

Direct copy of the Swahili text as written by Mahmoud Ahmad Abdulkadir

Note: the glyph for Unicode 063B (Arabic keheh with two dots above), used by the author for ch, is not currently available in the Scheherezade font, so Unicode 06B1 (Arabic ngoeh, from Sindhi) has been used instead.

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
كِسْوَا حِلِ

كُنِيْمَا نِ مَكُوْكَ
وَنَنْغُ هُنِيْوُكَ
وَالُوْبَاكِ كُنِيْشَكْ
مِمِ نِ مَوْتِنْدَانِ
تَانِيَامَا حَتَ لِنِ
كُوْأَنَ نَ تَمَانِ
سَوْنُغُ نِ وَ وَنْدَانِ
مَبُوْنَهْنِيْجَ زَتَ

وَنَانُغُ مِمِ وَ دَمُ
أَصِلِ هَوْنَ هَامُ
وَمَنْتَبُ قَوْمُ
كُوْسَ لَنْغُ كُوْسَ غَنِ
وَإَنَ وَ أُسْوَا حِلِنِ
يَا كُنِيُوْ نِ نَانِ
نَ وَنَ وَ مَجِرِنِ
مَبُوْنَهْنِيْجَ زَتَ

مِمِ مَاْمَنَ سِتَاسَ
نِ مَزَا وَ مَمْبَاسَ
نَزَ وَنَ سِتَاسَ
مَاْفُنْدِ وَ كُلَ فَنِ
وَلَ سِنَ پُنْغُوْنِ
نَ كُنْغِنِ زِسُوْنِ
نَزِيُوْنُغُوْرَ وَدِنِ
نَ مَاْشَجَا وَ زَتَ

The Swahili text as written in the proposed standard set out in Omar and Frankl
The Roman transcription and English translation have been added interlinearly.

(١) كُنَيْمَاءُ نِمِچُوكَ * تَهْنِيمَاءُ هَاتَ لَيْنِ

Kunyamaa nimechoka * t'anyamaa hata lini
I am weary of staying silent. For how much longer am I to remain dumb?

وَنَانِغُ هُنِيُوكَ * كُوُؤُونَ نَتَمَانِ

wanangu huniepuka * kuwaona natamani
My own children avoid me, though I long to see them.

وَلُبَاكِ كُنِشِيكَ * سِ وَانِغُ نِ وَ وَندَانِ

walobaki kunishika * si wangu ni wa wendani
And those who remain to embrace me are not my own, but are the offspring of others.

مِيمِ نِمَوَتَنْدَانِ * مَبُونِ مَوْنِيِجَ زِيَتِ

Mimi nimewatendani * mbona mwanipija zita
What have I done to you? Why do you wage war on me?

(٢) وَنَانِغُ مِمِ وَ دَامُ * وَانَ وَ أُسُوهِلِينِ

Wanangu mimi wadamu * wana wa Uswahilini
My own flesh and blood, the children of Swahiland,

أَصِيلِ هَوَانَ هَامُ * يَ كُنِيُوُونَ نَانِ

asili hawana hamu * ya kuniyuwa ni nani
are uninterested in knowing who I am

وَمَنْتِييَ قَوُومُ * نَ وَانَ وَ مَجْرَانِ

wamenatiya kaumu * na wana wa majirani
and have left me to other peoples, and to the children of neighbours.

كُوسَ لَانِغُ كُوسَ غَانِ * مَبُونِ هُنِيِجَ زِيَتِ

kosa langu kosa gani * mbona hunipija zita
What kind of fault is my fault? [O my children] why do you continue waging war on me?

(٣) مِيمِ مَمِينُ سِتْهَاسَ * وَالَ سِينِ يُنْعَوَانِ

Mimi mamenu sit'asa * wala sina punguwani
I am your mother and am not yet infertile, nor has my ability to reproduce diminished.

نَمَزَاءَ وَ مَمْبَاسَ * نَ كُنْغِينَ زِسَوَانِ

nimezaa wa Mambasa * na kungine zisiwani

I have given birth to children in Mambasa and in the other islands [of the Swahili],

نَزِيٍّ وَنَسِيَّاسَ * نَ زِيْنُغُوْرَ وَ دِيْنِ

nizee wanasiyasa * na ziyongozi wa dini

to politicians and to religious leaders,

مَفُوْنْدٍ وَ كُوْلَ فَاْنِ * نَ مَشُجَاءَ وَ زِيْتِ

mafundi wa kula fani * na mashujaa wa zita

to craftsmen in every field, and to war heroes.