Inkosi eyayiyinyoka

"Inkosi eyayiyinyoka" ivela encwadini ethi *Ikhubalo likaMadiba,* ishicilelwe i-Tafelberg. Le ndaba ihunyushwe uBusisiwe Phakade. Imidwebo yenziwe uNiki Daly.

UNANDI WAYEMPOFU KAKHULU. Umyeni wakhe esashona, kanti engenayo nendodana eyayizomlusela izinkomo, wayenendodakazi eyodwa nje kuphela. Ehlobo, ngesikhathi izihlahla zomdoni zigcwele izimbali ezinhle yena nendokazi yakhe babemba amadumbe ababezowadla nophuthu. Kodwa ekwindla uma izulu selomisile babethembela ezindonini ezibuthubi futhi zimnandi, ababezikha bese bezinika umakhelwane ukuze bathole imicu yenyama yembuzi eyomisiwe noma igula lamasi ayizaqheqhe.

Ngelinye ilanga uNandi waya emfuleni eyokha izindoni njengokwejwayelekile, kodwa akazitholanga. Kwakungekho ngisho neyodwa nje indoni evuthiwe, ngisho neyodwa nje.

Uthe esamangele kanjalo wezwa umsindo, umsindo omkhulu wenyoka. Wathi ebheka phezulu, wabona inyoka enkulu eyayinombala oluhlaza okotshami nompunga izithandele esiqwini esibomvu somdoni, ikhanda layo lilenga phakathi kwamagatsha izidlela izindoni. Yazidla zonke izindoni.

"Untshontsha izindoni zami," kusho uNandi. "O, nyoka embi, untshontshe zonke izindoni zami. Ngizoshintshanisa ngani manje uma uthatha zonke izithelo zami?"

Inyoka yabanga umsindo omkhulu maqede yehlela phansi. UNandi wayesaba kodwa waziqinisa ngoba wayazi ukuthi uma ebaleka ngeke azithole izindoni.

"Yini ozonginika yona uma ngikunika izindoni?" kubuza inyoka. "Uma ngikugcwalisela ubhasikidi wakho ngezithelo ngabe uzonginika indodakazi yakho?"

"Yebo," kusho uNandi ngelosizi. "Ngizokunika indodakazi yami ngokuhlwa kwanamuhla. Kuphela nje ngivumele ngigcwalise ubhasikidi wami ngezithelo zomdoni omnyama."

Kepha kwathi lapho ubhasikidi sewugcwele uNandi eseya ekhaya, waqala wesaba ethuswa isethembiso ayesenzile. Wayenganikela kanjani ngendodakazi yakhe esilwaneni esibi kanje? Wabona kufanele ukuba aqinisekise ukuthi inyoka ayitholi lapho ayehlala khona. Kwakungamele ahambe aqonde ekhaya, hleze iyambuka.

Nembala wabe esewela umfula lapho amanzi ayengashoni khona. Wawela maqede wangena ehlathini ngale kosebe lomfula. Wahamba ethubeleza phakathi kwezihlahla zameva. Nokho kodwa akabonanga ukuthi iva ladabula isidwaba sakhe kwasala isicucwana saso lapho esihlahleni.

Wahamba ngokucophelela engabangi msindo phakathi kwemihlanga, eqaphele ukuthi ingwenya ingamboni, waze wangena echibini elijulile. Nokho akabonanga ukuthi esinye isixheke sezindoni sawa kubhasikidi sasala sintanta lapho echibini.

Wahamba waqonda ngasesidulini esasingalapho. Wayazi ukuthi uma elapho, ngeke abonwe muntu owayesesihlahleni somdoni. Kepha unyawo olwalumanzi lwalushiye isibhadu sonyawo laphaya ngasesidulini. Futhi wathi esengena ehlathini, izihlahla zagqashula ubuhlalu bakhe obabuseqakeleni.

Ekugcineni wafika endlini yakhe wabe esememeza indodakazi yakhe. "Mntanami, ngenze into embi kabi. Ngithembise inyoka ukuthi ngizoyinika wena uma ingangigcwalisela ubhasikidi wami ngezithelo zezindoni," wakhala.

Kanti le emuva inyoka yabe seyivele seyehlile esihlahleni ukuze ilandele uNandi. Yahamba yabe seyibona isicucu sesidwaba sakhe. Yabe seyazi ukuthi uhambe lapho.

Ithe isahambe ibangana yabona isixheke sezindoni sintanta echibini yabe seyazi ukuthi uye ngakuphi. Ithe isahambe ibangana, yabona umnyatheliso wonyawo ngasesidulini, yabe seyilandela ngalapho. Khona manjalo futhi yabe seyizithela ebuhlalwini, yabe seyilandela njalo yaze yafika emzini kaNandi.

Ifika nje uNandi usakhihla isililo ngenxa yesethembiso asenzile. Kwabe sekuzwakala umsindo omkhulu wokukhala kwenyoka emnyango. Yakhala maqede yangena ngaphakathi, yasonga umzimba wayo phezu kwesigqiki esasilapho.

"Cha, cha!" kukhala uNandi. "Bengingaqinisile ngesithembiso sami. Ngeke ngikwazi ukukunika indodakazi yami."

Intombazane encane yaphakamisa amehlo ayo. Amehlo ayo ayenobunene futhi engesabi kwasampela.

"Isethembiso isethembiso mama," yasho ingane. "Kumele unginikele enyokeni." Yasho njalo maqede yaqonda ngasenyokeni yafike yaphulula ikhanda layo elimpunga.

"Woza," kusho intombazane, "ngizokutholela ukudla." Yaphuma nayo baya ekameleni lokulala lentombazane. Bathi uma befika lapho intombazane yathatha igula elaligcwele izaqheqhe zamasi yalinika inyoka ukuba iwaphuze. Emva kwalokho yabe seyigoqa ingubo yayo yokulala yenzela inyoka umbhede.

Ebusuku uNandi waphaphama endlini yakhe. Ngabe yini eyamvusa? Ngabe ukukhonya kwengwe noma kwakuwukukhala kwempungushe? Asazi, kodwa khona kukhona okwamphazamisa. Walalela futhi. Amazwi! Wezwa amazwi. Kwakuyindodakazi yakhe eyabe ikhuluma. Kodwa ngabe ngelikabani elinye izwi? Izwi elabe lilikhulu futhi lindonda?

Waphuma engutsheni wahamba wanyonyoba eyobheka. Wabonani? Ngabe wayesalele ephupha? Wabona indodakazi yakhe ihlezi nebhungu elihle, elide elinsundu nelinamandla. Akangabazanga ukuthi kwakungenzeka ukuba kwakuyindodana yenkosi noma inkosi uqobo. Indodakazi yakhe yayichoma ucu, iluchomela le nsizwa. Ibhungu leli lalikhuluma ngesineke nangothando nendodakazi kaNandi.

UNandi wabuka ingubo yokulala eyayigoqelwe inyoka wabona ukuthi inyoka yayingasekho lapho. Kwase kukhona isikhumba eside, esisongelene, esiluhlaza okotshani.

Wasithatha leso sikhumba wasiphonsa emlilweni owawusavutha exhibeni.

"Manje isiqalekiso sesiphelile," kukhuluma inkosi eyinyoka. "Ngenxa yentombazane elungile engidabukele kanye nomama oyisilima oshise isikhumba sami." Kepha ngaphezu kwamazwi ayo ahlabayo yamamatheka lapho ibuka uNandi.

Manje uNandi usenabazukulu abathathu, umfana wokwelusa izinkomo kanye namantombazane amabili okumlekelela ngokuhlakula nokumba amadumbe. Akasadingekile ukuba akhe izindoni ngoba manje sekunokudla okwanele ekhaya.

Cosu cosu iyaphela!

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