



Shodu la bosiu

Thief in the night

Wa kena jwalo ka shodu la bosiu le sa lebellwang,
You entered like an unexpected thief in the night,
 Wa nanya hore re se o bone ha o ranthanya,
You crept in, so we do not see when you cause havoc,
 Nako eo re phahamisang dihloho re shebisisa,
By the time we lifted our heads to check properly,
 Yaba o se o kenelletse.
You had already made your way in.

A ko butle wena Corona,
Wait a moment Corona,
 Hobaneng ha o habile malapa a rona?
Why are you heading for our families?
 Tlohela bana ba rona ho ba bokamoso bo matsohong a bona!
Leave our children alone for the future is in their hands!

Ho thwe re itlhokomele ka hohlehohle
We are told to ensure that we protect ourselves in every way
 Re hlape matsoho, re se itshware difahleho
Wash our hands and avoid touching our faces
 Re dule ka matlung hore re bolokehe
Stay indoors for our safety
 Ke hobaneng o nka kganya o re siya ka lefifi?
Why are you taking our light and leaving us in darkness?

Na e be o tla nyamela hape ka mafifi ho ya ka tsela eo o re
 nanyareditseng ka teng?
Will you disappear in the dark, the way you crept in on us?
 Re dula re itukisitse,
We remain prepared,
 Re emetse letsatsi leo ka lona re tla reng ho wena,
Waiting for the day we shall say to you,
 Tsela tshweu, o se boele o kgutla!
Go well, and never return!
 Ho ba re batho ba mamello,
For we are a resilient people,
 Re tla hlahella re le bahlodi,
We will emerge victorious,





In the still of the night

Ho kgutseng hwa bosiu

*I sit here wondering,
Ke dutse mona ke a ipotsa,
As I look at him lying here next to me,
Ha ke mo sheba a robetse haufi le nna,
Snoring like he has no care in the world,
A kgona e ka re ha a kgathalle letho lefatsheng,
While I worry about what tomorrow will bring.
Ha ke ntse ke tshwenyehile ka hore na hosane e tla tisa eng.*

*I feel my heart pumping hard,
Ke utlwa pelo ya ka e pompa haholo,
I turn to look down at my chest to see if I can catch a glimpse of its
rhythmic movement,
Ke retelhelela ho sheba sefubeng sa ka ho bona hore na nka
bona modumo wa morethetho wa yona.
I am still scared as I recall the venom that came from his mouth
before he fell asleep,
Ke ntse ke tshohile ha ke hopola mahloko a tswang
molomong wa hae pele a robala,
Tonight he reminded me that he owns me.
Bosiung bona o ile a nkgopotsa hore ke wa hae.*

*The night is so still,
Bosiu bo kgutsitse
My mind is racing as I think of my options,
Mohopolo wa ka wa phahama ha ke nahana ka dikgetho tsa ka,
As I wonder whether I have any options,
Ha ke ntse ke ipotsa hore na e be dikgetho ke na le tsona na,
For he reminded me that should I breathe a word to anyone,
he will finish me.
Hobane o ile a nkgopotsa hore na nka phefumoloha
lentswe ho mang kapa mang, o tla mphenetha.*

*Locked in this house alone with him for 21 days,
Re notlellehile mmoho ka tlung ena matsatsi a 21,
I count each day as it passes by, slowly,
Ke bala letsatsi le leng le le leng ha le feta, butle,
As I struggle to breathe,
Ha ke lwanela ho hema.
Feeling the suffocation of his presence.
Ke ultwa bo teng ba hae bo nkwalwa moya.*





To our departed

Ho wa bo rona ya ileng

*It is not because we loved you any less,
Ha se hobane re ne re sa o ratesise,
We wanted to slaughter a cow for you,
Re ne re ratile ho o hlabele kgomo,
As per our custom,
Jwalo ka setlwaedi,
We wanted to spill the blood to connect you with those you've now
joined,
Re ne re batla ho tsholla madi ho le hokahanya le bao o seng o na le
bona hona jwale,
To pave a smooth way for you,
Ho o etsetsa tsela e boreledi,
So you may rest in peace.
Ho re o robale ka kgotso.*

*Many wanted to come bid you farewell,
Ba bangata ba ne ba batla ho tla ba tlo re tsela tshweu,
Spend time consoling each other,
Ba be mmoho ho tshidisana,
Reminisce together for its soothing to do so,
Ba o hopole mmoho ho ba ho a kgothatsa,
To see you descend into the ground to your eternal resting place,
Ho o bona o theohela mobung ho ya sebakeng sa hao sa phomolo
sa ka ho sa feleng,
To mourn you properly,
Ho o hlomoha ka nepo,
To say farewell beloved.
Ho re tsela tshweu moratuwa.*

*Do not be angry with us,
Se ke wa re halefela,
Because we asked people to wash their hands at their respective homes,
Hobane re kopile batho hore ba hlatswe matsoho malapeng a bona,
Do not say we are trampling on tradition,
O se ke wa re re hatakela moetlo,
As we twist rituals slightly,
Ha re sotha meetlo hanyane,
We will make amends,
Re tla lokisa dintho,
For now beloved, rest in peace!
Ha jwale moratuwa, robala ka kgotso!*

