

Ibhubesi lihlangene nentanga yalo

Ixoxwa kabusha uBusisiwe Pakade
Imidwebo ngu-Alzette Prins

“Ake siyozingela ndawonye!” kusho
ibhubesi kuMpungushe Omncane.
“Uma sibamba inyamazane
encane, ungayithatha – kodwa
uma sibamba enkulu, izoba
ngeyami.”

“Kulungile!” kusho
uMpungushe Omncane.

Kwenzeka-ke ukuthi isilwane
sokuqala abasibulala
kwaba impofu enkulu.
Wajabula wafa uBhubesi.
“Ngizoqhubeka nokuzingela,”
kusho yena. “Hamba uyobiza
izingane zami zizothatha yonke
le nyama ziye nayo kwami.”



“Kulungile!” kuphendula uMpungushe Omncane, kodwa lapho uBhubesi esehambile,
uMpungushe Omncane wahamba wayobiza izingane zakhe. “UBhubesi ucabanga
ukuthi ngiyisilima!” kuhleka uMpungushe Omncane.
“Kungani kumele nginike izingane zakhe ukudla
ezami zibe zilambile?”

UBhubesi akazange abambe lutho olunye.
Emva kwamahora ambalwa, wafika ekhaya
ekhathele futhi elambile. “Iphi inyama?”
ebuza uBhubesikazi ekhotha
izidladla zakhe.

“Inyama ebeyenze njani?”
ephendula ngokunengwa.

Wathukuthela uBhubesi.
“Akazange yini uMpungushe
Omncane atshele izingane
ukuthi ziyolanda inyama?”
esho egwavuma.

“Cha,” kusho uBhubesikazi,
“impela akazange! Sisalambile!”



UBhubesi waphuma egqishazela eqonde endlini kaMpungushe Omncane, kodwa izimpungushe zazihlala phezu kwedwala eliphakeme kakhulu, kanti ukuphela kwendlela yokufika lapho kwakungentambo.

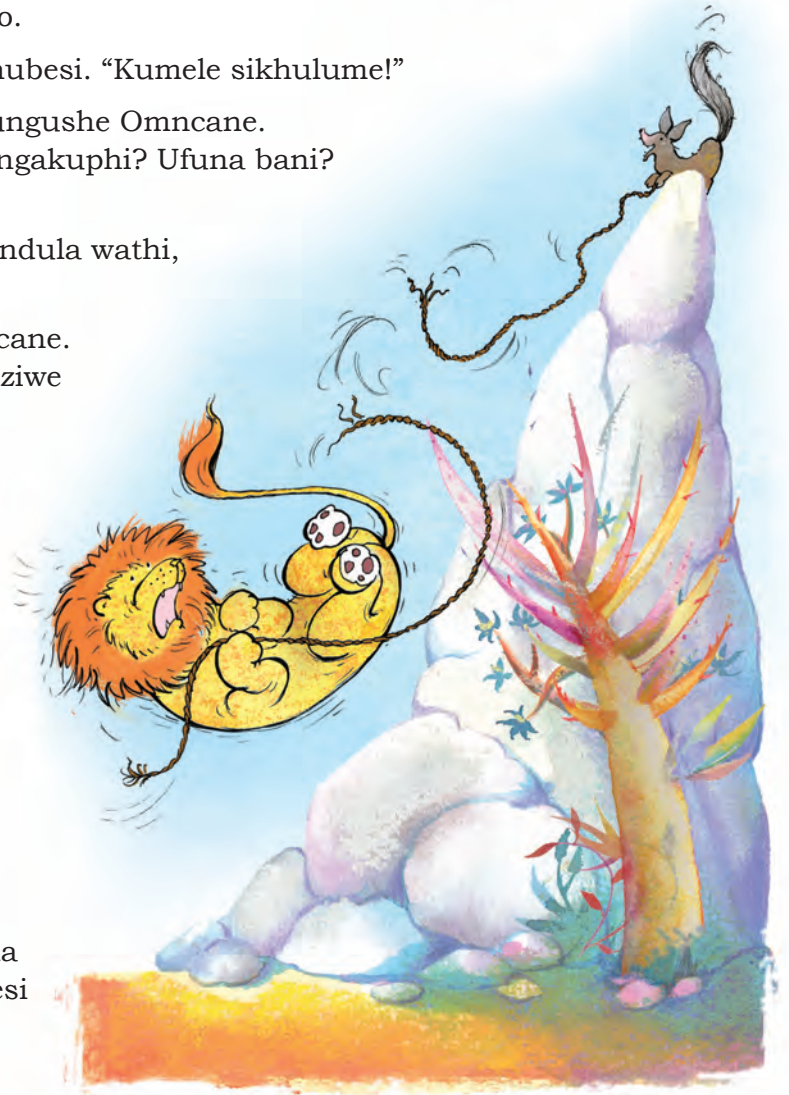
“We Mpungushe Omncane!” kubhonga uBhubesi. “Kumele sikhulume!”

“Ungubani igama lakho?” kumemeza uMpungushe Omncane.
“Uyindodana kabani? Uqhamukaphi? Uya ngakuphi? Ufuna bani? Umfunelani?”

UBhubesi wazizwa edidekile, kodwa waphendula wathi,
“Ngizokubona. Ake wehlise intambo!”

“Kulungile!” kumemeza uMpungushe Omncane.
“Nanso-ke!” Kodwa intambo ayehlisa yayenziwe ngesikhumba samagundane, kanti lapho ibhubesi selikhuphuke kancane, yagqashuka. *Dikli!* Kuwa uBhubesi. Esethukuthele wanyelela wahamba, ngesikhathi uMpungushe Omncane efa uhleko.

Ngenhlanhla uBhubesi wayeyisilwane esinesineke. “Sonke siyadinga ukuphuza,” lisho lihleka inhlinini, lase liya emfuleni liyolinda khona uMpungushe Omncane. Kodwa kwathi ekugcineni lapho impungushe eyiqili ifika osebeni lomfula, yabona uBhubesi, yabaleka ngaso leso sikhathi. UBhubesi wamhlala ezithendeni, kodwa uMpungushe Omncane wanyamalala emgodini ongaphansi kwesihlahla. UBhubesi waziphonsa lapho. Kodwa kwase kusemva kwendaba! Wakwazi ukubamba umsila wempungushe nje kuphela.



“Bhubesi, bhubesi,” kuzikhalela uMpungushe Omncane,
“akuwona umsila wami lowo, yimpande! Zama ukuyigxoba ngetshe, ukuze ubone ukuthi lizophuma yini igazi lami!”

Ngakho uBhubesi wadedela, wayofuna itshe. Kusenjalo, uMpungushe Omncane wangena ekujuleni komgodi, ikhwcela umsila wakhe emva kwakhe. Ngesikhathi uBhubesi ebuya wabona ukuthi akasekho, wacasha ngemva kwamadwala walinda.



Kwadlula amahora ambalwa ngaphambi kokuba uMpungushe Omncane alunguze emgodini ngokucophelela. Wayengamboni uBhubesi, kodwa waqagela ukuthi kungenzeka ukuthi useduze nalapho. Ukuze aqinisekise lokhu, wamemeza, “Ho, ngiyakubona nkosi yami, noma ucashile nje!”

Akazange athi vu uBhubesi. Walungisa umzimba wakhe, elindele ukumubamba. Kodwa uMpungushe Omncane waphuma ngesivini emgodini wamshiya ngemuva uBhubesi. Impungushe eyiqili yayiphinde yaphunyuka futhi!

Kwathatha amasonto khona, kodwa uBhubesi wayemuhle ekulindeni. Ngelinye ilanga, wakwazi ukuvalela ekhoneni uMpungushe Omncane phakathi kwamadwala amabili. Wayesezomgxumela ngesikhathi, uMpungushe Omncane ehleba ethi, “Ake uthule! Ngabe uyayibona leya nyamazane elaphaya? Ngiyajabula ukuthi uzongisiza! Vele uhlale la ngesikhathi mina ngisajikela ngemva kwedwala ngizoyixosha ize ngakuwe.”

UBhubesi wabantu! Wama wanganyakazi – wase ebaleka uMpungushe Omncane.

Kwadlula elinye isonto. Umpungushe Omncane wayazi ukuthi uBhubesi wayezohlangana nezilwane ezinezimpondo. “Ngicabanga ukuthi ngiye kulowo mhlango!” kusho uMpungushe Omncane. “Ngizizwa ngifuna okuzongithokozisa!”

Ngakho uMpungushe Omncane wantshontsha isigaxa sengcino esidlekeni sezinyosi, wase ezenzela izimpondo ezimbili ezinhle. “Ngizozifihla kahle!” esineka ngesikhathi efika emhlanganweni. “Akekho owaziyo ukuthi yimi!”

Kodwa uMpungushe Omncane wenza iphutha elilodwa – wahlala eduze nomlilo. Wazizwa ekhululeke kakhulu wase elala. Kungekudala izimpondo zakhe zokuzakhela zaya ngokuya zithamba. Ekugcineni zancibilika zase ziconsela phansi zenza ibhaka lengcina.

“Bhekani!” kukhala uNkonkoni ngaleso sikhathi. “UMpungushe Omncane!”

“Mbambeni!” kubhavumula uBhubesi, kodwa umsindo wavusa uMpungushe Omncane wase ecasha ngaphansi kwedwala elilengayo. “Sizani bo!” kukhala yena. “Leli dwala liwela phezu kwami!”

“Sengimtholile-ke manje!”
kukhala uBhubesi,
ephendukela ukugxavula
ipali azosekela
ngalo idwala ukuze
akwazi ukubamba
uMpungushe
Omncane. Awu
bantu! Ngesikhathi
ephenduka,
uMpungushe Omncane
wathi ntinini,
egigitheka kakhulu.
Wayephinde wenza
uBhubesi isilima futhi!

