

uMzilikazi kaMASHOBANA wakwaKhumalo



Liberation Processes in Pre- and Post-Colonial Southern Africa (LiPSA)

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MZILIKAZI son of MASHOBANA
of the KHUMALO clan

uMzilikazi kaMASHOBANA
wakwaKHUMALO

("Izibongo. ZULU PRAISE POEMS."
collected by James Stuart, translated by Daniel Malcolm,
edited with introductions and annotations by TREVOR COPE,
Oxford University Press 1968, pages 132-133)

UMkhatshwa
wawoZimangele,
Okhatshwe ngezind' izinyawo,
Nangezimfushanyana;
UMkhatshwa wawoZimangele,
UMzilikazi kaMashobana;
Inkubela abayihlabe ngamanxeba,
Abamkhule ngezinyawo ezimfushanyana,
Nezimaqhukulwana.
Inyang' abathe beth' ifil' uZulu,
Kanti isiyethwese,
Yethwese ngoNyakana kaMpeyana.
UBando abalubane balushiy' uZulu.
UNyama yentini yawoZimangele.
UNKomo zavul' inqaba ngezimpondo,
Ngoba zavul' iNgome zahamba.
UNTshwintshwintshwi kaNoyanda noNdaba;
UNKone evele ngobus' emdibini,
Yal' ukudl' umlenze kwaBulawayo.

The expelled one of Zimangele,¹
Who was kicked out by long feet
And by short ones;
The expelled one of Zimangele,
Mzilikazi, son of Mashobana;
The wounded one whom they stabbed with wounds,
Whom they tripped up with short feet
And with big toes.

The doctor who they said was destroyed by the Zulus,
On the contrary he is now fully qualified,
He is qualified through Nyakana, son of Mpeyana.

Splinter which the Zulus splintered and left lying.
Flesh of the otter of Zimangele.
He whose cattle opened the fortress² with their horns,

¹ Stuart suggests that this was probably his sister, but he does not suggest why she should be so distinguished.

For they penetrated the Ngome forest and departed.
Shrill voiced one of Noyanda and Ndaba;
White-spotted one who was seen by his face in a crowd,
Who refused to eat the leg at Bulawayo.³

² An alternative translation is 'He whose cattle started the trouble', for the quarrel between Shaka and Mzilikazi was over cattle. Both translations are appropriate, however: there is a double meaning in the original *zavul'inqaba*, for the cattle that 'started the trouble' were driven through the dense forest and 'opened the fortress' on a hilltop within the Ngome forest. A traitor led Shaka's regiments in at the back, and Mzilikazi fled from Zululand.

³ This praise refers to the fact that he refused to accept the post of headman at Shaka's Bulawayo kraal. If he had accepted it, he would have been entitled to have a leg of all beasts slaughtered there, as his share.