Bathunjiwe!

Richard Khadambi and Collins Kipkirui

isiZulu

Mina nomngani wami uKiki sithanda ukuhamba sihlola, kanti indawo yakithi siyazi njengoba sizazi.

Ngesikhathi siphuma esikoleni, besixoxa ngezindawo esifisa ukuzihlola ngalelo langa.

Sanquma ukudlula sivundle inkundla enkulu engakhiwe eduze kukajantshi omdala, nakuba ubaba kaKiki wayeke wasixwayisa ukuthi singahambi khona.

Emva komzuzwana, sabona ukuthi indoda ende efake ijazi elide elimnyama yayilandela kancane emva kwethu.

Sahamba kancane siqalaza indoda. Ubuso bayo babufihlike izinduna. Izindebe zayo zazincane kakhulu ukuthi zazingamboza amazinyo ayo ansundu. Yayinesibazi esi dephile esivundle ebusweni bayo.

Yayisilandela!

Sanquma ukuma sibhekane nayo. Inhliziyo yami yayigubhazela kangangoba ngangicabanga ukuthi iyayizwa.

Ayikuthandanga ukuthi ngiyigqolozele. Yamemeza, “Ubukani kangaka, mfana?”

Ngalowo mzuzu, saphenduka sabaleka.
Angisheshanga ngokwanele.
Yangibamba ngehembe yangisondeza
kuyo ngesihluku ngesandla esisodwa.

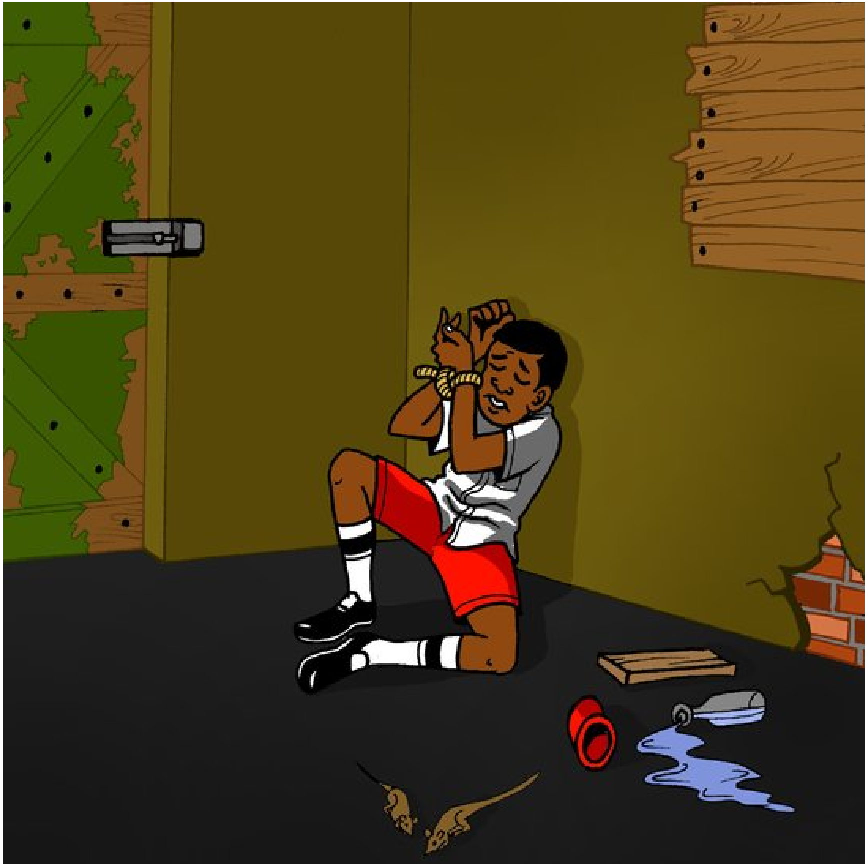
Indoda yanginkonkoshela ngezwa
sengathi izimbambo zami zizokwephuka.
Kodwa umngani wami uKiki waphunyula.

Indoda ende yangiphakamisa njengephepha elifonqoziwe. Yangiphonsa emotweni eyisikhenke eyayipakwe enkundleni. Yona yangena yahlala phambili.

Enye indoda eyayiphakathi esikhenkeni yangimboza amehlo ngesidwedwe, yabophela izandla zami emhlane. Wayishaya yazula umshayeli ngesivinini se-ambulense.

Indoda eyayiseceleni kwami yamboza ubuso bami ngesidwedwe esimanzi swe ngoketshezi olunuka kakhulu lwenze ngozele ngibe nesiyezi. Ngalala zwi.

Ngathi lapho ngiphaphama khona ngazithola ngihlezi endlini emnyama elenga ulwembu futhi enamagundane. Amehlo ami ayengasamboziwe.



Isivalo sendlu emnyama savuleka ngomsindo kwangena indoda iphethe ipuleti. Kwakuseyiyo le eyayingibophe izandla yangihogelisa uketshezi olwangilalisa.

“Nakhu ukudla kwakho. Kuzofanele udle ngoba usazohamba uhambo olude,” kuvungama indoda. Yasika intambo eyayingibophe ngayo ngomese ocijile eyawukhipha ebhandeni layo.

Kwathi lapho ngizwa igama ‘úhambo’ nganquma ukuba ngidle ngithole amandla okuzisindisa.

Ngisadla, indoda yahlala phansi yashunqisa usikilidi. Intuthu yawo yagcwala indlu yonke.

Amanye amadoda amabili angena ehudula omunye umfana. KwakunguKiki! Naye babembambile. Sobabili sasesivaleleke endlini emnyama.

Kwangikhanyela ukuthi indoda ende embi kwakunguyena mholi waleli qembu. Nguyena owayethuma laba ababili. Kodwa le ndoda eyangilethela ukudla yayibukeka ingakuthandi okwenzekayo.

Emva komzuzu sezwa sekunokuphikisana ngaphandle kwendlu. Umholi wayememeza ethi, "Anginendaba ukuthi uwazi kangakanani umndeni wakhe. Awukwazi ukushintsha umqondo manje."

Le mpikiswano yenza sabona ukuthi omunye wabo wayesazi. Ngafisa ukwazi ukuthi kwakungubani. UKiki wathi, “Kufanele sithole indlela yokuphunyula. Abazali bethu abanayo imali yokukhokha.”

Ngamqaqa umngani wami savele sabanenhlanhla. Amadoda aqhubeka nokuphikisana aze aqala ukulwa. Sakhiya ngokuthula umnyango ngaphakathi sasesiqala ukufuna intuba yokuphuma

Sabona ukukhanya ngemifantu yamapulangwe ayeshayelwe odongeni. Salidonsa ipulangwe kwaze kwaxega izipikili odongeni olwaseludilika.

Sawadonsa wonke amapulangwe kwazekwakhanya nge. Sabona ukuthi kanti amapulangwe lawa ayeqonqothelwe ewindini elaliphukile!

Ngokushesha senza isinqumo. UKiki wayemncanyana futhi enesivinini ngakho nguye owayezogijima ayofuna usizo.

UKiki wazitshikitshela waze waphuma ewindini wagxumela phansi. Ngazizwa izinyawo zakhe zithinta phansi, edonsa umoya. Wabesehambile njalo.

Ngalesi sikhathi amadoda ayesewuzwile umsindo esasiwenzile, ayesekhahlela umnyango owawukhiyiwe. Aphoseka endlini ake ama ebuka iwindi.

Aphangelana ngomnyango edudulana, engazi ukuthi azoshona kuphi. Ayethukuthele eveva,ikakhulu umholi omubi. “Abazali benu bazokhokha!”

Amadoda abuye aqonqothela amapulangwe ewindini angikhiyela ngaphakathi endlini. Kodwa babengakavumelani ukuthi bazokwenzenjani. Ngangisabezwa bephikisana futhi.

Indoda eyayibhema kakhulu yayifuna ukungidedela. Umshayeli wayesaba ukuthi umngani wami uzobuya namaphoyisa. Kanti umholi omubi, yena wayefuna imali yokusihlenga.

Emva kwesikhathi eside, ngezwa ukungqongqoza okuncane ewindini elifile ngaphandle. Kwakhuluma izwi lomuntu omdala lithi, “Ungesabi. Amaphoyisa asekhona. Lala phansi, umboze ikhanda, unganyakazi.”

Angisaqondi ukuthi yini eyalandela emva kwalokhu. Kwenzeka konke! Amadoda amangala lapho amaphoyisa engena ngodli endlini ayehlezi kuyo. Kwaba nokumemeza, umsindo omningi nokuqhuma kwezibhamu.

Iphoyisa lesimame lavula umnyango wendlu engangihlezi kuyo. Langiqukula, langisonga ngengubo yokulala.

Langitshela,"Umngani wakho ubenenhlanhla. Uthole umgwaqo omkhulu eduze kwala. Besishayela kulo mgwaqo siqaphe isimo lapho egijima engena lo mgwaqo. Uthe esesitshele yonke indaba, sabiza amanye amaphoyisa okulekelela seza lapha sizofundisa lezi zigelekeqe isifundo."

Aboshwa amadoda amathathu, afakwa izinsimbi, adudulelwa emotweni yamaphoyisa. Ngangena nephoyisa lesimame emotweni. Langiyisa ekhaya kubazali ababekhathazekile.

Emva kwaleli langa, uKiki nami sasesicophelela uma siphuma siyohlola indawo.

Bathunjiwe!

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