

African Languages Guide

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-tee, bah-BAH.	<i>nants</i> = here comes; <i>ingonyama</i> = lion; <i>bakithi</i> = my people; <i>baba</i> = father	Here comes the lion, my people, the 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-yah-mah NEN-gway boh.	<i>ingonyama</i> = lion; <i>ne</i> = and; <i>ngwe</i> = leopard; <i>bo</i> = (adds emphasis, awe)	The lion and the leopard!
<i>Nants' ingonyama, bakithi babo.</i>	NANTS een-GON-yah-mah, bah-KEE-tee bah-BOH.	<i>nants</i> = here comes; <i>ingonyama</i> = lion; <i>bakithi</i> = my people; <i>babo</i> = dear	Here comes the lion, my dear people.
<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. (connotes royalty)
<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)			
<i>Zm zm zmm</i>			(sounds of wind in the grass)
<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> = (adds emphasis)	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; <i>bo</i> = (adds emphasis)	Rule with love!
<i>He um hem, ya oh ha.</i>			(imitation of animal sounds – bull, donkey, horse – to connect with animal spirits)

THE LIONESS HUNT (Zulu)			
Ah ha hayi (ya)			(roaring sounds)
<i>We baba.</i>	WEH bah-bah.	<i>we</i> = oh; <i>baba</i> = father	Oh, father.
<i>Zingela, siyo zingela, baba.</i>	zeen-GEH-lah, see-YO zeen-GEH-lah, bah-bah.	<i>zingela</i> = hunt; <i>siyo</i> = let's go; <i>babo</i> = father.	Hunt – let's go hunt, father.
<i>Hi baba.</i>	HAI bah-bah.	<i>hi</i> = oh; <i>baba</i> = father	Oh, father.
<i>S'qhubekeni, siyo zingela.</i>	S<click>OO-beh-KEH nee, see-YO zeen-GEH-lah.	<i>siqhubekeni</i> = let's proceed; <i>siyo</i> = let's go; <i>zingela</i> = hunt	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</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. (connotes royalty)
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>Hela, hem mamela!</i> (Setswana)	HAY-lah HEM mah-MEH-lah!	<i>hela</i> = pay attention; <i>hem</i> = (adds emphasis); <i>mamela</i> = experience	Pay attention and experience this!
THE STAMPEDE (Zulu)			
<i>Yona yona yona</i>	YOH-nah YOH-nah YOH-nah	<i>yona</i> = it	(Here) it (comes)! Also: You've messed up / You've done something wrong.
<i>Baba, wa mi baba!</i>	BAH-bah, WAH MEE BAH-bah!	<i>baba</i> = father; <i>wa</i> = oh; <i>mi</i> = my	Father, oh my father!
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.</i> (Setswana)	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.</i> (Zulu)	GEE-zoh BOO-yah-boh.	<i>ngizo</i> = I will; <i>buyabo</i> = return	I will return.
<i>Beso bo</i> (Setswana)	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>Igonyama nengwe 'namabala.</i>	een-gon-YA-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>)
Oh oh iyo	OH OH ee-YOH		(<i>ancestral echoes that imply "This is it!"</i>)
<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</i> = oh; <i>ndodana</i> = son; <i>ye</i> = of; <i>sizwe</i> = nation; <i>sonke</i> = our	Oh, this son of our nation!
<i>Hela, hem mamela!</i>	HEH-lah HEM mah-MEH-lah!	<i>hela</i> = pay attention; <i>hem</i> = adds emphasis; <i>mamela</i> = experience	Pay attention and experience this!
FINALE (Zulu)			
<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-hhlah-bah!	<i>busa</i> = rule; <i>lomhlaba</i> = earth	Rule this earth!
<i>Busa ngo thando bo!</i>	BOO-san GO TAN-do boh!	<i>busa</i> = rule; <i>ngo</i> = with; <i>thando</i> = love; <i>bo</i> = (<i>adds emphasis</i>)	Rule with love!
<i>Oh, busa Simba iyo!</i>	oh BOO-sah SEEM-bah YOH!	<i>busa</i> = rule; <i>oyo</i> = (<i>adds emphasis</i>)	Oh, rule, Simba!