



uNonkungu nembulu

Nonkungu and the imbulu

 Alan Kenyon, Viv Kenyon

 Wiehan de Jager

 Ntombizodwa Gxowa-Dlayedwa

 Xhosa / English

 Level 4





Kudala kwakukho indoda eyayihluphekile kunye nenkosikayi yayo. Babenomntwana omnye kuphela, intombazana, egama linguNonkungu. UNonkungu wayemhle kwaye enobubele. Abazali bakhe babemthanda kakhulu.

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Once upon a time there was a poor man and his wife. They had only one child, a girl. The child's name was Nonkungu. Her parents loved Nonkungu very much.



Ngenye imini abazali bakhe bagqiba kwelokuba bathumele uNonkungu ayokuhlala nomalume wakhe uMtonyama. Umalume uMtonyama wayeyondoda eyayifumile. Umama kaNonkungu wenza umbhinqo owodwa ngeribhoni, amaqhosha nneentsimbi. Wenza nentsimbi yomqala entle, esenzela uNonkungu. Ngenye intsasa kwakusasa, uNonkungu wabashiya abazal bakhe esiya kumzi kamalume wakhe.

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One day her parents decided to send her to stay with her rich Uncle Mtonyama. Nonkungu's mother made a special skirt with ribbon, buttons and beads. She also made a beautiful bead necklace for Nonkungu. Then she sent her off to her uncle's village.



Endleleni uNonkungu wafika emfuleni. Wawuwela umfula, esebenzisa amatye okucangcatha. Kwicala elingaphesheya wadibana nentombazana elula inxibe amadlakadlaka.

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On the way Nonkungu came to a stream. She crossed the stream using the stepping stones. On the other side she met a young girl wearing rags.



“Uya phi na?” Yabuza intombazana elula. “Ndiya kundwendwela umalume wam uMtonyama,” watsho uNonkungu. “Loo nto iyammangaliso,” yatsho intombazana elula. UMtonyama ngumalume wam nam, kwaye nam ndisendleleni eya kundwendwela yena.”

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“Where are you going?” asked the young girl. “I’m going to visit my Uncle Mtonyama,” said Nonkungu. “Well, Mtonyama is my uncle, too and I am also on my way to visit him,” said the young girl. So they walked on together.



Yaza ke intombazana elula yathi, “Umbhinqo wakho mhle kakhulu nazo iintsimbi zakho zintle ngokunjalo. Nceda undivumele ndizilinganise.” Ngoko ke uNonkungu wakhulula umbhinqo neentsimbi.

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Before they had gone very far, the young girl said, “Your skirt is so beautiful and your beads are so pretty. Please let me try them on.” So Nonkungu took off her skirt and beads and gave them to the young girl.



Intombazana elula yakhulula amadlavu ayo, waza uNonkungu wabona ukuba intombazana elula inomsila. UNonkungu wayazi ngoku ukuba intombazana elula ngenene yimbulu. Woyika uNonkungu. Imbulu yanxiba umbhinqo nentsimbi yomqala. Waza uNonkungu wanxiba amadlavu.

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When the girl took off her rags and changed into Nonkungu's clothes, Nonkungu saw that the young girl had a tail! Nonkungu was afraid. She knew now that the young girl was really an imbulu.



Bahamba kunye. Emva kokuba behambe umganyana omfutshane, uNonkungu wathi kwimbulu, “Nceda undinike umbhinqo wam neentsimbi zam.” Kha undivumele ndizinxibe side siyokufika kulaa mthi,” yatsho imbulu, isalatha umthi osendulini.

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They walked on together. “Please give me back my skirt and my beads,” asked Nonkungu. But the imbulu answered, “Let me wear them until we get to that tree.” She pointed to a tree on the hill.



Xa befika emthini, uNonkungu wathi kwimbulu, “Nceda undinike umbhinqo neentsimbi zam.” Kha undivumele ndizinxibe side sifike kulaa mfula ulandelayo,” yatsho imbulu. UNonkungu wayesoyika ngoko ke wavuma.

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When they reached the tree, Nonkungu said to the imbulu, “Please give me back my skirt and beads.” “Just let me wear them until we get to the next stream,” said the imbulu. Nonkungu was afraid, so she agreed.



Ekugqibeleni bafika emfuleni. Kwakhona uNonkungu wabuza imbulu, “Nceda undinike umbhinqo wam neentsimbi zam.” Kha undiyeke ndizinxibe nje side siyokufika kulaa ndlu, apho abafazi bahleli khona,” yatsho imbulu. Baza baqhubeka behamba.

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At last they reached the stream. Again Nonkungu asked the imbulu, “Please give me back my skirt and my beads.” “Just let me wear them until we get to that hut where the women are sitting,” said the imbulu. So they walked on.



Bathi bakufika endlwini, imbulu yatyhalela uNonkungu ngemva, yaza yathi kubafazi abahleli ngasendlwini, “Jongani le ntombazana inxibe amadlavu. Ebesoloko elandelana nam imini yonke. Ndingwenela ukuba ahambe.” UNonkunga waba neentloni noloyiko, kangangokuba wabalekela ebuhlanti, wazimela.

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When they reached the hut, the imbulu pushed Nonkungu back and called to the women sitting by the hut. “Look at this girl wearing rags. She has been following me all day. I wish she would go away,” said the imbulu. Nonkungu was so ashamed and so frightened that she ran hid in the kraal.



Yaza imbulu yaya kwindlu kamalume uMtonyama yathi, “ Ndingumtshana wakho, uNonkungu. Abazali bam bandithumele ukuba ndizokuhlala nawe.” UMtonyama wayamkela intombazana elula eyayiyimbulu ngenene. UMtonyama nosapho lwakhe babenobubele kwimbulu kuba babecinga ukuba nguNonkungu. Kodwa usizana olunguNonkungu kwafuneka lulale ebuhlanti abelane nezinja ngokutya.

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Then the imbulu went to Uncle Mtonyama’s hut. She said sweetly, “I am your niece, Nonkungu. My parents sent me to stay with you.” Mtonyama welcomed the young girl. He and his family were very kind to the imbulu. But poor Nonkungu had to sleep in the kraal and share the dog’s food.



Emini uNonkungu waya ethafenii, wacula: “Owu! Kha undisizele, ndisizele. Bendithunywe ngutata nomama Ukuba ndiyokuhlala nomalume, uMtonyama. Endleleni ndadibana nembulu yaza yathatha umbhinqo wam neentsimbi zam. Owu! Ndisizele, ndisizele.”

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During the day Nonkungu went to the fields, hid in the corn, and sang: “Oh misery me, misery me. I was sent by my father and mother to stay with my Uncle Mtonyama. On the way I met an imbulu and she took my skirt and my beads. Oh misery me, misery me.”



Ngenye imini abanye abantu bayiva le ngoma, baxelela uMtonyama ukuba bekukho intombazana elula ethafeni, i ecula eyona ngoma imnandi nelusizi. Ngaloo mva kwemini uMtonyama waya ethafeni. Weva umntu othile ecula. Walinda emva kwesihlahla, wamamela. UMtonyama waya kwimvumi. Yayinxibe amadlavu embulu.

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One day, one of Mtonyama's brothers was walking in the fields. He heard the strange and beautiful song. He didn't know who was singing, but when he got home, he told Mtonyama the words. Mtonyama went into the fields. He heard the song, and looked until he found Nonkungu.



UMtonyama wayibuza, “Ungubani, Ungumtshana wam, uNonkungu?” Waza uNonkungu wamxelela into eyenzekileyo. UMtonyama wamthatha uNonkungu wambuyisela endaweni yakhe, wamzimelisa endlwini.

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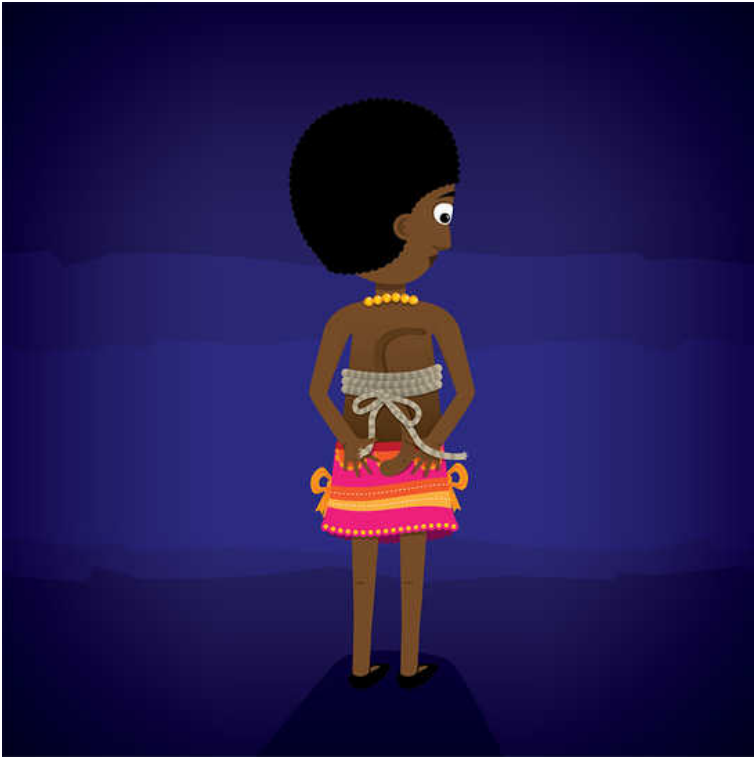
Nonkungu told him what had happened, how the imbulu had taken her beautiful clothes. Mtonyama took her back to his place and hid her in a hut. Mtonyama knew what he was going to do to catch the imbulu.



UMtonyama wakhe weva ukuba umsila wembulu uyaluthanda ubisi kwaye awunakulidlula ngaphandle kokusela intwana yalo. Ngoko ke uMtonyama waxelela amadoda akhe ukuba ombe umjelo onzulu ukuze awuzalise umjelo ngamasi.

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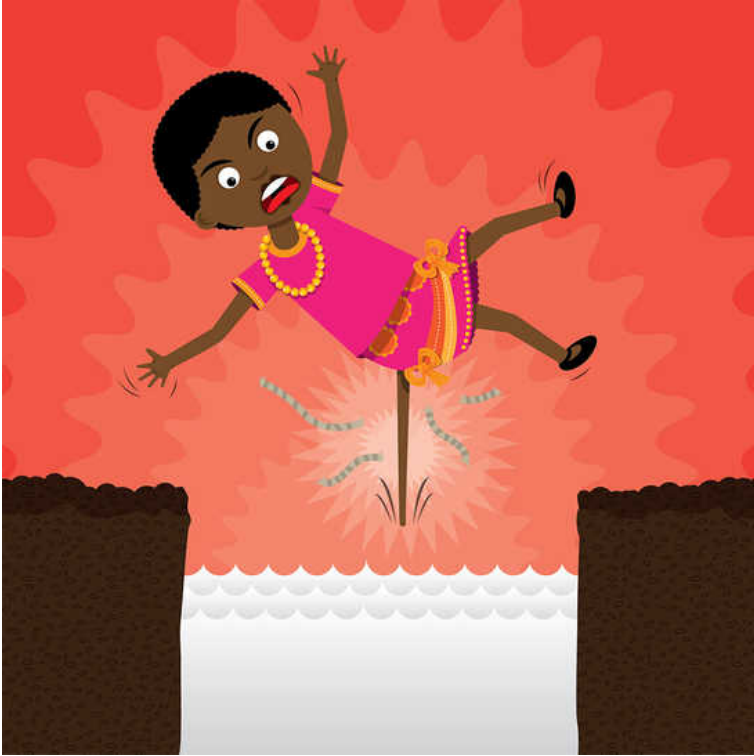
Mtonyama had heard that an imbulu's tail loves milk and that it can't go past milk without drinking some. So he told his men to dig a deep ditch and to fill the ditch with sour milk. Then he called all the girls of the village to take part in a jumping competition.



Aza onke amantombazana elali abizelwa kwindawo yakwaMtonyama ukuya kuthatha inxaxheba kugqatso lokutsiba. Intombazana nganye yayizakutsiba ngaphezu komjelo. Intombazana eyayinxibe umbhinqo neentsimbi zikaNonkungu yayixhalabile. Zange ifune ukutsiba phezu kumjelo. Yayisazi ukuba umsila wayo uza kunxanelwa amasi. Ngoko ke imbulu yaya endlwini, yaza yabophelela umsila wayo emzinjeni wayo kangangoko inako. Waza wathatha indawo yakhe njengamanye amantombazana.

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The imbulu was worried. She did not want to jump over the ditch. She knew that her tail would be thirsty for the sour milk. So she went into a hut and tied her tail to her body as tightly as she could. Then she took her place with the other girls.



Ekugqibeleni yaba lithuba lembulu ukutsiba. Yazama ukutsibela phezulu ngaphaya komjelo, kodwa umsila wayo waqhawuka, waphuncuka, wayitsalela ezantsi, ezantsi, ezantsi emasini.

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One girl after another jumped over the ditch. At last it was the imbulu's turn. She tried to jump high over the ditch, but her tail broke loose. The imbulu's tail pulled her down, down, down into the sour milk.



Njengoko iduntsalaza emasini, amadoda akhawuleza azalisa umjelo ngesanti aza ayingcwaba imbulu. Yaba sisiphelo sayo. Kodwa uNonkungu wahlala ngokonwaba nomalume wakhe ixesha elide kakhulu. Yabasisiphelo sebali.

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As the imbulu struggled in the sour milk, the men quickly filled the ditch with sand and buried her. That was the end of the imbulu. Nonkungu stayed happily with her uncle for a long, long time. And that is the end of the story.



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Written by: Alan Kenyon, Viv Kenyon

Illustrated by: Wiehan de Jager

Translated by: Ntombizodwa Gxowa-Dlavedwa (xh)

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