

### 23. Le, emzin' eBethlehema (Once in Royal David's City)

#### 23-1. Zulu Sheet Music

Le le zih e - Ne - thle - he - ma Wa - ye - za - lwa Umsin - di - si La - wa -

The first system of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a half note 'Le', followed by quarter notes 'le', 'zih', and 'e'. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords in the right hand.

be - kwa em - khom - be - ni Ngo bum - po - fu na - lu - si - di A - bom -

The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has quarter notes 'be', 'kwa', 'em', and 'khom', followed by a half note 'be'. The piano accompaniment maintains the harmonic support with consistent chordal patterns.

hla - ba bam - cyi - sa Zin - ge - lo - si zam du - mi - sa

The third system concludes the piece. The vocal line features quarter notes 'hla', 'ba', 'bam', and 'cyi', followed by a half note 'sa'. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord in the right hand and a sustained bass note.

## 23-2. Siswati Sheet Music



Le le tin e - Bet - le - he - ma Sa - ta - le - kwa uMsin dzi si Wa - ta -

le - kwa em - khom - be - ni nge - kwe - swe - la ne - lu sizi Ma - ria

uni - na lo - tfo - be - kile 'na - jes - luswa - ne - kwa - kh -

## 23-3. Zulu Lyric

1. Le, emzin' eBethlehem Wayezalwa uMsindisi,  
Lawabekwa emkhombeni, Ngobumpofu nalusizi;  
Abomhlaba bamcyisa, 'Zingelosi zamdumisa.
2. Wayevela ezulwini, EyiNkhosi yakho konke,  
Kepha wayezithobisa, Phansi negnxa yethu sonke.  
Ungowethu thin' abantu, Usindiso lwethu, nantu.
3. Wayezalwa engumntwana, Aze azwelane nathi,  
Waba nobuthakathaka, Ezwa ubunzima ngathi;  
Nasentokozweni Yethu, Ungumhlanganyeli wethu.
4. Soyibona ezulwini, 'Nkosi enomus' ongaka,

Owembath; ubuntu bethu, Usisiza, esinaka.

Ubayisa, abantwana, Ezulwini. Laphayana!

#### **23-4. Siswati Lyric**

1. Le, emtin' eBetlehema Satalelwa uMsindzisi,

Watalelwa emkhombeni, ngekweswela nelusizi;

Maria'unina lotfobekile, 'naJes' luswane lwakh'.

2. Bekavela eZulwini, AyiNkhosi yako konkhe,

Kodwa atitfobile-nje, Aphasi ngenca yetfu sonkhe.

Ungewetfu tsine bantfu, Insindziso yetfu, nguye.

3. Lowatalwa angumntfwana, Kute asivele natsi,

Waba butsakatsaka-ke, Eva kuhlupheka ngatsi;

Nasenjabulweni Yetfu, Uyahlanganyela natsi.

4. Sitoyibona eZulwini, iNkhosi lenemusa kangaka,

Lowembatsa; nebuntfu ngatsi, Uyas'sita, asinake.

Lotoyisa, bantfwabakh', Ezulwin'. Lapha-ya!

#### **23-5. English Lyric**

1. Once in royal David's city, Stood a lowly cattle shed,

Where a mother laid her baby, In a manger for his bed:

Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,

And his shelter was a stable, And his cradle was a stall;

With the poor, and mean, and lowly, Lived on earth our Savior holy.

3. And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his own redeeming love;

For that child so dear and gentle, Is our Lord in heav'n above,

And he leads his children on. To the place where he is gone.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895

Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

### **23-6. Reference**

Zuly Hymn 32

English Hymn "Once in Royal David's City"