

Letter to Thomas S. Livingstone, 28 April 1862

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org), 2017

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Shupanga 28 April 1862

My Dear Son Thomas

Your dear Mama

will never return from the happy home to which she has gone - We shall go to her but she will not come back to us. She died last night and I am left with a sore heart alone in the world. I bow to the heavy stroke of our Heavenly Father who does all things well & pray that he may give me grace & strength to bear up against what at present quite takes the heart out of me. She was but forty one and I never

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saw her look better, and never enjoyed her society more, but three short months after our meeting after four years separation we are parted till we meet through Infinite mercy in Heaven. Poor Dear Mama I weep over you and I will weep over you as well deserving many tears - I laid her dear form in the grave a little [while] ago - There she sleeps till the last trumpet shall sound and the dead in christ shall rise with joy. Her body is placed beneath a large Baobab tree sixty feet in circumference mentioned in Commodore Owen's book. We must my dear son feel that Heaven is our true home and dear good Mama

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has just preceded us - She may be thought of as beckoning you to come - to flee sin, and lay hold on Christ - Yes - Christ himself is beckoning & inviting you to come & be saved - dont hold back, O ye unto God "My Father be thou the guide of my youth" Embrace Jesus and all your sins are forgiven -
Dear dear Mama had but little pain, he liver refused to act and the bile mixing with the blood produced a sort of stupor and jaundice -she said to me as she lay moaning yesterday morning - "I cannot help moaning - I am not in pain but have a feeling of distressing weakness" soon after that she lost the power of

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swallowing, and gradually became more insensible but answered my kisses up to within half an hour of her departure - She was breathing with her mouth a little open then shut it gently and breathed no more - Jesus I trust was with her but she was deafened by quinine and I could hold no conversation with her on the rest of her soul - It never occurred to me to use writing but on asking loud if she rested on Jesus she looked thoughtfully up. I think it meant yes - but to her previous life and experience we must look for comfort - Thomas meet Mama in Heaven - Dont let sin cheat you out of that happy meeting you must go to Christ for your -self. And may he be your Friend & guide, Your sorrowing Father
David Livingstone