

Mombas July 3, 1849

My Dear Sir!

It is only by the special protection of an almighty & merciful God, bestowed upon me on my late journey into the Interior, that I again can write to you. Indescribable fatigues & troubles, dangers & difficulties attended this journey, first with regard to the weather – excessive rains day & night, which much stopped our progress & swelled the numerous rivers of Jagga so that several became for some time unfordable as regards wading through them, which in most cases you are obliged to do, a tree being very seldom laid over them. Secondly & above all with regard to the bad behaviour I this time experienced from the Jaggas, whose rulers will be good friends to me, if they know that I have no intention of proceeding onward. Thus Masaki, the ruler of the district Kilema, did much oppose, openly & secretly, my proceeding to Mamkinga, the King of Madjame, simply because a great deal of my goods did thus escape his avarice & Mamkinga himself – in spite of his word & promise he gave me on my previous journey – that he would take no goods from me above his “ada” (duty, custom) & that he would give me a number of his soldiers to bring me forward on my then intended journey to Uniamesi – became now actually a robber on me. He would himself have all the goods which I had taken with me for the purpose of penetrating farther into the Interior, while he represented the journey to Uniamesi as too dangerous to be undertaken now – on account of the Massai, with whom he must first make friendship partly by the goods I gave him. I must confess you that I wept some before the King and his great ones on seeing such a great deal of goods (of the value of about 200 Dollars) perishing in my being refused to prosecute my journey. The King asked why I wept – whether he then did rob me – would he not give me ivory for my cloth & beads? But this was a very small consolation for me. From that day he no more came personally to me, but sent his veziers, one of them, a Suaheli of the Pangani, who is at the same time his chief sorcerer & one of his brothers to transact business. The behaviour of these people became from day to day harsher & greedier towards myself & my porters, so much so, that on the day of my dismissal one of them was obliged to give a piece of cloth from his body in order to have a little saliva thrown upon him by the brother of the King as a sign of peace. My people then broke up very hastily without waiting as I myself wished for guides from the King & actually cut their way with their hatchets through the thick jungle, which covers the plain that spreads at the southern foot of the Jagga-mountain-mass, so that we wanted 7 days for a distance of only 50 or 60 miles. Fortunately I had bought for them a large provision of beans, which sufficed them until we arrived in Teita.

Three pieces of ivory were promised me, but by the deceitfulness of that Suaheli of the Pangani I got only one large piece, which as a single man could not carry it, was sawn into two pieces.

Whether the robbery of the King originated with himself or with that deceitful Suaheli & his intimate friend Bana Keri, whom in going to Madjame I met with in Kilema, or whether these have only stimulated the King – God knows. We are however aware of Bana Keri's anger in not being chosen again our guide on my intended journey to Uniamesi ,& of his intention to cause enmity in Jagga against me in Jagga (sic). God has wonderfully saved me by the hasty escape of my porter through the wilderness for had I again returned to Masaki, I fear he would not have treated me or my people well. I had many attacks of fever during my stay in Jagga from the wet & cold state of the weather & from being obliged to sleep the whole time on the ground. From want of proper food my bowels also got very loose, so that I became extremely weak on my way home. I arrived at Rabbay at noon on Wednesday last (27<sup>th</sup> June) & to my great joy found new, long expected friends in our humble cottage. From the day of my arrival Mr. Erhardt got better. On Saturday last I went here to get some money from the Banian & to look after the things which had arrived with our new friends. – We are again rich in several kinds of provisions, especially wine. We have no need of caring much for food & clothing, God in his mercy richly bestows those gifts upon us, & our chief anxiety ought to be to enjoy them in a right state of mind towards God & man – thankfully, quiet & content. The mystery of true happiness is to have the power to remain thankful, quiet & content – may you have little or much. This I experienced especially on my late journey.

On Sunday last I received your letter to Dr. Krapf & two parcels, one from you & one from Bombay. The 3 boxes which lately arrived were also delivered to my by the Banyan.

Excuse, Dear Sir, my bad handwriting & believe me truly glad & thankful towards God for your renewed health – to remain

Yours respectfully

J Rebmann