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Sommario/riassunto	David Livingstone Phakamile Yali-Manisi (1926-99) was a Thembu imbongi, the most powerful exponent of the art of praise poetry in the Xhosa language, in the second half of the twentieth century. His literary career, however, was blighted by circumstances beyond his control, and he died in total obscurity. A supporter of the African National Congress, he was the author of the earliest poem in praise of Nelson Mandela (1954).