

أُنْزِلَ وَ جَعْفَرُ

utēnzi wa ja'far
The Ballad of Ja'far

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

وَتِ وَطُّ مَفْنُ

wote waṭaṭu mfano

وَكْتَنَغْنِي مَكْنُ ١٦٠

wakaṭanganya mikono 160b/a

wakaṭanganya mikono * wote waṭaṭu mfano 160a/b

They all put their hands [in the communal bowl] all three of them as equals,

نَدُّغِي أَكْمَوْمِي

nduguye akimwambiya

أَكِنَنْ نَ مَنُ

akinena na maneno 160d/c

akinena na maneno * nduguye akimwambiya 160c/d

with [Ja'far] saying these words, speaking to his brother:

يُوْ نَدِيْنُغُ كُوْ خَيْرِ

yeo nduyangu kwa khēri

أَكْمَوْمِي نَاصِرِ ١٦١

akamwambiya nāṣiri 161b/a

akamwambiya nāṣiri * yeo nduyangu kwa khēri 161a/b

He told Nasir: Goodbye today, my brother --

تَمَشَ تَكْلُطِي

ṭamasha ṭakuleṭeya

تَكْپُرْدِ سَفَرِ

ṭakaporuḍi safari 161d/c

ṭakaporuḍi safari * ṭamasha ṭakuleṭeya 161c/d

when I come back from my journey I will bring you something nice.

نِيْطِي نَ فَرَسِ

nieṭeya na farasi

أَكْمَجِبُ أُپْسِ ١٦٢

akamjibu upesi 162b/a

akamjibu upesi * nieṭeya na farasi 162a/b

[Nasir] answered him quickly: Bring me a horse --

نَتَاكَ كُمَوْنُغَلِي

naṭaka kumwangaliya

نِيَمَ هِي سِمُئِسِ

nyama huyo simuisi 162d/c

nyama huyo simuisi * naṭaka kumwangaliya 162c/d

I don't know what that animal [looks like], I would like to see one.

١٦٣ كِشَ هَپْ كَتَمَكَ
 akamba mama huṭoka kisha hapo kaṭamka 163b/a
 kisha hapo kaṭamka * akamba mama huṭoka 163a/b

When he had finished, then [Ja'far] spoke, and said: Mother, I am leaving.

١٦٤ مَمَّكَ أَكْنُوكَ
 ṣaḍaka kamṭoleya mamake akainuka 163d/c
 mamake akainuka * ṣaḍaka kamṭoleya 163c/d
 His mother got up and took out alms for him.

١٦٤ هَپْ مَمَّكَ أَتَكَ
 enende amfuwaṭe hapo mamake aṭoke 164b/a
 hapo mamake aṭoke * enende amfuwaṭe 164a/b

Then his mother went out, she went and followed him,

١٦٤ مَنَعُ أَكْمُومَبَيَا
 mngu akimuombeya akimṭemeya maṭe 164d/c
 akimṭemeya maṭe * mngu akimuombeya 164c/d
 spitting at him, praying to God for him.

١٦٥ هِي نَاصِرٍ مَوْلِيْمُ
 msomeshe ahiṭimu huy nāṣiri mwalimu 165b/a
 huy nāṣiri mwalimu * msomeshe ahiṭimu 165a/b

[Then she said:] Teacher, Nasir here, teach him so that he may complete his studies,

١٦٥ عَادَ يَكُ تَكُوْطِي
 'āḍa yako ṭakweṭeya umfunde na'ilimu 165d/c
 umfunde na'ilimu * 'āḍa yako ṭakweṭeya 165c/d
 teach him knowledge. I will pay your fee.

١٦٦ أَكْنُوكَ جَعْفَرٍ
 hapo kaliya nāṣiri akitoka ja'fari 166b/a
 akitoka ja'fari * hapo kaliya nāṣiri 166a/b
 As Ja'far was setting off then Nasir began to cry.

أُسِكُ أَتَرْجِي usiku atarejeya	مَمَّاكَ أَكْفَسِرِ mamake akafasiri	166d/c
mamake akafasiri * usiku atarejeya		166c/d
His mother said: [ja'far] will be back by nightfall.		

نَمِيُوْ إِنْ دَ مَكَه namuyuwa enḍa makah	نَاصِرِ أَكْتَمَكَ nāširi akaṭamka	167b/a
nāširi akaṭamka * namuyuwa enḍa makah		167a/b
Nasir spoke: I know he is going to Mecca.		
أَسِئِيْنَ نَدِيْ asipoiyona nḍiya	كُتْنَعْ هَنْغَلِتَكَ kuṭunga hangaliṭoka	167d/c
kuṭunga hangaliṭoka * asipoiyona nḍiya		167c/d
If he were going [to take the animals] to graze he would not take that road.		

أَكِمَوْمَبِيْ تَمَكَ ukimwambiya ṭamko	أَوْ يَنْ سِكُوْكَ aw yana sikuwako	168b/a
aw yana sikuwako * ukimwambiya ṭamko		168a/b
For was I not there yesterday when you said him [those] words to him,		
يَتِ نَلِيْسِكِيْ yote naliyasikiya	كَوَغْ وَنَدَنْ وَكَ kawage wendani wako	168d/c
kawage wendani wako * yote naliyasikiya		168c/d
that he should take leave of your friends? I heard everything.		

نَغُوْ هُتَكُلِيْنِ nguwo huṭakuliyani	أَوْ وَنَدَ مَتْنَعْنِ aw wenda maṭungani	169b/a
aw wenda maṭungani * nguwo huṭakuliyani		169a/b
Or if he is going to the pastures, what is he carrying those clothes for?		
هَتَ هَيِ كُنْمَبِيْ haṭa hayo kunambiya	سِكُ زِتِ سِمُوْنِ siku zoṭi simuoni	169d/c
siku zoṭi simuoni * haṭa hayo kunambiya		169c/d
All these days I have never seen him [do that], So explain these [things] to me.		

بَسَ وَلِيلَيْنِ	جَعَفَرِ كَبَيْنِ	١٧٠
basi waliliyani	ja'fari kabaini	170b/a
	ja'fari kabaini * basi waliliyani	170a/b
	<i>Ja'far spoke: So why are you crying?</i>	
مَنْ نَلْكَوْمِي	أَوْ تُوَلَّا غَنَنْ	
maneno nalokwambiya	aw tʷali ganani	170d/c
	aw tʷali ganani * maneno nalokwambiya	170c/d
	<i>Or why did we agree with the words I spoke to you?</i>	

نَمْبِي نِسِيَتَا	نَ كَمَ هُكِرِيْدَا	١٧١
nambiya nisiyaṭoka	na kama hukiriḍika	171b/a
	na kama hukiriḍika * nambiya nisiyaṭoka	171a/b
	<i>And if you are not pleased, tell me before I go.</i>	
سِكِيْتَا كُنِيْتَا	هُنَ هَتَ كُوْدَا	
sikiṭiko kuniṭiya	huna haṭa kuudhika	171d/c
	huna haṭa kuudhika * sikiṭiko kuniṭiya	171c/d
	<i>You have no cause to be hurt and make me feel sad.</i>	

سِكُوْزَا هَاوَا يَكَا	اَكَجِبُ تَمَكَا	١٧٢
sikuiza hayo yako	akajibu tamko	172b/a
	akajibu tamko * sikuiza hayo yako	172a/b
	<i>[Nasir] answered with the words I don't disagree with these [plans] of yours --</i>	
هَمُنُونِ كَلِي	سِيكُ زَتِ نِيكَا	
hamunioni kuliya	siku zoṭe niko	172d/c
	siku zoṭe niko * hamunioni kuliya	172c/d
	<i>all the days of my life you have never seen me cry.</i>	

نِمَزِيْتَاَمَلِ	سَسَ هَيَا نَدَا عَقِلِ	١٧٣
nimezoyataamali	sasa hayo nda 'aqili	173b/a
	sasa hayo nda 'aqili * nimezoyataamali	173a/b
	<i>Now, these [things] are [a matter of] commonsense. which I observed.</i>	
زَا زَا كُونِيكِي	نَكُو مَتْلُ تُلِ	
zeo zako za kuinukiya	nakuwa maṭuli ṭuli	173d/c
	nakuwa maṭuli ṭuli * zeo zako za kuinukiya	173c/d
	<i>I am anxious [because] today is the time for you to go.</i>	

١٧٤ أَكْمَوْمِي نَدِيكَ هِيَ إِنَّكَ أَتُكْ
 hī inuka uṭoke akamwambiya nduyake 174b/a
 akamwambiya nduyake * hī inuka uṭoke 174a/b

He told his brother: So, off you go.

جَعْفَرِ أَتْمَكْ كَوْنَدَ مَنَعُ نَوْمِي
 kwanda mngu niombeya ja'fari aṭamke 174d/c
 ja'fari aṭamke * kwanda mngu niombeya 174c/d
Ja'far said: First pray to God for me.

١٧٥ نَاصِرِ أَكْبَيْنِ أَتَكُيْكَ مَنَنْ
 aṭakupeka manani nāṣiri akabaini 175b/a
 nāṣiri akabaini * aṭakupeka manani 175a/b

Nasir said: May Providence go with you,

كُو عَفِي نَ عَفُو سَلَامَ سَلِمِينَ
 kwa 'afiya na 'afuwa salāma salimīni 175d/c
 salāma salimīni * kwa 'afiya na 'afuwa 175c/d
[and keep you] safe and sound, in health and happiness.

١٧٦ هَبْ نَدِي كَيْنَدَمَ كِنَدَ كُتْسِمَمَ
 kinenda kuṭosimama hapo ndiya kayandama 176b/a
 hapo ndiya kayandama * kinenda kuṭosimama 176a/b

Then [Ja'far] set out, going on, not stopping,

نَاءَ مَكَّهَ أَمْنَعِي سَاءَ كُو إِكْتَمَ
 nae makah amengiyya saa kwa ikiṭoma 176d/c
 saa kwa ikiṭoma * nae makah amengiyya 176c/d
and around four o'clock he entered Mecca.

١٧٧ مَكَّهَ أَلِجِلِسِ كُو بَيْكَ هَكُئْسِ
 kwa babake hakuisi makah alipojilisi 177b/a
 makah alipojilisi * kwa babake hakuisi 177a/b
When he arrived in Mecca he did not know his father's home.

كَمَبَ نَدِي سِتَكْسِ كَوْنَدَ تَكْتَلِي

kwaṇḍa ṭaiketīliya kamba ṇḍiya siṭakasi 177d/c

kamba ṇḍiya siṭakasi * kwaṇḍa ṭaiketīliya 177c/d

He said: I am not sure of the road, first I will sit myself down.

أَكَّتِ جَعْفَرِ أَكْمُونُ زُبَيْرِ ١٧٨

akamuona zubēri akakeṭi ja'fari 178b/a

akakeṭi ja'fari * akamuona zubēri 178a/b

Ja'far sat down and saw Zubair --

وَنَدِمَنَ نَ بَشِيرِ مَكْنُ كَمُونُلِي

wendemene na bashīri mikono kamwinuliya 178d/c

wendemene na bashīri * mikono kamwinuliya 178c/d

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

مَكْنُ كَوُطِرَمَ زُبَيْرِ أَكْسِمَمَ ١٧٩

mkono kauṭizama zubēri akasimama 179b/a

mkono kauṭizama * zubēri akasimama 179a/b

Zubair saw the wave and stopped.

أَكْمَوْمِي هَشِمَ مَعْنِ وَطُ هُنْغِي

akamwambiya hashima mgeni weṭu hungiya 179d/c

akamwambiya hashima * mgeni weṭu hungiya 179c/d

He told the Hashimite: Our guest has arrived.

أَكْمُوَزَ أَمِينِ مَعْنِ وَطُ نِ نَنِ ١٨٠

akamuuza amīni mgeni weṭu ni nani 180b/a

akamuuza amīni * mgeni weṭu ni nani 180a/b

The Trustworthy One asked: Who is our guest?

وَسَكِي هُبَّيْنِ مَكْنُ نِبِ نَبِي

wasikiye hubaini mkono nipe nabiya 180d/c

wasikiye hubaini * mkono nipe nabiya 180c/d

And they heard [Ja'far] say: Give me your hand, Prophet.