

أُنْبِزِ وَ قَبَطِ وَ قَمُو

utēzi wa vīṭa vikuu

The Ballad of the Great Battle

أَكْتَوُ تَمَارِ * نَحْبُوزِ يَشَعِيرِ ١٣٨

akaṭoa ṭamāri * na ḥubūzi ya sha'iri 138a/b

He took out dates and barley bread

نَمِلِحِ أَصْفَرِ * كَكْهَيْتِ كَطْلَيْ

na miliḥi aṣufari¹ * kak'eṭi kaṭoelea 138c/d

And yellow salt - he sat down and took [them] out.

كِشَكُولِ كَحْمِيدِ * وَآكِ إِلَاهِ وَدُودِ ١٣٩

kishakūla kaḥimīdi * wāke ilāhi waḍūdi 139a/b

When he finished eating he gave thanks to his beloved God,

مُؤُونِبِ زُوتِهِ جَسَادِ * مَعْدُو نَمُولِي

muūmba zōt'e jasādi * ma'aḍwi na mawalii² 139c/d

The Creator of all individuals - both enemies and friends.

هَاتِ كُكَيْبُؤُوكِ * عَمُورِ أَكْتُوكِ ١٤٠

hāṭa kukipam̄baūka * 'amūri akaṭōka 140a/b

Until, when dawn came, Amuri came out

كُو عَلِي أَكْفَيْكَ * سَوْتِ أَكْتَتُو

kwa 'alii akafika * sawṭi akaitoa 140c/d

He arrived beside Ali and [Ali] spoke.

عَلِي كَتَكَلَامِ * أَهْلًا يَا مُكْرَمِ ١٤١

'alii kaṭakalāma * ahalāⁿ yā mukarrama 141a/b

Ali said Greetings, Honoured One

¹The salt is yellow because it is unpurified rock-salt, containing iodine.

²The implication is that these are friends and enemies of Islam.

- تُتَوَصِّلُ سَلَامَ * نَدِيَّ اِنْغَاوَ طَوَلِيَّ
 ṭuṭawaṣīli salāma * ndia ingāwa ṭawiliya 141c/d
 We shall arrive safely even if the road is long.
- ١٤٢
 عَمُورِ كَرُودِ نَدَانِ * كَثَلْبِيسِ يُوَانِ
 'amūri karūdi ndāni * kailabīsi yuwāni 142a/b
 Amuri went back inside; know that he dressed himself
- دَرِيْعَ زَاوُنْدَانِ * اَكْفُونُغَ زَكَمَكَا
 ḍirī'i za uwandāni³ * akaifūnga zikamkāa⁴ 142c/d
 In battle-*armour*, and fastened it firmly upon himself.
- ١٤٣
 نَسِيفُ نَجِيمِ اَسِيْسِ * نَزْمِحَ نَتْرُوسِ
 na sēfu njēma asīsi * na rumuḥi na ṭurūsi 143a/b
 And [took up] a good, stout sword, and a spear, and a shield.
- اَكْمِپَانْدُ فَرَاْسِ * جُوْ اَكْمَكَلِيَّ
 akampānḍa farāsi * juu akamkalia 143c/d
 Then he mounted his steed, and seated himself upon it.
- ١٤٤
 وَكَيْنَدُ تَهْخُبِيْرٍ * بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ
 wakēnḍa ṭ'ahubīri * bi-layli wa-nnahāri 144a/b
 They went, I'll tell you, by night and day,
- وَكَيْبَانَ نَبْحَارِ * نَمِيْطِ نَمَطْرِيَّ
 wakapambāna na baḥāri * na mīṭi na maṭariya⁵ 144c/d
 And they encountered oceans, and forests, and oases.
- ١٤٥
 وَكَيْنَدُ يُوَانِ * عَلِيَّ نَمَلْعُوْنَ
 wakenēnḍa yuwāni * 'alii namali'ūni 145a/b
 Know that they went on, Ali and the Accursed One;
- نَدِيَّ زَيْلِ زَمْدِيْنِ * عَمُورِ كَزَنْبُوْ
 ndia zīli za maḍīni * 'amūri kaziṭambua 145c/d
 These roads [led to] Medina - Amuri recognised them.

³اُوْنْدَا (uwanda) is an open space, and by extension a battlefield.

⁴Lit. and bound himself so that [the armour] stayed on him.

⁵Ar مطر rain. Seemingly used by extension here to mean a place with water.

عَمُورٍ كَذُكُورٍ * كَمُونِبِيِّ حَيْدَرٍ ١٤٦
'amūri kadhukūri * kamwambīa ḥayḍari⁶ 146a/b

Amuri spoke and said to the Lion:

دُرُوبٌ نَدَّ أَنْصَارٍ * نُبُونٌ تُؤْفُوتِي ١٤٦
ḍurūbu nḍa anṣāri⁷ * ṇbōna ṭwaifuwaṭia 146c/d
This is the Companions' road why are we following it?

نَاسٍ تُمْفَانِي مَشُورٍ * يَكُونِنْدَ سَفَارٍ ١٤٧
nāsi ṭumfāniya mashaūri * ya kwenēnḍa safāri 147a/b
For we have taken counsel about going on the journey,

كُونَعَلِيٍّ أَمْصَارٍ * جُنُودٍ كَيْكُسْنِي ١٤٧
kwangalia amṣāri * junūdi kuikusanyia 147c/d
to reconnoitre the city while the army assembles.

⁶A frequently-used metonym for Ali.

⁷The Ansari were the Muslims of Medina who gave refuge to the Prophet after the Hegira. Possibly this word is in error for *أَمْصَارٍ*, *city*, used in the next stanza.