

African Languages Glossary

Circle of Life with Nants' Ingonyama (Xhosa)

- **Nants' ingonyama, bakithi, baba** (NANTS een-GON-yah-mah bah-KEE-tee bah-BAH): Here comes the lion, my people, the father (of our nation)
- **Sithi hu 'ngonyama** (SEE-tee WHOO gon-YAH-mah): We hail this coming of the lion
- **'Ngonyama nengwe bo** (GON-yah-mah NEN-gway boh): The lion and the leopard
- **Nants' ingonyama, bakithi babo** (NANTS een-GON-yah-mah bah-KEE-tee bah-BOH): Here comes the lion, my dear people
- **Sizo nqo'** (SEE-zoh N<click> OH): We will have victory!
- **Ingonyama nengwe' namabala** (een-gon-YAH-mah NEN-gweh nah-mah-BAH-lah): The lion wears the leopard spots. (*connotes royalty*)
- **Ingonyama nengwe wema** (een-gon-YAH-mah NEN-gweh WEH-mah): The lion and the leopard, oh what a sight!
- **Balek' ingonyam'i ya gale'** (BAH-lek een-gon-YAH-mee YAH gah-LEH): Run, the lion will attack!

Grasslands Chants (Zulu)

- **Zm zm zmm:** (*sounds of wind in the grass*)
- **Mama ye** (mah-mah YEH): Mother Earth/Wow...
- **Wowza, 'mfana. Oh, woza!** (WO-zah MFAN-ah oh WO-zah): Come, son. Oh, come!
- **Oh, woza!** (Oh WO-zah): Oh, come
- **Busa le lizwe bo** (BOO-sah leh LEEZ-weh boh): Rule this precious land!
- **Busa lomhlaba** (BOO-sah LOM-hhla-bah): Rule this earth
- **Busa ngo thando bo** (BOO-san GO TAN-doh boh): Rule with love
- **He um hem, ya oh ha:** (*imitation of animal sounds-bull, donkey, horse - to connect with animal spirits*)

The Lioness Hunt (Zulu)

- **Ah ha hayi (ya):** (*roaring sounds*)
- **We baba** (WEH bah-bah): Oh, father
- **Zingela, siyo, zingela, baba** (zeen-GEH-lah see-YO zeen-GEH-lah bah-bah): Hunt - let's go hunt, father

- **Hi baba** (HAI bah-bah): Oh, father
- **S'qhubekeni, siyo zingela** (S<click>OO-beh-KEH-nee see-YO zeen-GEH-lah: Let's proceed - lets go hunt

They Live in You (Zulu)

- **Ingonyama nengwe 'namabala** (een-gon-YA-mah NEN-gweh nah-mah-BA-lah): The lion wears the leopard spots. (*connotes royalty*)
- **Oh oh iyo** (OH OH ee-YOH): (*ancestral echoes that imply "This is it!"*)
- **Mamela** (MAH-meh-lah): Listen
- **Hela, hem mamela** (HAY-lah HEM mah-MEH-lah): Pay attention and experience this

The Stampede (Zulu)

- **Yona yona yona** (YOH-nah YOH-nah YOH-nah): Here it comes!
- **Baba, wa mi baba** (BAH-bah WAH MEE BAH-bah): Father, oh my father!

The Mourning

- **Hamela, hamela, hamela** (HAH-meh-lah): (*breathy expression of grief*)

Hakuna Matata (Swahili)

- **Hakuna Matata** (hah-KOO-nah mah-TAH-tah): No worries

Shadowland (Setswana, Zulu)

- **Fatshe leso lea halalea** (FAT-SEE LEH-SOO LEE-AH HAH-lah-LEH-lah): This land of our ancestors is holy. (Setswana)

- **Ngizo buyabo** (GEE-zoh BOO-yah-boh): I will return (Zulu)
- **Beso bo** (BEH-soo boh): My people. (Setswana)

Tamatiso (Zulu)

- **Tamatiso, a so, a helele ma** (tah-mah-tee-SOH ah SOH ah HEH-leh-leh MAH): (a popular South African nursery rhyme underscoring children’s fondness for ketchup/tomato sauce)

He Lives in You (Zulu)

- **Ingonyama nengwe’ namabala** (een-gon-YAH-mah NEN-gweh nah-mah-BAH-lah): The lion wears the leopard spots. (*connotes royalty*)
- **Oh oh iyo** (OH OH ee-YOH): (*ancestral echoes that imply “This is it!”*)
- **Mamela** (MAH-meh-lah): Listen.
- **Ubukhosi bokhokho** (OO-boo-KHOH-see-boh-KHOH-khoh): This is the thrones of our ancestors!
- **We ndodana ye sizwe sonke** (WEN doh-DAH-nah yeh SEEZ-we SOHNk): Oh, this son of our nation!
- **Hela, hem mamela** (HEH-lah HEM mah-MEH-lah): Pay attention and experience this

Finale (Zulu)

- **Busa le lizwe bo** (BOO-sah leh LEEZ-weh boh): Rule this precious land
- **Busa lomhlaba** (BOO-sah LOM-hhlah-bah): Rule this earth
- **Busa ngo thando bo** (BOO-san GO TAN-do boh): Rule with love
- **Oh, busa Simba iyo** (oh BOO-sah SEEM-bah YOH): Oh, rule, Simba.

SONG/LYRICS	PRONUNCIATION	LITERAL TRANSLATION	MEANING
CIRCLE OF LIFE WITH NANTS’INGONYAMA (Xhosa)			
<i>Nants’ ingonyama, bakithi, baba.</i>	NANTS een-GON-yah-mah, bah-KEE-	<i>Nants</i> = here comes; <i>Ingonyama</i> = lion;	Here comes the lion, my people, the father

	tee, bah-BAH.	<i>Bakithi</i> = my people; <i>Baba</i> = father	(of our nation)
<i>Sithi hu 'ngonyama.</i>	SEE-tee WHOO GON-yah-mah.	<i>Sithi</i> = we hail; <i>hu</i> = this; <i>ingonyama</i> = lion.	We hail this coming of the lion.
<i>'Ngonyama nengwe bo!</i>	GON-ya-mah NEN- gway boh.	<i>Ingonyama</i> = lion; <i>ne</i> = and; <i>ngwe</i> = leopard; <i>bo</i> = (<i>adds emphasis, awe</i>)	The lion and the leopard!
<i>Sizo nqo'!</i>	SEE-zoh N<click>Oh	<i>sizo</i> = we will have <i>nqoba</i> = victory	We will have victory!
<i>Ingonyama nengwe 'namabala.</i>	een-gon-YAH-mah NEN-gweh nah-mah- BAH-lah.	<i>Ingonyama</i> = lion; <i>ne</i> = and; <i>ngwe</i> = leopard; <i>en</i> = with; <i>a</i> = the; <i>mabala</i> = spots	The lion wears the leopard spots (<i>connotes royalty</i>)
<i>Ingonyama nengwe wema!</i>	een-gon-YAH-mah NEN-gweh WEH- mah!	<i>Ingonyama</i> = lion; <i>ne</i> = and; <i>ngwe</i> = leopard; <i>wema</i> = oh my	The lion and the leopard, oh what a sight!
<i>Balek' ingonyam'i ya gale'!</i>	BAH-lek een-gon- YAH-mee YAH gah- LEH!	<i>Baleka</i> = run; <i>ingonyama</i> = lion; <i>i</i> = and; <i>ya</i> = will; <i>galela</i> = attack	Run, the lion will attack!
GRASSLANDS CHANT (Zulu)			
Zm zm zmm			(<i>sounds of wind in the grass</i>)
<i>Mama ye</i>	Mah-mah YEH	<i>Mama</i> = Mother Earth; <i>ye</i> = wow	Mother Earth/ Wow...
<i>Woza, 'mfana. Oh, woza</i>	Wo-zah, mFAN-ah. Oh, WO-zah.	<i>Woza</i> = come; <i>umfana</i> = son	Come, son. Oh, come!
<i>Busa le lizwe bo!</i>	BOO-sah leh LEEZ- weh boh!	<i>Busa</i> = rule; <i>le</i> = this; <i>lizwe</i> = land; <i>bo</i> = (<i>adds emphasis</i>)	Rule this precious land!
<i>Busa lomhlaba!</i>	BOO-sah LOM-hhla- bah!	<i>Busa</i> = rule <i>Lomhlaba</i> = earth	Rule this earth!
<i>Busa ngo thando bo!</i>	BOO-san GO TAN- doh boh!	<i>Busa</i> = rule; <i>ngo</i> = with; <i>thando</i> = love;	Rule with love!

		<i>bo = (adds emphasis)</i>	
He um hem, ya oh ha.			<i>(imitation of animal sounds - bull, donkey, horse - to connect with animal spirits)</i>
THE LIONESS HUNT (Zulu)			
Ah ha hay (ya)			<i>(roaring sounds)</i>
<i>We baba.</i>	WEH bah-bah.	<i>We = oh; baba = father</i>	Oh, father.
<i>Zingela, siyo zingela, baba.</i>	zeen-GEH-lah, see-YO zeen-GEH-lah, bah-bah	<i>Zingela = hunt; siyo = let's go; babo = father</i>	Hunt - let's go hunt, father
<i>Hi baba</i>	HAI bah-bah	<i>hi = oh; baba = father</i>	Oh, father.
<i>S'qhubekeni, siyo zingela</i>	S<click>OO-beh-KEH nee, see-YO zeen-GEH-lah	<i>Siqhubekeni = let's proceed; siyo = let's go; zingela = hunt</i>	Let's proceed - let's go hunt
THEY LIVE IN YOU (Zulu)			
<i>Ingonyama nengwe 'namabala</i>	een-gon-YA-mah NEN-gweh nah-mah-BA-lah	<i>Ingonyama = lion; ne = and; ngwe = leopard; ne = with; a = the; mabala = spots</i>	The lion wears the leopard spots
Oh oh iyo	OH OH ee-YOH		<i>(ancestral echoes that imply "This is it!")</i>
<i>Mamela!</i>	MAH-meh-lah!	<i>Mamela = listen</i>	Listen!
<i>Hela, hem mamela!</i> (Setswana)	HAY-lah HEM mah-MEH-lah!	<i>hela = pay attention; hem = (adds emphasis); mamela = experience</i>	Pay attention and experience this!
THE STAMPEDE (Zulu)			
<i>Yona yona yona</i>	YOH-nah YOH-nah YOH-nah	<i>Yona = it</i>	(Here) it (comes)! Also: You've messed up/You've done something wrong
<i>Baba, wa mi baba!</i>	BAH-bah, WAH MEE	<i>Baba = father; wa =</i>	Father, oh my father!

	BAH-bah!	oh; <i>mi</i> = my	
THE MOURNING			
Hamela, hamela, hamela.	HAH-meh-lah		(breathy expression of grief)
HAKUNA MATATA (Swahili)			
<i>Hakuna matata</i>	hah-KOO-nah mah-TAH-tah	<i>Hakuna</i> = none; <i>Matata</i> = worry	No worries
SHADOWLAND (Setswana, Zulu)			
<i>Fatshe leso lea halalela (Setswana)</i>	FAT-see LEH-soo LEE-ah HAH-lah-LEH-lah	<i>Fatshe</i> = land; <i>leso</i> = ours; <i>lea</i> = is; <i>halalela</i> = holy	This land (of our ancestors) is holy
<i>Ngizo buyabo. (Zulu)</i>	GEE-zoh BOO-yah-boh	<i>Ngizo</i> = i will; <i>buyabo</i> = return	I will return
<i>Beso bo (Setswana)</i>	BEH-soo boh	<i>Beso</i> = people; <i>bo</i> = my	My people
TAMATISO (Zulu)			
<i>Tamatiso, a so a helele ma</i>	tah-mah-tee-SOH, ah SOH ah HEH-leh-leh MAH	<i>Tamatiso</i> = tomato sauce (urban slang); the rest is a play on words/sounds	(popular South African nursery rhyme underscoring children's fondness for ketchup/tomato sauce)
HE LIVES IN YOU (Zulu)			
<i>Ingonyama nengwe 'namabala</i>	een-gon-YA-mah NEN-gweh nah-mah-BA-lah	<i>Ingonyama</i> = lion; <i>ne</i> = and; <i>ngwe</i> = leopard; <i>ne</i> = with; <i>a</i> = the; <i>mabala</i> = spots	The lion wears the leopard spots
Oh oh iyo	OH OH ee-YOH		(ancestral echoes that imply "This is it!")
<i>Mamela!</i>	MAH-meh-lah!	<i>Mamela</i> = listen	Listen!
<i>Ubukhosi bokhokho!</i>	OO-boo-KHOH-see boh-KHOH-khoh!	<i>ubu</i> = this; <i>khosi</i> = throne; <i>bo</i> = of; <i>khokho</i> = ancestors	This is the throne of our ancestors!

<i>We ndodana ye sizwe sonke!</i>	WEN doh-DAH-nah yeh SEEZ-we SOHNK!	<i>we= oh; ndodana=son; ye= of; sizwe= nation; sonke= our</i>	Oh, this son of our nation!
<i>Hela, hem mamela!</i>	HEH-lah HEM mah-MEH-lah	<i>Hela = pay attention; hem= adds emphasis; mamela= experience</i>	Pay attention and experience this!
FINALE (Zulu)			
<i>Busa le lizwe bo!</i>	BOO-sah leh LEEZ-weh boh!	<i>busa= rule; le= this; lizwe=land; bo=(adds emphasis)</i>	Rule this precious land!
<i>Busa lomhlaba!</i>	BOO-sah LOM-hhlabah!	<i>Busa = rule Lomhlaba = earth</i>	Rule this earth!
<i>Busa ngo thando bo!</i>	BOO-san GO TANDOH boh!	<i>Busa = rule; ngo = with; thando = love; bo = (adds emphasis)</i>	Rule with love!
<i>Oh, busa Simba iyo!</i>	Oh BOO-sah SEEMBah YOH!	<i>busa= rule; iyo= (adds emphasis)</i>	Oh, rule, Simba!