

Letter to Thomas S. Livingstone, 28 April 1862

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[0001]

Shupanga 28 April 1862

My Dear Son Thomas

Your dear Mama
will never return from the happy
home to which she has gone. We
shall go to her but she will
not come back to us. She died
last night and I am left with
a sore heart alone in the
world. I bow to the heavy
stroke of our Heavenly Father
who does all things well &
pray that he may give me
grace & strength to bear up
against what at present quite
takes the heart out of me.

She was but forty one and I never
[0002]

saw her look better, and never
enjoyed her society more, but three
short months after our meeting
after four years separation we
are parted till we meet through
infinite mercy in Heaven. Poor
Dear Mama I weep over you as
well deserving many tears. I laid
her dear form in the grave
a little ago. There she sleeps till
the last trumpet shall sound
and the dead in christ shall rise
with joy. Her body is placed
beneath a large Baobab tree
sixty feet in circumference
mentioned in Commodore Owen's
book. We must my dear son
feel that Heaven is our true
home and dear good Mama
[0003]

has just preceded us. She may be
thought of as beckoning you to
come - to flee sin, and lay hold on

Christ. Yes. Christ himself is
beckoning & inviting you to
come & be saved - don't hold
back, O ye unto God "My father
be thou the guide of my youth"
Embrace Jesus and all your
sins are forgiven.

Dear dear Mama had but
little pain, he never refused to
act and the bile mixing with
the blood produced a sort of
stupor and jaundice.
She said
to me as she lay moaning
yesterday morning. "I am not in
pain but have a feeling of
distressing weakness" soon after
that she lost the power of
swallowing, and gradually became
more insensible but answered my
kisses up to within half an hour
of her departure. She was breathing
with her mouth a little open then
shut it gently and breathed no
more. Jesus I trust was with
her but she was deafened by
quinine and I could hold no
conversation with her on the rest
of her soul. It never occurred to
me to use writing but on asking
loud if she rested on Jesus she
looked thoughtfully up. I think it
meant yes, but to her previous
life and experience we must
look for comfort. Thomas meet
Mama in Heaven
Don't let sin
cheat you out of that happy meeting
you must go to Christ for your -
self. And may he be your Friend
& guide, your sorrowing Father

David Livingstone