

The graves and the great palace of the Xhosa Kings

It is in the public domain that there was a called Chief Nkosiyamntu whom his sons played a critical role in our history. Cirha was the heir of the great house, Jwarha heir of the right hand house, Tshawe heir of the supporter of the great house and Qwambi heir of the supporter of the right hand house.

Nkosiyamntu and his people were situated at Mzimkhulu, Ntsibakazi area to be specific; his father was Malangana and Malangana's was Xhosa himself. After departure of Nkosiyamntu the battle of seniorship find its way among his sons. One day Tshawe were from hunting with his people, carrying a blue buck *Iphuthi*. According to our tradition if you get something from hunting, you have to surrender it to the son of the great house, in order the great house to give you your own portion according to its discretion.

Tshawe flatly refuse to handover the Blue buck, arguing that *"it is only one blue buck and it's not that big"* so he can't hand it over, more than that he is with his people and they need to get something as well. Cirha rather than to understanding the fact put by his half-brother, concluded that Tshawe was challenging him and his seniorship for refusing to hand over the blue back as it was a tradition to do so.

Cirha and Jwarha people attacked Tshawe and Qwambi remained neutral. Tshawe immediately send the envoy to AmaMpondomise great palace at Tsolo Lothana, to request assistance, by the way Tshawe's mother was from AmaMpondomise nation. Chief Sabe of Amampondomise look among his chiefdoms existed at the time such as AmaMpinge, AmaRhudulu, AmaNgcitshne, AmaCwerha and others and Sabe instructed Chief Tshangisa of AmaRhudulu and his troop to go and assist Tshawe, and Tshangisa's brother Nxuba remain behind as acting Chief in the Chiefdom.

Tshawe with the assistance of AmaRhudulu won the battle and eventually conquered other nations such as Abathwa, AmaNtakwende, AmaNkabane, AmaNzotho and others, established the dynasty of AmaXhosa. AmaRhudulu given a portion of land by Tshawe as a thanks and it's where the name of AmaRhudulu became unpopular substituted by Amangwevu. After that victory the grand son Tshawe named after AmaRhudulu Chief by the name of Sikhomo. Tshawe gave back to his son Ngcwangu and Ngcwangu to Sikhomo. Tshawe and Ngcwangu buried at Mzimkhulu Ntsibakazi. During the reign of Sikhomo, amaRhudulu advised the dynasty that they should move towards to the sea because the place is no longer safe for the King.

Indeed they moved to Ntabankulu where Sikhomo great palace was and he was buried at Ntabankulu. Togu took over and moved the great palace to Ngqeleni Qhokoma and he was buried at Ngqeleni. During the reign of Ngconde, he then settled at Ngqeleni as well but this time Cumngce where he was buried.

The Xhosa kingdom during the reign of Tshiwo moved to Mqanduli Ngcwanguba, where the great palace was situated. Tshiwo's reign is one of the most significant due to the fact that, the Kingdom decided to spread towards the west side in places such as Xhorha, Centane, Tsomo, Cofimvaba, Ngqushwa, Cumakala, Xesi, Hewu to mention the few. Chiefdoms such as AmaNtinde, AmaBhayi, AmaHleke, ImiDange, AmaGqunukhwebe, AmaGwali and others, which most of them were from the right hand houses from different reigns from Togu moved over the Nciba River.

Togu was buried at Mqanduli Ngcwanguba, Phalo took over and settled at Gcuwa Thongwana later Qonce Zeleni. He left his land Mqanduli and Xhorha under the eye of AmaTshezi, Amahege, AmaTshomane and others which were known as AmaBomvana. Phalo was buried in his old great palace at Gcuwa Thongwana and his son Gcaleka remain at Qonce Zeleni. Gcaleka decided to move from Zeleni and settled at Qumrha not far from Ngxingxolo River. He was buried at Qumrha and left his son Khawuta. King Khawula like other forefathers he moved from Qumrha and settled at Centane, and left his half-brother Ngqika to look his people which now called AmaNgqika.

Khawuta was buried at Centane Mnyameni and his son Hintsa took over the throne. Hintsa took the great palace back to Gcuwa not far from where the town is situated. King Hintsa was brutally murdered by white colonists close to Nqabarha River Gatyana at Mbhancolo and he was also buried there. His son Sarhili as longest King in the reign more than 50 years, he never disappointed the Kingdom to follow the practise of moving the great palace and he move to Cofimvaba Hoyita. He later then moved the great palace from Cofimvaba to Centane Holela and he was buried to one of his great palace at Xhorha Thyolorha. Then Sigcawu the heir of Sarhili remained at Xhorha but now Mngazana not far from where Sarhili was buried and he was also buried at Xhorha Mngazana. Gwebinkumbi who was the next after Sigcawu he settled at Gatyana Nqadu and he was also buried at Nqadu. Then King Zwelidumile! remained at Gatyana Nqadu and he was buried at Nqadu as well. King Xolilizwe was the next and he never moved at Gatyana great palace Nqadu and he was buried there as well. Final, the current King after Xolilizwe is Mpendulo Ah Zwelonke! In the meant time he still settled at Gatyana Nqadu, however we anticipating that he will move the great palace back where Hintsa was settled at Gcuwa.

Sinethemba Dalinzolo is the heir of Zilindile "Zimbi" of AmaRhudulu, a founder and secretary of imbumba yamaRhudulu also serve as council member of AmaRhudulu royal clan under Chief Phikolomzi ka Sakhiwo Ah Dilizintaba.