Isihlahla sikaPontshibobo

Buhle Vilakazi

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Kwakukhona umfanyana othile okwakuthiwa nguPontshibobo.

Ngesikhathi esakhula, wayengumfana oqotho. Waze wakhula waba yindoda eqotho. Wayehlonipha wonke umuntu ahlangana naye.

UPontshibobo waba nomngane obizwa ngo-“Hipho”, yena wayengenayo inhlonipho njengo Pontshibobo.

Ngelinye ilanga, uPontshibobo noHipho babehamba emgwaqweni.

UHipho waba nomcabango: “Asiye siyobhema insango,” washo kuPontshibobo.

UPontshibobo wamangala. “Kungani ufuna ngibheme nawe?” embuza. “Uyazi ukuthi angibhemi mina,” washo, echaza.

UHipho wadinwa wagan 'unwabu.

"Uma ungafuni ukubhema nami, kusho ukuthi awusase umngane wami," esho emshiya lapho.

UPontshibobo waya ekhaya, wahlala ngaphansi kwesihlahla egcekeni wakhala.

“Ukhalelani?” sambuza isihlahla.

UPontshibobo wethuka kakhulu. Wayeqala ukuzwa isihlahla esikhulumayo.

Watshela isihlahla ngendaba kaHipho, wathi, “Ngilahlekelwe umngane wami.”

Isihlahla sabuza, “Yini oyifisa kakhulu empilweni?”

UPontshibobo wacabanga okwesikhashana, waphendula: “Ngifuna indlu. Sengikhulile ngifuna ukuba nomuzi wami. Ngifuna ukushada ngibe nezingane.”

Isihlahla naso sacabanga okwesikhashanyana, sasesithi, “Thatha amahlamvu ami kanye namagatsha uzakhele umuzi.”

UPontshibobo wenza njengoba. Wakha umuzi omuhle. Washada, wabanezingane nenkosikazi yakhe. Bahlala ngokujabula okukhulu.

Kodwa isihlahla sasingajabule. UPontshibobo wayesekhohlwe ngaso. Sezwa ubuhlungu ngalokho.

Sazitshela ukuthi, “Ngidinga umngane oqotho, kungenjalo, ngizokufa.”

Siqeda kusho njalo isihlahla, wangena egcekeni uPontshibobo. Wayekuzwile okushiwo isihlahla. Waqaphela nokuthi isihlahla asiphilile kahle.

UPontshibobo naye wajabha. Wayesekhohliwe ngesihlahla esamsiza ukuthi akhele unkosikazi nezingane zakhe umuzi.

“Ngiyaxolisa kakhulu,” wakhala. Wasanga isihlahla ngokudabuka okukhulu.

Isihlahla sajabula kakhulu ukubona umngane ebuya, samamatheka. Sahluma amagatsha namahlamvu amasha.

Izingane zikaPontshibobo zazidlala zigibela isihlahla.

UPontshibobo nomkakhe bahlala ngaphansi komthunzi ngemuva kosuku olude emsebenzini. Babexoxa, behleka bejabulile.

UPontshibobo nesihlahla baba abangani unaphakade.

Isihlahla sikaPontshibobo

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