## أَ إِبِنْزِ وَ رَأْسِ الْغُولِ Mtungaji: Maeni bin Fagihi, c. 1850

This is a transcription of the MS sample included in Leo van Kessel's edition of *Utenzi wa Rasi 'IGhuli* by Mgeni bin Faqihi (Tanzania Publishing House, Dar Es Salaam, 1979). This was composed around 1850, and at over 4,500 stanzas is the longest Swahili ballad in existence. The editor used four MS, but which one the sample was taken from is not specified - comparing the published text (the green line below) with the MS text above it shows a number of differences, and one stanza from the MS (between 2285 and 2286) does not appear in the published text. The copyist of this MS writes only 3 vowels, uses ain with dot to represent 'ng[w]', and tends not to mark nasalised or labialised consonants (e.g. \*\*, wakitunza\*\*, 2283a; \*\*, kwa Tumwa\*\*, 2285c).

نَكِغُ كُنَ جَبَلِ nikiga kuna jabali naligu hilu thaqili 2276b/a na lango hili thaqili \* kana pande la jabali 2276a/b

يُفُغَ كَسِلِ سِلِ زَحَدِدِ نَصِفُرِ zaḥadidi naṣifuri lifuḡa kasili sili 2276d/c lifuŋgwa kwa silisili \* za hadidi na sufuri 2276c/d

wasimāmi winyi quwa widabu wakifuguwa 2277b/a wendepo wakifungua \* wasimame wenye quwa 2277a/b

> وَوْمِ وَسِوْتَوَ سَبْعِنِ مَكَفَرِ sab'ini makufari wawumi wasiwutuwa 2277d/c waume wasiotuwa \* sabiini makufari 2277c/d

كُفُغَ هَوَحِمِلِ كُفُغَ هَوَحِمِلِ كُفُغَ هَوَحِمِلِ kufuga hawaḥimili watu wakiwa qalili 2278b/a watu wakiwa qalili \* kufunga hawahimili 2278a/b

كَلَغُ كُوَ ثَقِلِ مُشْبَهَ وَحَجَرٍ

mushabaha waḥajari kalaḡu kuwa thaqili 2278d/c kwa lango kuwa thaqili \* mshabaha wa hajari 2278c/d

٢٢٧٩ مَلْعُوْنِ مُنَفِقِ تِنَ دِكَوَثِقِ

tina idikawathiqi mal'uwuni munafiqi 2279b/a maleuni mnafiqi \* na nde amewathiqi 2279a/b

اَمَتِبَ نَحَدَقِ كَزِعَ دَوِمَدَرِ

kazi'a dawimadari amatiba nahadaqi 2279d/c ametimba na khandaqi \* amezinga mdawari 2279c/d

٢٢٨٠ نَخَدَقِ فَهَمْنِ مَبَنَي تَبينِ

mabanayi tabayini nakhadaqi fahamuni 2280b/a na khandaqi fahamuni \* mpanaye tabaini 2280a/b

نِذِرَعَ عِشِرِنِ كَذِرَعَ زَمَكُفَرِ

kadhira'a zamakufari nidhira'a 'ishirini 2280d/c ni dhiraa ishirini \* kwa dhiraa za makufari 2280c/d

٢٢٨١ اَكِكِلِتِ لَعِنِ مُلِ دَنِ يَحُصُنِ

muli dani yaḥuṣuni akikiliti laʾini 2281b/a akikeleti laini \* mle ndani ya husuni 2281a/b

وَلِوَ كُطُمَعِنِ يَأْدِ وَسِفِكِرِ

yadi wasifikiri waliwa kuṭuma'ini 2281d/c wakiwa kutumaini \* ya nde wasifikiri 2281c/d ٢٢٨٢ وَكِكَعَ مُشِرِكَ خ زِكَفِكَ

khi zikafika wakika'a mushirika 2282b/a wakikaa mushirika \* siku nyingi zikafika 2282a/b

بَسِو مُتُ كُتُكَ مُكُو وَلا صَغِرِ

mukuwu wala ṣaḡiri basiwi mutu kutuka 2282d/c pasiwe mtu kutoka \* mkuu wala saghiri 2282c/d

٢٢٨٣ وَكِتْزَ إِسِلَامُ كُوَطُلِيَ مَقَامُ

kuwatuliya maqāmu wakituza isilāmu 2283b/a wakitunza islamu \* kuwatwalia maqamu 2283a/b

بَبَلِ وَكَعَزِمُ كِدَ وَنَ نَكُفَرِ kida wana nakufari babali waka'azimu

kida wana nakufari babali waka'azimu 2283d/c kwa papo wakiazimu \* kwenda wana na kufari 2283c/d

٢٢٨٤ وَكُودِيَ كِلَابُ وَكِودِيَ كُتَقَرَبُ

wakibu kutaqarabu wakawidiya kilābu 2284b/a wakiwendea kilabu \* walipo kutaqarabu 2284a/b

وَكَبِغَ كَنِشَبُ كَنَ وِغُ لَمَطَرِ

kana wiğu lamatari wakabiğa kanishabu 2284d/c wakipigwa kwa nishabu \* kana wingu la matari 2284c/d

٥ ٢٢٨ مِشَرِ يِكُوَغِي صَحَبَ وَكِوُمِي

ṣaḥaba wakiwumiya mishari yikuwagiya 2285b/a mishale ikawangia \* sahaba wakiumia 2285a/b

كَتُمْ وَكَرِجِيَ نَمَجَرَحِ كَثِرِ

namajaraḥi kathiri katuma wakarijiya 2285d/c kwa tumwa wakirejea \* na majeruhi kathiri 2285c/d اَكِتَرَمَ بَشِرِ مِثَرِ كُو خَسِرِ

mithari kuwa khasiri akitarama bashiri b/a akitarama bashiri \* mithari kuwa hasiri a/b

بَبَلِ أَكِفِصِرِ أَكِتُو مَشَوُرِ

**5** akituwa mashawuri babali akifisiri d/c babali akifisiri \* akituwa mashawuri c/d

٢٢٨٦ أَكِتَمُكَ حَبِبُ كُوبِيَ أَصْحَبُ

kuwabiya ashabu akitamuka habibu 2286b/a akitamka habibu \* kuwambia asahabu 2286a/b

مُتَكَبُ يَصَوَبُ كُفَرِ كُوَظفر

kufari kuwazfr mutakabu yasawabu 2286d/c mtakapo ya sawabu \* kufari kuwadhifiri 2286c/d

Beti 2276-2286 za utenzi huu kwa hati ya Kiarabu