

أُنُنْزِ وَ جَعْفَرُ
utēnzi wa ja'far
The Ballad of Ja'far

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

(١) بِسْمِ اللَّهِ إِخْوَانِ * پَمُو نَ رَحْمَنِ * نَ الرَّحِيمِ يُونَ * نَدِي يَلَأْنَدَمِي

(1) bismillahi ikhwāni * pamwe na rahmani * na rahimu yuwani * ndiyo yaloandamia
"In the name of God", my friends along with "the Compassionate" and "the Merciful" -- know that that is
what is written first.

(٢) پُلُكَنِ نْدُزَنُغُ * كَهْنَدَ مَتَمَبِرِ يَنْغُ * نَوَپَ خَبَرِ زَنْغُ * قِصَ جَلَنْجَرِي

(2) pulikani nduzangu * kenda matembezi yangu * niwape habari zangu * kisa
chalonijiria

Listen, my brothers -- I went on a journey (let me give you my story, an account of what befell me).

(٣) نِلِ نَنْدَءُ نَدَيْنِ * كَوْلِ نَ مْتُ جُمَبِنِ * مُيْ أَكْمَتَمَنِ * كَوَ حَلَالِ كُرِضِي

(3) nili nendao ndiani * kwali na mtu chumbani¹ * moyo ukamtamani * kwa halali
kuridhia²

I was going along the road, and there was a person in a room, and my heart desired her, [but I wished] to
be gratified lawfully.

(٤) نَ مَهْرِي يُونَ * نَلْمَپَ زِيدَنِ * نَلِنَ پَ چَنْدَنِ * كَوَهَ كُمْفَلِي

(4) na mahariye yuwani * nalompa zaidani * nali na pete³ chandani * kawahi
kumvalia

And know that as for her dowry, which I gave her as well, I had a ring on my finger, and I persuaded her
to wear it.

¹The woman probably went indoors to hide from Ali. The custom is for women to hide from men of their own status. Therefore, if they hide when they see a man coming, the man will be pleased, because it is a compliment to him to be considered of noble status. On the other hand, if the woman does not hide, the man may be angry, because he will think she is looking down on him. Thus, women will not hide from lascivious people, but only from those who aren't, because they are worthy of more respect.

²Ali did not want to sin by committing adultery with her, so he decides to marry in secret – *kuoa kwa siri*. Among the Swahili it is possible to have a secret wife (*mke wa siri*) if it is thought that the first wife or other people would object. An *mke wa siri* has all the rights of an ordinary wife, except that the marriage is not publicised. This custom has certain similarities to one formerly widespread in the Scottish village of Ford (ref req), where the courtship, betrothal and even marriage of the couple were done secretly. Even if it was known that a certain couple were courting, it was considered a breach of etiquette to mention this in public.

³This ring is an important factor in the rest of the story, because it had been given to Ali by his wife Fatima.

(٥) عَلَى كُتُكْ كَوَكْ * أَنْ رَبُّ مِي وَكْ * أَكْنَدَ كَوَ مَكْ وَكْ * مَكْنُ هُمْفُمْبِي

(5) Ali kutoka kwake * una ruba moyo wake * akenda kwa mke wake * mkono humfumbia

When Ali left [the council-place] his heart was troubled. He went to his wife, and clasped her in his arms.

(٦) مَوْنُ بِنْتِ رَسُولِ * يَلِ هَيْتَامَلِ * كَنْدَ مَوْنِي عَقِلِ * خَبَرِ أَكْمَوْمِي

(6) mwana binti rasuli * yale hayataamali⁴ * kanenda mwenye akili * habari akamwambia

The daughter of the Prophet was unaware of these things [until] someone in the know went and told her the news.

(٧) أَكْنَدَ كِزِي * فَاطِمَه أَكْمَوْمِي * شَيْخَ عَلِي أُوزِي * خَبَرِ هُكِسِكِي

(7) akenendaye kizee * Fatima akamwambie * shehe Ali uozee * habari hukisikia
The person who went was an old woman, and she said to Fatima: "Sheikh Ali has got married -- have you heard the news?"

(٨) أَكْفَنِي مَشَوْشَ * فَاطِمَه كَمَكْنَشَ * عَلَامَ كَمُونَشَ * أَتْنُغُ أَكْمُطِي

(8) akafanya mshawasha * Fatima kamkanusha * alama kamuonesha * utungu akamtia

She tried to convince Fatima, but Fatima refused to believe her, but [the old woman] gave her proof, and made her worried.

(٩) مَوْنُ بِنْتِ أَمِينِ * هِي نَدِي يَمَكِنِ * أَلِ نَ پَ چَنْدَنِ * كَوَهَ كُمْفُلِي

(9) Mwana binti Amini * hiyo ndiyo yamkini * ali na pete chandani * kawahi kumfulia

"Lady, daughter of the Trustworthy One, this is true. He had a ring on his finger, and he left it with her."

(١٠) سَجُو كَهَنَ نِ كَوِلِ * مِمِ سِمَتَامَلِ * أَرْدِپْ كَوَ رَسُولِ * پِي تَهْمَزْنَعْتِي

(10) sijui kanena ni kweli * mimi simtaamali * arudipo kwa Rasuli * yeo tamzingatia
"I don't know if I can say that that is true," [said Fatima] I didn't pay him any heed. When he comes back from the Prophet's today, I will ask him.

(١١) أَكْفَنِي هِمَ هِمَ * أَسِيوَزِ فَاطِمَه * حَسَنِ أَكْمُتَمَ * بِيَكُ نَمَكْلِي

(11) akafanya hima hima * asiweze Fatima * Hasani akamtuma * babako namkulia
But Fatima then acted immediately -- she could not restrain herself. She sent Hasan, [saying:] "I am

⁴-taamali, observe

summoning your father."

(١٢) نَمَكُلِي كَوْ سِرٍ * أُسِسِكِي بِشِيرٍ * كِنْدَ أَكْفَسِرٍ * مَبِلَ زَ تُمَوِ نَبِي

(12) namkulia kwa siri * asisikie Bashiri * kenenda akafasiri * mbele za Tumwa Nabia
"I am summoning him secretly, so that the Bearer of Good Tidings does not hear." [But Hasan] went and spoke [openly], in front of the Prophet.

(١٣) كَفَسِرٍ مُعِينٍ * هَمَكُلُو نِيْمَنٍ * أَكِسِكِي أَمِينٍ * عَجَبُ إِكْمَنْغِي

(13) kafasiri muayani * hamkuliwa nyumbani * akisikiya Amini * ajabu ikamngia
He addressed [Ali], the Appointed One, [saying:] "You are wanted at home." When the Trustworthy One heard this he was filled with wonder.

(١٤) أَكْمُوْزَ هَشِمٍ * يَئِ أَنْ فَاطِمَه * هُكُومَكُو كَوْ مِم * نَائِ سِي مَزَوِي

(14) akamuza Hashimi * yeo u nani Fatima * hukwamkua kwa mimi * nayo siyo mazoea

The Hashimite asked [Ali]: "What is the matter with Fatima today? She wants you in a hurry, and that is not like her."

(١٥) عَلِي أَكْنُكَ * أَكْنَدَ كَوْ هَرَكَ * هَتَ نِيْمَنٍ كِفَكَ * مَوْنَ فَاطِمَ هُلِي

(15) Ali akainuka * akanenda kwa haraka * hata nyumbani kifika * Mwana Fatima hulia

Ali got up and went in haste until he arrived home. Lady Fatima was crying.

(١٦) هُرْمَ زَكْمَشِكَ * عَلِي كَشَوَشِكَ * كَمَبَ فَتَمَ يُلِكَ * أُلُنَلُ نَمْبِي

(16) huruma zikamshika * Ali kashawishika * kamba Fatima pulika * ulilonalo nambiya

Ali was seized with pity, and became perplexed. He said, "Fatima, listen -- tell me what's wrong?"

(١٧) أَنْ كِتَوَ هُكُومَ * أَمَ أُمَشِكُو نِ حَمَ * أَكْمَجِبُ فَتَمَ * كَوْ مَرَضِ سِكُلِي

(17) una kitwa hukuuma * ama umeshikwa ni humu * akamjibu Fatima * kwa maradhi sikulia

"Do you have a headache, or have you a temperature?" And Fatima replied, "I am not crying because I am ill."

(١٨) مِم هَبَ نَلِتَكَ * وَو هُنَ هُتَكَ * نَ كَمَ كِهْطَ وَتَكَ * أَسْخَفُ كُنْمَبِي

(18) mimi hapa nalitoka * wewe hunena huteka * na kama kitu utaka * usihofu

kunambia

"When I left here," [said Ali], "you were talking and laughing. And if there's anything you want, don't be afraid to ask me [for it]."

(١٩) وَتَكَ نِنْ نَدِيْنُغُ * نِيْفِدِي رُوْحُ يَنْغُ * مِيْ أُوتِ مَتُنْغُ * نَوِ اَكُمِ كُليْ

(19) wataka nini nduyangu * niifidi roho yangu * moyo uwate matungu * nawe ukome kulia

"What do you want, my dear, that I may save my soul, that your heart will leave aside pain, so that you will stop crying?"

(٢٠) فَتَمِ اَكْتَمَكَ * پِٹْ يَكْ نَيْتَكَ * عَلِيْ اَكْشُتَكَ * هَوْنِ لَ كُمُوْمِيْ

(20) faṭuma akaṭamka * peṭe yako naiṭaka * 'alii akashuṭuka * haoni la kumwambiya
Fatima replied: "I want my ring." Ali was startled -- he could not see what he could tell her.

(٢١) كَشَ عَلِيْ حَيْدَرِ * نِنْ اَلْلَفْسِرِ * اَنِّيْ اَبُوْ بَكْرٍ * تَهَكُوْنَدَ كُتُوْلِيْ

(21) kisha 'alii ḥaydari * neno alilofasiri * āanayo ābuu bakiria * t'kwenda kuṭwaliya
Then Ali the Lion-like, what he told her [was this:] "Abu Bakr has it -- I'll go and fetch it."

(٢٢) پِٹْ يَكْ يَ چَنْدَنْ * اَبُوْ بَكْرٍ سِ كِفَنْ * نِمِٹُوْءَ تَمَكِنْ * كُوْ اَلْيَنْمَبِيْ

(22) peṭe yako ya chandani * abuu bakari si kifani * nimeṭwaa ṭamkini * kwa uliyonambiya

[But Fatima said:] "Your ring is for your finger -- it will not fit Abu Bakr. "I have discovered the real reason for what you told me.

(٢٣) هُنْ مُوْزِيْ وَ پِلِ * مِمِ سِكُتْأَمَلِ * اَنْ نَ مَكَ وَ پِلِ * هَبَرِ نِمِسِكِيْ

(23) hunu mwezi ni wa pili * mimi sikuṭaamali * una na mke wa pili * habari nimesikiya

"This is the second month [that you haven't been wearing the ring] -- I didn't realise it before. "You have a second wife -- I have heard the whole story."

(٢٤) نَأْپَ وَاللّٰهِ نَدِيْنُغُ * نِ وَيْ پُوْكَ مَكَ وَنْغُ * نِ نَنْ عَدُوْ يَنْغُ * هِيْ اَلْنِزْلِيْ

(24) naapa wallāhi nduyangu * ni wee pweke mke wangu * ni nani 'aduwi yangu * huyo alonizuliya

[Ali said:] "I swear to God, dearest -- you are my only wife. Who is this enemy of mine who has told you this lie about me?"

(٢٥) كَمْجِبُ كَو لِسَنِ * مُطِي سِمْبَيْنِ * پُٹ اُمِپِي نَنِ * اُنِپُ تَهَرِضِي

(25) kamjibu kwa lisani * mṭuye simbaini * peṭe umpee nani * unipapo ṭʿariḍiya
She replied with these words: "I will not name that person. Who have you given the ring to? When will you return it to me?"

(٢٦) عَلِي اَكْبَيْنِ * تَهَكُومَبِي تَمَكِنِ * يَلِنَغِي كِسِمَنِ * تَهَكُونَدَ كُكُتْلِي

(26) 'alii akabaini * ṭʿakwambiya ṭamkini * yalingiya kisimani * ṭʿakwenda kukuṭoleya

Ali declared: "I will tell you what really happened. It fell into a well -- I'll go and get it out for you."

(٢٧) هَي نَنِ پُٹ يَكُ * مَهَل اُوِسَپُ * كَم هَي مَتَمَكُ * بِنَغُ سِنُومَبِي

(27) haya nena peṭe yako * mahale uiwesepo * kama haya maṭamko * babangu sinomwambiya

[Fatima said:] "Well, your ring -- say where you have put it. so that these exchanges I don't tell my father [about them]."

(٢٨) عَلِي اَكُوْذِكُ * فَتَمُ كُكْسِرِكُ * اَلِيْنُكَ كَتَكَ * اَكْنَنْدَ كُو نَبِي

(28) 'līi akaudhika * faṭuma kukasirika * aliinuka kaṭoka * akanennda kwa nabiya
Ali was worried that Fatima was angry. He got up and left, and went to the Prophet.

(٢٩) اَكْمُوْزَ هَشَمَ * اَلِ نَنِ فَتَمَ * اَلِكْهَاتُ كَلِمَ * مَتَمُ اَكْمُوْمَبِي

(29) akamuuzā hashima * ali na nini faṭuma * alikʿāṭa kalima * mṭume akamwambiya
The Hashimite asked him: "What was up with Fatima?" [Ali] interrupted him, and told the Prophet:

(٣٠) اَكْمُوْمَبِي شَرِيفُ * فَتَمَ مَنِكَلِفُ * زِيْپُ زِسَزْخُوفُ * زِنَغُ نِمَمْطِلِي

(30) akamwambiya sharīfu * faṭuma menikalifu * ziyapo zisizokhōfu * zingi nimenṭiliya

He told the Noble One: "Fatima is annoyed with me -- things that are not true, I have told her many of them.

(٣١) اَلِكَلِي يَا رَسُوْلَ * نَمِ نِمِئَنْدَ كُوْلَ * كُمُوْبِي سِهْمِلَ * حُوْفُ زَمَنْغِي

(31) alikiliya yā rasūli * nami nimeṭenda kweli * kumwabiya sihimili * ḥōfu zameningiya

He cried, "Oh Prophet! I've really done it now. I haven't the nerve to tell her. I'm filled with fear.

(٣٢) تَنَ إِنْدَ سَيِّدٍ * أُمُونِي أَبْرُدِ * كَيْنُكَ مُحَمَّدٍ * هَپْ كَأْنَدَمَ نَدِينِ

(32) tena enenda sayidi * umuonye aburudi * kainuka muḥamadi * hapo kaandama ndiyani

"So you go, my Lord, and tell her to calm down." Muhammad got up, and then set out on the way [to Fatima's house].

(٣٣) أَكْنَدَ أَكْجَلِسِ * مِيْ أَنْ وَسَوْسِ * كَيْفَنِي كَمَ هَيْسِ * إِنْدِي كُمُونْغَلِي

(33) akenda akajilisi * moyo una wasiwasi * kaifanya kama haisi * äenendee kumwangaliya

He went [to the house] and sat down. His heart was confused, He pretended he knew nothing, [that] he had just come to look in on her.

(٣٤) كَمُولِزَ هَشِمِ * وَلِ نَ نِنِ فَتَمَ * حَسَنِ مَكِي هِمَ * عَلِي كُمُونْدَمِي

(34) kamuuliza hashimi * wali na nini faṭuma * ḥasani mekuya hima * 'alī kumwandamiya

The Hashimite asked her: "Was there anything wrong, Fatima? Hasan came [to us] in a hurry to fetch Ali."

(٣٥) فَتَمَ هَكْكَسِرِ * أَكْمَوْمَبِي نَشِيرِ * عَلِي نَدَكِ هَبَرِ * يُوْ نِمَزِسِكِي

(35) faṭuma hakukasiri * akamwambiya nashīri * 'lii ndake habari * yeo nimezisikiya
Fatima did not hesitate, she told the Bearer of Glad Tidings: "It's news about Ali -- I heard it today."

(٣٦) أَكْمُوْزَ أَمِينِ * نِ كَمَ هَبَرِ عَنِ * أَسْمَنْجَ نِيْمَبِنِ * أَكْجَ أَكْمَأْمَكُوْ

(36) akamuuzā amīni * ni kama habari gani * usimngoje nyumbani * ukaja ukamuamkuwa

The Trustworthy One asked her: "What sort of news is it that you couldn't wait for him at home, but came and fetched him?"

(٣٧) أَكْنَمَ فَتَمَ * كُمْسِتَحَ هَشِمَ * يَلْمَتُكَ كَلِمَ * بِيَكِ أَكْمَوْمَبِي

(37) akainama faṭuma * kumsitāḥi hashima * yalomṭoka kalima * babake akamwambiya

Fatima bowed down to show honour to the Hashimite, and words came tumbling out, and she explained [everything] to her father.

(٣٨) يَوْتَ مَنَنْ هَي * أَسِطَّ نَ مُمِي * أَكْرُدِشَ كِلِي * فَاطِمَةَ الزَّهْرِيَّةِ

(38) yawate maneno hayo * usiṭete na mumeo * akarudisha kiliyo * fāṭimaṭ zzahrīyaṭ
"Leave off these words," [he said]. "Don't quarrel with your husband." And he comforted her, Fatima the

Radiant.

(٣٩) أَكْمَوْمِي مَوْنَعُ * أَتَكِبْ رَضَ يَنْعُ * نِ هَي مَنُ يَنْعُ * تَو أَكَيْسِي
(39) akamwambiya mwanangu * utakapo radi yangu * ni haya maneno yangu * tuwa
ukiyasikiya

He told her, "My child, if you want my esteem, this is my advice -- you know, if you'll listen to it."

(٤٠) كُتَكَ كَوَكْ فَتَمَ * يَلْ أَكَيْسُكُمَ * كِشْ كَفْطَ كَلِمَ * بَيْكَ أَكْمَوْمِي
(40) kutoka kwake faṭuma * yale akayasukuma * kisha kavuṭa kalima * babake
akamwambiya

For her part, Fatima weighed those [words] carefully, then she spoke some words, and told her father:

(٤١) أَكْمَوْمِي بَيْنَعُ * تُنْ نِ مُم وَنَعُ * كَبَسَ مَوْفُ يَنْعُ * سِ مَوْنِي كُجْنَدَلِي
(41) akamwambiya babangu * ṭunani na mume wangu * kabisa maovu yangu * si
mwenye kuchendeleya

She said, "Father, what quarrel do I have with my husband? [It was] my fault entirely, and I am not going to continue with it."

(٤٢) نِ مَتْ أَلْنَعْرِ * سَسَ نِمْفِكِرَ * هَظْجَنْدَلِي خَيْرَ * هَوَزِ كُتُونْغَلِي
(42) na mṭu aloniğuri * sasa nimefikiri * haṭuchendelei khēri * hawezi kuṭwangaliya
"And the person who deceived me -- now I have realised she did not want good fortune for us -- she couldn't look at us [without envy]."

(٤٣) تَنْ هُضُمُ مَيْنَ * مْطِي نِ شَيْطَانِ * مَلَنَوَ مَلْعُونِ * نِيَهَ مَبْقُ كُنْيِي
(43) ṭena huḍumu moyoni * mṭuye ni shayṭāni * mlaniwa mal'ūni * niyah mbovu
kuniṭiya

And the conclusion in my heart [is that] that person was the Devil, the Cursed One, the Damned One, planting evil intentions in me.

(٤٤) هَي نِمِيَجِتُمْ * نِ مَنَعِنَ تَهْنُظُمْ * جَمِيعَ مَيْفَهَمْ * نِمِچَنْدَ كَوْمِي
(44) haya nimeyajitimu * na mengine ṭ'anuzumu * jamī'i muyafahamu * nimechenda
kuwambiya

*I have completed these [things], and I will put others into verse, so that all of you may understand them --
I have gone on now to tell you.*

(٤٥) فَهَمُنْ وَوُنْغُونْ * يُوْ نَوْبَ مَعَنْ * پُٹ يَنْغُ ي عَيْنَ * حُجْ نَلُّوتِي

(45) fahamuni waungwana * yeo niwape ma'ana * peṭe yangu ī 'ayna * ḥuja
naloiwatiya

Pay attention, noble [listeners], so that today I may give you an explanation [about] my distinctive ring
-- why I left it behind.

(٤٦) نَلُّوتَ قَصِدِ * سِ مَهَبْ كُنَزِدِ * مَرَّ هُزَاءَ وَلَدِ * أَصِلِ إِكْطِي

(46) naliwata qasidi * si mahaba kunizidi * mara huzaa walidi * aṣili ikapoṭiya

I left it for the purpose, not of increasing [her] love for me, [but lest] once the child was born, its heritage
should be lost.

(٤٧) بَسِ نَلْيَفِكِرِ * نَدِي يَتِ يَلْجِرِ * أَكْزَوَ جَعْفَرِ * وَ مَوْلَانَا عَلِي

(47) basi naloyafikiri * ndiyo yote yalojiri * akazawa ja'fari * wa mawlānā 'aliya

Indeed, what I had supposed was exactly what happened. Jaafar wa born, [son of] Lord Ali.

(٤٨) أَكْسِنَغَ كِجَنَ * نَ بَيْكَ وَ كِفَنَ * كُلُّ الْكِمُونِ * صُورَ زَ لِكِمَوْمِي

(48) akaisinga kijana * na babake wa kifana * kula alokimuona * ṣūra za
likimwambiya

The boy grew up resembling his father. [To] everyone who saw him, his features said who he was.

(٤٩) وَطٌ وَلِكِنْكُرِ * عَلَى هَنَ هَبَرِ * هَتَ مُمِي كُو سِرِ * أَكْفَكَ كُمَوْمِي

(49) waṭu walikinukuri * 'alii hana habari * haṭa mmoya kwa siri * āaakafika
kumwambiya

People constantly referred to it, [but] Ali knew nothing of it until one person secretly arrived to tell him.

(٥٠) أَلَيْبِنْدَ مَنَانِ * كَمُونُ مُعَيْنِ * كُنَ كِسِمَ مَوْتُنِ * أَكْنَدَ كُجَنْغَلِي

(50) alipopenda manāni * kamuona mu'ayani * kuna kisima mwiṭuni * akenda
kuchangaliya

When it pleased Providence [Ali], the Appointed One, saw him. There was a well in the forest, and [Ali]
went to examine it.

(٥١) نَاءِ أَكْنَدَ كُو شَكَ * مَاءِ أَسِيَّتَكَ * نَاءِ الْكِفُنِكَ * كِوزِ أَكِنْجَدِي

(51) nae akenda kwa shaka * mai asipoyataka * nae alikifunika * kiwazi akichendeya
And he went from suspicion, not wanting water. [Although] he had [earlier] covered it, it was open when
he got there.

(٥٢) هَپْ عَلَي حَيْدَرِ * كَوَزَ نَ كُفِيرِ * وَمَكِي مَكْفِرِ * يُو كُنْفُنْلِي

(52) hapo 'alii haydari * kiwaza na kufikiri * wamekuya makafiri * yeo kunifunuliya
So Ali the Lion-like pondered and considered. "Infidels have come here to uncover it today in spite of me."

(٥٣) كِشَ أَكْتَمَكَ * نَ يُو تَهْكَفُنِكَ * سِنَ بَدِ تَهْمَشِكَ * مْطِي أَمْزُوي

(53) kisha akatamka * na yeo t'akifunika * sina badi t'amshika * mṭuye amezoweya
Then he said, "I will cover it again today, and doubtless I will catch that person who is behaving like that."

(٥٤) أَجُنْدَكَ هُكُ نِيْمَ * جَعْفَرِ كَيْغَمَ * لَلِ نَاءِ كَسُكُمَ * مَبَلِ أَكَلْتَلِي

(54) achondoka huku nyuma * ja'fari kaegema * lile nao kasukuma * mbali akalatiliya
When he had gone off [to hide] behind it, Jaafari approached, pushed off the plank [covering the well], and threw it far away.

(٥٥) مَبُزِ وَكَنُو كَوِ هِمَ * جَعْفَرِ أَكَلِكُ نِيْمَ * كِشَ نَاءِ كَيْغَمَ * عَلِي هُمُونْغَلِي

(55) mbuzi wakanwa kwa hima * ja'fari ukaliko nyuma * kisha nae kaegema * 'alii humwangaliya

His goats drank greedily and Jaafar was there behind them. Then he too came forward, and Ali watched him.

(٥٦) أَپْغَمَ كُرْدِدِ * تُتْصِنْدَنَ قَصِدِ * كَوَ نَدَ يُو أَكِرْدِ * هَلْدِرِكِ أَكِي

(56) apegema kuradiḍi * tuṭaṣindana qaṣiḍi * kwa nda yeo akiruḍi * halidiriki akiya
Jaafar approached, saying: "We will compete tit-for-tat -- and if it's today that he comes back, he will not find [the plank] when he gets here."

(٥٧) چَمَبَ هُفْنِي نِ بَرِ * أَيُّپْ أَتَنْكِرِ * هِلِ لِيْطِ بَنْدَرِ * نَغْطِ تَهْمَفْنِكِي

(57) chamba hufanya ni biri * ayapo atanikiri * hili lipete bandari * ngoṭe t'amfinikiya

He was saying: "If he is challenging me, when he gets here he will submit to me. I'm at the end of my tether -- I'll teach him a lesson."

(٥٨) مَاءِ كُتِكَ كُتِكَ * نَ عَلَي أَكْتُكَ * مَكْنُ أَكْمَصِكَ * جَعْفَرِ كَمَوْمَبِي

(58) mai kaṭika kuṭeka * na 'alii akatoka * mkono akamṣika * ja'fari kamwambiya
[But] while he was drawing water, Ali came out [of hiding] and grabbed him by the arm. Jaafari said to him:

(٥٩) وَوَهْنِشِكِينَ * مِم سِكُحِ سِنَنِ * هَتَ أُكُونِ جِنِ * نَيُّو كُكُسْمِي

(59) wewe hunishikiyani * mimi sikuchi sinani * haṭa ukiwa ni jini * nayuwa kukusomeya

"Why are you grabbing hold of me? I'm not in the least afraid of you. Even if you were a djinn I would know how to read [the Qur'an] against you.

(٦٠) هَي نِمَزْفَسِرِ * سِكِينَن كُو سِرِ * أُكِتَكَ أَظْهَرِ * نَ زَيْدِ تَهَكُومِي

(60) haya nimezofasiri * sikuyanena kwa siri * ukiṭaka aḡhari * na zaydī ṭ'akwambiya

"These [things] I have said, I have not spoken secretly -- if you want it in plain terms I will say even more to you."

(٦١) كَمُغُطِي كُو مَبَلِ * وَكَوَنَ سَاءَ مَبَلِ * كِشَ كُغُتَ قَوْلِ * جَعْفَرِ كَمُومِي

(61) kamguṭiya kwa mbali * wakawana saa mbili * kisha kaguṭa qawli * ja'fari kamwambiya

He attacked Ali repeatedly, and they fought for two hours. Then he paused, and Jaafar spoke to him.

(٦٢) كَمُومِي مَبِينِ * مَوْنَ آدُمُ نَنَنِ * بَبَ هَكَ دُونِنِ * نَدِپَ أَكُونِي

(62) kamwambiya mbaini * mwana ḡamu nnani * baba hako ḡuniyani * ndipo ukanioneya

He spoke to him and said: "What sort of person are you? [My] father is no longer in this world, and that is why you are bullying me."

(٦٣) كَمُؤَزَ هُنَنَنِ * وَوِ بِيَكُ نِ نَنِ * كَمَبَ نِ پِ چَنَدَنِ * عَلِي كِينْغَلِي

(63) kamuoza hunenani * wewe babako ni nani * kamba ni peṭe chandani * 'alii kayangaliya

[Ali] asked him: "What are you saying? Who is your father? [Jaafar] said: "He is the ring on my finger." Ali looked at it.

(٦٤) پِ كُئِينَ كُوكِ * كِسَمَ نَ جِنَ لَكِ * أَرْدِ أُسِكِتِكَ * نَ مِيْتُ كُمَنْغِي

(64) peṭe kuiyona kwake * kisoma na jina lake * aruḡi asikiṭike * na mayuṭo kumngiya

Once he saw the ring and read his name [on it], he stepped back greatly saddened and was filled with remorse.

(٦٥) كِشَ هَبْ أَمُومِي * سِنْغَلِكُپِيْجِي * إِنْ لَكَ هُيُتُوي * بِيَكُ نَدِي عَلِي

(65) kisha hapo amwambie * singalikupijie * ina lako huitwaye * babako ndiye 'aliya

Then he told [Jaafar]: "I should not have attacked you. As for the name you are to be called, your father is [me], Ali.

(٦٦) نِنْغَلِيْتَر دَمُ * كَم سِكُكُفَهَمُ * أَكِشَ كَتَكَلَمُ * جَعْفَرِ كَمُومِي
(66) ningalipoteza damu * kama sikukufahamu * akisha katakalamu * ja'fari
kamwambiya

I would have spilt your blood if I had not recognised you." When he finished speaking, Jaafar spoke to him:

(٦٧) وَو مْتُ هُمُونُ * هُمُوزِ لَكَ إِن * هُجُونُ أَجَعِنُ * أَلُونُ تَهَكَمِي
(67) wewe mṭu humuona * humuuzi lake ina * hujiona ujagina * uliona t'akambiya
"When you see someone, you don't even ask his name. You see yourself as a bruise, and you thought I would run away.

(٦٨) كُونَزِ نِيْ پِ يَنْغُ * إِنُكَاوُ بِيَنْغُ * هُنْغَلِوزِ مَتْنُغُ * مَوْلِيْ كُيْطِي
(68) kwanza nipa peṭe yangu * inukaewe babangu * hungaliweze maṭungu * mwilini
kuniṭiya
First, give me back my ring, and get up, father -- you would not have been able to inflict injuries on my body.

(٦٩) أَكَمُومِي مَمَكُ * نَمِيُو سُرَ زَكُ * نَاءِ هَپْ أَتَمَكُ * إِن لَكَ أُمُومِي
(69) akamwambiya mamake * namuyuwa sura zake * nae hapo aṭamke * ina lake
amwambiye
He told him [who] his mother [was]: "I recognise her features." And then [Jaafar] spoke in order to tell [Ali] his name.

(٧٠) كِمُومِي كَفَسِرِ * مِم هُيْتُو جَعْفَرِ * وَ عَلِي حَيْدَرِ * نَ مَوَكُ نِ وَ تِسِي
(70) kimwambiya kafasiri * mimi huitwa ja'fari * wa 'alii ḥayḍari * na mwaka ni wa
tisiya
[He spoke, saying: "I am called Jaafar, [son] of Ali the Lion-like and I am nine years old."

(٧١) وَتُو مَبَزِ مَوْنِ * نَ أَوِيْكَ عَدِيْنِ * تُوْنَدِ زُطْ مِيْنِ * جَعْفَرِ كَمُومِي
(71) waṭowe mbuzi mwiṭuni * na uwapeke ngḍiyani * ṭwenende zeṭu muini * ja'fari
kamwambiya
"Bring your goats out of the forest," [said Ali], "and herd them along the road so that we may go on towards our town." But Jaafar spoke to him.

(٧٢) كَمُومِي نَدَ زَنْغُ * نِنَ نَ مَوْلِمُ وَنْغُ * نِمُوْغُ نَ مَمَنْغُ * كِشَ كِشَ نِتْكِ
(72) kamambiya nenda zangu * nina na mwalimu wangu * nimuwage na mamangu *

kisha kesho nitakuya

He told him: "I am going off -- I have my teacher whom I must take leave of, and my mother. Then I will come tomorrow."

(٧٣) كَشْ كُكِيْمَبُوْكَ * نَ مِيْمَ يِيْنُكَ * سَاءَ مِيْ اِكْفِكَ * بَبْ يَكُوْصِلِيْ

(73) kesho kukipambauka * na mapima yainuka * saa moya ikifika * baba yakuwaṣiliya

"When tomorrow has dawned, I will get up early, and when the first hour comes I will arrive with you, father."

(٧٤) اَكْمَطِبُ قَوْلِ * اَيْبُ نَدِيْ يَ مَبَلِ * يَ مَكَهْ نِ يَ كُؤْلِ * اُسْتَكْ كُؤْتِيْ

(74) akamṭibu qawli * uyapo ndiya ya mbali * ya makah ni ya kuquli * usitake kupoteya

Ali gave him some advice: "When you come to the fork in the road, the way to Mecca is the one on the right -- just so you don't get lost."

(٧٥) كُمُرُدِشِيْ تَمَكْ * نَسِ هِيْ نَدَ زَكْ * مَوْلِمُ نَ مَمَكْ * نَ نَدُزُ نِسْلِيْمِيْ

(75) kumrudishiya tamko * nasi haya nenda zako * mwalimu na mamako * na nduzo nisalimiya

He wished Jaafar well: "So, now, off you go, the teacher and your mother and your relatives -- give them my best wishes."

(٧٦) نَاءِ مَوْنٍ وَ نَسَبِ * كَمُوْمَبِيْ مَرَحَبَا * نَمِ مُكْ اَقْرَبِ * اُنْدَ نِسْلِيْمِيْ

(76) nae mwana wa nasaba * kamwambiya marḥabā * nami muko aqraba * upenda nisalimiya

And [Jaafar], a polite child, told him: "Thank you. And from me to your relatives there, kindly give them my regards."

(٧٧) سَلَامُ اَبُوْ بَكْرٍ * اَزْوَاجِ نَ ذُرِيْ * سُرَاءُ نَ اِظْهَارِ * هُوْ نَوْفَهَمِيْ

(77) salāmu abuu bakari * azwāji na dhuriya * suzao na izḥāri * hao nawafahamiya
Greetings to Abu Bakr, your wives and children, both close and extended family -- I am thinking of them."

(٧٨) نَسِ هَيْ جَعْفَرِ * اَكْمُوْمَبِيْ كُوْ هِرِ * نَ عَلِيْ حَيْدَرِ * مَنَعُ اَكْمُوْمَبِيْ

(78) nasi hapo ja'fari * akamwambiya kwa heri * na 'alii ḥaydari * mngu akamuombeya

So then Jaafar said goodbye to him, and Ali the Lion-like prayed to God for him.

(٧٩) مُنِ كُنْغِي كُوكُ * كَنَدَ كُو مَوْلِمُ وَكُ * كَمَپَ هَبَرَ زَكُ * كُوْءُ هَيْسِكِلِي
 (79) muini kungiya kwake * kenda kwa mwalimu wake * kampa habari zake * kwao
 hayasikiliya

When [Jaafar] entered his village he went to his teacher's house, and gave him his news -- [the teacher] had not yet heard it there.

(٨٠) أَكِشَ كُيْنُظُمُ * أَكَلِي مُعَلِّمُ * كَمَبَ وَنِطِي هَمُ * هَپُ أُمَزَنْمَبِي
 (80) akisha kuyanuzuma * akaliya mu'alimu * kamba waniṭiya hamu * hapo
 umezonambiya

When he had finished explaining [everything], the teacher wept, and said, "You are making me sad with what you have told me here."

(٨١) وَنِطِي سِكِتِكُ * نَ وَنِغَ وَ مَوْذِكُ * وَلَ نَ هُكُ وَنَدَكُ * سَوِرَ كُكُزَوِي
 (81) ewaniṭiya sikitiko * na wingi wa maudhiko * wala na huko wendako * siwezi
 kukuziwiya

"You are bringing me worry, and many concerns. Yet that place you are going to -- I cannot keep you back from it."

(٨٢) سِ رَحِمُ كُئِنْدَنِ * نَ هُكُ أَ حَلِ غَنِ * نَاءِ بِيَكُ زِئْنِ * نَدِي وَ كُئِنْغَلِي
 (82) si raḥimu kuendani * na huko u ḥali gani * nae babako ziṭani * ndiye wa
 kuṭanguliya

"It is not easy to go there, and what sort of situation will you be in there, with your father at war, always in the front line?"

(٨٣) نَ كُكِكِنْدَ سِتَكُ * كُونِ نِيَوِ نِ هَكُ * نِ رَضِ الْفُلَكِ * نَ زَيْدِ كِكُوْطِي
 (83) na kukikinda sitaki * kwani nayuwa ni haki * ni raḍi alofulaki * na zayḍi
 kikweṭeya

Yet I don't intend to oppose it, because I know it is proper. What [Ali] explained was right, and the other things he told you."

(٨٤) أَكَمَوْمَبِي مَوْلِمُ * مَمَكُ أَيَفَهَمُ * كَمَجِبِشَ كَلِمُ * كُوكُ سَيْسِكِلِي
 (84) akamwambiya mwalimu * mamako ayafahamu * kamjibisha kalimu * kwake
 siyasikiliya

The teacher asked him: "Is your mother aware of these [things]?" And [Jaafar] answered him: "I have not yet heard from her place."

(٨٥) كَوْمَبِي إِنْ دَ زَكَ * أَكْمُولِزِ مَمَكَ * أُسِكِرِ مَتَمَكَ * نَاءِ تَكَلْكَومَبِي

(85) kawambiya enda zako * ukamuuliza mamako * usikize matamko * nae takalokwambiya

And [the teacher] told him: "Off you go, and ask your mother. Pay heed to the things that she will tell you."

(٨٦) كِشَ هِي كَلِمَ * هَبْ نَدِي كَيْنَدَمَ * مُيْ أَنْ هَلِمَمَ * كَو مَمَكَ أَكِنَغِي

(86) akisha hiyo kalima * hapo ndiya kayandama * moyo una halimama * kwa mamake akingiya

Once [the teacher] had finished these words, [Jaafar] then continued on his way. His heart was beating fast as he went in to his mother.

(٨٧) كِنَغِي كَوَكْ كِبْ * كَو أُيْلِ نَ تَرْتَبْ * مَمَكَ كَتَعَجَبْ * جَعْفَرِ

أَكْمَوْمَبِي

(87) kingiya kaweka kibu * kkwa upoli na taratibu * mamake kaṭa'ajabu * ja'fari akamwambiya

When he went in he put his stick away quietly and carefully. His mother was surprised, and spoke to Jaafar.

(٨٨) كَمَبَ سِو جَعْفَرِ * وَطُونَشَ جَوْرَ * هُنَغِي كَمَ كَو سِرَ * مَتْ أَمَزْكَمَبِي

(88) kamba siwe ja'fari * waṭuonesha jawri * hungiya kama kwa siri * mṭu amezokimbiya

She said: "That's not [like] you, Jaafar -- are you being showing impudence to us, entering as if secretly, [like] a person who is running away?"

(٨٩) نَاصِرِ نِ نَدُغْ يَكْ * پَ هَبْ أَتَمَكَ * عَيْنِ يَ مَنْ يَكْ * هَتَكَ

كُتُونَعَلِي

(89) nāṣiri ni ndugu yake * papo hapo aṭamke * 'ayni ya mano yake * haṭaki kuṭwangaliya

Nasir was [Jaafar's] brother, and at that moment he spoke: "To judge by his eyes, he doesn't want to look at us."

(٩٠) إِي مِمِ سُوذِكْ * تَكَوْمَبِي حُجَ يَكْ * يُوْ أَنْ مَبُزِ وَكْ * وَوَلِ وَمِبَتِي

(90) ewe mimi siudhike * ṭakwambiya ḥuja yake * yeo una mbuzi wake * wawili wamepoṭeya

"Don't worry -- I'll tell you [the reason]: today, his goats, two of them went missing."

(٩١) وَمَتَكَ صَفْنِ * مَوْتَنَغَ هَوُونِ * كِشَ أَتَكَ مَوُونِ * يُو نِ كَلِ لَنْدِي

(91) wametoka şafuni * mewatanga hawaoni * kisha atoka mwiṭuni * yuwa ni kali landiya

"They left the herd, they went off and he couldn't find them. And as well he's just back from the forest -- the sun is fierce on the journey."

(٩٢) كَتْنِكَ جَعْفَرِ * أَكْمِجِ نَاصِرِ * زِتَكْتِكَ جُورِ * يُو نِكُونْغَلِي

(92) kainuka ja'fari * akampija nāşiri * zitaḱutok jeuri * yeo nikikwangaliya

Jaafari got up and hit Nasir: "your impudence will leave you today, I'll see to it."

(٩٣) هَپْ مَمَ أُسِكِرِ * كَمَشِكَ جَعْفَرِ * إَوِپْ نِ مِي نَاصِرِ * هَپْ سِنْغَلِكِمْبِي

(93) hapo mama asikiri * kamshika ja'fari * iwapo ni mii nāşiri * hapo singelikimbiya

But his mother would have none of that, and grabbed Jaafar, [and said:] "If I were you, Nasir, I would not have run away just now."

(٩٤) نَاصِرِ نِ نَدُغُ يَكْ * مَوْنَنُغُ مَطُّ وَكْ * كِشَ نِ عَوْنِ هَكْ * وَتَكُمُتَنْغَلِي

(94) nāşiri ni ndugu yako * mwanangu mṭoṭo wako * kisha ni 'awni hako * wataḱumṭanguliya

[To Jaafar she said:] "Nasir is your brother, my son, your younger brother -- you can depend on him, so don't attack him."

(٩٥) أَلِئْنَمِي تِنِ * أَكُولُزَوِ هَنِ نِ * يَمَكُپْتَ مَوْنَدَنِ * هَيِ نِمَزُكُومْبِي

(95) aliinamiya ṭini * akiulizwa haneni * yamekupaṭa mwendani * haya nimezokwambiya

[Jaafar] lay down -- he did not answer when spoken to. [Nasir said:] "It was right on the mark, my friend, what I said to you."

(٩٦) هَپْ مَمَكِ أَجِبْ * نَاصِرِ هُتَادَابُ * كَوِوِوِ نِ هَرَبْ * نَمِ نَيَوِ طَبِي

(96) hapo mamake ajibu * nāşiri huṭaḱabu * kiwa wewe ni harabu * nami nayuwa ṭabiya

Then his mother retorted: "You are ill-mannered, Nasir -- whenever you are impudent I can tell from your behaviour."

(٩٧) نَتَكَ زَكْ هَبَرِ * هَيِ نِبِ جَعْفَرِ * أَسُ أُسِمَمِ هَرِ * صُورَ زِمَكُپْتِي

(97) nataḱa zako habari * haya nipa ja'fari * uso usimeme hari * şūra zimekupoteya

[She told Jaafar:] I want [to hear] your news, tell it to me, Jaafar. Your face is flushed, and your bearing is different."

(٩٨) جَعْفَرِ أَكْبَيْنِ * وَتَكَ هَبَرِ غَنِ * نِكُومْبِي لُغَه غَنِ * كُوكُ إِوْ نَ بِي

(98) ja'fari akabaini * wataka habari gani * nikwambiya lugha gani * kwako iwe na piya

Jaafar said: "What news do you want? In what language should I tell you, so that it will be new to you?"

(٩٩) كِكُومْبِي كِعَرَبُ * نِيُو أُتَجِبُ * تَنْ نُونُ عَجَبُ * مِمِ مُونِيُو كُكُومْبِي

(99) kikwambiya ki'arabu * nayuwa utanjibu * tena naona 'ajabu * mimi mwenyewe kukwambiya

"If I tell you in Arabic I know you will answer me. Again, I feel amazement, even as I myself speak to you."

(١٠٠) كِكُؤُلِزِ أَلِكُ * بَبِ هُنْمَبِي هَكُ * يَنْعُ نَنْ مِمَبِ يَكُ * أَلْفَرِكُ دُنْبِي

(100) kikuuliza aliko * baba hunambiya hako * yangu nina mimba yako * alifariki duuniya

"If I ask you where he is, my father, you tell me he is not here. When I was still pregnant with you (you say), he passed away from this world."

(١٠١) كِكُومْبِي يُمْنِ * أُتْعُوزَ مَنَعْنِ * أَتَنْمَبِي وَ فَنِ * خَيْرِ كُنَيْمَزِي

(101) kikwambiya yumuini * utageuza mangine * utanambiya wa fene * khēri kuinyamaziya

"If I tell you he is in the town, you will change your words -- you will tell me [I've seen someone who] looks like him, and that it's best to keep quiet about it."

(١٠٢) وَوِ هِيَوِ فَرِسِ * وَلَ مَكَه هُكُئِسِ * وَنَدَلِبِ مَجَلِسِ * أَكُمُونِ عَلِي

(102) wewe huyawa farisi * wala makah hukuisi * wendelepi majlisi * ukamuona 'aliya

[His mother said:] "You have not yet been to Persia, nor do you know Mecca -- which people did you go among, that you saw Ali?"

(١٠٣) جَعْفَرِ كَبَيْنِ * ثُمُونَنَ مَوْتَنَ * صِفَ زَكِ مُعَيْنَ * أَكِتَكَ نَكُومْبِي

(103) ja'fari kabaini * tumeonana mwiṭuni * shifa zake mu'ayani * ukitaka nakwambiya

Jaafar said: "We met in the forest -- the Appointed One's description, if you want it, I will tell you."

(١٠٤) نِسِكِرَ نِرَدِدِ * كَوِ سِيْ أَنْرُدِ * كِمِ چَاكِ هَكِرِدِ * كَمِ چَنْغُ أَنْغَلِي

(104) nisikiza niradidi * kiwa siyo unirudi * kimo chake hakizidi * kama changu

angaliya

"Listen to me, let me answer -- if I am wrong, correct me -- his build is not much more than my own, look."

(١٠٥) نَ لَ پِلِ نِبَيْنِ * نِيِي زَكْ زَ كِتَوْنِ * مَكْمِي أُپَانِ * نَ كَمَ سِي نَمْبِي

(105) na la pili nibaini * nyee zake za kitwani * makumeya upani * na kama siyo nambiya

"And let me tell you the second thing: the hair on his head does not cover his crown, and if that is not so, tell me."

(١٠٦) نَ يَ تَاتُ أَفْهَمُ * أَنْ تُنْذِي كُرْمُ * صِفَ زَكْ زَمِيمُ * نَ هِزُ نِمَكُومِي

(106) na ya tātu ufahamu * una tundu ya kuzimu * şifa zake zemeyimu * na hizo nimekwambiya

"And know the third thing: he has a hole [leading to the] Underworld (?). His description is finished, and I have told you these things."

(١٠٧) نَ زَ عَوْفُ وَ مَنُ * كِشَ نَ جَعَنَ مَنُ * نَ أَكْتَكَ مَفَنُ * هُنُ

نِمَكُيَجَنُ

(107) ni za 'ufu wa maneno * kisha ni jagina mno * na ukitaka mfano * hunu nimekupijina

"He is courteous of speech, and further, he is a great warrior. If you want a likeness of him, I have given you this one."

(١٠٨) هِي أَنْمَبِرُ يُو * نَ كُولِ نَدِي يَلِي * نِبَ جِنْسِ يَوْءُو * هَتَ كُمْفَهَمِي

(108) hayo unambizi yeo * ni kweli ndiyo yaliyo * nipa jinsi yaweeo * haṭa kumfahamiya

[His mother said:] "These things you have told me today are indeed exactly correct. Tell me how it happened that you came to recognise him."

(١٠٩) تَكُپَ تَنْغُ أَوَّلِ * هِكْ چَكْ نَ ثَقَلِ * كِتَنْغَ مَاءِ نَ غَالِ * نِكْتَكَسَ نَ

نَدِي

(109) takupa tangu awali * hiki chaka ni thaqili * kitanga mai ni gāli * nikatakasa na ndiya

[Jaafar said:] "I will give you [the whole story] from the beginning. This drought was severe, and finding water was hard, so I set out along the road."

(١١٠) صَدِيقِ يَنْغُ قَوْلِ * نِمَتَنْغَ بَرِ هِلِ * مَاءَ هَپَنَ مَهَلِ * نَ خَيْرِ كِرْدِي

(110) şadiqi yangu qawli * nimeṭanga bara hili * maa hapana mahali * ni khēri

kairudiya

"Believe my words: I wandered around in the hinterland, but there was no water anywhere, [and I thought] I'd better come back."

(١١١) هِنْدَ هِوَزَ مَيْنِ * نِنْدَ جَنْبُ غَنِ * كُونُ وَتُ وَنْغَنِ * وَتُ وَنْدِمَ نَدِي
(111) henda hiwaza moyoni * nenende janibu gani * kuona waṭu wengine * waṭaṭu wendeme ndiya

As I went along, pondering in my heart which direction I should take, I saw some people, three of them, coming along the road."

(١١٢) كَوْنُ وَكُ مَبَلِ * كِنَ نَيْمُهِلِ * مَرِ نِكْوَصِلِ * مَاءَ وَنْنِمِي
(112) kawaona wako mbali * kinena naimuhuli * mara nikiwaṣili * maa waninimbiya
"I saw them when they were far off, and I said to myself that I should wait -- once I arrive [by them] they may tell me [where to find] water."

(١١٣) پَنِ كِفْلِ كِنِيسَ * هَتَ نَاءُ وَكِطَ * نَوُونِ وَكِئَسَ * سَلَامُ كَوِيسِي
(113) pana kivuli kinyesa * haṭa nao wakapiṭa * niwawene wakinusa * salāmu kawapisiya

Waiting there in the shade until they passed, I saw them approach and greeted them.

(١١٤) كَمَبَ مَوْنَدَپِ مَتِ * كِكِ نِ كِئُغَ كِطَ * هَلِ نَدْنِ مُكَيْتِ * لَيْطِ
كُيْنْدُكِي

(114) kamba mwendapi maṭiṭi * kiki ni kipungu kaṭi * hela ndoni mukēṭi * lipaṭe kupindukiya

I said: "Where are you going in such a hurry? This is high noon -- why don't you come and sit down until the sun goes down a bit?"

(١١٥) نَ هِلِ يُو سِ زُرِ * كُئْنَدَمَ نِ خَطَرِ * وَلِ زُو سِ أَخِرِ * كَمَ مُتَلِمَطِي
(115) na hili yuwa si zuri * kulandama ni khaṭari * wala zeo si akhiri * kama muṭalimaṭiya

"And this sun is not good for you -- to go out in it is dangerous, nor is the time so late that you will be delayed [if you stop here]."

(١١٦) وَكِسِكِي كَلِمَ * وَكِزُنْغِكِي نَيْمَ * وَوَلِ وَكِسَمَمَ * مُمِي كَنْطَلِي
(116) wakisikiya kalima * wakizungukiya nyuma * wawili wakasimama * mmoya kaniṭiliya

When they heard my words, they turned round. Two stood where they were, and one came up to me.

(١١٧) أَكْبَجَ أَكْبَيْنَ * كَنْوَزَ نَدُو نَن * أَوْ وَتُتَكَيْنَ * خَطَرَ كُتْفِكِي

(117) akija akabaini * kaniuza ndiwe nani * aw waṭuṭakiyani * khaṭari kuṭufikiya
When he came over he spoke, and asked me: "Who are you? And why are you concerned about danger to us?"

(١١٨) سِسِ هُتْشِكَ يَكُ * وَلَ سِ نَدُغُ زَكُ * أُتْطِي مَتَمَكُ * يَپَسَنِ كُتْوَمِي

(118) sisi haṭushika yako * wala si ndugu zako * ueṭayo maṭamko * yapeseni kuṭwambiya
"We do not need your [advice] -- we are not relatives of yours. The words you have spoken, what good is it to tell us them?"

(١١٩) وَوِ نِ مَوْنَ آدَمُ * نِ مَيْتَزَ قَوْمُ * تْوَمِي تْكَفَهُمُ * كَوْنَدَ تْوِ طِي

(119) wewe ni mwana damu * ni mpoteza qawmu * ṭwambiye ṭukafahamu * kwanda ṭuyawe ṭabiya
"Are you a human being, [or] are you [a spirit] who makes people lose their way? Tell us so that we may understand, so that we may immediately know your character."

(١٢٠) كَوَجِبِشَ قَوْلِ * نِ دِينَ يَكُ رَسُولِ * كَوِ وَوِ نِ جَمَلِ * مَبِلَ زَنْعُ
نَنْدُكِي

(120) kawajibisha qawli * ni dīni yake rasūli * kiwa wewe ni jamili * mbele zangu nondokeya
I answered them with the words: [My religion] is that of the Prophet --- if you are an unbeliever, go away from in front of me."

(١٢١) كِسِكِي هُفَسِرِ * هُمُوْتَ أَبُو بَكْرٍ * نَدُو وَوِ نِ زُبَيْرِ * وَتَ وَوِلِ وَكِي

(121) kisikiya hufasiri * humwiṭa abuu bakari * ndoo wewe na zubayri * wote wawili wakaya
And I heard him speak and call: "Abu Bakr, come here, and you Zubeir!" And both of them came over.

(١٢٢) وَكِي وَكَسِمَمَ * أُسْ وَكِتْزَمَ * كَمَبَ مُكِمَفَهُمَ * وَجِهَ وَكَ نَبِي

(122) wakaya wakasimama * uso wakiniṭizama * kamba mukimfahama * wajhi wake nabiya
They came over and stood, and looked at my face. [The first man] said: "When you look at him closely, his face [resembles] the Prophet's."

(١٢٣) هُسِكِي هُنِجِبُ * عَلِي بِنُ طَالِبُ * مَمَ وَمَتَعَجَبُ * كَوُوتَ هُنَنْغَلِي
 (123) husikiya hunijibu * 'alii bin ṭālibu * mama wameṭa'ajabu * kwa wote
 hunangaliya

When [the others] heard this, [they said:] "He reminds me of Ali ibn Talib." Mother, they were amazed as they all stared at me.

(١٢٤) هُوِي نِ أَبُو بَكْرٍ * نَ هُوِي هُيْتُو زُبَيْرٍ * نَو لَكُ هُفَسِرٍ * اِنَ تُكَلِسِكِي
 (124) hoyo ni abuu bakari * na hoyo huiṭwa zuberi * nawe lako hufasiri * ina
 ṭukalisikiya

"This is Abu Bakr," [said the first man], "and this person is called Zubeir. But you have not spoken your name for us to hear it."

(١٢٥) أَكْتَمَكَ مُبِجٍ * مِمِ هُيْتُو أَزْوَجٍ * نَمِ سَسَ نِتْرَجٍ * نَ اِنَ لَكِ نَمْبِي
 (125) akaṭamka mbuji * mimi huiṭwa azwaji * nami sasa niṭaraji * na ina lake
 nambiya

This gentleman spoke: "I am called Azwaj, and I am now waiting for you to tell me your name too."

(١٢٦) كَوْمَبِي نِمَكِرٍ * نَمِ اِنَ كُفَسِرٍ * مِمِ نَدِي جَعْفَرٍ * وَ مَوْلَانَا عَلِي
 (126) kawambiya nimekiri * nami ina kufasiri * mimi ndiye ja'fari * wa mawlānā
 'aliya

And I told them: "I have decided to speak my name too. I am Jaafar, [son] of Lord Ali."

(١٢٧) وَنُوزَ تَرْتِبُ * وَنْدَاءُ وَپِ غَرِيبُ * هَپِ مَمَ كَوَجِبُ * نِتَكَلُ كَوْمَبِي
 (127) waniuze ṭaraṭibu * wendaō wapi ḡarību * hapo mama kawajibu * niṭakalo
 kawambiya

And they asked me politely, "Where are you going, stranger?" Then, Mother, I answered them: saying to them what I wanted.

(١٢٨) نِمْتَنَغَ مَاءَ بَرَنِ * نِمِچَكَ سِيُونُ * مَبِزِ وَمِلِشَ يَنِ * سَسَ كُيْتِ هَلِي
 (128) nimeṭanga maa barani * nimechoka siyaoni * mbuzi wamelisha yani * sasa
 kuyuta haliya

I have been searching for water in the hinterland -- I am tired and I still haven't seen any. The goats have eaten all the grass, and now they are bleating with hunger."

(١٢٩) هُكُ مَمَزِيطُ * مَاءِ هَمَكِيكُ * مَبِزِ وَنَغَ وَنَيْيْتُ * چَمَبَ مُوَيُو نَمْبِي
 (129) huko mmezopiṭa * mai hamkuyakuṭa * mbuzi wangu wananyoṭa * chamba
 mwayuwa nambiya

"In that area you've passed through, did you come upon any water there? My goats are thirsty -- if you know of [a well], tell me."

(١٣٠) وَكَنِجُبُ قَوْلٍ * كَوْمَبِ كِسِمَ سِ مَبَلٍ * لَكِنْ كِنْ ثَقَلٍ * هِيَ نَدُو
كُتِّي

(130) wakanijibu qawli * kwamba kisima si mbali * lakini kina thaqili * hiyo ndoo
kuiṭiya

*They answered me with word that there was a well not far away. "But," [they said,] "it is difficult to put
the bucket into it."*

(١٣١) هِيَ مَاءٍ نِ مَتَمٌ * مَفَنٌ وَ زَمَزَمٌ * لَكِنْ سِسِ فَهَمٌ * كُكُونِي هُجَلِي

(131) hayo mai ni maṭamu * mfano wa zamzamu * lakini sisi fahamu * kukuonya
hucheleya

"The water is sweet, just like Zamzam's, but we, you understand, are afraid to show it to you."

(١٣٢) أَوْ بِ أُمِحْتَرٍ * كُكِيكَ تُتِيرٍ * وَلَ أُسْطَفَسِرٍ * نِ سِسِ ثُلُكُومَبِي

(132) uwapo umekhiṭari * kukupeka ṭuṭayari * wala usiṭufasiri * ni sisi ṭulokwambiya

*"If you want to risk it, we are willing to take you there, but don't mention [that] it was us who told you
[about it]."*

(١٣٣) وَكَنُونِي أُسْطَ * هَبْ نَدِي كَفُوطَ * كُو مَوْنِ وَكِطَ * مَبِي وَكِتَلِي

(133) wakanionya usiṭa * hapo ndiyo kafuwaṭa * kwa mwiṭuni wakapiṭa * mbiyo
wakanitoṭeya

*They showed me the way, and then I followed the path. They went into the forest, and directed me
onwards.*

(١٣٤) هَتَ كِدُسَ كِسِمَ * لِبِ بَاءِ كَسُكُمَ * كُو كَوْثُ كُتْرَمَ * وَءِ هُنِثَغَلِي

(134) haṭa kiḍusa kisima * lipo bao kasukuma * kwa kiwavu kuṭizama * wao
huniṭangaliya

*Until, when I came to the well, there was a plank there that I pushed away. They watched me, staring at
me. (?)*

(١٣٥) جَعْفَرِ أَتْمَكِ * بُو بَكَرِ سِشُتُكِ * كِسِمَ سِكِفُنِكِ * نِتْرُدِ كُكُومَبِي

(135) ja'fari aṭamke * buu bakari sishuṭuke * kisima sikifunike * niṭaruḍi
kukwambiya

Jaafar said: "Abu Bakr, don't worry -- don't cover the well. I will return to tell you." (?)

(١٣٦) سِنَ خَوْفِ مِي وَنْعُ * كُنُو مَاءِ مَبُزِ وَنْعُ * كِنِنَ نَدَ زَنْعُ * نَزِتَكْسِ نَ

نَدِي

(136) sina khōfu moyo wangu * kunwa mai mbuzi wangu * kinena nenda zangu *

nizitakase na ndiya

"I have no fear [in] my heart that my goats should drink the water." I said, "I'm going now, so that I can herd them along the road."

(١٣٧) يُو كُكِيْمَبُوْكَ * نِن فُرَه مُتَكَ * مَلِشَنِ كِيُوْپَكَ * مُدَ وَ يُوْ كُوْءَ

(137) yuwa kukipambauka * nina furaha muteka * malishoni kiwapeka * muda wa yuwa kuwaa

When the sun rose [next day] I was laughing with joy, and took [the goats] to the pasture when the sun was burning hot.

(١٣٨) أَوَّلِ يَ سَاءَ سِتَ * هَبْ مُبِرْ كَوُسْتِ * نَوْنِ وَمِنَوْتِ * هُتُرِ نِ كُكُمْبِي

(138) awali ya saa sita * hapo mbuzi kawasuta * naona wameniwata * huturi ni kukumbiya

"Just before the seventh hour (noon), I was then driving the goats along, and I saw that they had broken away from me, running and frisking.

(١٣٩) كَوْمَبِيْ اِنْدَنِ * مَوْكِيُوْ كِسِمَنِ * لِكِنِ هُفَلِيَنِ * نَدِمَ وَ كُوْطَكِيْ

(139) kawambiya enendani * mwakuyuwa kisimani * laikini hufaliyani * ndima wa kuwatekeya

I told them: "On you go -- you know where the well is. But what good will it do you, when I'm the only one who can draw water for you?"

(١٤٠) وَكَنْدَ وَكِسِمَمَ * كُفُنِشِيْوَ كِسِمَ * نَاءِ نِكَلِسُكُمَ * نِمِيْ مَتْ أَكِيْ

(140) wakenda wakasimama * kufunishiwe kisima * nao nikalisukuma * nimoye mtu akiya

They went on and stood where the well had been covered over. I pushed away the plank, and I saw someone coming.

(١٤١) أَكِيْ أَكْنِشَكَ * مَاءِ نِسِيْثَكَ * مَمَ هَبْ كَتَمَكَ * يَ غَضَبُ كَمَوْمَبِيْ

(141) akiya akanishika * mai nisyatheka * mama hapo katamka * ya gadaabu kamwambiya

When he arrived he grabbed hold of me before I had drawn any water. Mother, then I spoke, and said to him angrily:

(١٤٢) نِكْمُحِمِدِ مَنْعُ * كُنِيْ بِنْعُ * كِنُوْزَ پَ يَنْعُ * چَنْدَنِ كَمْتَلِيْ

(142) nikamuhimidi mngu * kuneteya babangu * kaniuza peṭe yangu * chandani kamtoleya

I pleaded with God to send me my father. [The man] asked about the ring on my finger, and I gave it to him.

(١٤٣) پٽ اڪٽڙم * ڪڇج ن هلمم * ڀڄي ڀي ٿي * ڀٽ ڀڪمڙي

(143) peṭe akaiṭizima * kapija na halimama * yapisiye ya nyuma * yote yakamrudīya
He looked at the ring and became anxious. everything that had happened in the past, all of it came back to him.

(١٤٤) جن الڀنولڙ * نڀمومڀي ڪڙ * اڪڀپ مؤجڙ * ڀي ن ڪڀڇي

(144) jina aliponiuliza * nisimwambiya kaiza * akanipa miujiza * piya na kunipijiya
When he asked me my name I wouldn't tell him -- I refused. He told me things he could not have known [unless he was my father] giving me example after example.

(١٤٥) اڻڀي شور زڪ * ن صڦ ز ٺڀمب ڀڪ * هڀ ڪڻ ٽمڪ * ان لڻڻ

ڪمومڀي

(145) unipiye shūra zako * na šifa za nyumba yako * hapo kaeṭa ṭamko * ina langu kamwambiya

He described your features to me, and the characteristics of your house. Then I spoke and told him my name.

(١٤٦) نڪمومڀي نيڪ * نڙوؤ هڪڪ * ن ٽسي زسزشڪ * ن وو تره ٿي

(146) nikamwambiya nyaka * nizezoweo hakika * ni ṭisiya zasizoshaka * na wewe tarehe ṭiya

I told him for certain [the number of] years since I was born -- definitely it is nine, and no mistake; and you should remember the number.

(١٤٧) خبر زڪ ٽمم * نيمڪش افهم * تن ن ڪو مولم * نمرڊ ڪمومڀي

(147) khabari zake ṭimamu * nimekusha ufahamu * tena na kwa mwalimu * nimeruḍi kumwambiya

The news about him is finished. I have completed it so that you may understand. And via my teacher's [house] I came back to tell him [about it].

(١٤٨) نيممؤڻ ڪو خير * اُسبه ن سڦر * نؤمڀي ڪو جبار * ن رص ڪنوي

(148) nimemuaga kwa khēri * asubhi ni safari * niombeya kwa jabāri * na raṣi kuniweya

I have said farewell to him. [tomorrow] morning I will set off [to go to my father]. Pray for me to the Almighty, and give me your blessing.

(١٤٩) تَنْ نُوْمِبِي مَنْعُ * تُبْنَدَنْ نَ بِنْعُ * نَم كِشَ مِنْ وَنْعُ * تَكِي كُونْعَلِي

(149) tena niombeya mngu * tupendane na babangu * nami kisha muni wangu * takuya kuwangaliya

And pray for me to God that my father and I will get along well together. And then [the people] in my town I will get to see them.

(١٥٠) أَكِسَكِي قَوْلٍ * مَمَكُ أُسَحِمِلِ * أَكْتَرَدَدِ عَفِلِ * كُو مَكْنَدِ كَيْبِي

(150) akisakiya qawli * mamake asihimili * akataradaḍi 'afili * kwa makonde kaiṭiya

When she heard these words his mother could not bear it. She went out of her mind and beat herself with her fists.

(١٥١) كَيْتُنْدَ كَيْنْعُشَ * تَيْتِ أَكْرُشَ * هَتَ نَعُو كَمَقِشَ * إِكُو كُمُسَمِي

(151) kaiṭunda kayingusha * tiyaṭi akairusha * haṭa nguwo kamvisha * ikawa kumsomeya

She took and threw herself down, she hurled herself to the ground, so that her clothing came undone, as if she was being read over.

(١٥٢) أَلَيْتَ فَهَمُ * كَمَحِمِدِ كَرِيمُ * كِشَ أَكْتَكَلَمُ * مَنْعُ أَكْمُوْمِبِي

(152) aalipopaṭa fahamu * kamuḥimidi karīmu * kisha akatakalamu * mngu akamuombeya

When she regained her senses she pleaded with the Generous One, and then she spoke and prayed to God.

(١٥٣) يَا أَلَلَّهُ مَلْ وَنْعُ * نِنُصْرِي مَوْنَعُ * نَ وَطُ وَ وَنْرَعُ * حَفْظِنِ نِطْلِي

(153) yā allāhu mola wangu * ninuṣuriya mwanangu * na waṭṭu wa wenzangu * ḥifaṣini niṭiliya

Oh God, my Lord, protect my child for me, and the children of my friends, place them for me in your care.

(١٥٤) إِنْدَ هُنَ مَضَرَ * نِرَضِ أَلْفُ مَرَّ * نَاوْ أَوْ نَ فِكِرَ * مِي نِمَكُوْصِي

(154) enenda huna maḍara * niraḍi alfu mara * nāwe uwe na fikira * moyo nimekuuṣiya

[To Ja'far she said:] Off you go -- there is no fault with you. I bless you a thousand times. And that you should be sensible is what I charge you to do.

(١٥٥) مِمَ أُيْنُوْدُ * سِيْكُوْ نَ غَيْظِ * إَوِْ وَتَكَ رَضِ * نَ كُو عَلِيْ زَنْغِي

(155) mimi uyaponiudhi * siyokuwa na ḡayẓi * iwapo waṭaka raḍi * na kwa 'alii zengeya

Although you have saddened me I will not bear a grudge. If you want my blessing then go and visit Ali.

(١٥٦) اِتُّنِدْ اَوْ نِيُونْ * كَوَ بِيَكْ اَوْ تِنِ * نَ اَتَكْلِبَيْنِ * كَوَكْ لِيْ مَرَصِيْ

(156) itunde uwe nyaoni * kwa babako uwe tini * na aṭakalobaini * kwako lipo
marṣiya

Take care that you be humble and subservient to your father, and [accept] whatever he says to you without demur.

(١٥٧) نَ مَّتْمُ مُحَمَّدٍ * هَنَ بُدِ كُكُزِدِ * اَللّٰهُ اللّٰهُ جِتْهَدِ * نَعَاءَ اُپْطِ وَصِيْ

(157) na mṭume muḥamaḍi * hana buḍi kukuzidi * allāha llāha jiṭahidi * ngaa upaṭe
waṣiya

And the Prophet Muhammad, there is no doubt that he is better than you, so mind you exert yourself to gain even a little wisdom [from him].

(١٥٨) نَاءِ بِنْتِ حَبِيْبٍ * كِتِ نَاءِ كَوَ ثَوَابٍ * كَوَكْ اَوْ نَ اَدْبُ * اُمْطِيْ نَ
كُمُونْعُكِيْ

(158) nae binti ḥabību * keṭi nae kwa thawābu * kwake uwe na aḍabu * umṭii na
kumwangukiya

And as for his beloved daughter, sit politely with her; be courteous towards her, obey her and be bow down to her.

(١٥٩) اَكْتُكَ جَعْفَرٍ * نَ چَكُلَ كِتِيْرِ * كَلِ نَ نَدِيْ نَاصِرٍ * نَ مَوْلِمُ كَتْكِيْ

(159) akaṭoka ja'fari * na chakula kiṭayari * kala na nduye nāṣiri * na mwalimu
kaṭokeya

Ja'far arose [the next morning] and a meal was ready. He ate with his brother Nasir and then his teacher arrived.

(١٦٠) وَكَتْنَعْنِيْ مِكْنُ * وَتِ وَطْطُ مَفْنُ * اَكِنَنْ نَ مَنَنْ * نَدُعِيْ اَكْمَوْمِيْ

(160) wakaṭanganya mikono * wote waṭaṭu mfano * akinena na maneno * nduguye
akimwambiya

They all put their hands [in the communal bowl] all three of them as equals, with [Ja'far] saying these words, speaking to his brother:

(١٦١) اَكْمَوْمِيْ نَاصِرٍ * يُّوْ نَدِيْنَعُ كَوَ خَيْرٍ * تَكْپُرِدِ سَفَرٍ * تَمَشَ تَكْلُطِيْ

(161) akamwambiya nāṣiri * yeo nduyangu kwa khēri * ṭakaporuḍi safari * ṭamasha
ṭakuleṭeya

He told Nasir: Goodbye today, my brother -- when I come back from my journey I will bring you something nice.

(١٦٢) أَكْمَجِبُ أُپْسِ * نَبْطِي نَ فَرَسِ * نِيَمَ هُي سِمُئْسِ * نَتَكَ كُمُونْغَلِي

(162) akamjibu upesi * nieṭeya na farasi * nyama huyo simuisi * nataka kumwangaliya

[Nasir] answered him quickly: Bring me a horse -- I don't know what that animal [looks like], I would like to see one.

(١٦٣) كِشَ هَپْ كَتَمَكَ * أَكَمَبَ مَمَ هُتَكَ * مَمَكَ أَكِنُّكَ * صَدَكَ كَمْتَلِي

(163) kisha hapo kaṭamka * akamba mama huṭoka * mamake akainuka * ṣadaka kamṭoleya

When he had finished, then [Ja'far] spoke, and said: Mother, I am leaving. His mother got up and took out alms for him.

(١٦٤) هَپْ مَمَكَ أَتَكَ * إِنْدَ أَمْفُوتَ * أَكِمْمِي مَطَ * مَنُغَ أَكُمُومِي

(164) hapo mamake aṭoke * enende amfuwaṭe * akimṭemeya maṭe * mngu akimuombeya

Then his mother went out, she went and followed him, spitting at him, praying to God for him.

(١٦٥) هُي نَاصِرِ مَوْلِمَ * مَسْمَشَ أَهِيَمَ * أَمْفُنْدَ نَعِلِمَ * عَادَ يَكَ تَكُوْطِي

(165) huy nāṣiri mwalimu * msomeshe ahiṭimu * umfunde na'ilimu * 'āda yako takweṭeya

[Then she said:] Teacher, Nasir here, teach him so that he may complete his studies, teach him knowledge. I will pay your fee.

(١٦٦) أَكِنُّكَ جَعْفَرَ * هَپْ كَلِي نَاصِرِ * مَمَكَ أَكْفَسِرِ * أُسِكَ أَتْرَجِي

(166) akiṭoka ja'fari * hapo kaliya nāṣiri * mamake akafasiri * usiku atarejeya

As Ja'far was setting off then Nasir began to cry. His mother said: [ja'far] will be back by nightfall.

(١٦٧) نَاصِرِ أَكْتَمَكَ * نَمِيُوْ إِنْدَ مَكَه * كُتُنْغَ هَنْغَلِتَكَ * أَسِيْئِنَ نَدِي

(167) nāṣiri akaṭamka * namuyuwa enda makah * kuṭunga hangaliṭoka * asipoiyona ndiya

Nasir spoke: I know he is going to Mecca. If he were going [to take the animals] to graze he would not take that road.

(١٦٨) أُوْ يَنَ سِكُوْكَ * أَكُمُومِي تَمَكَ * كَوَغَ وَنْدَنَ وَكَ * يُتَ نَلِيْسِكِي

(168) aw yana sikuwako * ukimwambiya ṭamko * kawage wendani wako * yote naliyasikiya

For was I not there yesterday when you said him [those] words to him, that he should take leave of your

friends? I heard everything.

(١٦٩) أَوْ وَنَدَ مَتُنَّغَن * نَغُو هُتَكُلِينَ * سِكُ زُتِ سِمُون * هَتَ هَي كُنْمَبِي

(169) aw wenda maṭungani * nguwo huṭakuliyani * siku zoṭi simuoni * haṭa hayo kunambiya

Or if he is going to the pastures, what is he carrying those clothes for? All these days I have never seen him [do that], So explain these [things] to me.

(١٧٠) جَعْفَرِ كَبْن * بَسِ وَلَلِينَ * أَوْ تُولَا غَن * مَن نَلَكُومَبِي

(170) ja'fari kabaini * basi waliliyani * aw ṭwali ganani * maneno nalokwambiya

Ja'far spoke: So why are you crying? Or why did we agree with the words I spoke to you?

(١٧١) نَ كَمَ هُكِرِضِكَ * نَمَبِي نِسِيَتَكَ * هُنَ هَتَ كُؤَذِكَ * سِكِتِكَ كُنْبِي

(171) na kama hukiriḍika * nambiya nisiyaṭoka * huna haṭa kuudhika * sikiṭiko kuniṭiya

And if you are not pleased, tell me before I go. You have no cause to be hurt and make me feel sad.

(١٧٢) أَكَجِبُ تَمَكُ * سِكُنَزَ هَي يَكُ * سِكُ زُتِ نَكُ * هَمُنُونُ كَلِي

(172) akajibu ṭamko * sikuiza hayo yako * siku zoṭe niko * hamunioni kuliya

[Nasir] answered with the words I don't disagree with these [plans] of yours -- all the days of my life you have never seen me cry.

(١٧٣) سَسَ هَي نَدَ عَقِلِ * نِمَزِيَتَامَلِ * نَكُو مَتَلِ تُلِ * زَاءُ زَكُ زَ كُنْبِي

(173) sasa hayo nda 'aqili * nimezoyataamali * nakuwa maṭuli ṭuli * zeo zako za kuinukiya

Now, these [things] are [a matter of] commonsense. which I observed. I am anxious [because] today is the time for you to go.

(١٧٤) أَكَمُومَبِي نَدِيكَ * هَي إِنَّكَ أَتَكَ * جَعْفَرِ أَتَمَكُ * كُونَدَ مَنُغُ نُوْمَبِي

(174) akamwambiya nduyake * hī inuka uṭoke * ja'fari aṭamke * kwanda mngu niombeya

He told his brother: So, off you go. Ja'far said: First pray to God for me.

(١٧٥) نَاصِرِ أَكَبْنِ * أَتَكُيَكَ مَن * سَلَامَ سَلِمِينَ * كُو عَفِي نَ عَفُو

(175) nāṣiri akabaini * aṭakupeka manani * salāma salimīni * kwa 'afiya na 'afuwa

Nasir said: May Providence go with you, [and keep you] safe and sound, in health and happiness.

(١٧٦) هَپْ نَدِي كَيْنَدَم * كِنَدَ كُتْسِمَم * سَاءَ كَوِ اِكْتَم * نَاءِ مَكَه اَمْنَعِي
 (176) hapo ndiya kayandama * kinenda kutosimama * saa kwa ikitoma * nae makah
 amengiyya

Then [Ja'far] set out, going on, not stopping, and around four o'clock he entered Mecca.

(١٧٧) مَكَه اَلِجِلِسِ * كَوِ بَبَكْ هَكُئْسِ * كَمَبْ نَدِي سِتَكَسِ * كَوْنَدَ
 تَيْكَيْلِي

(177) makah alipojilisi * kwa babake hakuisi * kamba ndiya sitakasi * kwanda
 taiketiliya

When he arrived in Mecca he did not know his father's home. He said: I am not sure of the road, first I will sit myself down.

(١٧٨) اَكْتِ جَعْفَرِ * اَكْمُونُ زُبَيْرِ * وَنَدَمَنْ نَ بَشِيرِ * مَكْنُ كَمُونَلِي

(178) akaketi ja'fari * akamuona zubēri * wendemene na bashīri * mikono
 kamwinuliya

Ja'far sat down and saw Zubair -- he was walking along with the Bearer of Good News -- and Ja'far waved at him.

(١٧٩) مَكْنُ كَوُزَمَ * زُبَيْرِ اَكْسِمَم * اَكْمَوْمَبِي هَشَمَ * مَعْنِ وَطْ هُنْعِي

(179) mkono kautizama * zubēri akasimama * akamwambiya hashima * mgeni wetu
 hungiya

Zubair saw the wave and stopped. He told the Hashimite: Our guest has arrived.

(١٨٠) اَكْمُوَزَ اَمِينِ * مَعْنِ وَطْ نِ نَنِ * وَسَكِي هُبَيْنِ * مَكْنُ نِي نَبِي

(180) akamuuzā amīni * mgeni wetu ni nani * wasikiye hubaini * mkono nipe nabiya
The Trustworthy One asked: Who is our guest? And they heard [Ja'far] say: Give me your hand, Prophet.

(١٨١) زُبَيْرِ كَتَعَجَبُ * وَمُيُوبُ حَيْبُ * جَعْفَرِ كَمَجَبُ * وَجَهْ وَكْ نَبِي

(181) zubēri katabajabu * wamuyuwapī ḥabību * ja'fari kamjibu * wajhi wake nabiya
Zubair was amazed: How does he know you, Prophet? Ja'far answered him: His face is that of the Prophet.

(١٨٢) كِشَ هَپْ كَبَيْنِ * كَوِ بَبْنَعُ نِيكِنِ * كَمْتُكُو اَمِينِ * كَنَدَ نَاءِ كَوِ عَلِي

(182) kisha hapo kabaini * kwa babangu nipekeni * kamtukuwa amīni * kenda nae
 kwa 'aliya

Then he said: Could you show me to my father's? The Trustworthy One accompanied him and went with him to Ali's.

(١٨٣) أَلَيْكُونَدَ سَيِّدٍ * كَوَّءُ أَكْبَجَ هُدٍ * فَتَمَ أَكْرَدِدِ * أَكْمَبَ هَكَ نَبِي

(183) alipokwenda sayyidi * kwao akapija hodi * faṭuma akaradidi * akamba hako nabiya

When the Lord got there he called: Hello!. Fatima answered and said: The Prophet is not here.

(١٨٤) أَكْمُوَزَ حُسَيْبٍ * أَمْكُوْءُ نِ نَيَانٍ * كَجَنَ أَكْبَيْنِ * نِ جَدٍ يَنْفُ سِكِي

(184) akamuza husaybi * amkuwao ni nyāni * kijana akabini * ni jadi yanfu sikiya

She asked Husayn: Who is calling? And the boy answered: Listen -- it is my grandfather.

(١٨٥) نَ جَدٍ يَنْعُ رَسُولٍ * بِي نَ وَتُ وَوِلٍ * كُسِكِيكُو قَوْلٍ * كَتَكَ
كَمَوْنَعَلِي

(185) na jadi yangu rasūli * yeye na waṭu wawili * kusikiyakwe qawli * kaṭoka kamwangaliya

It is my grandfather the Prophet, he and two people. When she heard these words, [Fatima] went out to see him.

(١٨٦) أَكِتَكَ جَعْفَرٍ * كَمُوْلَزَ خَبَرٍ * أَكِكَمَ كَفَسِرٍ * فَتَمَ كَمِيَكِي

(186) akiṭoka ja'fari * kamuuliza khabari * akikoma kafasiri * faṭuma kampokeya

When she came out, Ja'far asked her how she was. When he had finished speaking Fatima answered him.

(١٨٧) فَتَمَ كَتَكَلَمَ * أَكْمُوَزَ هَشِمٍ * بَبَ سِيْمَفَهَمٍ * كَجَنَ هُي نَبِي

(187) faṭuma kaṭakalamu * akamuza hashimu * baba siyamfahamu * kijana huyu nabiya

Fatima spoke And asked the Hashimite: Father, I still don't recognise this boy, Prophet.

(١٨٨) سِيكَ زُبَ سِمُونٍ * إِن لَكَ نَدِي نِنٍ * مَتَمَ أَكْبَيْنِ * فَتَمَ أَكْمَوْمَبِي

(188) siku zoṭe simuona * ina lake ndiye nani * mṭume akabaini * faṭuma akamwambiya

I have never seen him before, What is his name? The Prophet spoke and addressed Fatima.

(١٨٩) أَكْمَوْمَبِي بَشِيرٍ * هُي نَدِي جَعْفَرٍ * وَ عَلِي حَيْدَرٍ * هِزْ صُورَ هُكَوْمَبِي

(189) akamwambiya bashīri * huyu ndiye ja'fari * wa 'alii ḥaydari * hizo ṣūra hukwambiya

The Bringer of Good Tidings told her: This is Ja'far [son] of Ali the Lionlike -- his features would tell you that.

(١٩٠) هَپْ سَيِّدِ أَمِينِ * أَكْمُتُمْ حُسَيْنِ * إِنْدَ مُسَكِّتِنِ * بَبْكَ نَمْكُلِي

(190) hapo sayidi amīni * akamṭuma ḥusayni * enenda msikitiini * babako namkuliya
Then the Lord, the Trustworthy One, sent Husain: Go to the mosque, [and tell] your father I am calling him.

(١٩١) هَپْ كَتَّكَ حُسَيْنِ * كَفَّكَ مُسَكِّتِنِ * بَبْ كُئِي مَعْنِ * تُمِرْ
كُكُونْدَمِي

(191) hapo kaṭoka ḥusayni * kafika msikitiini * baba kuiye mgeni * ṭumiwe
kukwandamiya

So Husain went off and arrived at the mosque. Father, a stranger has come -- I have been sent to bring you along.

(١٩٢) كُنْ كَبَجَنَ مَزْرٍ * چَنْدَمَنَ نَ بَشِيرِ * نَ إِنْ نَ جَعْفَرِ * نَ هِلْ نِمْكُومَبِي

(192) kuna kijana mzuri * chendemene na bashīri * na ina ni ja'fari * ni hilo
nimekwambiya

There is a handsome boy there, he came with the Bringer of Good Tidings and his name is Ja'far -- this is what I have [come to] tell you.

(١٩٣) چَنْبُو هِي كَلِمَ * پَ نَدِي كَيْنْدَمَ * مَلَنْغَنِ أَكِكَمَ * سَلَامُ كَوَپَسِي

(193) chambiwa hiyo kalima * papo ndiya kayandama * mlangoni akikoma * salāmu
kawapisiya

When these words had been said [Ali] set off immediately. When he reached the door [of his house] he greeted [those inside].

(١٩٤) سَلَامُ أَكْفَسِرِ * هَپْ عَلِي حَيْدَرِ * كَتَّكَ جَعْفَرِ * مَكْنُ كَمْپِي

(194) salāmu akifasiri * hapo 'alii ḥaydari * kaṭoka ja'fari * mkono kampokeya
While he was greeting [them], Ali the Lionlike, Ja'far got up and took his hand.

(١٩٥) عَلِي كَٹْ تَمَكْ * نَ سَلَامَ أَتْكَكَ * جُمْلَ وَنْدَنِ وَكْ * حَالِ زَاءِ نَمْبِي

(195) 'alii keṭa ṭamko * ni salāma uṭokako * jumla wendani wako * ḥāli zao nambiya
Ali spoke: Is everything well where you came from? All your friends, tell me how they are.

(١٩٦) أَكْمَجِبْ كَلَمَ * نِتْكَجْكَ نِ سَلَامَ * سِيُوِي هُكَ نِيَمَ * سِيْطِ
لُكُكُومَبِي

(196) akamjibu kalamu * niṭokajko ni salāma * siyuwi ya hoko nyuma * sipaṭi

lakukwambiya

And [Ja'far] answered him with the words: Everything is well where I come from, [though] I don't know about after [I left]. I have nothing [unpleasant] to tell you.

(١٩٧) تَنَ بَبَ مَوْلِمُ * نَ مَمَ وَكُسَلِمُ * وَعَلَيْكَ السَّلَامُ * عَلَيَّ كَيْكَي

(197) tena baba mwalimu * na mama wakusalimu * wa'alayka āssa lāma * 'alii kapokeya

Also, my revered teacher and my mother greet you: Peace be with you. Ali answered.

(١٩٨) عَلَيَّ أَكْبَيْنِ * نِمَكُنْجَ نَدَيْنِ * وَلِتَكَ زُهُ غِنِ * مَبْنِ أَمِلْمَيَّ

(198) 'alii akabaini * nimekungoja ndiyani * walitoka zeo gani * mbona umelimaṭiya
Ali spoke: I waited for you on the road -- what time did you set out? Why are you late?

(١٩٩) أَكْمَجِبُ قَوْلِ * أَصْبَحَ نَلَصَلِ * لَكِنِ بَبِ نِ مَبَلِ * إِنِ أَرَفُ وَ نَدِي

(199) akamjibu qawli * aṣubuḥi naliṣali * lakini baba ni mbali * ina urefu wa ndiya
[Ja'far] answered him with the words: I said my morning [prayers at 5 o'clock], but, father, it is far -- the road is a long one.

(٢٠٠) نَمَ كَيْتَ يَنْغَنِ * پَنَ مَبْنَدِ نَدَيْنِ * يَلِتَكَ مَيْنِ * يَلِ وَلْنَمَبِي

(200) nami kipaṭa yangoni * pana mṭende ndiyani * yalinitoka moyoni * yale walonambiya

And when I reached the cave there was the date-tree by the road, but they left my head, the [directions] you had told me.

(٢٠١) كَيْتَ يَ كُفَلِ * كَأْنَدَمَ إِلِ مَبَلِ * هَتَ كِتَأْمَلِ * سَاءَ إِمْنِيْطِي

(201) kaiwaṭa ya kuvuli * kaandama ilo mbali * haṭa kiṭaamali * saa imenipiṭiya
I left behind the [road] to the right and walked on for a while until I realised an hour had passed.

(٢٠٢) نِبَ أُوْنَعِ كَيْتَ * إِي لَ بَرِ كَيْتَ * إِلِ نَدِي كَيْتَ * نِيْمَ نِسِيْرَجِي

(202) nipa uwinga kaṭa * iyu la bara kapiṭu * ili ndiya kuiwaṭa * nyuma nisiporejeya
Then I did something stupid -- I walked out into the scrubland and left the road behind, instead of going back.

(٢٠٣) سُرَ نَنْدَاءَ بَرَنِ * إِلِ نَدِي سِيْيُنِ * هُوْنُ نِكُ بَرَنِ * زُتَ زِمْنِيْطِي

(203) sura nendao barani * ile ndiya siiyoni * huona niko barani * zoṭe zimenipoteya
Wherever I went in the scrubland I couldn't find the road -- I realised I was [lost] in the scrubland, and I had lost track of all [the roads].

(٢٠٤) كَيْجَ فِكْرَ زَنْغُ * كَلَنْدَمَ غُو لَنْغُ * نَرْدِي پَل پَنْغُ * كِشَ نَيْمَ كَرَجِي

(204) kipiija fikira zangu * kalandama guu langu * narudiya pale pangu * kisha nyuma karejeya

I cudgelled my brains and then retraced my footsteps and returned to my [correct] place and finally I got back.

(٢٠٥) كِشَ كُرْدِي نَيْمَ * هَبْ نَدِي كَيْنْدَمَ * پَنِي مُنْدَ كَكَمَ * صَالَ

اِمْنِسِمِي

(205) kisha kurudiya nyuma * hapo ndiya kayandama * penye mntende kakoma * šāla imenisimamiya

At last I returned back and then I followed the road. At the place with the date-tree I stopped -- it was time to pray.

(٢٠٦) أَوَّلِ يَ أَظْهَرِ * نَدِپَ نِي كَعْبِرِ * حُجَ يَ كُجَ أَخِيرِ * نَعَانَ نِمَكُومَبِي

(206) awali ya azuhuri * ndipo niya ka'abiri * ḥuja ya kuja akhīri * na'āna nimekwambiya

Just after noon was when I set out [again] on the road. Regarding coming late, I have told you the reason.

(٢٠٧) كِمَلَزَ كُيْلِكَ * عَلِي أَكْتَمَكَ * مَوْنَعُ أُمْسُمْبُكَ * هَبْ كَنَنْ نَبِي

(207) kimaliza kupulika * 'ali akatamka * mwanangu umesumbuka * hapo kanena nabiya

When he had finished listening Ali spoke: My child, you have been through a lot. Then the Prophet spoke.

(٢٠٨) هَبْ كَنَنْ هَشِمَ * سِ هَبْ كِي سَلَامَ * نَدِي مَزَايْنَدَمَ * خَطَرِ هُمَزَنْغِي

(208) hapo kanena hashima * si haba kuya salām * ndiya mezoiyandama * khaṭari humzengeya

Then the Hashimite spoke: It is no small thing to arrive safely, when on the road he came along [danger] stalked him.

(٢٠٩) أَمَكِنَغَ وَدُودِ * أَسْوُونِ مَيَّهُودِ * كُونِ وَنَعْلِمَزِدِ * وَتُ وَ نَعْسِ مُمِي

(209) amkinga waḍūdi * asiōne mayahūdi * kwani wangalimziḍi * waṭu wa ngisi mmoya

The Loving One protected him so that he met no unbelievers, for they would have overwhelmed him -- one against many.

(٢١٠) فَتَمَ أَكْ كِئِنِ * أَكْمُوپُكَ أَمِينِ * كَوَ مَكْنُ كَبِينِ * نَ نَدَنْ كَمَامُكُو

(210) faṭuma uko kiṭini * akamwepuka amīni * kwa mkono kabaini * na ndani

kamuamkuwa

Fatima had been sitting down. She moved back from the Trustworthy One and made a sign with her hand and beckoned [Ali] into the inner [room].

(٢١١) مَكْنُ كُوْطُزَمَ * عَلَيَّ أَكْفَهَمَ * أَكْمُوْمِي هَشِمَ * نَنْدَ نَدَمَ مَرَّ مِي
(211) mkono kiutizama * 'alii akafahama * akamwambiya hashima * nenda ndami
mara moya

When he saw her hand [sign] Ali understood [what it meant]. He told the Hashimite: I am going to the inner [room] immediately.

(٢١٢) كُوْ نَدَمَ اَلْيَفِكَ * فَتَمَ اَكْتَمَكَ * چَكُلَ نِمَكِيكَ * هَيْتَسَ كُوْنَدِ كُو
(212) kwa ndami alipofika * fatuma akatamka * chakula nimekipika * hayaṭasa
kwandikiwa

When he entered the inner [room] Fatima spoke: I have cooked some food but it is not yet ready to serve.

(٢١٣) كُوْنَدَ سِكُمْكِيكَ * خَبَرَ اَكْتَمَكَ * مِي هُمُيْطِكَ * كُوْ اَثْقَلَ وَ نَدِي
(213) kwanda sikumakinika * khabari akatamka * moyo humpapaṭika * kwa athaqili
wa ndiya

[Ali said:] First he must relax and tell his news -- his heart is fluttering because of the hardships of the journey.

(٢١٤) نَ زَاءَ اَلْزُتَكَ * اُمَزِيُوْ هَكِكَ * نَ سِسِ هُمُيْلِكَ * مَنِّي هُرْتُوْمِي
(214) na zeo alizotoka * umeziyuwa hakika * na sisi humpulika * manenoye
hurtwambiya

And the things he has been through you know them well and we will listen to him as he tells us his words.

(٢١٥) عَلَيَّ اَكْبَيْنَ * هُمُصْبِرِ حُسَيْنَ * نِمَمْتُ حَسَنَ * اِنْدَ كُمُوْمَكُو
(215) 'alii akabaini * humṣubiri ḥusayni * nimemṭuma ḥasani * ende kumuamkuwa
Ali realised Husain was waiting for him, [and said]: I have sent Hassan [an errand] -- go and call him.

(٢١٦) عَلَيَّ كُتَكَ نَدَنَ * اَلْيَكْتِ كَيْنَ * اَمْسِكِي حَسَنَ * سَلَامُ هُوَپِسِي
(216) 'alii kutoka ndani * alipoketi kiṭini * amsikiye ḥasani * salāmu huwapisiya
Ali came out of the inner [room] and sat down on a chair. He heard Hassan greeting them.

(٢١٧) حَسَنٍ أَكُنْظُمُ * كُوَيْسِرَ سَلَامُ * أَمْرُدِشَ كَلِمُ * جَفَرَ كَمُومِي

(217) ḥasani akanuzumu * kuwapisiza salāmu * amrudishe kalimu * jaʿfari
kamwambiya

Hassan spoke and greeted them so that they could return the greeting. He spoke to Ja'far.

(٢١٨) كَوَأْنَدَنِ كَوْمُ * كَمُؤْلَزَ سَلَامُ * وَلِؤُوبُ وَكَسِمَ * وَتَ وَكَمْيَكِي

(218) kwa u ndani kwima * kamuuliza salāma * waliopo wakasima * wote
wakampokeya

With deference he asked how he was. Thos present spoke and all returned his greeting.

(٢١٩) كَمُومِي مَتَمَكُ * نِ سَلَامَ نِتَكَ * سِيُو مَبِي نَدَكَ * أَيُو نِ جَلِي

(219) kamwambiya maṭamko * ni salāma nitokako * siyuwi mbee nendako * ayuwae
ni jaliya

He spoke [these] words: All is well where I come from; I do not know about where I am going -- the one who knows is the Almighty.

(٢٢٠) أَكْتَمَكَ أَمِينُ * كَوْمِي كَوَهْرِنُ * عَلِي أَكْبَنُ * مَبْنِ هُتَكَ نَبِي

(220) akaṭamka amīni * kawambiya kwa herini * 'ali akabaini * mbona hutoka
nabiya

The Trustworthy One spoke and bade them goodbye. Ali spoke: Surely you are not leaving, Prophet?

(٢٢١) مُتْمُ أَكْتَمَكَ * زُ زِمَاخِرِكَ * سَاءَ تِسِي هَكِكَ * نِيْمَبِنِ سِيرَجِي

(221) mṭume akaṭamka * zeo zimeakhirika * saa ṭisiya hakika * nyumbani siyarejeya

The Prophet spoke: these things have taken some time -- it is now the ninth hour for certain, and I have not yet returned home.

(٢٢٢) كَمَبَ صُبِرَ بَشِيرُ * تُمْلِشَ جَعْفَرُ * چَكَلُ كِكُ تِيرُ * هَبُ كَكَتِ نَبِي

(222) kamba ṣubiri bashīri * ṭumlishe ja'fari * chakula kiko ṭayari * hapo kakeṭi
nabiya

*[Ali] said: Wait, Bringer of Good Tidings, until we have given Ja'far something to eat. The food is ready.
So the Prophet sat down.*

(٢٢٣) فَتَمُ أَكْنُكُ * كَوَأْسِ نَ هَرَكَ * تَمَشَ أَكْنُوكُ * نَ مَاءِ كَوَيْكِي

(223) faṭuma akainuka * kwa upesi na haraka * ṭamasha akaiweka * na mai
kawapekeya

Fatima got up quickly, in a hurry, and placed delicacies [before them] and brought them water [to wash their hands].

(٢٢٤) وَكَتَبَتْ كَوَ مَفْنٌ * وَكَتَتْنِي مَكْنٌ * جُمْلَ وَتٌ وَ نَنْ * وَلَ أَسْلَ نَبِي

(224) wakakeṭi kwa mfano * wakaṭanganya mikono * jumla waṭu wa nano * wala asile nabiya

They sat equally, sharing the same dish, all five of them, though the Prophet did not eat [much].

(٢٢٥) مَرَّ ثَاثٌ كَوَ هَكَ * مَكْنُ الْوُيْكَ * أَكِشَ أَكْنُكَ * وَءَ أَكَوْتِي

(225) mara ṭaṭu kwa hakika * mkono aliupeka * akisha akainuka * wao akawaṭiya
Three times indeed he put his hand [into the dish] and then he got up and left them.

(٢٢٦) أَكْنُكَ كَيْنٌ * كَيَوَ مَاءِ أَمِيرٍ * نَ يَ كُنُو كِكْمَبِنِ * نَاءِ أَكْسُكُنُو

(226) akainuka kiṭini * kapowa mai amīri * na ya kunwa kikombeni * nae akasukutuwa

He rose from his chair and accepted water, the Trustworthy One, in a cup to drink, and rinsed his mouth.

(٢٢٧) تَمْبُو يَ كُخْتَرِ * هَبْ كَيَوَ بَشِيرٍ * أَكَوَاغَ كَوَ هَرٍ * تُمُو أَكْتِي

(227) tambuu ya kukhitari * hapo kapowa bashīri * akawaga kwa heri * tumwa akaitokeya

Choice tambuu he was then given, the Bearer of Good Tidings, and he bade them farewell -- the Prophet went off.

(٢٢٨) تُمُو أَكِشَ كُتْكَ * نَاءُ كُلِّ وَمَكُوشَ * فَتَمَ أَكْنُكَ * مَاءِ أَكُوپَكِي

(228) tumwa akisha kutoka * nao kula wamekwisha * faṭuma akainuka * mai akawaapekeya

When the Prophet had left and they had finished eating Fatima got up and offered them water.

(٢٢٩) أَكْنَيْنَ فَتَمَ * پَ أَكْئِزَمَ * يَسِي يَ نِيَمَ * يُتَ يَكَمْرُدِي

(229) akaiyona faṭuma * pte akaitizama * yapisiyo ya nyuma * yote yakamrudīya
And Fatima saw it -- she caught sight of the ring. What had happened in the past all came back to her.

(٢٣٠) عَلِي أَكْتَمَكَ * مَبْنِ أُمْبَدِلِكَ * كَمَ أُمْرُودِكَ * يُو نِكُوْنَعَلِي

(230) 'alii kaṭamka * mbona umebaḍilika * kama umezoudika * yeo nikikwangaliya
Ali spoke: Why has [your mood] changed, as if you are angry, now as I look at you?

(٢٣١) فَتَمَ كَرْدِدِ * وَو هُنْدِ بَعِيدِ * نِلْنَلُ سِنَ بُدِ * إِلَّا نَاوُ كُكُومَبِي

(231) faṭuma akaradidi * wewe hunendi ba'idi * nilonalo sina buḍi * illā nāwe

kukwambiya

Fatima replied: Don't leave yet - I who have [something worrying me], I have no choice but to tell you.

(٢٣٢) أَكْسِيكَ حَسَنَ * كَتَكَ كُلَّ نِيْمَنٍ * أَكْنَدَ كَوَ أَمِينٍ * حَرَّ أَكْمَوْمِي

(232) akisikiya ḥasani * kaṭoka kule nyumbani * akanenda kwa amīni * ḥr
akamwambiya

When Hassan heard this he left the house and went to the Trustworthy One and told him the news.

(٢٣٣) حَسَنَ كِشَ كُفِكَ * كَوَ مَٹَمَ كَتَمَكَ * مِمَّ أَمَكْسِرِكَ * بَبِ يَنْغُ
نَكْوَمِي

(233) ḥasani kisha kufika * kwa mṭume kaṭamka * mimi amekasirika * bibi yangu
nakwambiya

When Hassan got there he told the Prophet: she is angry, my mother - I'm telling you.

(٢٣٤) أَكْمُوْزَ أَمِينٍ * مَكْسِرِ كِي نِنِ * مَوْنِيَوِ هَكْبَيْنِ * مِي سِكْفَهَمِي

(234) akamuuza mīni * mekusiri kiya nini * mwenyewe hakubaini * moyo
sikufahamiya

The Trustworthy One asked him: Why has she got angry? Myself I don't know -- I don't understand [a thing about it].

(٢٣٥) كُرْدَ كَوَكِ نَدَيْنِ * أَكْمُوْنَ حُسَيْنِ * آتِ مَكِي مَعْنِ * هُكَ كَوْتُ
نَسِيكَ

(235) kuruḍi kwake ndiyani * akamuona ḥusayni * ṭi mekuya mgeni * huku kweṭu
nasikiya

As [Hassan] went back along the road he saw Husain [who said:] So, a visitor has come to our house, I hear.

(٢٣٦) أَكْمَجِبُ حَسَنَ * مَوْنِي خَتَرَ هَيْنِ * نَ يِي تَمَكِنِ * هِي أَمَزَوْمِي

(236) akamjibu ḥasani * mwenye khaṭari huini * aina yeye ṭamkini * hoyo
amezowambiya

Hassan answered him: [there is] a gossip-monger in the town -- likely it is him who has told [people] this.

(٢٣٧) أَكَيْطَ مَلْنَعْنِ * أَكْرَدِدِ حُسَيْنِ * آسَ وَ مَتَكَيْنِ * پِنِ أَلْوَيْتِي

(237) akapiṭa mlangoni * akaradiḍi ḥusayni * sa wa mṭakiyan * penu aliwapoṭeya

He went to the door and Husain answered: Why do they want him? He has usurped your position.

(٢٣٨) أَكْمُوزَ بَيْكَ * أَ نَنِ هُنِنَ يَوْكَ * أَكْمَبَ خَيْرِ بَيْتِكَ * خَيْرَ زِمْنِي

(238) akamuuzā babake * u nani hunena pweke * akamba khēri biṭoke * khabari zimeeneya

His father asked him: What's the matter? You are speaking amongst yourselves. Then he said: It is best I got out. The news has spread.

(٢٣٩) كُمْپَنَ خَيْرِ * جَمِيعِ يَ أَنْشَارِ * أَمْكِي جَعْفَرِ * وَ مَوْلَانَا عَلِي

(239) kumepanana khabari * jamī'i ya anshāri * amekuya ja'fari * wa mawlānā 'aliya
The news is being passed about among all the people of Medina. "Ja'far has arrived, [the son] of Lord Ali.

(٢٤٠) هَپْ عَلِي حَيْدَرِ * نَنِ الْفَسِيرِ * أَوْنَعُ أَنْ خَطَرِ * مَمْبُ يَكْتُمِلِي

(240) hapo 'alii ḥaydari * neno alilofasiri * uwenga una khaṭari * mambo yakiṭumiliya

Then Ali the Lionlike, the words that he said [were]: Foolishness is dangerous, when things get out of hand (?).

(٢٤١) كُونُ كَيْي مَعْنِ * هَلْ هُكُوذَيْنِ * تَمُوكْ هُكْ نِيْمَنِ * هُنِنَ هَتْمَبِي

(241) kwenu kuiye mgeni * hilo hukuudhiyani * tamuweka huku nyumbani * huina haṭoṭembeya

A visitor has come to your house -- why does this disturb you? I will let him stay here in the house so that he does not have to wander around the town.

(٢٤٢) فَتَمَ أَكْنُطُمُ * كُونِ سِ مَوْنِ حَرَمُ * مَوْنِ هَنَ تَبَسَمُ * عَلِي كِمُونْعَلِي

(242) faṭuma akanuṭumu * kwani si mwana ḥaramu * mwana hana ṭabasamu * 'alii kimwangaliya

Fatima spoke: Why is he not a legitimate chil? The child appeared sad when Ali looked at him.

(٢٤٣) عَلِي هَپْ كَسَمَ * هَلْ نَدُو فَطَمَ * أَكَيْنُكَ كَوَ هِمَ * مَكُو كَمُنْدِي

(243) 'alii hapo kasema * hela ndoo faṭuma * akainuka kwa hima * mkewe kamuendeya

So Ali said: Come now, Fatima. He got up carefully and went to his wife.

(٢٤٤) أَكْمُوزَ أَنْ * مَبْنِ أَنْ كِسِرَنِ * فَتَمَ أَكْمَبَ كُنْ * يَ مَتْنَعُ هُكُومَبِي

(244) akamuuzā u nani * mbona una kisirani * faṭuma akamba kuni * ya maṭungu hukwambiya

He asked her: What's the matter? Why are you frowning? Fatima responded angrily and spoke to him

bitterly.

(٢٤٥) أَكْمَجِبُ تَمَكُ * هِي سِ طَبِي يَكُ * مِمِ سِ كَجَنَ چَكُ * أَمْبَ هِي
هُنَمْبِي

(245) akamjibu tamko * hiyo si tabiya yako * mimi si kijana chako * amba hayo
hunambiya

*She answered him with the words: This is not like you. I am not your child, [that you can tell] say this,
and I will say it.*

(٢٤٦) فَتَمَ أَكْبَيْنِ * سِ إِلِ پَٹَ چَنَدَنِ * يَلْنَعِي كِسْمَنِ * آٹَ زِيْپَ هُطِي
(246) faṭuma akabaini * si ile peṭe chandani * yalongiya kisimani * ṭi ziyapo huṭiya
Fatima spoke: Is that not the ring on his finger which "fell into the well", as you swore?

(٢٤٧) عَلِيْ أَكَمَبَ هَكَكَ * نَدِپَ أَكَسِرِكَ * پَلِ أَنْغُلُودِكَ * كَمَ كِلِ
نَكُومْبِي

(247) 'alii akamba hakika * ndipo ukakasirika * pale ungeliuḍika * kama kile
nakwambiya

*Ali said: Indeed, so that's why you are angry -- you would have got angry at that time [as well], I tell you
truly.*

(٢٤٨) نَ سَسَ نِنْغَكُوْدِ * نَدُغُ يَنْغُ وَتَ غَرَضِ * مِي وَكَ أَوْ رَضِ * نَ أَتْكَلِ
نَمْبِي

(248) na sasa ningekuudhi * ndugu yangu waṭa ḡaraḍi * moyo wake uwe raḍi * na
uṭakalo nambiya

*And now, if I have hurt you, stop being angry, my dear. let your heart be forgiving and tell me what you
want.*

(٢٤٩) فَتَمَ كَٹَ قَوْلِ * كَٹَ سِ يَ كُلَ دَلِيلِ * أَوِپَ أَمَكْبَلِ * رَضِ نِمَكُولِي
(249) faṭuma keṭa qawli * kiṭu si ya kula ḍalīli * uwapo umekubali * raḍi
nimekweleya

*Fatima spoke these words: the matter is of little importance. Since you have now agreed [you were
wrong], I forgive you.*

(٢٥٠) وَكَكَتِ كَوَ لِسَنِ * پِي نَ مَوْنَ نِيْمَنِ * نَوَ نَدِپَ زَنَنِ * وَچَنَدَ وَتَ

يَمِّي

(250) wakaketi kwa lisani * yeye na mwana nyumbani * nawe nendapo zitani *
wachenda wote pamoja

They sat down reconciled, [Ali] and the boy in the house. [Ali said:] When I go to battle, you [and I] we shall go together.

(٢٥١) جَعْفَرِ نِ مَغْنِ * هَيَزَوِي زَنْ * مَهَلْ پَ مَيْتِنِ * عَلِي اَكْمُونْدَلِي

(251) ja'fari ni mgeni * hayazoweya zitani * mahala pa maytini * 'alii akimwendeleya
Ja'far was a stranger [to war] he was not accustomed to battle -- where there were 200 [opponents] Ali would go to him [to help].

(٢٥٢) هَتَ اَكْتِمُ مَوْكَ * زَنْ اَمَصِفَكَ * سَبَا مِي هَكَا * هُتِنْدَ اَسِيُو

(252) haṭa akitimu mwaka * zitani ameşifika * sabā miya hakika * huṭinda asipoyuwa
Until at the end of one year he was renowned in battle. Indeed, 700 [opponents] he would cut down with no effort.

(٢٥٣) هَتَ مَوْكَ اَكِرِدَ * هَبْ اَكِنْدَ جِهَدَ * لَكِ مِي مِيَهْدَ * هَكُنْ هَتَ مُمِي

(253) haṭa mwaka ukiziḍi * hapo akenda jihādī * laki moya mayahuḍī * hakuna haṭa mmoya

Until, as the year went by, he went on a crusade, and of 10,000 unbelievers there was not one [left alive].

(٢٥٤) اَلْيَكِّي مُنِنِ * عَلِي اَكْبَتِنِ * اَكْمَوْمِي اَمِنِ * نِنَ يَمْبُ يَكَوْمِي

(254) alipokuya muini * 'alii akabaini * akamwambiya amini * nina yambo yakwambiya

When he came back to the town Ali spoke and told the Trustworthy One: I have something to say to you.

(٢٥٥) نِنْدَ سَسَ بَشِرِ * نَدِ پُوكِ جَعْفَرِ * اَكِيَجَ مَكْفَرِ * هُتَشَ كِمُونْعَلِي

(255) napenda sasa bashiri * aende pweke ja'fari * akapije makufari * huṭosha kimwangaliya

I would now like, Bringer of Good Tidings, for Ja'far to go on his own to fight the unbelievers. He is fully able, in my opinion.

(٢٥٦) اَكْشُكَ جِبْرِيلِ * اَكْمَوْمِي رَسُولِ * هَوَكِ سِمْبَ وَوِلِ * اَكْسَلِمُ نَبِي

(256) akashuka jibrīlī * akmwambiya rasūlī * haweka simba wawili * akusalimu nabiya

Gabriel descended and told the Prophet: [God] cannot have two Lions, and he greets you, Prophet.

(٢٥٧) أَكْتَمَكَ أَمِينٌ * عَلَيَّ ثَوْنٌ نِيْمَنٍ * مَوْنٌ هُوَ يَقِينٌ * هُوَ فَرَكٌ دُنْيِي

(257) akaṭamka amīni * 'alii ṭwende nyumbani * mwano huyo yaqīni * huifariki duniya

The Trustworthy One spoke: Ali, let us go to your house -- this son of yours, it seems, is departing this world.

(٢٥٨) چَمْبُو هِي قَوْلٍ * هَبْ أَسِيْمُهَل * كِنُكَ نَ رَسُوْلٍ * هَبْ وَكَنْدَمَ نَدِي

(258) chambiwa hiyo qawli * hapo asiyamuhali * kainuka na rasūli * hapo wakandama ndiya

When he was told these words [Ali] did not linger there -- he got up with the Prophet and then they set out on the road.

(٢٥٩) أَكِيْطَ مَلَنْغُنٍ * فَتْمَ أَكْبَيْنِ * أَلِهْتُكَ حَسَنٍ * أَيَاءُ كُكُونَدَمِي

(259) akipaṭa mlangoni * faṭuma akabaini * alihutoka ḥasani * uyao kukwandamiya

When he got to the door Fatima spoke: Ali, Hassan has [just] left to go and bring you here.

(٢٦٠) مَوْنُ أَلِپْ كِيْنٍ * نَ حَسَنِ نَ حُسَيْنٍ * غُفْلَ أَكْبَيْنِ * بِيْنْعُ نَمَكُلِي

(260) mwano alipo kiṭini * na ḥasani na ḥusayni * ḡafula akabaini * babangu namkuliya

Your son was sitting there with Hassan and Husain and all of a sudden he said: I need to call my father.

(٢٦١) أَمِيْنُكَ كِيْنٍ * أَمِيْنَدَ فِرْشَنِ * نَاءِ مَوْنُغَلِيْنِ * يَمْبُ لِّلْمَزْدِي

(261) ameinuka kiṭini * amepanda firashani * nae mwangaliyini * yambo lalomzidiya

He got up from the chair and climbed onto the bed, and now look at him, the misfortune that has overcome him.

(٢٦٢) هَبْ أَكَنْدَ بَشِيْرٍ * نَ عَلَيَّ حَنْدَرٍ * كِمَوْنُ جَعْفَرٍ * هَبْ بَبَاكَ كَلِي

(262) hapo akenḍa bashīri * na 'alii ḥayḍari * kimwona ja'fari * hapo babake kaliya

So the Bringer of Good Tidings went in with Ali the Lionlike. and when he saw Ja'far his father wept.

(٢٦٣) أَكَلِي كِيْنٍ * إِي مَوْنَنْعُ أَنْنِ * أُيْطُو نَ يَمْبُ غَنِ * كِتْكَ كَوْنَدَمَ نَدِي

(263) akaliya kibani * ewe mwanangu u nani * upeṭwe na yambo gani * kaṭika kwandam ndiya

He wept, saying: Oh, my son, what's the matter with you? What misfortune has stricken you as you went on your way?

(٢٦٤) أَكْسِكِي كَلِمٌ * جَعْفَرِ كَفَهَمَ * كَوْ ضَرْبُ كِزَمَ * مَيِّ أَكْمُونْغَلِي

(264) akisikiya kalimu * ja'fari kafahama * kwa ḍarubu kaṭizama * amayo
akamwangaliya

When he heard these words Ja'far regained consciousness and looked about with difficulty and focussed his eyes on him.

(٢٦٥) كِمُونْغَلِي أَمِينٌ * أَكْمَبَ نِپَ يَسِينِ * أَكِكَمَ كُبَيْنِ * أَمَكُوشَ كُئِفِي

(265) kimwangaliya amīni * akamba nipa yasini * akikoma kubaini * amekwisha
kui fiya

When he saw the Trustworthy One he said: Give me [the chapter] Ya Sin. By the time [the Prophet] had finished speaking [Ja'far] was already dead.

(٢٦٦) هَپْ عَلِي حَيْدَرِ * يَتَ أُسَيْفِكِرِ * أَكْسِمَمَ بَشِيرِ * مَصْحَبَ كَوْمَبِي

(266) hapo 'alii ḥayḍari * yote asiyafikiri * akasimama bashīri * maṣaḥaba
kawambiya

Then Ali the Lionlike became insensible to anything. The Bringer of Good Tidings stood up and spoke to the Companions.

(٢٦٧) كَوْمَبِي كَيْلِكَ * نَ جَمِيعَ وَكْتِكَ * هَيَّ وَكِشَ كُزِكَ * عَلِيَّ أُسَيْيُو

(267) kawambiya kipulika * na jamī'i wakaṭoka * haya wakisha kuzika * 'alii
asipoyuwa

He spoke to them as they listened, and they all went out and they completed the burial ceremony, Ali still insensible.

(٢٦٨) أَلِيكُوشَ كُزِكَ * مَتْمُ أَكْمُوكَ * مَنُ أَكْتَمَكَ * عَلِيَّ أَكْمُومَبِي

(268) alipokwisha kuzika * mṭumi akamuweka * maneno akaṭamka * 'alii
akamwambiya

When he had completed the burial the Prophet sat [Ali] down and spoke these words and addressed Ali.

(٢٦٩) كَوْمُومَبِي كَيْلِكَ * صَبِيرِ كُوكَ رَبُّكَ * مَتُّ هَنْغَلِكُوكَ * نَوُ أَكْمُومْغَلِي

(269) kamwambiya kipulika * ṣubiri kwake rabuk * mṭu hangalikupoka * nawe
ukamwamgaliya

He told him as [Ali] listened: Have confidence in Him, your Lord -- a person may be seized [by death] even if you were to stand watch over him.

(٢٧٠) وَ أَمَّا نِ مَتُّ غَنَ * أَدُمُو دُنَيْنِ * إِسِيكُو مَنَّانِ * نَوُ وَيَفَهَمِي

(270) wa ammā ni mṭu gani * aḍumuwo ḍuniyani * isipokuwa mannāni * niwe

wayafahamiya

And indeed, what kind of person is it who remains in existence, unless it is God alone, and you know that well.

(۲۷۱) عَلِي سِنْدَ مَنْ * مَمْبُ هُجَجُو مَفْنُ * كَبُو هِي مَنُ * عَقِلَ اِكْمَنْغِي

(271) 'alii senende mno * mambo huchijwa mfano * kapewa hayo maneno * 'aqili ikamngiya

Ali, don't go on about this too much -- things have turned out like this. And when he was given this advice [Ali] regained his senses.

(۲۷۲) هَبْ اَكِشْ كُتُو * زُبَيْرِ كَمَوَمَكُو * تَكُپْ زَنْغُ بَرُو * اُپْ كُنِيكِي

(272) hapo akisha kutowa * zubayri kamwamkuwa * takupa zangu baruwa * upate kunipekeya

So when he had calmed down He summoned Zubeir [and said:] I will give you my letters so that you may deliver them for me.

(۲۷۳) هِي مِي نَدَ مَمَكُ * مِي نَدَ مَوْلُمُ وَكُ * نَ اُجْنَدَ سِتَمَكُ * نِنُ مِي
كُومَبِي

(273) hii moya nda mamake * moya nda mwalimu wake * na uchenda sitamke * neno moya kuwambiya

This one is for his mother and this one for his teacher, and when you go there do not say one word to tell them [what has happened].

(۲۷۴) زُبَيْرِ اَسْجَلِسُ * كُكِي كَرَتَسِ * كَنَدَ نَزْ اُپْسِ * كَمِيكِي عَطِي

(274) zubayri asijilisi * kapokeya karatasi * kanenda nazo upesi * kampekeya 'atiya Zubeir did not delay -- he took the papers and went quickly with them. He delivered one to Atiya [Ja'far's mother].

(۲۷۵) بَرُو كُمُپْ كُوكُ * كِشْ زُبَيْرِ اَتَكُ * اِلَ يَ مَوْلُمُ وَكُ * كَنَدَ كُمِيكِي

(275) baruwa kumpa kwake * kisha zubēri atoke * ile ya mwalimu wake * kenenda kumpekeya

When he had given her the letter then Zubeir left, and the one for [ja'far's] teacher he went on and delivered that.

(۲۷۶) زُبَيْرِ كُتَاكَ كُوكُ * بِي اَسْمَ مَمَكُ * اَكْتَاكَ يُوَكُ يَا * مَتُ اَسِيْزَنْغِي

(276) zubayri kutoka kwake * yeye asome mamake * akatoka pweke yake * mṭu

asipozengeya

When Zubeir had left [ja'far's] mother read [the letter], and she left home on her own without telling anyone.

(٢٧٧) نَاءَ أَكِينُظُمُ * يُو لِمَ هُسَلِمُ * وَلَ أَسِيفَهُمُ * أُسِكُ هُمْنَعِلِي
(277) nae aakiyanuzumu * yuwa limo husalimu * wala asipofahamu * usiku
humngiliya

And as she repeated [the contents] the sun was going down, but she did not realise that night was drawing on.

(٢٧٨) نَ نُّكُ نَيْمَ زُبَيْرِ * أَسِيطَ فَقَصِيرِ * كِلَ مَيْمَ كَعِيرِ * كِمَزْنَعِي عَطِي
(278) na nuko nyuma zubēri * asipaṭe faqṣīri * kila myuma ki'abiri * kimzengeya
'aṭiya

And meanwhile Zubeir was not in any hurry, calling at every house while Atiya was looking for him.

(٢٧٩) هَتَ نَدِي كِفُوطَ * كِنَدَ كِتْمُكُ * نَيْمَبَ يَ كُونَدَ كِيطَ * مَلْنَعِنِ
أَكِنْعِي

(279) haṭa ndiya kifuwāṭa * kinenda kiṭomkuṭa * nyumba ya kwanda kipaṭa *
mlangoni akingiya

So as she followed the road and went on without finding him when she came to the first house she went in at the door.

(٢٨٠) حَمَزَةَ أَكْفَسِرِ * نَ مَوْلَانَا عُمَرِ * هِي نِ أَلْفَجِرِ * صَلَ إِمْسِمِي

(280) ḥamzaṭ akafasiri * na mawlānā 'umari * hiyi ni alfajiri * ṣala imesimamiya
Hamza was talking with Lord Umar [in the house]. It was the time of morning prayers and prayers were about to begin.

(٢٨١) مَوْنَمَكُ كَتْمَكُ * كَنَنَ نَدِمِ أَتُوكَ * چَمَبَ مَتَنِيلَكُ * كَوَ مَوْلَانَا عَلِي
(281) mwanamke kaṭamka * kanena ndimi aṭwika * chamba mṭanipileka * kwa
mawlānā 'aliya

The woman spoke: and said: I am Atiya. perhaps you could show me to Lord Ali's [house]?

(٢٨٢) نَدِي نِمَعَبِرِ * نَيْمَبَ سِكُفَسِرِ * نَدِمِ أُمَ جَعْفَرِ * كَمَ هِي يُولِي
(282) ndi ya nime'abiri * nyumba sikuifasiri * ndimi umi ja'fari * kama haya
yaweleya

I have come along the road and I don't know the house. I am Ja'far's mother if that clarifies things for you.

(٢٨٣) هَبْ حَمَزَ كِتْكَ * كَوَ أُپْسِ نَ هَرَكَ * مَلَنُغْ أَكُوشِكَ * إِلِ كُمْفُنْغُلِي

(283) hapo hamza kaṭoka * kwa upesi na haraka * mlango akaushika * ili kumfunguliya

Then Hamza went out quickly and speedily and took hold of the door to open it for her.

(٢٨٤) نَدِ كِتْكَ كِتْكَ هَمَ * هَبْ نَدِي هَيْنَدَمَ * كَوَ عَلِي أَكِكَمَ * مَلَنُغْ كِمْبِشِي

(284) ndi kiṭoka kaṭika hema * hapo ndiya hayandama * kwa 'alii akikoma * mlango kimbishiya

Then, leaving the tent, he set out on the way. When he finally came to Ali's [house] he knocked on the door.

(٢٨٥) كِنَنَ أَكِمْلَزَ * عَلِي نَدِمَ حَمَزَ * مَغْنِ هُكُولَزَ * هَبْ كِتْكَ عَلِي

(285) kinena akimaliza * 'alii ndimi hamza * mgeni hukuuliza * hapo kaṭoka 'aliya
And he said, explaining [things] to him: Ali, it's me, Hamza. A visitor is asking for you. Then Ali went out.

(٢٨٦) يِي يُپْ مَلَنُغْنِ * هُلِي كَبِنِ * قَبْرِ نِ نِيكَنِ * نَبْنَدَ كَيْنْغَلِي

(286) yeye yupo mlangoni * huliya aakibaini * qaburi ni nipekani * napenda kuyangaliya

[Atiya] was at the door, weeping and saying: Take me to his grave -- I want to see it.

(٢٨٧) هَبْ عَلِي كِتْكَ * مَتَرِ يَكِمَشُكَ * هَتَ نَدِ كَتْمَكَ * مَنُ أَكْمَوْمِي

(287) hapo 'alii kaṭoka * maṭozi yakimshuka * haṭa nde kaṭamka * maneno akamwambiya

Then Ali went out, his tears flowing, and he spoke, telling her these words.

(٢٨٨) كَمَوْمِي كِنُطُمُ * سِنْدَلِي إِسْلَامُ * صَبِرِ كَوَكْ كَرِيمُ * أُمِّي أَكُلِّي

(288) kamwambiya kinuṭumu * sendelee isilāmu * ṣubiri kwake karīmu * ambayo akuleṭeya

He spoke, saying: don't go on so -- submit to God's will, trust in Providence who has brought you here.

(٢٨٩) مِمِ هُي نِ مَمَكْ * نَدِي مُونِي كِتْ چَكْ * نُونِي قَبْرِ يَكْ * نَتَكَ

كَيْنْغَلِي

(289) mimi huyu ni mamake * ndiye mweni kiṭi chake * nionya qaburi yake * nataka kuyangaliya

[Atiya said:] I am his mother -- I bore his birthpangs. Show me his grave -- I want to see it.

(٢٩٠) يَو مَوْنِي مَمْلَكَه * لَكْ هَنْدُو كَوَكْ * وَلَ مِم سِكُتَكَ * أَفَرِكَ دُنْيِي

(290) yowa mwenye mamlakah * lake hondowa kiweka * wala mimi sikutaka *
aifariki duniya

[Ali said:] Know that the Almighty [his way] is to take people away and bring [them into existence], and
I did not want [ja'far] to pass away.

(٢٩١) نَو صُبِرِ نَدِينُغْ * أُسِيتِي كَوَ مَنْغْ * وَلَ هُتُكْسَ فُغْ * لَ أَجَرَ نَ دُنْيِي

(291) nawe şubiri nduyangu * usipotee kkwa mngu * wala hutokosa fungu * la ajera
na duniya

And have trust [in God], my dear, so that you do not go astray from God's [path]. or you will not receive
your share in the next world and this one.

(٢٩٢) هُمُؤَو كَيْلِكَ * مَتَرِ يَكْمَشُكَ * هَبْ كَشُكَ عَطِكَ * أَكْتَمَكَ عَلِي

(292) humuowa kipulika * maţozi yakimshuka * hapo kashuka 'atika * akatamka
'aliya

[Atiya] looked at him, listening, tears falling. Then Atiya stopped crying and Ali spoke.

(٢٩٣) هَبْ عَلِي حَيْدَرِ * بَسِ نَاءِ كَفَسِرِ * مَبْنِ هَكِي زُبَيْرِ * أَيْنِ يَوَكْ عَلِي

(293) hapo 'alii haydari * basi nae kafasiri * mbona hakuya zubēri * uyine pweke
'aliya

Sp Ali the Lionlike spoke to her then: Why did Zubeir not come [with you]? Did you come by yourself,
Atiya?

(٢٩٤) أَتَيْتِي بَرُو * كَيْتِكَ كَيْفُغُو * أَلِپِ سِكْمِيُو * وَلَ سِكْمَزَنْغِي

(294) unietee baruwa * katika kuifunguwa * alipo sikumuyuwa * wala sikumzengeya

[Atiya said:] You sent me a letter, and when I opened it I took no heed of where he was, and I did not look
for him.

(٢٩٥) بَرُو كَيْفَسِرِ * نَدِي نَلِغَبِرِ * هَنْدَ سَسَ كُفَكِرِ * يَنْبِهَ كُنْغِي

(295) baruwa kiifasiri * ndiya nalii'abiri * handa sasa kufikiri * yanabuhi kuningiya

When I realised what was in the letter I set out on the road -- I am beginning now to realise I put myself in
danger.

(٢٩٦) فَطِمَ كَمَكَلِمُ * أَكَمَپَ مَجِ يَمُ * دُعَ سَبَا تِمَمُ * نَدَنِ أَلِيسْمِي

(296) faţima kamkalimu * akampa maji yamu * du'a sabā ţimamu * ndani
aliyasomeya

Fatima spoke to her, and gave her sweet water -- seven whole prayers she had read into it.

(٢٩٧) أَكْمَجِبُ كَلِمَ * سَيَوِزِي فَتْمَ * مَيِّ نِنَ هَلِمَمَ * رُوحُ يَتَاكَ كُلي

(297) akamjibu kalima * siyawezi ya faṭuma * moyo nina halimama * rūḥu yaṭaka kuliya

[Atiya] answered her with the words: I cannot [take it], oh Fatima -- my heart is in confusion, and my soul wants to cry out.

(٢٩٨) صُبِرِ كَوَ بَوْنِ وَتْ * عَطَاكَ مَاءِ سِ كِتْ * چَجَ مَٹَمَ مَٹْ * يَكِيؤُ تَتُو

(298) ṣubiri kwa bwana weṭu * 'aṭika mai si kiṭu * chija maṭama maṭaṭu * yabakiyeo ṭaṭuwa

[Fatima replied:] Trust in our Lord, Atiya, the water is no small thing -- take three sips, and whatever is left I will take.

(٢٩٩) مَّءِ أَسِيَّتِكَ * مِيْمَنِ كِيَّكَ * أَكُتْمَوْنَ عَطَاكَ * فَتْمَ كَمِيَكِي

(299) maai asipoyataka * miyomoni kayapeka * akaṭumwa na 'aṭika * faṭuma kampokeya

Although [Atiya] did not really want the water, she took some into her mouth. [The cup] was given back by Atiya, and Fatima took it. (?)

(٣٠٠) هَبْ كَمَكَلِفِشَ * وَ عَظِ كُمُونِشَ * مَاءِ أَلِيْشُشَ * مُنْعُ أَكُمُونِي

(300) hapo kamkalifisha * wa 'aṣi kumuonesha * mai alipoyashusha * mungu akamuombeya

So Fatima persuaded her and showed her [what to do] by exhortation. (?) When [Atiya] had swallowed the water [Fatima] prayed to God for her.

(٣٠١) نَسِ هَبْ أَمُوَزْ * زَ مَوْنَوَ جَبَرِزْ * نَ عَلِيْ أَمُولِزْ * كِشَ أَكِلِي

(301) nasi hapo amuuze * za mwanawe jabarize * na 'alii amweleze * kisha akiliya

Then [Atiya] asked for news of her son, and Ali explained [everything] to her weeping at the end.

(٣٠٢) هَتَ كُكِيْمَبُوْكَ * فَتْمَ أَكَيْنُكَ * كَمِيَكِي عَطَاكَ * وَكَلْ وَتَ پَمِي

(302) haṭa kukipambauka * faṭuma akainuka * kampikiya 'aṭika * wakala wote pamoya

Until, when dawn came, Fatima got up and cooked [food] for Atiya and they all ate together.

(٣٠٣) عَطَاكَ أَكْبَيْنَ * سَسَ نَمَ كَوَ خَرِنَ * مَوْنَنْعُ أَكْ مُئِنَ * مَٹْ سِكُمُوْتِي

(303) 'aṭika akabaini * sasa nami kwa kherini * mwanangu uko muini * mṭu sikumuwaṭiya

Atiya spoke: Now I [bid you] farewell. My son is at home and I left no-one with him.

(٣٠٤) نَ فَتْمَ أَتْمَكَ * أُمُومَبِي مُم وَكَ * نَاو نَنْدَ كَمِپِكَ * أَسِنْدَ پُوكَ عَطِي

(304) na faṭuma aṭamka * amwambiye mume wake * nāwe nenda kampeke * asende pweke 'aṭiya

And Fatima spoke and said to her husband: And you go and accompany her so that Atiya will not go on her own.

(٣٠٥) عَلِي كَنْغِي نَدَنِ * كُو مَكْنُ كَبَيْنِ * أَكَنْتُكَ كِطِنِ * فَتْمَ أَكْمُونْدِي

(305) 'alii kangiya ndani * kwa mkono kabaini * akainuka kiṭini * faṭuma akamwendeya

Ali went into the inner [room] and signalled [Fatima] with his hand. She rose from her chair, Fatima, and went to him.

(٣٠٦) كَبَ چِنْدَ كِمِپِكَ * فَتْمَ هُتُؤْذِكَ * كُومَبَ وَطْ هُتْمَكَ * كَمَ هَي

كُنْمَبِي

(306) kaba chenda kimyeka * faṭuma huṭoudhika * kwamba waṭu huṭamka * kama hayo kunambiya

He said: If I go and accompany her, Fatima, will you not be angry if people talk [about it] and gossip about me? (?)

(٣٠٧) كَنَنَ شَهْدِ مَنْعُ * هَيْمَ مُيْنِ مَنْعُ * سَسَ نِ كَمَ نَدِيْنُغُ * نَ قَاسِمُ نِ

مَمِي

(307) kanena shahīdi mngu * hayamo moyoni mwangu * sasa ni kama nduyangu * na qāsimu ni mamoya

She said: I swear to God, [such things] are not in my heart. [Atiya] is like a sister to me -- the same as Qasim. (?)

(٣٠٨) هَبْ عَلِي كَتِكَ * كَنْدَمَنْ نَ عَطِكَ * أَكَنْدَ أَكْمِپِكَ * هَتَ كَوُءُ

أَكَنْغِي

(308) hapo 'alii kaṭoka * kandaṃana na 'aṭika * akenda akampeka * haṭa kwao akangiya

So Ali went out and went along with Atiya. He went and accompanied her until he reached her home.

(٣٠٩) هَبْ عَلِي حَيْدَرِ * أَكْصَلِ أَظْهَرِ * كَنْدَمَنْ نَ زُبَيْرِ * مُيْنِ أَكْرَجِي

(309) hapo 'alii ḥayḍari * akaṣali aẓuhuri * kandaṃana na zubēri * muini akarejeya
Then Ali the Lionlike said the midday prayers and walked along with Zubeir and returned to the town.

(٣١٠) نَ هَپْ أَلِیْرُدْ * نَدِپْ أَلِیْرَدِدْ * مَنَنْ كِجْتَهْدْ * مَصْحَبْ كِوْمَبِیْ

(310) na hapo aliporudi * ndipo aliporadidi * maneno kijitahidi * mshahaba
kiwambiya

*And when he returned, it was then that he repeated [the story], striving for [exact] words, telling the
Companions.*

(٣١١) هَپْ نِمِطِیْ تَمَ * یَّتْ زَنْغْ هُكُمَ * نَ أَمْبُوْ وَتَسَمَ * كَوَزَتْ زَكُولِیْ

(311) hapa nimeṭiya tama * bayti zangu hukoma * na ambao waṭasoma * kwa zote
zikaweleya

*Here I have finished, my verses have come to an end, and whoever reads them will be made aware of
everything [that happened].*

(٣١٢) یَّتِزْ زِیُونْ * مَتْ أَكْرِیْنْ * أَصْبَحْ نَ جِیْنْ * مِیْ أُسْیَنْغُلِیْ

(312) baytize ziyuweni * mṭu akazibaini * aṣubuḥi na jiyoni * moyo usopunguliya
Know that [the poem's] verses, if a person says them morning and evening, his heart will not waver. (?)

(٣١٣) كَوْنَدَ هَتَذَلِیْكَ * مِطِیْ هَتَسْمُبُكَ * نَ أَتَكَلْتَمَكَ * مَلْ هُمُوفَقِیْ

(313) kwanda haṭodhalilika * mṭuye haṭosumbuka * na aṭakaloṭamka * mola
humuwafiqiya

*At first it will not be obvious (?), but that person will not be troubled, and whatever he asks for the Lord
will bring to him.*

(٣١٤) أَوْمَبَلْ كَوْ وَهَابْ * أَتَجَبُوْ جَوْبْ * أَوْ مَتْ نَجَرِبْ * أَدَلِیْشْ وَصِیْ

(314) aombalo kwa wahābu * aṭajibuwa jawabu * aw mṭu najaribu * aḍalilishe
waṣiya

*Whatever he prays for from the Generous One, he will be vouchsafed an answer, and let the person try to
make [God's] admonitions obvious. (?)*

(٣١٥) نِمِپَنْدَ كُكَّرِیْ * نَنِیْ سَمَنْ ضَمِیْرْ * أَتَنْدِ وَ جَعْفَرْ * وَ مَوْلَانَا عَلِیْ

(315) nimependa kukariri * nanyi somani ḍamīri * uṭendi wa ja'fari * wa mawlānā
'aliya

I have enjoyed reciting it, and you, read it inwardly -- the Ballad of Ja'far and Lord Ali.