

PREFACE

This book is the result of an effort to analyse the hymnal of "The Church of the Nazarites". The fact that the theology implied in the hymnal shaped that of the movement makes a closer analysis of this significant book necessary. Although Shembe I is the main author of the *Izihlabelelo*, the hymns of Shembe II have also been discussed; he has however not changed the theological position. Eighty-six of the hymns and songs have been translated and appear in the *appendix*.

The time has arrived that the analysis of the sources should receive closer attention. Such an analysis, concentrating on the hymns, prayers, sermons and ritual of approximately three thousand movements, will reveal the complexity of the basis on which they flourish and any over-simplification based on *general* causes will be refuted as unrealistic. This task is too great for individuals and should actually be undertaken through teamwork.

In typical German tradition Prof. Ernst Dammann of the Philipps University, Marburg, suggested a closer analysis of the *Izihlabelelo* which could be accepted as the catechism of the Nazarites. I am grateful to Prof. Dammann for his untiring inspiration and help with regard to this study. I would also like to express my gratitude to Prof. Dammann's staff, especially Dr. H. Greschat, for their kind assistance in many ways. To Mr. V. Z. Gitywa B.A. (Hons), Curator of the F. S. Malan museum at Fort Hare for his invaluable assistance with regard to the translations, I am greatly indebted. In this connection I am also indebted to Miss D. N. Jafta B.A. (Hons), B.Ed., of the Department of Bantu Languages at the University of Fort Hare. For information and assistance received from Prof. O. F. Raum, the Rev. Dr. A. I. Berglund, Dr. E. J. de Jager, the Rev. S. D. Sibanyoni (B.A. Theol.) and Mr. F. J. van Wyk, B.A., I wish to express my gratitude. Mr. N. von Lyncker's kind assistance in typing the manuscript is greatly appreciated.

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I wish to dedicate this book to the memory of the late Prof. J. H. Bavinck, well-known scholar in the field of the science of missions, who has directed my interest in this field of study.