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Translated

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J. Masiangako.

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DEATH.

One man was struck by lightning. His name was Matlankobana, the younger brother of Tumagole. He was returning from the cornlands at about sunset. There appeared some clouds which were of no significance and which quickly vanished. Then an alarm was given that "Matlankobana is this side, he has been killed by lightning". When his elder brother Tumagole was called to come to aid he refused. He was then carried to his home. The people were informed, they gathered together at the deceased place. Chief Moetlo was told that a person had been struck by lightning. Chief Moetlo called a doctor to come and throw divining bones to find out what had happened to the person. When the doctor came, he said "He had been killed by his elder brother Tumagole, who was disputing some cattle". When the witchdoctor had explained the cause for the man's death, the chief ordered that he should be buried in the cattle kraal because it was on account of the cattle that he died. He was buried there. Before he was buried, the chief called his elder brother and asked him why he killed his younger brother, what he was going to do with his children and his wife. Who was going to maintain them. The wife's people were deeply hurt and wondered why the husband's people placed them in such hardship. The chief told them to stop discussing the matter but they had a lot to say as they were very much grieved. They asked the chief to allow them to doctor the grave so that the person who bewitched Matlankobana should die. The chief said that if Matlankobana's wife agreed that the grave should be doctored then that could be done but if she did not agree, the chief had no power, the only person who had power was the wife of the deceased. When they referred the matter to the wife, she refused and said that was not a good thing to do, if a person was killed before his time to die. The chief ordered Tumagole to pay a beast and

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bury his younger brother. Tunagole paid an ox which was slaughtered for the death of his younger brother. Many people came to the death. The people said that the deceased should be buried with his axe because he was killed by his elder brother. They all agreed that he should be buried with his axe. The chief ordered the men who were to dig the grave to guard Tunagole so that he should not remove earth from the grave because if he could get it he would work it to kill the wife of Matlankobana.

Matlankobana's wife and her mother-in-law and others were sitting with the corpse in the house. They remained overnight with it and stayed the whole time until it was taken to the grave. There was weeping in the house and the whole family did nothing else. People were heard saying "Tunagole is a wizard, you should fear him, be careful how you deal with him". The people had no conversation whatsoever as their hearts were full of sorrows.

Burial. The next-day as the sun went down the corpse of the deceased was taken to the grave at the cattle kraal. Nobody spoke as they went, there was absolute silence. At the grave too, nobody spoke. It was only the chief who said "Spirits of the Matlankobana's fathers bless the wife and children of Matlankobana". They threw the earth in and when they had finished, they returned home. They ate the meat and after that they dispersed. Those who remained for two days were the relatives of Matlankobana and the relatives of his wife. On the third day the hair on the heads of the children and wife was cut with a razor, to show that they have lost one of their family. The day after his death, the people did not go to their work, they resumed work after the burial. The relatives remained for some days consoling the wife and they slept with her a few nights so that she should have no fear and sadness.

The wife did not leave this house, she remained in it for a long time until she was married by Mogotsi. Mogotsi also came and lived with this woman in the same house. He did no

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build his own, They left it when they moved to the Bakwena country during the Boer war. When other people returned, they did not return. They remained in the Bakwena country. When we asked the chief why this man was buried in the cattle kraal, he said it was because the cattle killed him and they should tread on his body so that he should never remember them where he sleeps. His body must be rotted by their urine and their dung.

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