

Abayudaya: Music from the Jewish People of Uganda

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Notes on translation and transcription: When singing psalms in Luganda, the Abayudaya make certain changes to the text of Bible. The actual performance is transcribed, followed in brackets by the printed biblical text. When translating biblical or traditional liturgical text, I give the entire text in Luganda or Hebrew followed by the entire translation of the text in English. Biblical translations are taken from Tanakh, *The Holy Scriptures: The New Jewish Publication Society Translation According to the Traditional Hebrew Text* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society 1988). English translations and transcriptions of Hebrew liturgical passages, are taken as indicated from *Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals* (New York: The Rabbinic Assembly 1998) and *Kol Haneshamah, Shabbat Eve* (Wyncote, PA: The Reconstructionist Press 1989).

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 Abayudaya 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 kubeerera 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 ayakola eggulu n'amagezi:

Kubanga...

6. Oyo eyayaliira ensi waggulu ku mazzi:

Kubanga...

7. Oyo ayakola ebyaka ebikulu;

Kubanga...

8. Enjuba okufuga emisana:

Kubanga...

9. Omwezi n'emmunyeenye okufuga ekiro:

Kubanga...

10. Oyo eyakubira e Misiri ababereberye baabwe:

Kubanga...

(fade out, fade up to electric version)

1. Mumwebaze Adonai [Mukama]; kubanga mulungi;

Kubanga okusaasira kwe kwa luberera

[Kubanga okusaasira kwe kubeerera 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 ebilang

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, where 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 luhuninila

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

Note: The words “Gisalagi” “giyanagi” “salagi yanagi” are vocables.

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 tutilah [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 nulusuku 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 nulusuku 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-kyā” 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'hahbirah.

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 venelhad
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 tehem
Bah yehesu aniyey 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'aritz
 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'eddoboozi [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 bonna bwe babeera;
Kye bava 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 bonna 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;

Oyo lye jjinja lyange, so mu ye temuli butali butuukirivu.

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.

Note: Translation from Tanakh, The Holy Scriptures: The New Jewish Publication Society Translation According to the Traditional Hebrew Text, p. 1218, 1219. The Christian Bible numbers verses in this psalm in a different manner than the Hebrew Bible. Comparing the Luganda version and this English translation, verse 2 of the English corresponds to verse 1 of the Luganda, verse 3 of the English corresponds to verse 2 of the Luganda and so on.

15. "Psalm 93"

1. Adonai [Mukama] afuga; ayambadde obukulu:
Adonai [Mukama] ayambadde, yeesibye amaanyi:
Era ensi enywedde n'okuyinza n'eteyinza kusagaasagana.
2. Entebe yo yanywera edda n'edda lyonna:
Obeererawo okuva emirembe n'emirembe.
3. Amazzi gayimusizza, Ai Adonai [Mukama],
Amazzi gayimusizza eddoozi lyago;
Amazzi gayimusa ameyengo gaago.
4. Okusinga amaloozi ag'amazzi amangi,
Amayengo amanene ag'oku nnyanja,
Adonai [Mukama] ali waggulu asinza amaanyi.
5. Bye wategeza bya mazima ddala:
Obutukuvu busaanira ennyumba yo,
Ai Adonai waffe [Mukama], emirembe n'emirembe.

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.

Note: Translation from Tanakh, The Holy Scriptures: The New Jewish Publication Society Translation According to the Traditional Hebrew Text, p. 1219, 1220.

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

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

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melek 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 melek 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 mitzvot 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 teyeebakenga.
5. Mukama ye mukuumi wo:
Mukama kye kisiikirize kyo ku
mukono gwo ogwa ddyo.
6. Enjuba terikwokya emisana,
Newakubadde omwezi ekiro.
7. Mukama anaakuumanga eri
obubi bwonna;
Ono ye anaakuumanga emmeeme yo.
8. Mukama anaakuumanga 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: 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 lwahena

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

Ugoni 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 napanke 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 omulungiwange
 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 napanke 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: Omulungiwange Chorus: ali omu yekka
 My beloved one is my only one
 Soloist: Omugagawange Chorus: ali omu tuke
 My rich one is only him
 Soloist: Omulungiwange 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
 ery'amaanyi ge
2. Mumutendereze olw'ebikolwa
 bye eby'amaanyi:
 Mumutendereze ng'obukulu (?) bwe
 Obulungi bwe buli.
3. Mumutendereze n'eddoboozi
 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'eddoboozi 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.

Note: Translation from Tanakh, The Holy Scriptures: The New Jewish Publication Society Translation According to the Traditional Hebrew Text, p. 1284.

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’omuwendu 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.

Note: Translation from Tanakh, The Holy Scriptures: The New Jewish Publication Society Translation According to the Traditional Hebrew Text, p.326.

23. “Deuteronomy Chapter 32:39-43, Song Eight”

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 abakulembera

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!
 For He'll avenge the blood of His servants,
 Wreak vengeance on His foes,
 And cleanse the land of His people.

Note: Translation from Tanakh, The Holy Scriptures: The New Jewish Publication Society Translation According to the Traditional Hebrew Text, p. 329.

24. "Psalm 130"

1. Mu buziba nkukaabidde ggwe, ai Adonai [Mukama].
2. Adonai [Mukama], owulire eddoozi lyange:
 Amatu go galooze
 Eddoozi ery'okwegayirira kwange.
3. Adonai [Mukama], bw'onoobalanga ebitali bya butuukirivu,
 Ai Adonai [Mukama], aliyimirira aluwa?
4. Naye waliwo okusonyiwa w'oli,
 Olyoke otiibwenga.
5. Nnindirira Adonai [Mukama], emmeeme yange erinda,
 Era ekigambo kye kye nsuubira.
6. Emmeeme yange eyaayaanira Adonai [Mukama],
 Okusinga abakuumi bwe bayaayaanira obudde okukya;
 Weewaawo, okusinga abakuumi bwe bayaayaanira obudde okukya.
7. Ggwe Isiraeri, suubiranga Adonai [Mukama];
 Kubanga awali [Mukama] we wali okusaasira,
 Era awali ye we wali okununula [okungi].
8. Era oyo alinunula Yakobo [Isiraeri]
 Mu butali butuukirivu bwe [bwonna].

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 You 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.

Note: Translation from Tanakh, The Holy Scriptures: The New Jewish Publication Society Translation According to the Traditional Hebrew Text, p. 1266.