Inkosi eyayiyinyoka

"Inkosi eyayiyinyoka" ivela encwadini ethi: *Ikhubalo likaMadiba,* neshicilelwe ngabakwaTafelberg. Le ntsomi isuselwa entsomini eyayitolikwe nguPamella Maseko. Imizobo nguNiki Daly.

UNANDI WAYEHLUPHEKA KAKHULU. Umyeni wakhe wayesele ekobandayo, kananjalo wayengenaye nonyana owayeza kumalusela iinkomo, wayenentombi enye kuphela awayehamba nayo bayokwemba amagontsi ababeza kutshobela ngawo umphokoqo. Kodwa ekwindla xa sele zibunile iintyatyambo nezityalo zomile babethembela emaqunubeni abumthubi nabomvu kwaye emnandi, ababewakha ze batshintshise ngawo ukuze bafumane umqwayito okanye inyama eyomisiweyo yebhokhwe okanye iselwa lamasi atyebileyo nagcwele yingqaka.

Ngenye imini uNandi waya emlanjeni njengesiqhelo eyokukha amaqunube, kodwa zange awafumane. Kwakungekho nelinye nje iqunube elivuthiweyo, nditsho umnqongo nje.

Uthe esamatshekile enjalo weva ingxolo, umfutho omkhulu wenyoka. Wathi xa ajonga phezulu, wabona inyoka enkulu eyayinombala oluhlaza nentloko engwevu iziwulula esiqwini somthi wamaqunube eyayizithandele kuwo, intloko yayo ilengalenga phakathi kwamasebe, izityela amaqunube. Yayiwatye onke loo maqunube.

“Ube amaqunube am,” watsho uNandi. “Owu, nyoka embi, ube onke amaqunube am. Ndiza kutshintshisa ngantoni ngoku xa uthatha zonke iziqhamo zam?”

Inyoka yenza ingxolokazi enkulu yaza yehlela phantsi. UNandi wayesoyika kodwa waziqinisa kuba wayesazi ukuba xa athe wabaleka akasayi kuwafumana amaqunube.

“Yintoni oza kundinika yona xa ndikunika amaqunube?” yabuza inyoka. “Ukuba ndithe ndakugcwalisela ingobozi yakho ngeziqhamo uza kundinika intombi yakho?”

“Ewe,” watsho uNandi elusizana. “Ndiza kunika intombi yam ngoku kuhlwa kwanamhlanje. Nceda nje qha undivumele ndigcwalise ingobozi yam ngeziqhamo ezingamaqunube amnyama.”

Kodwa kwathi asakuba eyigcwalisile ingobozi uNandi, sele egoduka, wangenwa luloyiko ngenxa yesithembiso asenzileyo. Kwakutheni ukuze avume ukunikezela ngentombi yakhe kwisilo esibi ngoluya hlobo? Waqonda ukuba kufuneka aqinisekise ukuba inyoka ayizukumazi apho wayehlala khona. Kwakufuneka ukuba angagoduki ngqo ukuya ekhaya, hleze kuthi kanti imjongile, kwaye iyamlandela.

Wahamba ke waya kuwela umlambo ezibukweni, apho amanzi esezantsi khona. Wawela waze wathi tshwa kwihlathi elalingaphesheya komlambo. Wahamba ethubeleza phakathi kwemithi enameva. Kodwa ke akabonanga ukuba ameva lawo akrazula ilokhwe yakhe kwasala umcu wayo kwelo hlahla lomthi.

Wahamba ngobunono, echwechwa kuba efuna ukungenzi ngxolo phakathi kweengcongolo, elumkele ukubonwa ziingwenya, waya kungena edamini elikhulu nelinzulu. Naxa kunjalo akabonanga ukuba esinye isihlahla samaqunube siwile engobozini saza sasala sidada apho edamini.

Wahamba waya kuqabela endulini eyayilapho. Wayesazi ukuba xa athe wasithela apho, akanakuze abonwe ngumntu osemthini wamaqunube ezantsi. Kodwa wakhubeka ngonyawo lwakhe olwalumanzi esidulini seentubi. Kananjalo wathi xa angena ehlathini amahlahla aqhawula amaso akhe aselunyaweni, emaqatheni.

Ekugqibeleni wafika endlwini yakhe waze wakhwaza intombi yakhe. “Mntwana wam, ndenze into embi kakhulu. Ndithembise inyoka ukuba ndiza kuyinika wena xa ithe yandigcwalisela ingobozi yam ngeziqhamo zamaqunube,” wakhala kakhulu.

Kuthe kanti phaya emva inyoka yehlile emthini yalanda ekhondweni likaNandi. Yahamba ke yabona umcu welokhwe yakhe. Yaze yazi ke ngolo hlobo ukuba ebehamba apho.

Ithe isahambe umganyana yabona isihlahla samaqunube sidada edamini yabe sele isazi ukuba uye kweliphi na icala. Ithe isahambe umganyana omncinane, yabona umzila wonyawo lwakhe ngakwisiduli seentubi awayekhubeke kuso, yabe sele ilandela umkhondo lowo. Ithe isahamba njalo yabe seyibona amaso akhe, yabe ke seyilandela umkhondo lowo njalo yade yayakufika emzini kaNandi.

Ifika nje, uNandi usasitsho isikhalo ngenxa yesithembiso asenzileyo. Kuvakele ingxolokazi enkulu yomfutho wenyoka emnyango.

Yafutha yade yangena ngaphakathi, yaza yasonga umzimba wayo phezu kweziko elalilapho.

“Hayi, Hayi!” wakhala uNandi. “Bendiphosisa mna ngesiya sithembiso sam. Andinakuze ndikwazi ukukunika intombi yam.”

Intombazana encinane yaphakamisa amehlo ayo. Amehlo ayo ayenobubele kwaye ingabonakalisi loyiko.

“Isithembiso sisithembiso mama,” watsho umntwana. “Kufanele ukuba undinikezele enyokeni.” Yatsho njalo intombazana yaze yonda ngenyoka yafika yaphulula intloko yayo eluhlaza nangwevu. “Yiza,” yatsho intombazana,“ndiza kuphakela ukutya.” Yaphuma nayo baya entangeni yentombazana. Bathi bakufika apho intombazana yathatha iselwa elaligcwele ngamasi yalinika inyoka ukuze isele. Emva koko yasonga ingubo yayo yokulala isondlalela inyoka ibhedi.

Ebusuku uNandi wavuka endlwini yakhe. Ingaba yintoni eyamvusayo? Ingaba kukukhala kwengwe okanye yayikukukhala kukadyakalashe? Akukho bani waziyo, kodwa kona kukhona okwamphazamisayo. Wamamela kwakhona. Amazwi! Wayesiva amazwi. Yayiyintombi yakhe eyayithetha. Kodwa ingaba yayilelikabani elinye ilizwi eli lesibini? Ilizwi elikhulu kwaye ilelendoda?

Waphuma ezingubeni wahamba echwechwa eyokujonga. Wabona ntoni? Ingaba wayesesebuthongweni esaphupha? Wabona intombi yakhe ihleli nomfana omhle, omde, ontsundu nonamandla. Zange athandabuze ukuba lo inokuba ngunyana wenkosi okanye yinkosi uqobo. Intombi yakhe yayisenza amaso amahle, iwahlohlela lo mfana. Ngelo xesha le nzwana yona ithetha ngamazwi apholileyo nanothando iwabhekisa kwintombi kaNandi.

UNandi wajonga ingubo yokulala eyayendlalelwe inyoka, wabona ukuba inyoka yayingasekho apho.

Kwakukho kuphela isikhumba eside, esisongeleneyo, esiluhlaza. Wasithatha eso sikhumba wasifaka emlilweni owawusavutha eziko.

“Ngoku ke isiqalekiso sesiphelile,” yatsho inkosi eyinyoka. “Ngenxa yentombazana elungileyo endisizeleyo kunye nomama osisihiba otshise isikhumba sam.” Kodwa ngaphandle kwamazwi ayo abuhlungu yayincumile xa iphosa amehlo kuNandi.

Ngoku uNandi sele enabazukulwana abathathu, inkwenkwe yokwalusa iinkomo kunye namantombazana amabini okumncedisa ngokuhlakula nokwemba amagontsi. Akusafuneki ngoku ukuba aye kukha amaqunube kuba ngoku sele benokutya okwaneleyo ekhaya.

Phela, phela ngantsomi!

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