

MANTHATISI

1. MaNthatisi was born ³ 1780. She was the great wife of Mokotjo, sixteenth chief of the Tlokwa. When Mokotjo died she acted as regent for her son Sekonyela. In 1836 French missionary Arbousset described her as a woman of great intelligence, with a sweet and agreeable expression, and an elegant figure. She was dressed in a thick plaited apron with ox-hide cloak, and wore a copper necklace and bangles.

Cartoon: Arbousset talking to MaNthatisi, dressed as above.

2. In the 1820's came the Difaqane, the great Dispersion, caused by the rise of Shaka and the Zulu kingdom. Hlubi refugees fled over the Drakensberg and attacked the Tlokwa. Manthatisi in her turn attacked others. Although she did not fight herself, she instructed her warriors, who were called "^{The Mantakees} Mantanties" and who aroused terror in their neighbours.

Cartoon: MaNthatisi instructing her warriors, who wore copper bands around their necks, arms, and legs, smeared their bodies with a mixture of soot and fat, and wore a black ostrich plume.

3. MaNthatisi became a legend. She occupied the mountain ^{top} of Kooaneng, and welcomed members of the shattered tribes. The Tswane claimed that she fed her soldiers with her own milk. It was said that she dispatched wasps and hornets ahead of her army, and that she had a cyclopean eye. Sekonyela took over the chieftainship in 1830. The date of MaNthatisi's death is now known, but it seems certain that she was dead by 1853 when Mosheshwe conquered Sekonyela.

Cartoon: Wasps preceding the army led by a woman with a Cyclopean eye.