
When presenting translations of other songs in Luganda, Lusoga, Lugwere and Lunyole, I give interlinear translation. Orthography is contested in these languages and here I use the spelling chosen by leaders of the Abayudaya community.

The Abayudaya’s Hebrew pronunciation is influenced by Luganda, where words end with a vowel. As a result, when singing in Hebrew, the Abayudya often add a vowel to the end of a word. Thus, likrat, “to welcome” becomes likrati, and olam “world,” becomes olamu.

1. “Psalm 136” Sung in Luganda

1. Leader: Mumwebaze Adonai [Mukama]; kubanga mulungi:
Chorus: Kubanga okusaasira kwe kwa luberera
[Verse in Luganda bible: Kubanga okusaasira kwe kuberera emirembe gyonna.]
2. Mumwebaze lubale [Katonda] wa balubale [bakatonda]:
Kubanga …
3. Mumwebaze Adonai [Mukama] w’abaami:
Kubanga…
4. Oyo akola eby’amagero ebikulu yekka:
Kubanga…
5. Oyo eyakola eggulu n’amagezi:
Kubanga…
6. Oyo eyayaliira ensi waggulu ku mazzi:
Kubanga…
7. Oyo eyakola ebyaka ebikulu;
Kubanga…
8. Enjuba okufuga emisana:  
Kubanga…
9. Omwezi n’emmunyeenyeye okufuga ekiro:  
Kubanga…
10. Oyo eyakubira e Misiri ababerebery e baabwe:  
Kubanga…

(fade out, fade up to electric version)

1. Mumwebaze Adonai [Mukama]; kubanga mulungi;  
Kubanga okusaasira kwe kwa luberera  
[Kubanga okusaasira kwe kuberera emirembe gyonna.]  
1. Mumwebaze Adonai [Mukama]; kubanga mulungi;  
Kubanga …
18. N’atta bakabaka abaatiikirivu:  
Kubanga…
20. Ne Ogi kabaka w’e Basani;  
Kuganga…

Leader:
Adonai mulungi  
Adonai is good

Chorus:
Adonai mulungi  
Adonai is good

Leader:
Adonai mulungi  
Adonai is good

Chorus:
Adonai mulungi  
Adonai is good

Leader:
Yatuwa fe akilabo  
He gave us a gift

Chorus:
Akilabo ekinene  
A gift which is big

Leader:
Yatuwa fe akilabo  
He gave us a gift

Chorus:
Akilabo ekinene  
A gift which is big
Leader:
Ekilabo ekyo kyekyi?
    What is that gift?
Chorus:
Ge mateeka
    It is the Torah

Leader:
Ekilabo ekyo kyekyi?
    What is that gift?
Chorus:
Ge mateeka
    It is the Torah
Leader:
A mateeka malungi
    The Torah is good
Chorus:
A mateeka malungi
    The Torah is good
Leader:
A mateeka malungi
    The Torah is good
Chorus:
A mateeka malungi
    The Torah is good

Leader:
A mateeka bwe bugaga
    The Torah is wealth
Chorus:
A mateeka malungi
    The Torah is good
Leader:
A mateeka kyekitibwa
    The Torah is for honor

Chorus:
A mateeka malungi
    The Torah is good
Leader:
Bwobanga oyagala ebilungi
    If you want good things
Chorus:
kwata mateeka
   Observe the Torah
Leader:
Bwobanga ayogala obunene
   If you want to be respected
Chorus:
kwata mateeka
   Observe the Torah
Leader:
Bwobanga oyagala obugaga
   If you want wealth
Chorus:
kwata mateeka
   Observe the Torah
Leader:
A mateeka malungi
   The Torah is good
Chorus:
A mateeka malungi
   The Torah is good
Leader:
A mateeka bwebuyonjo
   The Torah provides good health
Chorus:
A mateeka malungi
   The Torah is good
Leader:
A mateeka bwebugaga
   The Torah is wealth
Chorus:
A mateeka malungi
   The Torah is good
Leader:
Malungi, malungi
   Good, good

Chorus:
A mateeka malungi
   The Torah is good
English Translation
Psalm 136

1. Praise the Lord for He is good,  
His steadfast love is eternal.
2. Praise the God of gods,  
His steadfast love is eternal.
3. Praise the Lord of the lords,  
His steadfast love is eternal.
4. Who alone works great marvels,  
His steadfast love is eternal;
5. Who made the heavens with wisdom,  
His steadfast love is eternal;
6. Who spread the earth over the water,  
His steadfast love is eternal;
7. Who made the great lights,  
His steadfast love is eternal;
8. the sun to dominate the day,  
His steadfast love is eternal;
9. the moon and the stars to dominate the night,  
His steadfast love is eternal;
10. Who struck Egypt through their first-born,  
His steadfast love is eternal;

Fade down from a cappella, fade up to electric

1. Praise the LORD; for He is good,  
His steadfast love is eternal.
1. Praise the LORD; for He is good,  
His steadfast love is eternal.
18. and slew mighty kings—  
His steadfast love is eternal;
20. Og, king of Bashan—  
His steadfast love is eternal;

Note: The chorus response of this psalm was shorted from the biblical verse.

2. “Katonda oyo nalimana” (God is all knowing)

Chorus: Nalimana, Katonda oyo nalimana
               God is all knowing
Bana Katonda mwagalwa
   God, the loved one
Tusimye byemukola
   We appreciate what you do
Kisige wabula
   Kisige, where have you been?
Dada wabula
   Grandparent, where have you been?
Tusima bwongelwa
   We appreciate more! (addressed to drummers, ie, play more!)
Bageni banayife
   Fellow visitors
Mwebale bana
   Thank you (bana as greeting, “hey guys!”)
Bana katondo oyo
   That God
Bana Katonda mukulu
   God is great
Bana Mugweli wabula
   Mugweli, were have you been?
Bana Kiganda wabula
   Kiganda, where have you been?
Bana Katonda mwene
   God himself
Muzeeyi webale
   Elder, thank you
Bana kulwobuyudaya
   For the sake of Judaism
Obwala nengoma
   Clap and sound drums

Note: A number of these verses are repeated throughout the song. Kisige, Mugweli and Kiganda are proper names.

3. “Hiwumbe awumba” (God Creates and Then Destroys)
Hiwumbe awumba omwene gahena gawumbulula

God creates and then destroys

Hiwumbe awumba wange simanyire ngabalindanya

God creates (my friend) I don’t know where they will bury me

Simanyire ngandifila

I don’t know when I will die

Olumbe lwamani baba ogendanga luhulondelera

Death is powerful, (father) While you walk it follows you

Lumbe lwamani wange simanyile ngabalindanya

Death is powerful (my friend) I don’t know where I will be buried

Wade onina ndege lwosi oninanga luhuninilila

Even if you board an airplane, [death] also boards

Olumbe lwamani wange simanyile ngandifila

Death is powerful (my friend) I don’t know when I will die

Wade onina motoka lwosi oninanga luhuninila

Even if you get in the car, it also gets in as you get in

Olumbe lwamani wange simanyile ngabalindanya

Death is powerful (my friend) I don’t know where I will be buried

Wade ovuga gali lwosi ovuganga luhuvugilila

Even if you are riding on a bicycle, it also rides with you as you ride

Olumbe lwamani wange simanyile ngabalindanya
Death is powerful (my friend) I don’t know where I will be buried

Note: These verses are repeated and combined throughout the song.

4. “Mwana talitambula” (The child will never walk)

Te te te eh
[encourages child to take unsteady steps]
Mwana talitambula
The child will never walk
Bamugulile ngozi
Buy a cloth
Bamusibe kumugongo
Tie the child on the back
Mwanoyo
That child
Mwana talitambula
The child will never walk

Note: These verses are repeated and combined throughout the song.

5. “Mwana ngolera “ (Baby keep quiet)

Mwana ngolera giyanagi
Baby, keep quiet
Kungire eli mawo giyanagi
I’m taking you to your mother
Wokke kyukyu giyanagi
You will nurse
Gisalagi giyanagi salagi yanagi
6. Tulo tulo  (Sleep, sleep)

Tulo tulo kwata amwana, bwoto mukwate nga olimulogo, ssebo wulila

   Sleep, sleep take the child, if you don’t, then you are a witch. Have you heard?

Njagala ngendeko kumazina nzine kundongo, nkyuse kubulamu obulamu bwakuleka

   I want to go dancing, change my life. Life will be left [i.e., you only live once]

7. “I am a Soldier”

I am a soldier in the army
I am a soldier in the army of the Lord

Did she march, did she march in the army
I am a soldier in the army of the Lord

An [Ani] hayalu [hayal] b’tzabah [b’tzavah] (I am a soldier in the army)
An hayalu b’tzabah Adonai (I am a soldier in the army of the Lord)

Note: The text of the Hebrew is transcribed as sung. Standard Hebrew pronunciation follows in brackets. English translation is given in parentheses.

8. “Mi khamokhah (Who is like you [O God]?)”

Mi kamokha [khamokha], Mi kamokha [khamokhah] ba-elim Adonai,

Mi kamokhah ne’dar ba-kodesh
Nora tuhilah [t’hilot,] oseh peleh [feleh].

Who is like You, Adonai, among all that is worshiped!
Who is like You, majestic in holiness,
Awesome in splendor, working wonders!

Note: The text of the Hebrew is transcribed as sung. Standard Hebrew pronunciation follows in brackets. Transliteration and translation from Siddur Sim Shalom, p. 32.

9. “Kabbila” (The Patch of Forest)

PART 1
Soloist: kabbila kabbila
Soloist: the patch of forest, the patch of forest

Chorus: kabbila kano kalimu esonga.....
Chorus: this patch of forest has something interesting

Soloist: Nbade ndiawano
Chorus: kabbila kano kalimu esonga...
Soloist: I was there
Chorus: this patch of forest has something interesting

Soloist: Ndaba omwana
Chorus: kabbila kano kalimu esonga....
Soloist: I saw a child
Chorus: this patch of forest has some thing interesting

Soloist: Aze aduuka
Chorus: kabbila kano kalimu esonga...
Soloist: came running
Chorus: this patch of forest has some thing interesting

Soloist: Agambye kyi
Chorus: kabbila kano kalimu esonga..
Soloist: what did he say
Chorus: this patch of forest has some thing interesting

Soloist: Wamanga walli
Chorus: kabbila kano kalimu esonga..
Soloist: that down there
Chorus: this patch of forest has some thing interesting

Soloist: Waliwo ogusolo
Chorus: kabbila kano kalimu esonga..
Soloist: There is an animal
Chorus: this patch of forest has some thing interesting

Soloist: gulina agaaso
Chorus: kabbila kano kalimu esonga..
Soloist: it has big eyes
Chorus: this patch of forest has some thing interesting

Soloist: Gada wagulu
Chorus: kabbila kano kalimu esonga..
Soloist: facing upwards
Chorus: this patch of forest has some thing interesting

Soloist: Gulina enyindo
Chorus: kabbila kano kalimu esonga...
Soloist: it has a big nose
Chorus: this patch of forest has some thing interesting

Soloist: yada wagulu
Chorus: kabbila kano kalimu esonga..
Soloist: which goes upwards
Chorus: this patch of forest has some thing interesting

Soloist: Mumpe efumo
Chorus: kabbila kano kalimu esonga...
Soloist: Give me a spear
Chorus: this patch of forest has some thing interesting

Soloist: Ngende njjige
Chorus: kabbila kano kalimu esonga..
Soloist: I can go and hunt
Chorus: this patch of forest has some thing interesting

Soloist: Wuulu kya
Chorus: kabbila kano kalimu esonga...
Soloist: wuulu kya (the sound of a spear being thrown)
Chorus: this patch of forest has some thing interesting

Soloist: kanjide mu
Chorus: kabbila kano kalimu esonga..
Soloist: Let me do it again
Chorus: this patch of forest has some thing interesting

Soloist: Nzize emabega
Chorus: kabbila kano kalimu esonga..
Soloist: I pull back (my spear)
Chorus: this patch of forest has some thing interesting

PART 2
Soloist: Banange ensolo tugise
Chorus: Ensolo, ensolo tugise ensolo
Soloist: my friends we have killed the animal
Chorus: we have killed the animal

Soloist: Nalongo walakata a kambe
Chorus: ensolo, ensolo tugise ensolo
Soloist: “Nalongo”sharpen the knife, we have got the animal
Chorus: we have killed the animal

Soloist: Banange nze nesaze akambe…
Chorus: eee
Soloist: olwenyama
Soloist: my friends I have cut my self because of meat

Chorus: Songola akati netulya kunyama esava enjjige ewoma wulara.
Chorus: sharpen a good stick and we eat roasted meat, it’s so delicious

Soloist: Mppulira namarusu ganjika..
Chorus: eee…
Soloist: olwenyama
Soloist: I’m even salivating because of meat

Chorus: Songola akati netulya kunyama essava ejjige ewooma wulara.
Chorus: Sharpen a good stick and we eat this meat

Soloist: Nabaana mbalese kunimilo
Chorus: eee…
Soloist: olwenyama
I have even left the children in the garden

Chorus: Songola akati netulya kunyama essava ejjige ewooma wulara.
Chorus: Sharpen a good stick and we eat this meat

Soloist: Bawala mwebale
Chorus: eee…
Soloist: mwayigira wa okuzina bwemutyo...
Chorus: eee, kawala Namirembe..
Soloist: Girls, were did you learn how to dance so well like that
Chorus: especially this girl Namirembe

Soloist: Mama yampa
Chorus: eee
Soloist: yampa akambe nolusuku nolubugo
Soloist: Mother gave me a knife, a garden and (bark) cloth
Chorus: eee, kawala Namirembe
Chorus: That girl, Namirembe

Soloist: Mama yampa
Chorus: eee…
Soloist: yampa akambe kesigenda kwelabira
Soloist: Mother gave me a knife which I will never forget
Chorus: eee, kawala Namirembe
Chorus: That girl, Namirembe

Soloist: Jajja yampa
Chorus: eee…
Soloist: yampa akambe nolusuku noubugo
Soloist: Grandmother gave me a knife, a garden and (bark) cloth
Chorus: eee, kawala Namirembe
Chorus: That girl, Namirembe
PART 3

Soloist: Bakulu mwelaba
Chorus: eee…
Soloist: ffe tulikomangawo nga ensi eteledde
Soloist: Elders goodbye, we will come back when there is stability
Chorus: eee, kawara Namirembe
Chorus: that girl, Namirembe

Soloist: Bakulu bayi
Chorus: eee…
Soloist: ffe tulikomangawo nga ensi eteledde
Soloist: Elders, bye, we will come back when there is stability
Chorus: eee, kawara Namirembe.
Chorus: that girl, Namirembe

Note: A number of these verses are repeated throughout the song. “Wuulu-kya” is a sound made by the spear when it is thrown. ‘Nalongo”is title given to mother of twins.

10. “Twagala Torah” (We love the Torah)

Twagala Torah, twagla Torah, omuti gwo bulamu woo
Obugaaga nekitibwa byona biva gyoli
[translation of Luganda: We love the Torah, the tree of life, riches and honor all come from you.]
I love the Torah, the tree of life,
Riches and honor, Thy treasure.
Thy Torah, my Lord, has to spread to judge all people.
(In Hebrew) Barukh she-natan Torah l’amo yisrael bi-k’dushato
[translation of Hebrew: Blessed [is He] who has given the Torah to His people Israel in His holiness.]
Those whom [trust] upon you will never fail
Wisdom and power are in thy hands
11. “We are Happy”
In the days of Mordechai
And Esther in Shushan
When the wicked Haman
Rose up against us
To slay and make perish
But Oh, Our Lord
Adonai, save us from Haman
Instead he was hung.
Shiru, shiru hallelujah

[translation of Hebrew: Sing, sing hallelujah]

12. “Adon Olam” (Master of the world)
Adon olam asher malakh, b’terem kol ye-tzir nivra.
L’eit na-asah ve-heftzo kol, azai melekh sh’mo nikra.
Ve’aharai kikh-lot ha-kol, l’vado yimlokh nora
V’hu hayah v’hu hoveh, v’hu yih’yeh betif-arah.
V’hu ehad v’ein sheini, l’hamshil lo l’habirah.
B’li rei-sheet b’li takhleet, v’lo ha-oz v’hamisrah.
V’hu e-li v’hai go-ali, v’tzur hevli b’et tzarah.

V’hu nisi u-manos li, m’nat kosi b’yom ekra.

B’yado afkid ruhi, b’et ishan v’a-irah.

V’im ruhi g’viati, Adonai li v’lo ira.

Before creation shaped the world, God, eternal, reigned alone;

but only with creation done, could God as Sovereign be known.

When all is ended, God alone, will reign in awesome majesty.

God was, God is, always will be glorious in eternity.

God is unique and without peer, with none at all to be compared.

Without beginning, endlessly, God’s vast dominion is not shared.

But still— my God, my only hope, my one true refuge in distress,

My shelter sure, my cup of life, with goodness real and limitless.

I place my spirit in God’s care; my body too can feel God near.

When I sleep, as when I wake, God is with me; I have no fear.

Note: Transliteration and translation from Siddur Sim Shalom, p. 54.

13. “Lekhah dodi” (Come, my beloved)

Lehah dodi likrat kalah peney Shabbat nekabelah.

Shamor vezahor bedibur ehad
Hishmi’anu el hamyuhad
Adonay ehad ushmo ehad
Leshem ultiferet velit-hilah.

Lehah dodi…

Likrat Shabbat lehu venelhah
Ki hi mekor haberahah
Merosh mikedem nesuhah
Sof ma’aseh bemahashavah tehilah.

Lehah dodi…

Mikdash meleh ir meluhah
Kumi tze’I mitoh hahafeha
Rav lah shevet be’emek habaha
Vehu yahamol alayih hemlah.

Lehah dodi…

Hitna’ari me’afar kumi
Livshi bigdey tifarteh ami
Al yad ben yishay beyt halahmi
Korvah el nafshi ge’alah.

Lehah dodi…

Hitoreri hitoreri
Ki va oreh kumi ori
Uri uri shir daberi
Kevod adonay alayih niglah.

Lehah dodi…

Lo tevoshi velo tikalemi
Mah tishtohahi umah tehemi
Bah yehesu aniyyey ami
Venivnetah ir al tilah.

Lehah dodi…

Vehayu limshisah shosayih
Verahaku kol mevale’ayih
Yasis alayih elohayih
Kimsos hatan al kalah.

Lehah dodi…

Yamin usmol tifrotzi
Ve’et adonay ta’aritzi
Al yad ish ben partzi
Venismehah venagilah

Lehah dodi…

Bo’i veshalom ateret ba-lah
Gam besimhah uvtzoholah
Toh emuney am segulah
Bo’i halah bo’i halah.

Lehah dodi…

O, come, friend, let’s greet the bride,
the Sabbath Presence bring inside.

“Keep” and “Remember” in a sole command
the solitary God did us command
“I AM!” is one, the Name is one,
in name, in splendor, and in praise.

O, come…

Toward the Sabbath, come, make haste,
for she has every blessing’s taste,
ordained at first, and long ago,
the last thing made, the first in mind.

O, come…

O, Sovereign’s abode, O, holy, regal town,
rise up, emerge, where once cast down,
Enough of sitting in the vale of tears,
God pities you, yes you God spares.
O, come…

Be stirred, rise up, throw off the dust,  
my people, don your clothes of eminence,  
by hand of Bethle’mite Jesse’s child,  
draw near my soul, redeem it, too.

O, come…

Arouse yourself, arouse yourself,  
your light has come, arise and shine,  
awake, awake, pour forth your song,  
on you now shines the Glorious One.

O, come…

Don’t be abashed, don’t be ashamed,  
why be downcast, why do you sigh?  
In you my people’s poor find shade,  
a city rebuilt where her ruins lay.

O, come…

Your robbers shall be robbed themselves,  
all your devourers will be removed,  
your God rejoices at your side,  
the joy of a bridegroom with his bride.

O, come…

To right and left you shall burst forth,  
revering God, to south and north,  
by hand of one from Peretz’s line,  
we shall rejoice and find delight.

O, come…

O, come in peace, O divine crown,  
with joy, rejoicing, and with mirth,  
amid the faithful, loved by God,  
come in, O bride, come in, O bride!

O, come, my friend, let’s greet the bride,
the Sabbath Presence bring inside.

Note: Transliteration and translation from Kol Haneshamah, Shabbat Eve, pp. 48-55.

14. “Psalm 92”

1. Kirungi okwebazanga Adonai [Mukama],
N’okuyimba okutenderezanga erinnya lyo, ggwe ali waggulu ennyo:
2. Okwolesanga ekisa kyo enkya,
N’obwesigwa bwo buli kiro.
3 N’ekivuga ekirina enkoba ekkumi, era n’amadinda:
N’eddobozi [ery’okusinza] ery’ennanga.
4. Kubanga ggwe, Adonai [Mukama], onsanyusizza n’omulimu gwo:
Naajagulizanga emirimu gy’emikono gyo.
5. Emirimu gyo nga mikulu, ai Adonai [Mukama]!
Ebirowoozo byo bya buziba nnyo.
6. Omuntu ali ng’ensolo tamanyi kino,
So nga n’omusirusiru takitegeera:
7. Ababi bwe baloka ng’omuddo,
Era abakozi b’obubi bona bwe babeera;
Kyebava beera Bazikirizibwe emirembe gyonna:
8. Naye ggwe, ai Adonai [Mukama], ogulumizibwanga emirembe m’emirembe.
9. Kubanga, laba,abalabe bo, ai Adonai [Mukama],
Kubanga, laba,abalabe bo balizikirira;
Abakozi b’obubi bona balisaasaanyizibwa.
10. Naye ogulumizizza ejjembe lyange ng’ery’embogo:
Nfukiddwako amafuta amaggya.
11. Era eriiso lyange lirabye bye njagala nga bituuse ku balabe bange,
Amatu gange gawulidde bye
njagala nga bituuse ku abo abakola obubi abangolokokerako.
12. Omutuukirivu alyera ng’olukindu:
Alikula ng’omuvule mu Lebanooni.
13. Abasimbirwa mu nnyumba ya Adonai [Mukama]
Balyerera mu mpya za Lubale [Katonda] waffe.
14. Baliba nga bakyabala ebibala nga bakaddiye:
Balijjula amazzi, baligejja:
15. Balage nga Adonai [Mukama] mutuukirivu;
Psalm 92
1. A psalm. A song; for the Sabbath day.

2. It is good to praise the LORD,
to sing hymns to Your name, O Most High,
3. To proclaim Your steadfast love at daybreak,
Your faithfulness each night
4. With a ten-stringed harp,
with voice and lyre together.

5. You have gladdened me by Your deed, O LORD;
I shout for joy at Your handiwork.
6. How great are Your works, O LORD,
how very subtle Your designs!
7. A brutish man cannot know,
a fool cannot understand this:
8. though the wicked sprout like grass,
though all evildoers blossom,
it is only that they may be destroyed forever.

9. But You are exalter, O LORD, for all time.

10. Surely, Your enemies, O LORD,
surely, Your enemies perish;
all evildoers are scattered.
11. You raise my horn high like that of a wild ox;
I am soaked in freshening oil.
12. I shall see the defeat of my watchful foes,
hear of the downfall of the wicked who beset me.
13. The righteous bloom like a date-palm:
they thrive like a cedar in Lebanon:
14. planted in the house of the LORD,
they flourish in the courts of our God.
15. In old age they still produce fruit;
they are full of sap and freshness,
16. attesting that the LORD is upright,
my rock, in whom there is no wrong.
15. “Psalm 93”

Psalm 93

1. The LORD is king,
   He is robed in grandeur;
   the LORD is robed,
   He is girded with strength.
   The world stands firm;
   it cannot be shaken.
2. Your throne stands firm from of old;
   from eternity You have existed.
   The ocean sounds, O LORD,
3. the ocean sounds its thunder,
   the ocean sounds its pounding.
4. Above the thunder of the mighty waters,
   more majestic than the breakers of the sea
   is the LORD, majestic on high.
5. Your decrees are indeed enduring; holiness befits Your house, O LORD, for all times.


16. “Kiddush and Motze” (Sabbath blessing over wine and bread)

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha-olam, borei p’ri ha-gafen.

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha-olam, asher kid’shanu b’mitzvotav v’ratzah vanu, v’Shabbat kodsho b’ahavah u-v’ratzon hin-hilanu, zikaron l’ma-asei v’reshit.
Ki hu yom t’hilah l’mikra-ei kodesh, zekher li-y’tzi-at mitzrayim.
Ki vanu vaharta v’otanu kidashta mi-kol ha-amim,
v’Shabbat kod’sh’kha b’ahavah u-v’ratzon hin-hal-tanu.
Barukh atah Adonai, m’kadesh ha-Shabbat.

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha-olam, ha-motzi lehem min ha-aretz.

Praised are You Adonai our God, who rules the universe, creating the fruit of the vine.

Praised are You Adonai our God, who rules the universe, instilling in us the holiness of mitzvoth and cherishing us by granting us His holy Shabbat lovingly, gladly, a reminder of Creation. It is the first among our days of sacred assembly that recall the Exodus from Egypt. Thus You have chosen us – endowing us with holiness- from among all peoples, granting us Your holy Shabbat lovingly and gladly. Praised are You Adonai, who hallows Shabbat.

Praised are You Adonai our God, who rules the universe, bringing forth bread from the earth.

Note: Transliteration and translation from Siddur Sim Shalom, p. 312, 314.

17. “Psalm 121”
1. Naayimusa amaaso gange eri ensozi:  
Okubeerwa kwange kuliva wa?  
2. Okubeerwa kwange kuva eri Mukama,  
Eyakola eggulu n’ensi.  
3. Taliganya kigere kyo okusagaasagana:  
Akukuuma taabongootenga.  
4. Laba, akuuma Isiraeri  
Taabongootenga so teyebakenga.  
5. Mukama ye mukuumi wo:  
Mukama kye kisiikirize kyo ku  
mukono gwo ogwa ddyo.  
6. Enjuba terikwokya emisana,  
Newakubadde omwezi ekiro.  
7. Mukama anaakukuumanga eri  
obubi bwonna;  
Ono ye anaakukuumanga emmeeme yo.  
8. Mukama anaakukuumanga amagenda go n’amadda,  
Okuva leero n’okutuuka emirembe gyonna.

Psalm 121
1. A song for ascents.

I turn my eyes to the mountains;  
from where will my help come?  
2. My help comes from the LORD,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
3. He will not let your foot give way;  
your guardian will not slumber;  
4. See, the guardian of Israel  
neither slumbers nor sleeps!  
5. The LORD is your guardian,  
the LORD is your protection  
at your right hand.  
6. By day the sun will not strike you,  
nor the moon by night.  
7. The LORD will guard you from all harm;  
He will guard your life.  
8. The LORD will guard your going and coming  
now and forever.
Note: Translation from Tanakh, The Holy Scriptures: The New Jewish Publication Society Translation According to the Traditional Hebrew Text, p.1261, 1262. The rendition of Psalm 121 was recorded in Nasenyi by a group of Abayudaya women who did not change the Luganda “Mukama” (Lord) to the Hebrew “Adonai” as is done in the other Biblical text recorded in this collection.

18. “Maimuna.”

Aoh (vocable) Maimuna kassolo kahambire aoh (vocable) Maimuna

Maimuna, the animal is in the trap

Maimuna kuza lwa hena

Maimuna, where are we going?

Aoh (vocable) Maimuna kassolo kahambire aoh (vocable) Maimuna

Maimuna, the animal is in the trap

Ukoya wasoma niyono ofune bukulu   (Response: J.J.)

You are required to go to school before you obtain leadership positions

Ugona wasoma niyono ofune bukulu   (Response: Keki)

You need to go to school before you obtain leadership positions

19. “Hinei ma tov” (Behold how good [it is for brothers to dwell together])

Laba, laba

Laba bwekuliokulungi bwekusanyusa

abaluganda okutula

[translation of Luganda: See how good and happy it is for brothers and sisters to sit down (together)]

Hinei, hinei
Hinei ma tovu [tov] umanayim oo (vocable)

Sheveti [shevet]ahim gam yahadu [yahad]

[translation of Hebrew: See how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together]

20. “Ali Omu Yekka” (My Only One)

Soloist: Nina omuganziwange ali omu yekka nze sirina mulala wabula oyo omulungiwange
   I have a beloved one, my only one, I do not have any other, still the only one
Chorus: Nina omuganziwange ali omu yekka nze sirina mulala wabula oyo omulungiwange
   I have a beloved one, my only one, I do not have any other, still the only one
Soloist: Ndeka nze newane kubanga nina omulungiwange
   I am proud because I have the beloved one
Mundeke nze newane kubanze nafuna omulungiomu
   Let me feel proud because I have one beloved one
Chorus: Nina omuganziwange…

Soloist: Ndeka nze newane kubanze nafuna omuganziwange
   Let me feel proud because I’ve got my beloved one
Kyoka muganziwange oyo ye doctor wange
   My beloved one is my doctor
Chorus: Nina omuganziwange…

Soloist: Ndeka nze newane kubanze nafuna omuganziwange
   Let me feel proud because I’ve got my beloved one
Kyoka muganziwange oyo ye doctor wange
   My beloved one is my doctor
Chorus: Nina omuganziwange…

Soloist: Ndeka nepanke kubanze nina omulungiwange
   Let me be proud because I have my beloved one
Kyoka omulungiwange oyo ye doctor wange
   My beloved one is my doctor
Nze newembanga ndwade oyo ye doctor wange
Even if I am sick he is my doctor
Newembanga nja vuwade oyo ye mugagawange
  Even if I am poor he is my wealth
Oyo ye mulungiwange
  My beloved one
Oyo mugagawange
  My wealth
Selarikirire nyo kubanze nina omulungiwange
  I am not worried so much because I have my beloved one
Selarikirire nyo kubanze nafuna doctor wange
  I am not worried so much because I got my doctor

Soloist: Ndeka nze newane kubanze nina omulungiwange
  Let me feel proud because I have my beloved one
Ndeka nze nepanke kubanze nina doctor wange
  Let me be proud because I have my doctor
Oyo ye mulungiwange
  My beloved one
Oyo ya malilabyona
    He finishes everything for me
Kyoka nze ndibulungi nze alina omulungiwange
    I am fine that he is good, I am fine because he is my beloved one
Abangi banegomba
    So many admire him
Kyoka munegomba nze nina omulungiwange
    You admire me because I have my beloved one
Kyoka kanewane kubanze nina omulingiwange
    Let me praise myself because I have my beloved one
Oyo ye mulungiwange
    That one is my beloved one
Oyo ye doctor wange
    That one is my doctor
Oyo ye mugaga wange
    That one is my boss
Oyo ye mulungiwange
    Still my beloved one
Kyoka kanewane kubanze nina omulungiwange
    Let me be proud because I still have my beloved one
Chorus: Nina omuganziwange…
Soloist: Mundeke nze nepanke kubanze nina omuganziwange
    Let me feel proud because I have my beloved one
Nze sirina mulala wabula oyo gwenalonda yeka
The only one I choose
Chorus: Nina omuganziwange…
Soloist: Omulungi wange Chorus: ali omu yekka
   My beloved one is my only one
Soloist: Omugagawange Chorus: ali omu tuke
   My rich one is only him
Soloist: Omulungi wange Chorus: ali omu yekka
   My beloved one is my only one
Soloist: Sirinamulala Chorus: ali omu yekka
   I don’t have any other
Soloist: Gwenalonda yeka Chorus: ali omu yekka
   I choose him alone
Soloist: Oyo mulungiwange Chorus: ali omu yekka
   The only beloved one I have

Note: Some verses are repeated throughout the song.

21. “Psalm 150”

1. Mumutendereze Adonai [Mukama].
   Mumutendereze Lubale [Katonda] mu watukuvu we:
   Mumutendereze mu bbanga
er’amaanyi ge
2. Mumutendereze olw’ebikolwa
   bye eby’amaanyi:
   Mumutendereze ng’obukulu (?) bwe
   Obulungi bwe buli.
3. Mumutendereze n’eddoboозi
   ery’ekkondeere:
   Mumutendereze n’amadinda n’ennanga.
4. Mumutendereze n’ekitaasa n’okuzina:
   Mumutendereze n’ebyo ebirina
   Engoye n’endere.
5. Mumutendereze n’ebitaasa ebivuga ennyo:
   Mumutendereze n’ebitaasa
   Eby’eddoboозi ettono.
6. Buli ekirina omukka kimutendereze Adonai [Mukama].
   Mumutendereze Adonai [Mukama].

(In Hebrew) Kol hanishama tihalelu [tihalel] Ya,
hallelujah
[Translation of Hebrew: Every living soul will praise God, hallelujah]

150

1. Hallelujah.
Praise God in His sanctuary;
praise Him in the sky, His stronghold.
2. Praise Him for His mighty acts;
praise Him for His exceeding greatness.
3. Praise Him with blasts of the horn;
praise Him with harp and lyre.
4. Praise Him with timbrel and dance;
praise Him with lute and pipe.
5. Praise Him with resounding cymbals;
praise Him with loud-crashing cymbals.
6. Let all that breathes praise the LORD.
Hallelujah.


22. “Deuteronomy Chapter 32:8, Song Two” (selection)

8. Ali waggulu ennyo bwe yawa
amawanga obusika bwabwe,
Bwe yayawula abaana b’abantu,
Yassaawo ensalo z’amawanga
Ng’omuwendo bwe gwali ogw’abanna
ba Isiraeri.

8. When the Most High gave nations their homes
And set the divisions of man,
He fixed the boundaries of peoples
In relation to Israel’s numbers.


39. Mulabe kaakano nga nze, nze wuuyo,
So tewali Lubale [katonda] wamu nange:
Nze nzita, era nze mpa obulamu;
Nfumise, era mponya:
So tewali ayinza okulokola okuggya
Mu mukono gwange.
40. Kubanga ngolola omukono gwange
eri eggulu,
Ne njogera nti Nga bwe ndi
omulamu emirembe gyonna,
41. Bwe ndiwagala ekitala kyange
ekimasamasa,
Omukono gwange ne gukwata ku
musango;
Ndiwalana eggwanga ku balabe
bange.
Ndisasula abo abankyawa.
42. Obusaale bwange ndibutamiiza
omusaayi,
N’ekitala kyange kirirya ennyama:
N’omusaayi gw’abo abattibwa
n’abawambe,
Okuva ku mutwe gw’abo abakulemera
abalabe,
43. Musanyuke, mmwe amawanga,
wamu n’abantu be:
Kubanga aliwalana eggwanga
ly’omusaayi gw’abaddu be,
Era alisasula abalabe be okubonerezebwa,
Era alitangirira ensi ye, abantu be.

39. See, then, that I, I am He:
There is no god beside Me.
I deal death and give life:
I wounded and I will heal:
None can deliver from My hand.
40. Lo, I raise My hand to heaven
And say: As I live forever,
41. When I whet My flashing blade
And My hand lays hold on judgment,
Vengeance will I wreak on My foes,
Will I deal to those who reject Me.
42. I will make My arrows drunk with blood-
As My sword devours flesh-
Blood of the slain and the captive
From the long-haired enemy chiefs.
43. O nations, acclaim His people!
Fro He’ll avenge the blood of His servants,
Wreak vengeance on His foes,
And cleanse the land of His people.


Psalm 130
1. A song of ascents

Out of the depths I call you, O LORD.
2. O LORD, listen to my cry;
let Your ears be attentive
to my plea for mercy.
3. If Your keep account of sins, O LORD,
Lord, who will survive?
4. Yours is the power to forgive
so that You may be held in awe.

5. I look to the LORD;
I look to Him;
I await His word.
6. I am more eager for the Lord
than watchmen for the morning,
watchmen for the morning.

7. O Israel, wait for the LORD;
for with the LORD is steadfast love
and great power to redeem.
8. It is He who will redeem Israel from all their inequities.