) Zombodze
over there. Are these Kings, kraals?

Yebo yenkhosi.

Yes, they are Royal kraals.

(1) i.e. of the swamps : the swamps are near the Chiefs' meeting place.

Question B1.

Where in these kraals did Somhlolo's father live?

Wayehlala eShiselweni, Phela uyise waSomhlolo ngu

He lived at Eshiselweni: remember that the father of Somhlolo was

Ndungunya --- waye lhlal le eShiselweni E.

Ndungunya --- He lived at Eshiselweni.

Question C1.

Did he die at Eshiselweni?

Angazike lapho afela Khona. Nggwane

I do not know the exact kraal ~~xxxxxx~~ where Ngwane died.

incwala wayigidza kwa Zombodze.

the incwala was celebrated at Zombodze.

Question D1.

So Ngwane lived at Zombodze?

E, incwala lapho abeyigidza khona

Yes, he celebrated incwala there.

Question E1.

Was Ngwane father of Ndvungunye?

Ehe, Ndvungunye ungatshi incwala wayigidza eShiselweni.

Yes, Ndvungunya celebrated incwala at Eshiselweni.

Question F1.

Who celebrated incwala at Hhohho?

Cha, Kuze phela ngoba lamakhosi ala kitshi mabili

No, at Hhohho there was no incwala that was celebrated because we had only ~~ix~~ two Kings.

Alapha ezintabeni zakithi zalapha Ezikhotheni

These are here at Ezikhotheni.(1)

(1) i.e. were buried at Esikhotheni.

mabili ngu Nggwane, ngu Ndvungunya bobabili

The two kings were Ngwane and Ndvungunya. That was

kuphela --- la embilaneni USobhuzake

all here at Mbilaneni. Sobuza then

Wafela Ka Hhohho walahlwa eDlangeni. O,Cha,

died at Hhohho and was buried at Ehlungeni. Oh no -

ngiyaphazama wa felo KaHhohho wabalela

I mixed up. He died at Hhohho and decayed

eDlangeni wase uyatfhwala uya eMashobeni

at Ehlungeni. Then he was carried to Mashobeni.

Waphindza noMswazi loSobhuza uzal' umswazi

Mswati also because Sobuza was father of Mswati.

UMswazike wafela khona le, wafhwala futshi

Mswati also died over there (1) and was carried

warongcwatjwa khona la eMashobeni, Umbandeni-

to be buried here at eMashobeni. Mbandzeni

ke yenake wathwalwa kwavimba impi yema

died and was carried, and was stopped by the Boer soldiers.

Bhunu walahwake ezintabeni zeMkhondo.

Then he was buried in the Mountains of Mkhondo.

Question G1

Did he not reach Emashobeni?

Cha, akefika nga emashobeni kwavimba impi yema Bhunu,

No he didn't reach Mashobeni. He was stopped by the Boer soldiers

nama Ngisi kwabonakala kutshi angeze ahamba

and the English. Apparently he could not go through,

kahle loMbandeni walahlwa emayayeni eMkhondvo.

~~this~~ Mbandzeni. He was buried in one of the forests where there are caves.

(1) i.e. at Hhohho.

Question H1

Is this known to all Swazis?

I yaziwa kakhulu.

Yes it is very well known.

Question I1

We would like to know the spot, so that the place is preserved and does not get lost.

Lapha kitshi ngisho nelitje lika Ngwane lapha

In this area even the rock of Ngwane where

abedlala khona lomfana liyaziwa linga^eke eNyonyane.

he played as a boy, it is well known. It is beyond, in the Union (1)

liyaziwa lingaleke eNyonyane, lingale lapho

it is over there

wayedlala khona liyisi khehlenje lilapha phezulu

where he played - on a hill with lots of boulders piled on it.

wayekhwela adlale khona emagwadbu Ngwane

He used to climb and play using rocks for cattle

Lendawo ingale nge Godlwako kuthiwa etjeni la Nggwane.

This place is on the other side of Godlwako. It is called the rock of Ngwane.

Question J1.

What did he play there?

Wayedlala amagwadla engumfana

He ~~was~~ played with rocks that were meant to be cattle(2) He was a boy.

(1) i.e. the Republic.

(2) Stones that were used by young boys to represent cattle.

Question K1

What were these amangwadla?

Amangwadla amatje yizinkomo ... amagwadla yizinkomo wayelusa

Amagwadla were stones meant to represent cattle. He herded ~~xxxxx~~ these

wona lamatje elusile eluse lamagwadla ezinkomo lo Ngwaneke.

stones that were called Amagwadla. This was Ngwane.

Question L1.

We are told that on top of this mountain of Ngwane there is a bath that collected water?

Ehe akhona lamanzi ngoba likhulu lelingubozetje

Yes there was water because this rock resembles a bath.

liyema lamanzi lawa abekhwela ageze khona

Water collects there and he used to bathe in it.

adlale khona - Ngwane.

He also played there.

Question M1.

Who was the father of Ngwane?

Awu, angimazike loyise ngazinje ukuthi owayekhonze lelizwe ngu Ngwane.

Oh, I do not know his father. What I do know is that he was the first to occupy this part of the country.

Question N1.

Because we hear of Dlamini, Dwabasilutfuli?

Baleke, baleke labo Dwabasilutfhuli baka Nyawo

They are there, they are there these Dwabasilutfhuli, they are at Nyawo.

Dvwabasilutfhuli ngazi kahle naDlamini - baka Nyawo

I know very well Dvwabasilutfhuli and Dlamini. They are at Nyawo.

Obonjeni njengoba nzwa ukuthi, "Nine nagedza Lubombo ngekuhlehetela,

Ehe, " " " " "

On the Lubombo as you hear the saying " Nine nagedza Lubombo ngekuhlehetela
repeat. (1)

kushiwo leke.

This refers to that place along the Lubombo.

Question Q1.

Were those Dlamini and Dvwabasilutfhuli?

Yebo

Yes.

Question P1.

Where were they buried?

Khona eLubonjeni Ka Nyawo.

Over there at the Lubombo at Nyawo.

Question Q1.

Is this Nyawo place in Swaziland or on the other side of the border?

Ingale, ngiyo phela lemilandvo lesolo siyibanga lesiwufunako.

It is on the other side. These are the places at the border that we want.

Question R1.

What are other things and places that were left on the other side of the border?

ngema ngcwaba phelo la langale .

We have burial places which are on the other side.

(1) you who ran along the Lubombo (a saying used from one Dlamini to another even today)

Question S1.

Those remained?

Ngema nqcwaba lasala ngale.

Those were royal graves that remained.

Question T1.

Do we have other burial places that were left in the Republic?

Awu, ungasho kudlula kaNyawo lapho kutshiwa

Oh yes - you pass through Nyawo country which is called

Nguka Mhlabuyalingana khona entansi njengobe

Mhlabuyalingana (1) below the mountain

abona naluLuhongolo lapha lutshandza kuhlanguana

as you see the Pongola River where it meets

ne Lusutfu khona selo nguye Ngwane wamahlabatshi

the Usutu. There it is still called Ngwane of Mahlabatshi (2)

njengobe uyeva kutshiwa Ngwane wamahlabatshi.

as you hear the saying Ngwane wa Mahlabatshi.

Selo kutshiwa ngu Nggwane wamahlabatshi selo ku-

~~xxxxxxx~~ Even today we still say he is Ngwane of Mahlabatshi. All this

Shiwo lawo mahlabatshi awuvake.

refers to those sandy places.

Question U1

What was the extent of their kingdom in the East - as far as Portuguese East Africa?

Phela kukhona lapho ngitshi ulwazi lwami lugcina

There is a place where my knowledge ends,

(1) means a flat country

(2) King Ngwane is referred to as this - the word means flat, sandy soil: i.e. Ngwane came from an area of this.

khona Ngekuhlala kwami esangweni nalamakhe

according to what I collect from royal people and the old ~~people~~ men

hla lamadzala uyatike kuhlala esangweni baya

with head rings. You know what happens when one lives with important people. They

khuluma labadzalauyancutsha nawungumfana ~~lohlaka~~ lohlaka niphile

talk and a young boy learns from them if he is wise.