

## ATA NA KHUKENDA

...sikila khabwilabula...

Omwami enyanga, chisaya chikhosia, enyangala ye siku,  
 usamba, ne sikhoba siba simali,  
 Kumkongo kwilocha, kumubili kurenga,  
 khwisundukhila bukhala bwoo orera, mtauni mno nende  
 mnyanja, ne chimoni chitimba.  
 Chinju chabechanga ano—manyile ndi chisili yoo—che taauni  
 ekindi ekhali niyo ochenjile yino ta.

Khukenda khunyanja. Balobi bali tayari na kamaro khucha  
 khuloba,  
 chiinjini chilila, chitaa che kamafura mumaro, etauni emufu  
 yarurire khuloba,  
 basimana batilane kimokhono, ne basumba khabeteya, bamayi  
 nende ba papa, babana balia vinulu,  
 basakhulu balola ne bali khumesa che khayu khe bilio, na bibili  
 bie sisilima bisenda, nga chisang'i chasimana.

Likulu lia akoloba likhosia, bibili nende likinga,  
 kumkhono kwoo kukhesia kwase, nga mmakosa,  
 nge omukhana yuno akendanga ne nase na kubuno kubofu,  
 amwata sikele aembi na aborora sibuno, khachune khalayi  
 khapurukha enyuma,  
 ekokopilo embolu ne kamabeka kang'ona po, chimoni chewe  
 chindayi chichekha.  
 Ekhunywa ewe buwanga, nge esoda, nge kumwenya,  
 nga basakhulu bakhunwechanga kimiaka mindali na mindali.

Etauni yafutukha, lisina lyayo bali *Eleftheria*,  
 na kamatoka koo kali nende lilisi mmoni,  
 lima, chisa chino buwanga buloma na khukhimba kumeenya  
 mumoni mwewe,  
 ali ne buuru bwe khukenda khwikinga, nga umulindi we buwanga  
 bwoo bwibwingila mumoni,

niye ali umusime wa buuru bwe khosoma nga omlia ebuki.

Akoloba esime, buwanga bwe kimika chielfu,  
owe kumwenya wa esauti ekhalimo kamachelesi ta, omukhasi  
yino asimisia,  
nyala naloba ndiena khusima buwanga nibwo orera mtauni mno  
na khu bantu bamenyile mo, buumbanga buli sindi nisio  
butilakho, sibala siosi?  
Nabele omrumwa woo, nibambo sendi omwana woo ta.  
nikomba khukhunywa ewe, nikomba khukhunwa male bulesi na  
buanga bwoo, bulekhule bwewe.

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Richard Berengarten

Liandikwe na / translated by Harrison Misiko

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### **A NOTE ON LUBUKUSU**

Lubukusu is a Bantu language spoken by the Bukusu people of Western Kenya. It is one of the related languages of the Luhya people, and has around 1.2 million speakers. The language is closely related to the Gisu and Masaaba languages of Eastern Uganda, and is mutually intelligible with both of them. Lubukusu has three main variants: in the Kitale region, in the Webuye and Bungoma region, and in the Kakamega and Lugari region. The origin of the language is not known. Written history indicates that the Bukusu ethnic group is among the groups of Bantu peoples who began to migrate eastwards through Uganda to Kenya, from around the 15th and 16th centuries.

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