

**The History of Zaire as Told and Painted by Tshibumba Kanda Matulu in
Conversation with Johannes Fabian**

<http://lpc.socsci.uva.nl/aps/tshibumba2a.html>

**TSHIBUMBA, HISTOIRE DU ZAIRE
Third Session of November 12, 1974
Narrative 3, Part 1:**

9.

SWAHILI

T: bon/ vita ilizidi kuendelea/ mvita ya pili: Katanga: alifanya kitu kya mastajabu kwa lakini/ ile kitu ilifanyikwa: mu Comekat/ ya Likasi/ ile: atélier ya: pilerie/ baliyenga: chuma moya munene/ mule ndani baliweka: eh muchanga/ kisha uku chuma: uku chuma/ banaweka muchanga kule: banaweka banaweka banafunga ile chuma/ wala unapika masasi: wala unapika nini: aiwezi inaingie/ ile chuma baliita: kama: mammoth/ mammoth ni tembo ile ya zamani: ya préhistorique/ bon/ ili: yee a: ilianza kutembea/ ilitembea ilifika: ilitembea kutembea kwake: balipima namna ya kuua yee balishinda/ ata avion de chase: ilianguka bombe kule: ya kama ikufe: yee iko paka natembea/ iko paka natembea/ nazani unaona kule mbele: naweka: eh: ONU moja: anawanga magoti/ ule ONU: ni ule: aliponeshaka: nazania baONU bote/ baONUSiens bote tuseme/ alipimaka bunduki ndani ya ile chuma: ndani ya tundu: lisasi iliingika: na ilipasukaka/ na bote balikuwa ndani: balikufwaka paka pale/

F: mm/

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9.

ENGLISH

T: Alright. The war just went on and on. In the second [part of the] war, Katanga came up with something that was amazing. This thing was built in the Comekat factory at Likasi, actually in the [ore] crushing shop. They built a big iron [vehicle] [Painting 71: The Monster of the Secession]. Inside [the armor] they put sand, and then iron on both sides. So they put sand in there and enclosed it in iron. You could shoot a bullet at it, or whatever, it could not penetrate. This iron vehicle they called "Mammoth." A mammoth is an elephant from way back in prehistorical times. Alright. It began to move and as it moved around, attempts were made to destroy it, but they did not succeed. Even a fighter plane dropped a bomb on it to destroy it, the thing just kept moving around. I think you see there, in front of it, I put a UN soldier who is down on one knee. That UN soldier, I believe, was the one who saved the entire UN contingent. He aimed his gun inside that iron vehicle, through a hole, and a bullet entered and exploded. All those who were inside died on the spot.

F: Mm-hmm.

T: na kisha kufwa pale: nazania akukuwa mufano ya Katanga tena kuendelea: balipikana tu mingi na zaidi: vita ilimalizika/ ni mvita ya kwanza/ ya pili pardon/

T: After that, I think, Katanga could go on no longer. There had been a lot of fighting, but then the war came to an end. That was the first war, sorry, the second war.

TSHIBUMBA, HISTOIRE DU ZAIRE
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Narrative 3, Part 2:

8.

SWAHILI

F: donc septante: septante: [Painting 71: The Monster of the Secession] sawa ni: tulisimama mu septante: non: mu soixante neuf: sasa septante ile mammouth/ ile:

T: mammouth eh:

F: baliyenga mu: Comekat?

T: mu Comekat ya **Likasi**:

F: ...?...

T: sawa vile nilikuambia kama uneanda njia ya L: ya Kolwezi: uku ngambo: utaona ile: at elier tuseme/

F: mm/

T: aah/

F: mammouth/ iliandikwa juu: wee uli: uliisha kuona na mecho yako?

T: ile mammouth?

F: ah/

T: mi nilikwendaka kuona pale beko nayenga/ sawa b: sawa vile: baba alikuwa mu Likasi: mu Likasi mulikuwa vita kidogo/

F: mm/

T: tunaanzaka kutembea/

F: mm/

T: na benzetu: shee hatukujue asema: aba ni baKatangais: aba ni bahuku: shee tulikuwa barafiki tu: batoto kidogo/ tuko nakwenda: mais tuliisha kuwa bantu/ tulikuwa d j  mu cinqui me primaire/

F: mm/

T: ah/ cinqui me primaire [talking to himself]: non ce n'est pas juste/ ce juste: aah/ nalikuwa d j  nazania mu quatri me/

F: quatri me/

T: eeh/ quatri me primaire/

F: na mulitemb: ile wakati mulitembea na bale ba ...?...?

T: tuna mu tembea: shee tulikuwa na barafiki tu/

F: mm/

T: na rafiki yangu mwenyewe tena ali: potea sasa: alikufa tuseme/ ah: Jean/

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8.

ENGLISH

F: So this is [number] seventy [Painting 71: The Monster of the Secession. We stopped at number seventy, no, sixty-nine; so this is seventy [showing] this mammoth.

T: The mammoth, yes.

F: Was it at Comekat where they built it?

T: At Comekat in Likasi.

F: ...?...

T: As I told you when you take the road to Kolwezi, you will see the workshop.

F: Mm-hmm.

T: Yes.

F: Mammoth, it's written on it. Did you see it with your own eyes?

T: The mammoth?

F: Yes.

T: I used to go to the place were they were building it and watch. My father worked in Likasi. There was not much fighting in Likasi.

F: Mm-hmm.

T: So we would roam the town.

F: Mm-hmm.

T: With our peers. We did not know about who was originally from Katanga [or not], we were just friends, small children, running together. Although, not really that small because we were already in the fourth grade of primary school.

F: Mm-hmm.

T: Yes, or was it fifth grade [talking to himself], no, that's not true. Or it is, yes, I think I was already in fourth grade.

F: Fourth [grade].

T: Yes, fourth grade, elementary school.

F: So you went out around at that time with those...?...

T: When we went out, it was with friends.

F: Mm-hmm.

T: My [best] friend has passed away, he died. Yes, this was Jean Yav. We used to

Yav/ tunaanza kwenda naye: kutembea kule:
F: mm/
T: tunarudia: tulikuwa maparcelles karibu/
F: mm/ kisha ilifika: eh: ile ile mammoth ali: ilifika: eh: Lubumbashi:
T: bon/ kufika Lubumbashi: sawa vile nalikuambia: bali: pika: **masasi/**
F: **masasi/**
T: eeh/
F: **na moya:**
T: **sawa nilikuambia kama:** eeh: kuko Indien moya/ sawa vile ?naliambia ...?...: na kuko mimbo ya baLuba inyee **ile ba...?...**
F: **aah ile mwimbo/ inafaa: inafaa:**
T: **eeh/** [chuckles]
F: ndiyo/
T: bon/ voilà/ sawa vile mwimbo: banaimbaka asema: nani: ts: char de: bon/ eh [hesitates] utaniexcuser eh?
F: ndiyo/ char:
T: [sings] char de combat: waswi likutwela/ wafika pa Sabena watwana Indiani/ lindiiani: wafika pa Sabena: watwana Indiani ya Indiani/ Indiani waile ka kimoke kitema/ baKatanga nibipoyo pa nyuma ke banyemaa/ baKatanga nebipoyo pa nyuma/ [singing ends] ni pa mwisho pale eh?
F: mm/
T: njo banaanzaka kuimba/ ilikuwa mwimbo ya révolution ya ...?...
F: **mwimbo ya** Katanga?
T: ni ya Katanga/ ilikuwa mimbo ya révolution yabo: à part: nani: Katanga/
F: mm/
T: na bo balikatalaka ile mambo/ sasa baKatangais banakuita asema: barebelles: ya sécession: Katangaise/
F: mm/
T: njo vile ilikuyaka/
F: mm/
T: ahah/
F: ku: ugeuze tu: mu Swahili/
T: bon/ mu Swahili ni kusema: nani: nani: baKatanga balitafuta kuingia: na char: na ile: mammoth yabo/ mm/ sawa: nani: Indiani: alipikaka bunduki moja tu: ilikamata: ku ile char: na ile char: iliwaka:

go out together.
F: Mm-hmm.
T: Then we would come back to our lots that were close.
F: Mm-hmm. So the mammoth eventually got to Lubumbashi.
T: Alright. When it got to Lubumbashi they fired bullets at it.
F: Bullets.
T: Yes.
F: And one person...
T: It was a I told you: There was an Indian [who got the mammoth], as I told you. [In those days], the Luba people had a song about...
F: Ah, that song, it should....
T: Yes [chuckles].
F: Yes.
T: So, here it is. This is how it went. The sang: "The -- what do you call it? -- tank..." Well [hesitates], you'll excuse me?
F: Yes, about the tank.
T: [sings in Luba] **Char de combat: waswi likutwela/ wafika pa Sabena watwana Indiani/ Indiani: wafika pa Sabena: watwana Indiani ya Indiani/ Indiani waile ka kimoke kitema/ baKatanga nibipoyo pa nyuma ke banyemaa/ baKatanga nebipoyo pa nyuma/**[singing ends] And that was the end, right?
F: Mm-hmm.
T: That's the song they sang, it was a revolutionary song...
F: A song from Katanga?
T: It was from Katanga. It was a song of their Katangese revolution.
F: Mm-hmm.
T: They were against [the secession]. So the Katangese called them rebels against the secession of Katanga.
F: Mm-hmm.
T: That's how it was.
F: Mm-hmm.
T: Yes.
F: Translate [the song] in Swahili.
T: Alright, in Swahili it says, "The Katangese wanted to get into the tank, that mammoth of theirs." Mm-hmm. "Then an Indian fired his gun just once and got

[claps] balikimbia/ balikimbiaka na
bifulushi: pa mabega/
F: [chuckles]
T: c'est que: mambo: yote iliisha/ ilikuwa
chance ya ule: ya ule Indien/ eeh/
F: eeh/ na baONU/
T: c'est ça/ mm/
F: kumbe bale bengine bote banakimbia:
paka ile Indien?
T: ah ile Indien:
F: ule Indien:
T: njo banakimbia/
F: ahah/
T: ehem/ ah bale bote banakimbia:
banakimbia char/
F: ndiyo/
T: bale baONU/
F: ndiyo/
T: banakimbia: pake ula Indien alifunga
roho asema kama nikufwa: nikufwe/ njo
alipika: ndani ya ntundu ile ya: canon:
F: mm/
T: et puis kinawaka moto/ unaona ile ma:
bunduki yote iko napika: ile ma: ma: ma
kama ni mabombes kama nini: beko
napika kule:
F: eeh/
T: iko napasuka tu/
F: eeh/
T: yee anakwenda tu/
F: eeh/
T: eeh/

the tank. And they fled [claps] and the
tank stayed behind. They ran away, their
belongings [lit. bundles] on their
shoulders.
F: [chuckles]
T: And that was the end of that affair. It
was that Indian's luck.
F: Some one from the UN.
T: Right, mm-hmm.
F: So, all the others ran away, just this
Indian....
T: Ah, this Indian...
F: This Indian...
T: ...[fired a shot and] they ran away.
F: I see.
T: Yes, all of them ran away from the
tank.
F: Yes.
T: All [the soldiers] of the UN...
F: Yes.
T: ... they ran away, only this Indian
soldier had the courage to say: "If I die, I
die." Then he fired his rifle right into the
nozzle of the cannon.
F: Mm-hmm.
T: There was an explosion. You see [in
the painting] that all [the tank's] guns went
off, so did the bombs, or whatever was
inside.
F: I see.
T: Everything exploded.
F: I see.
T: [And then] he just walked away.
F: I see.
T: Yes.