uNonkungu nembulu

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(imageless edition)

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

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.

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

“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.”

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.”

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

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

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.

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.

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

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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