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Totemism.

Totemism of the Hlako
Tribe

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<u>Tribe</u>	<u>Totem</u>
Batlhako	Elephant
Bataung	Lion
Baphuting	Duiker
Bathalerwa	Dog
Barokologadi	Porcupine

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The tribal totem of the Batlhako is the Elephant. They are the Matebele who stayed behind when Moselekate was on his way to Balawayo but some of them are not Matebele and we do not know how it came about that they should take the elephant of the Matebele as their totem. It may be seen that during the wars of Moselekate as he went along some of the people turned back when they were in the territory of the Bamangwato and the Bakwena. On their return, they came with some of the people of the Bamangwato, the Baphuting. The Batlhako honour the elephant because it is their totem. They neither touch it, nor eat its flesh. The elephant is the totem of the chief's family, and all the people honour it. They are known as the Batlhako, their totem is the elephant although in fact it is not their totem. The people belong to the chief and that is why they adopt that totem knowing very well what they are and what their real totem is. When a person regards a certain animal as his totem, he may not touch it with his hands. The moment he does so his body becomes frayed, that is the skin of his body falls off, which necessitates his being doctored. Whilst a certain boy of the Baphuti tribe was out hunting, his dogs killed a duiker and he handled it in ignorance of the consequences thereof, and he took it home with him. On his arrival at home the people saw him and told him that that animal was one that they neither touch nor eat. They thereupon called other people to take it away. On getting up the next morning the boy found that his skin had become frayed from the face to the hands and

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including his stomach. A doctor was consulted in order to come and give him medicine. It took a long time to get him right, so long a time that the people no longer knew what could be done about him.

Two boys of the Barokologadi tribe ate a porcupine and they died. Nobody knew what the cause of their death was. It was after they had consulted a doctor that they knew that they had eaten a porcupine which is their totem. But although people may not have the same totem, they intermarry, they intermingle with out fear. They even sleep together without anything to stop them. They even eat together without any fear of each other.

The Barokologadi take the porcupine as their totem, they come from the Mapela territory but I do not know whether or not their totem was the porcupine when they left that territory. Famine brought them over here they are exiles. A man named Modidi was the first to come the others followed him. On his arrival here, he used to praise himself by saying. "They say come Ramolekane and let us go, the flat glittering stone is in the South, the ancestors have died without knowing it, they saw it after the villages had been dispersed by famine, Modidi the black one of Kgaodi." The totem of the Baphuting is the duiker, they come from the Bamangwato territory. They came with some of the Batlhako who had been captured by the Matebele of Moselekatsa. Some came on the ground that they were after the cattle which the Batlhako drove away from the Bakwena territory. A very well known man was Rankgate their sub-chief. When he praised himself he used to say "Ahee Bangoato, ga nke ke bona Masarona atla a roele ditlhako a koanyakoanya, tsaasi le di onalang ba tla tšhipha, ba tla šhale ba tla tsoana le nna mogodu oa pela"

All the people however, intermarried and lived together without any fear of each other. They ate and drank together with no trouble in their midst. After their entry here they did not go back to their country, that of the Bamangwato.

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They have come to settle and they are just Batlhako and they do not dream of going back to the Bamangwato territory.

Rantana.

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