

C. 1 - 16

History of the Shlako tribe.
Batlhako.

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1

After the death of chief Malopyane, his second wife also fell ill. When the cause of the chief's death was investigated, it was found that it was she who had bewitched the chief her husband. The son of the chief whose name was Moganetsi consulted a witch doctor and asked him to doctor the grave of his father in order to find out who had caused his death. The divining bones pointed his mother. She got ill for the whole year till she died in January 1941. She had been ill from February 1940.

This wife of the chief died. Her name was Boteka. She left a daughter behind whose name was Nthana. She was married to the son of Sekepe. Dikgoru divorced Dikgoru because she said her husband was a thief. The Batlhako had nothing to say about the death of the chief's wife, they only gave instructions that she should be buried in her hut. They did not get a witch doctor to find out the cause of her death as they knew what the cause of her death was. She had been killed by the witch doctor they had sought to doctor the chief's grave. Today the family of chief Malopyane is becoming extinct, there are only three children left who are leading a nomadic life, Moganetsi who is the chief now, and Rakoko his younger brother and Nthana their sister. They are being killed by their paternal uncle Tunagole. He is the one who is exterminating them. He is aspiring for the chieftainship. He wants to come to the kgotla but he was driven away by his elder brother. After the death of his elder brother, he tried by all means to be admitted to the Kgotla but the Batlhako refused. He has sought witch doctors to kill the children of his elder brother and eventually he burned his elder brother's house with a lightning bird. His witch doctor from whom he got medicines is Bogatsu, the son of Ratlaole, a Motlokwa. Even at the kgotla he used to bury medicines in the night time. He wanted to get at Moganetsi by all means. He is striving to this day, he even comes from as far as Kgalagadi (the desert between Bechuanaland and South-Western Protectorate), the country of the Bamangwato.

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The younger brother of Moganetsi has gone to the Rand. He is mentally deranged. He has even come back from school where he had been sent. He deserted from there. Every effort has been made for him he has run away and wandered away to where he can manage on his own. We do not know how he will manage to live, that is the position as far as they are concerned. Moganetsi himself who is supposed to be the chief, if he sees you, he will never speak to you or ask you who you are, or even to greet people when he meets them, he does not speak to them. Even if a stranger is brought to the Kgotla to see the chief, he does not take the trouble to ask him where he comes from, where he is going to, what he wants, like other chiefs do.

3 Sometime during the lifetime of chief Molopyane, Tumagole bewitched this child, the child ran away naked, and his father went all over the country trying to get him cured, he even went as far as to consult the Bushmen. The Bushmen are the people who even helped him a bit but he is still insane and there is nobody in him, he is just a shadow that is walking about. Even now his uncle is still striving to get rid of him so that he may take the chieftainship. When Molopyane died, he had already driven Tumagole away from the kgotla. One does not know what it is that Tumagole wants at the kgotla because even the Batlhako do not want him. Even their sister Nthana the child of their father, is a nonentity, she has deserted her husband. Now she goes to and fro all over the country. She marry this man and runs away to another man. She has deserted from home her place of abode is unknown. It is not known when she will go back to her home. Moganetsi also says nothing about her. Whether she is alive or no Moganetsi is not concerned. The Batlhako also are doing nothing about her. They realise that the chief's children are perishing, they are not worried about them. They are afraid of Tumagole ~~we~~ they think that he may bewitch them we don't know. I don't know why they don't kill this man Tumagole because they know that he is a wizard. Whether they are afraid of the Europeans, I do not know, because if the chieftainship was still that of Moetlo, he would have been killed long ago. He could not live a single day.

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A wizard was killed in broad daylight during Mostlo's government if a witch doctor smelt him x him out as a wizard. Now here is a man whom the chief does not know what to do about him, he is even wanting to kill the chief himself and his younger brother and sister. They are wandering all over the country, they have left their father's kraal, they have deserted it, nobody knows what their end will be.

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