

Inkosi yezinyoni

Ixoxwa kabusha
uBusisiwe Pakade
Imidwebo yenziwe
uTamsin Hinrichsen

Kudala kakhulu, umhlaba usemusha, uNkwazi, ukhozi olukhulu oludla izinhlanzi, wabizela zonke izinyoni emhlanganweni.

“Njengoba nazi,” kusho yena, “uBhubesi uyinkosi yezilwane. Kodwa kungani kumele akhulumele nathi zinyoni? Kumele sizikhethele inkosi yethu ... futhi ngibufanele mina ubukhosi; ngithi kumele kube yimi!”

Zonke izinyoni zaqala ukukhala kwaze kwezwakala iphimbo elilodwa ngaphezu kwamanye. “Nkwazi, ubufanele ubukhosi, lokho kuyiqiniso elingephikiswe,” kusho isikhova esikhulu, uSikhova. “Kodwa amehlo ami amakhulu abona yonke into eyenzekayo. Lokhu kungenza ngihlakaniphe kakhulu – kanti vele empeleni inkosi idinga ubuhlakani!”

Izinyoni zaphinde zaxokozela kakhulu, kwaze kwakhuluma enye yazo enguNgqithi. “Ngicabanga ukuthi imina okumele ngibe inkosi!” kusho yena. “Amakhosi kumele abe makhulu futhi abe namandla, kanti-ke yimi inyoni enkulu kunazo zonke.”



Izinyoni zaqala ukuphikisana ngokuthi ubani okumele abe yinkosi. Khona manjalo kwezwakala izwi elinkentezayo ngaphezu kwalowo msindo, “Uxolo! Uxolo!” Kwakuyinyoni encane, uNgcede. Noma isixuku sakuhleka ukuba nesibindi kwakhe, samvumela ukuthi akhulume – kodwa ayikho neyodwa inyoni eyayikholelwa ukuthi kumele ABE yinkosi!

“Ngabe yini-ke empeleni engakwenza ufanelwe ukuba inkosi?” kubuza uNkwazi, ngesikhathi seziqede ukuhleka zonke.

“Empeleni akukho lutho,” kusho uNgcede, “kodwa kumele ngibe namathuba alingana nawawo wonke umuntu!”

“Kulungile,” kusho uNkwazi, “ake sibe nomncintiswano!” Zonke izinyoni zawuthanda lo mqondo. Zavumelana ukuthi ngosuku lokuqala ngemva kwenyanga egcwele, uma ilanga selithinta isicongo sentaba ephakeme kakhulu, zonke zizondiza bese zibona ukuthi ubani ozondiza aye phezulu kunazo zonke. Ophumelele uzoba inkosi yazo.

Lwafika usuku olukhulu. Izinyoni zazibhekile zilinde ngesineke ngesikhathi kuphuma ilanga. Noma uNgcede omncane wayezimisele ukukhombisa ukuthi angaba inkosi, wayazi ukuthi amaphiko akhe abuthakathaka kakhulu ukuthi angandiza aye phezulu kakhulu.

Ngakho, ngaphambi nje kokuthi izinyoni zisuke, wazishutheka ngaphansi kwezimpaphe zamaphiko kaNkwazi. UNkwazi wayegxile ekubukeni ilanga, akezwanga lutho.



Kwathi nje uma ilanga lithinta isicongo sentaba, izinyoni zandiza zaya phezulu esibhakabhakeni. Kungekudala izinyoni eziningi zakhathala, kwase kusala inkwazi, isikhova nongcede kuphela emqhudelwaneni.

USikhova waba owokuqala owehluleka. Ngesikhathi ebuyela emhlabeni, uNkwazi noNgqithi bandiza baya phezulu ... phezulu ... kodwa emva kwemizuzu emihlanu, ingqithi esindayo ayikwazanga ukunyukela phezulu. “A, Nkwazi,” yasho kabuhlungu ngesikhathi yehlela phansi, “kuphumelele wena!”

“WEEE-WEEE-WEEE!” kukhala inkwazi izwakalisa ukunqoba, ikhipha amandla okugcina yenyukela phezudlwana. Kwathi kusenjalo yezwa izwi elinkentezayo. “Phinde phela, Nkwazi!” kukhala uNgcede, ethushuka phansi kwephiko lakhe ekhuphukela ngaphezu kwakhe. “Awukaphumeleli!” Hawu, inkwazi yabantu! Yayikhathale ngokwedlulele, futhi yayingeke isakwazi ukukhuphukela phezulu. Yadazuluka yawela emhlabeni.





Izinyoni zazicasuke kakhulu ngenxa yobuqili bukaNgcede. Ngesikhathi efika phansi, zaphuthuma kuye zonke zithukuthele – kodwa ngaphambi kokuba zimenze isilo sengubo, inyoni encane esheshayo yaziphonsa emgodini owawuhlala inyoka.

“Phuma!” kumemeza izinyoni, “uzothola umklomelo okufanele!” Noma zaqapha umgodi ubusuku bonke, uNgcede wahlala lapho ayehleli khona.

“Ake sishintshane ngokuqapha!” kusho uNkwazi ekuseni. USikhova wavuma ukuqapha kusukela ngesikhathi ezinye izinyoni ziyolala noma ziyozingela. Walinda isikhathi eside, kodwa akazange abonakale nangokhalo uNgcede. “Amehlo ami anamandla,” ezitshela yena, “Ngidinga ihlo elilodwa kuphela. Ngizovalala ihlo lami lakwesokudla bese ngisebenzisa elakwesokunxele.” Ngemva kwesikhathi esithile washintsha, wavula ihlo lakwesokudla wase evala elakwesokunxele. Lokhu kwaqhubeka isikhashana, waze wakhohlwa ukugcina ihlo elilodwa libhekile, wazumeka.

Yilokho uNgcede ayekulindile! Waphuma wandiza, waqonda ehlathini. “Siduphunga ndini!” kumemeza uNkwazi, owabona uNgcede ebaleka ngesikhathi ezophumuza uSikhova, “UYE WALALA!”

USikhova wayenamahloni kangangokuthi wanquma ukuzingela ebusuku bese elala emini ukuze ezinye izinyoni zingabi nathuba lokumgona. UNgcede yena wayendiza ehlathini ebalekela ezinye izinyoni, engami isikhathi eside hleze abanjwe. Kanti ubani owaba inkosi? Empeleni, izinyoni zazimthukuthelele kakhulu uNgcede kangangokuthi aziphindanga zakhetha inkosi!

