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KA TSHAKA

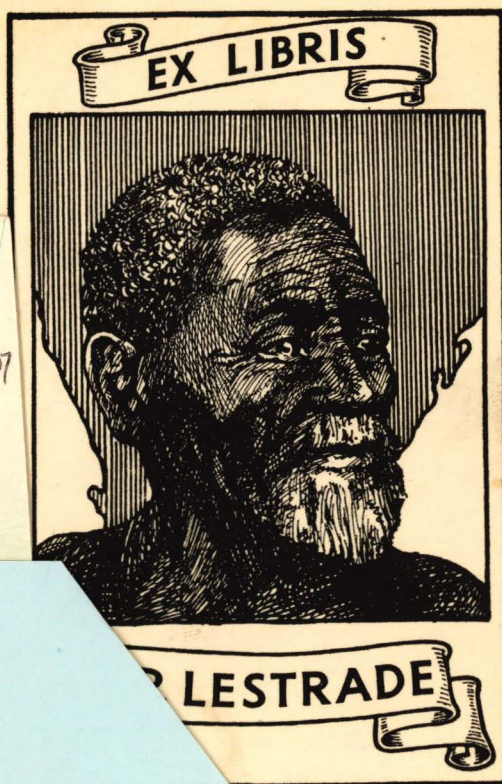
NGU JOHN L. DUBE

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UJeqe.

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NGU JOHN L. DUBE

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Insila kaTshaka

Amakosi akwaZulu ayeba nabantu abasondela kuwo ngapezu kwezinceku, ngapezu kwoMdhhlunkulu—izincelebana zawo. Umuntu onjalo wayebizwa ngokuti insila yenkosi. Uye owaeyibhucunga nxatshana igeza, uye owayebheka abafana namantombazana ayelusa uMdhhlunkulu noma ungapakati esigodhlweni noma uyogeza. Nabapata ukudhla kwenkosi babeboniswa uye. Uto olonakele pakati kwoMdhhlunkulu uye owaehlola kuqala, nenkosi icwalwe uye. Umfana owaecobela igudu lenkosi, abheke ukudhla kwayo waboniswa yiyo insila yenkosi. Ngamazwi amafupi insila yenkosi yayinceku yezinceku enkosini. Yayingabizwa njengabanye abantu nxatshana ifunwa inkosi, owaeyimemeza waeti, "Nanguy'ubani bo!" isabele ngokuti "Wen'omnyama!" njengoba yayazi ukuti ibizwa kanjenge ifunwa inkosi.

Sihlose ukunoxela ngojeqe insila kaTshaka. Ujeqe lo kwakuyindodana kaSikunyana wakwaButelezi. Ukuze asondele kangaka kuTshaka, kwaya ngoba wambona ubuqawe bake empini, lapo eyibhungu eseliqinile etwalele uyise uSikunyana. Wayetwala ucansi lukayise nesikwama sotshwele olugayiwego. Babekona abenkosi abocansi nesicamelo negudu nesihlangu nemikonto nesigubhu samanzi nesotshwala, netshe lika gwayi nenhlaba. Inkosi yayipata ubhoko, kuti lapo impi isisondela noma isibonakala buqamamana, ibesibiza induna enkulu ukuba ihlele amabuto, isizoyipaka, itabate izikali zayo nesihlangu. Lonke udibi lolu olwetwele impahla yenkosi lwaluye lukorjiswe indawo lapo luzohlala kona. Imvama lwaluhlala endaweni epa-

kemeyo, lapo luzobona kahle ukubambana kwayo lubheke nalapo inkosi ikona ukuze lwazi ukuba luyohamba kanjani, lusheshe lufingelele kuyo.

Kwamanye amakosi konke loku kwakungadingeki, ngoba ayehlala ekaya, impi ihambe nezinduna. Kodwa ekusukeni kwake pansi, ukuqala kwake ukunqoba izizwe, uTshaka waezipatela matupa impi yake, nezinduna zake zitshelwa uye ukuti impi izobamba kanjani.

Ukuvela kukaJeqe

Wat'ukuba ayipake okaNdaba ngalegomini, loku ihlangabezana ehlanzeni leminga nezinqawe, lapo imvula seyavula izindonga eqeleni, yezwakala iMidhlenevu ukuti isigilumekile eqeleni, iziNdhlondhlo zati, "Niyadela nina senilapo," lwasha utuli, lilodwa-nje iqawe eliti. Ngadhla mina kaSobani—bani, otize wati—wati, Munye nje oti, Hlomu wetu! Lapo sekubengezela inswani pakati kwezinqawe; munye-nje ogingqikayo, munyenje abamtutela ngeklwa bamponse odongeni. Bayabukela abafana abaludibi, bebona lapaya. Ilembe eladhla amanye, amashoba alo ehla enyuka pakati kwempi, lizihlabanela—kukala inkumba lapo kuti tu—tu—tu! Kwabamnyama umuntu wangaqonda ukuti izozala nkomoni. Zaziyisunduzwa ngenhla eyako Tshaka yaqala ukuhlehlala ngoba isisindo sezita sasingakuyo.

Ute ukuba abone uJeqe ukuti ifuna ukuza nayo, watata isijuyana sake nehau, wati, "Anongibhekela umtwalo wami, ngisaya kokulwa". Nembala wati galolupuka, eqonde kona enkundhlani yempi. Ute efikanje esenepika lokugijima, wafica bemlahla pansi umfo oliqawe owaelwa eduze nenkosi. Abuzanga, wadimde waziponsanje kuleyonsizwa ende. Yati iyatata wahlanganisa ngehawana lake, umkonto washishiliza pezu kwalo. Wafola uJeqe waupisela esiswini wayewapuma emhlane, wayiqetula ngesinqutu pansi—wabona izinsizwa ezimbili sezibange kuye uqobo uTshaka,

ka, waziponsa ngapambi kwake uTshaka, wayigwaza enhliziyweni engakuye, waetata enye uTshaka ngeklwa lake. UJeqe watata imikonto emibili kulo amgwazileyo walwa; lapo uTshaka wamemeza, bamuzwa eti, "Nobuyelapi na? Lapo uJeqe asalwi useti mhlo-la! Kona pambi kuka Tshaka yamwisela ngeklwa uJeqe etangeni insizwa, ite iwukipa umkonto layitata ilembe elidhla amanye. Waguqa pansi uJeqe. Wabe uyate uyasukuma kwala. Lapo isivuke ngokunye iMidhlenevu izwa izwi likaTshaka—wayiqunga isibindi, bayisunduzwa eyezita; iziNdhlondhlo seziyilumekile ngezansi, abantu sebewe sebe ucaca, igazi seliyagobhoza, munye nje osematumbu esenekeke obala. Bayisusa gabaleka eyezita. Lapo uTshaka esekatele, wahlala pansi kwesinqawe, wamemeza omunye umfo wati, "Hamba ubheke inxeba lalowomfana". Wati ukuba afike kuJeqe wabona ukuti ulimele, wambelela wamsondeza enkosini. Yati inkosi, "Ungokabani mfana? wati, "Ngingoka Sikunyana wakwa Butelezi." Yati inkosi, "Qa, ngikubonile mtana! Mtwaleni niyomgeza inxeba, nimtele amakambi."

Bayixosha baye bayitela emakaya, badhla izinkomo, abanye babuya nezintombi nabafana. Yakukulake impi isibange ekaya kwaDukuza. USikunyana wasala noJeqe emzini wakaQwabe, emtoba, emelapa. Emva kwamasondo amabili waqala ukuhamba ngoti, ite ipela inyanga waetotoba, uyise ehamb'emhlenga baye bafingelele ekaya. Bayafika ekaya bezwa kutiwa beku-fike isigijimi sipuma enkosini sizobuza kuSikunyana ukuti umfana unjani. Basitshela ukuti sekuyoba ngozimakaza, kodwa abakafiki ekaya.

Kwadhlula isonto kwafika esinye isigijimi sesibiza uSikunyana ukuba aye komkulu. Inkosi yafika yati kuye, "Ubani ibizo lomfana wako na? Wapendula wati, "Ndaba, ibizo lake uJeqe." Yati inkosi, "Naziya izitole ezisihlanu nenkunzi yazo, ngizixoshisa uJeqe." Babonga bonke ababekona. Yati inkosi, "Hamba nazo lez'inkomo, umfana lowo ngiyamfuna ukuba eze lapa kimi."

Nembala wazitata izinkomo uSikunyana, ute ukuba afike nazo ekaya kwapuma umuzi wonke, loku sezisesibayeni. Sezwakala isifazana singcwenga sitakazela izinkomo. Wamemeza ngezwi elikulu uSikunyana elandisa umuzi wake eti, Lezinkomo zixoshiswe uJeqe inkosi. Ute engakaligwinyi, uJeqe wangena ngentuba, wadhlala, bambonga abanewabo bati, "Mlamlankunzi—ungaziyeki zibulalane. Dhlala Jeqe onjengempisi." Bakikizela onina kwajatshulwa kwabanje; Nabanewabo ngoba nabo babengamaqawe badhlala! Iwatshakafula ol'uSikunyana, lwangqongqota umbumbuluzo walo ngempiselo, lwati, pindela kona Jeqe onjengempisi," Wapinda wadhlala uJeqe bakikiza onina.

Kwadhlula izinsuku ezisihlanu uSikunyana wenza idili, loku sekupekwe utshwala, wahlaba inkomo yake embomvu ebonga amadhlozi awoyise amsindise empini kanye namadodana ake onke, amveza nakomkulu ukuba umfana wake avele enkosini. Kwabutana sonke isigodi sakubo beza kobusa. Wabatshelake abantu uSikunyana ukuti inkosi imbizile uJeqe ukuba ayohlala kuyo. Waeseti, Mapeyana nabanawe bako, lungisani izikali zenu ngomhlomunge nopekezela uJeqe nim'se kwaDukuza." Loku uMapeyana inkosana kaSikunyana kanti usengenwe umona ngoJeqe. Inhliziyo yake ibalisa ukuti yini ukuba ati alwa kangaka okalweni lwabantabaka Tayi, angenzelwa udumo, kepa udumo lwenzelwe umfana! wala, wati, "Mina angiyilapo."

Kwasuka isidumo pakati komuzi kaSikunyana, wehlukana pakati. Abakwabo kaMapeyana bamvuna nabakwabo kaJeqe bamvuna uJeqe. Yaze yahlomelana izinduku, uButelezi wabiza amanye amadoda akelelene nawo, azocima lolutuli. Wapuma owakwabo Mapeyana umuzi, yaba mbili imizi kaSikunyana.

Bampekezela abafowabo abata uJeqe. Basuka ekaya balala eMvoti. Mhla bezongena komkulu lalise nasebukweni bezinja, lishaya umoyana omnandi wasentwasa-hlobo. Ai, muntu-wetu, azisavunule lapo izinsizwa zakwaButelezi sezite mhlola. Zihlome

zite shi! Zite uba zingene esibayeni loku uTshaka uhlezi enhla nesibaya, nezinduna, izinceku zipakamise isihlangu pezu kwekanda lake, ubeke isicatulwana sokamba lotshwala, uxoxa impi, wezwakala umfo kaSikunyana omdala kunabanye edazuluka ngepimbo, ebonga uTshaka! —

"Lembe eladhla amanye amalembel!"

Ndhlungwane kaNdaba,
Odhlunge eManxulumeni,
Kwaze kwasa aManxuluma ebikelana,
Tshaka katshayeki,
UNodumehlezi kaMenzi,
UTshaka ngiyesaba ukuti nguTshaka,
UTshaka kwakuyinkosi yaseMatshobeni,
Inkomo ekaMtonjaneni,
Izizwe zonke ziyizwile ikala,
Izwiwe uDunjwa, waseLuyengweni,
Yezwiwa uMangcengeza wakwa Kali,
Uteku lwabafazi bakwa Mongabi.
Betekula behlezi emlovini,
Beti uTshaka kayi kubusa kayuba nkosi,
Kanti ilapo ezakubusa,
Umlilo wotate kaMjokwane,
Umlilo wotate ubuhanguhangu,
Otshise izikova eziseDhlebe,
Kwaye kwasha neziseMabedhlana,
Ndaba wakoMkulu!"

Amanga Ngonyama! Yiti abafana bakaSikunyana wakwa Butelezi situnywe ngubaba, uti asilete uJeqe, nje ngoba inkosi yayilayezile mhlazana umfana imxoshisa izinkomo. Siyakuleka tina zinja zako siti Tutuka Ngonyama ubengangezintaba.

Wati uTshaka "Upi uJeqe?" Wavela uJeqe wati, "Ngilapa Ndabezita." Yashoke inkosi yati, "Uye lo" ngawubona umhlanganiso wake eshiya abanye abafana, impi isisimele kabi wafike wayisusa. Wati Sondela lapa mfana. UJeqe wakwica ibheshu lake waguqa ngamadolo waye wasondela enkosini. Yamtandanda inkosi, yambonga yati, "Uguqa ngedolo okalwe-

ni lwabanta'baka Tagi." Ite lapo isipuma ngesibonda esingenhla yambiza, yamxoshisa isipuku sokwembata nocansi. Yamkombisa ilawu azolala kulo eduze nelawu layo inkosi esigodhlweni.

Inkosi yabiza inceku yati, Hamba ulaye lomfana, umtshela yonke imiteto yase Sigodhlweni.

Nembala inceku enkulu uNozitshela wangena elawini lika Jege. Wati, "Mfana kaSikunyana, ngingena nje ngizokulaya. Wena ungati ngibonwe yini ukuba ngingene lapa ngapakati. Ukufa loku ongene kuko. Ukusondela enkosini ngohlobo olunje ukufa mfana kaButelezi. Isigodhlo senkosi nezigqili zaso ukufa. Noma usulingwa kanjani ungavumeli inhliziyi, wobe uzigwaza ngowako umkonto. Ungabi umngane wokude uhlekisana noMdhlonkulu; futi ungavumi ukuba bade bekubiza ukuba ungene ezindhlini zabo. Bonke lababafanyana namantombazana zinhlo. Enye into ungabi isigcwelegcwele sokudhla. Uzobona inyama izingingqane uziye ungapiwe, kanti sekuukufa kwako. Uzokangwa amasi notshwala kupihlikile, nxatshana ungapiwe muntu ungakutinti. Umuntukazana akadhli nabantwana benkosi. Nxa bekupa ukudhla ungadhli ngezinkezo zabo, wokudhla ngesandhla. Ungadhleli esitebeni sabo, wokutululela kwesako. Ukudhla kwabantwana ukusibekele, nesinambati nomcaba wabo uwusibekele ngembenge. Ungahlali pakati kwabo, uqede-loko okutunjiweyo ubuyele emnyango welawu lako. Noma ulambile nxa kungakumbulanga muntu ukukupha ukudhla, wohamba uye kokufuna ezigabeni emabutweni. Umuntu lapa ngapakati ongaze uzibike kuyena isalukazi lesiya. Bonke laba bafana abancane obabonayo namantombazana, banabaninibo bokubapa ukudhla. Uhlale ngokuhlonipa, nxa ubizwa uMdhlonkulu usabele ngokuti "Ndhlonkulu!" Nxa sekuhlwile noma bekubiza ucashe. Zikona izigqili zamantombazana zokubendhlalela nabafana abancane bokuba babatume nxatshana sekuhlwile. Intuba yako yokuphuma nokungena ibenye, ungapumi ungene ngentuba epuma amantombazane enkosi. Nxa wemukela ubisi ezince-

kwini zokusenga, itunga ulibeke pakati kwesandhla ulipatele pezulu. Ungahlali unensila ezandhlani zako, noma uletela abantwana benkosi ukudhla, wobeka amanzi ngodiwo olumcenge, abahlambela kulo. Ubeke isigubhu samanzi eduze, kuhlamba lowo ucite, kuhlamba lowo ucite, utele amanye. Uhlale ucopile, ugeze umzimba ugcoke amafuta.

Walalelisisa uJege kuyo yonke lemiyalo. Wati, "Ungitshelile okumayelana nabantwana, kepa awukangitsheli okuqondene noqobo lwayo." Wati uNozitshela. "Okwenkosi wokuqonda ngokutshelwa yiyo. Yona izulu elipezulu. Nxa ungaba inceku yayo yokutshela okwayo. Kodwa njengoba ngibona manje ikunike lelilawu, ifuna, ukuba ubheke isidumbu sayo. Ungalali kakulu, noma uzwa umsindwana upume ubheke. Wokotama njalo nxa useduze kwayo, ungayekeleki ngesitunzi sako. Zonke izinto evama ukuzifuna uhlale uziqoqile ukuze ungepuzi nxa izifuna. Uqunga luhlale luseduze, utshela umfana ahlale alungise konke kwayo. Imitsha yayo namashoba neminyakanya neziqova ude ukukupha kushaywa ilanga nomoya ukuze kungadhliwa zinundu.

UJege uyejwayela esigodhlweni

Kwati esasanda kufika nje uJege esigodhlweni inkosi yamsondeza kuyo. Kwaba uye osondeza amanzi okuyigeza, kwabe iloku imtuma ukuba abheke ukuba ukudhla kwayo kulungiswe kahle na. Ati umfana nxa esendhlalile ayobheka ukuti wendhlale kahle na. Abale amacansi nezihlandhla ukuba zingaki, nezicamelu.

Kwadhlula izinyanga ezine uJege efikile esigodhlweni, wabona enye inceku ingena ngentuba yomdhlonkulu loku uhlezi etunzini lotango unyezi. Wati, "Hau, uti umuntu wesifazana imbala lowaya" Watulisa wabuka, wabona emi ete neh ngomhlane otangweni. Wema isikashana, wasitela ngompeme wokupekela. Waeshaya ngalapa kwezindhlu ezimbili, ute

etuka lowomuntu waesempete uJeqe onjengempisi pho, upete bani insizwa yakwaZulu esimatambo eqinile kunawake. Kwaba ongapansi nongapezulu, yadhlubulunda insizwa yapuma yabaleka. Wakohlwa ukuba uzo-tshela bani ukuti ubone lomuntu nokuti umehlule ngamandhla. Uma waetshilo kwakobulawa yena uJeqe kutiwe umyekeleni.

Kwali ngelinge ilanga kuzoba umkosi, sekufike inyanga izokwelapa inkosi, inkosi isizonyatela (umkosi) amabuto esake amadokodo, abantu sekunyatelana nje ezigabeni; lapo kayisapumi endhlini enkulu engenhla, kungesiko elawini, endhlini lapo kukona induku yobukosi eyayipatwa uyise, lapo kukona imiti nezinsila zamakosi okuyiloku zambozwa ezimbizeni ezingavulwayo, kwanindwa ngobulongwe, kukona amatusi, nezinsimbi nemikando, amatshe okukanda izizwe. UJeqe wabizwa inkosi yati kuye, "Uzongena lapa, ngizogcatshwa ngegazi lako." Nembala uJeqe wangena kuleyondhlu okungangeni muntu kuyo kukona inkata neshlandhla igama layo Indhlukayingenwa, kukona imiklezo neminyakanya. Sonke isikati, ivulwe ukupelanna kuzongena inkosi noma unina wenkosi, nabo bangene kukona inyanga enkulu yenkosi. Kwapela isonto oJeqe nenkosi nenyanga bevumbekeke kuleyondhlu, ibapete inyanga ibagcaba, ipalazisa inkosi ngezintelezi ezinkulu, ezimhlope nezimnyama. Ekuseni uNozishela usehlezi emnyango ukuba emukele okupumayo angenise okudingekayo. Onke amanya amabi akishwa enkosini esulelwa kuJeqe. Anikwe amakubalo aqinile ukuze abe isibonda esiqinile senkosi, kuzawulwe ocabangeni lwake uJeqe, kungeniswe imbuzi emnyama, ayibambe, ati nxa eseyibambile, abhotshozwe malungana nenhliziyo kutatwe igazi layo, litakwe namafuta engwe, nebhubesi, nenhlwati, inkosi incinde, uJeqe akote udengezi. Isimnyama manje inkosi ihlikihlwa inindwa ngemiti, ayisabonakali isimo sayo. Akusavunywa ukuba ipuze utshwala ngoba bupekwa abesifazane. Sekungena inyama epekwe uNozishela namasi atiwe uye uqobo. Isigubhu samanzi sihlezi lapa

eduze. Ekuseni lapo ilanga lipuma, ilichinsa ngomhlana obhotshozelwe imbobo ebheka empumalanga, lapo lishonayo ilichinse ngembobo ebheke entshonalanga. Lembuzi ayidhliwa okukishwe kuyo igazi. Inceku enkulu ibasa umlilo omkulu, ibekwe elangabini itshe ize ipele eduze nomnyango waleyondhlu lapo laba abatatu bebona kona. Nomdhlunkulu kulezonsuku awuvunjelwe ukuhlala nokudhlela egcekeni. Bahlala endhlini, noma beyogeza bayabuya bangena ezindhlini.

Sonke lesikati ibuto elitile sekupela inyanga liyozingela ingwe abatile baye ogwini lolwandhle, bayofuna uselwa inkosi eyonyatela ngalo. Sekukona izinkunzi ezimbili ezimnyama ezicijileyo, ezihlabayo, ezingazange ziyizeke insikazi, ezanela ukwepusa zaketwa eziyobanjwa amabuto ngezandhla, bazidonye ngesibhakela zize zife, inyama yazo iyahlinzwa, ipanyekwe otangweni lwesibaya ingadhliwa, iyoze yelashwe inkosi.

Mhla kuzokusa kuumkosi inkosi iyopuma lapo endhlini kuvalwe iholwe inyanga ipete ukamba lwenetelezi, iyifafaza intelezi bayebafike emfuleni, uJeqe elandela inkosi epete eminye imiti okuzofikwa emfuleni igeze ngayo. Yeqe amangqabangqeshe inyanga emfuleni pakati kwobusuku yelapa. Bageze kona lapo kwesikabhadakazi, wonke umuntu elele. Nxa sebegezile babuyele ekaya, kufafazwe enye intelezi emnyango welawu lenkosi, ingene kona, alandele uJeqe, afike endhlale, ilale elawini ngalobusuku emva kokuba ikade ilala endhlini yamakosi namadhlozi. Inyanga ilandele uJeqe bayolala elawini lika Jeqe.

Ekuseni ilanga lingakapumi, umuntu usezwa umsi-ndo ezigabeni, behaya amagama, bebhema insangu, bebonga amakosi. Esibayeni lapa sekuhamba imbongi godwa ibonga amakosi. Liyapuma ilanga amabuto aseya emfuleni aseyoze, sekugcwele abafana namantombazana, abetelele amabuto ukudhla. Nxa umuntu ebuka ubona kumnyama izinkalo abantu. Lapo sebuyile ekugezeni, badhla, ngesikati zibuya inhlezane, baqale manje ukuvunulela umkosi. Bafake amashoba

abo ezingalweni nasezitweni, kube kuhle kudele. Ibuto eliyintanga yenkosi lifake umnyakanya wesakabuli, kube ilelo libe nento eliyenzileyo elehluke ngayo, noma okulenga esipundu, noma umqele nje wombhijo wotshani obutile. Kube kuhle kudele.

Lapoke, azokutsho izaga zawo, ilelo linesalo, aqoqana ngezaga. Ngesikatshana esincanenze ilelo selimi kwegalo indawo, asehlome asepelele, aseyahaya. Izinduna lapo sezijuluke zimanzi zishaya, ziqoqa, eputshuka ngalapa nangalapa.

UJeqe lapaya enhla nesibaya usevunula naye, usebase umlilo wabeka imbiza lapo inkosi izopeka kona uselwa. Inyanga isiyiqobe imiti isiyesabeka, nengwe isihlinziwe yabengwa, nenyama yenkunzi emnyama isibengiwe. Ecaleni lapaya ngasesangweni lamatole sekubaswe omkulu umlilo lapo kuzokosiwa inyama le yengwe nenkuzi emnyama ebibulawe amabuto ngayizolo Kuzotike lapo inyanga itate yonke lemibengo iyixube ndawonye emqubeni, iyifafaze ngemiti ibeseyosiwa. Luyavutwa lapaya uselwa. inkosi iqale yaluhlabela ngoba nxa lungapatwanga yiyo abakwaZulu bati aluvutwa. Inyanga izolwepula ilutele imiti, iluqobe amaqashana iluhlanganise nenyama.

Ezeke amabuto esepanga izindawo ezinhle esibayeni. Funa nomkosi ungadhlalwa njalo nxatshana amabili engahlangana esangweni izinduna zingawadedele amabanga kahle okungena esibayeni. Eke nje ahlangu angalwa kuciteke konke nenkosi ingabe isabanamandhla okulamula.

Angene ngezigaba zawo kutunqe utuli luye pezulu pakati lapa kuhamba imbongi iyavundhla; iyehla, iyenyuca ibonga amakosi.

Iqamuke inkosi lapo sebephelele nomdhlunkulu usumi wodwa lapaya enhla nesibaya uzobukela, uvunule uconsa. Iti iqamuka nje ezwakale uBayede ovimba izindhlebe. Yonake kayisabonakali sekuyikazela nje. Umuntu ubona isihlangu nemikonto kupela. Ifaka iminyakanya nemiklezo kukona izimpape zezinyoni ezinhle ezilenga ebusweni, zivale bonke ubuso zashiya

indawo yamehlo kupela, ngasemuva lapa kulenga igwalagwala okuyiloku lisuke ezinweleni, ngapambili nangemuva ifaka izikumba zezingwe, ibheshu eleNsele, ezingalweni nasezitweni amashoba amhlope. Iside iya lapaya ibasikaza ngomkonto beti, "Uyizulu! uyizulu!" Lapoke inyanga isizotabata umbengo enqwabeni, iqata lokuqala ilinike inkosi ilidhle, imibengo ipontswe pezulu, lowo alume adhlulise, eliwa pansi lingabe lisacoshwa. Ulapa emva kwayo, uJeqe, noma ifunani emkandhlwini uzosondeza loko. Inyama le ayigwinywa, kugwinywa uju lwayo, ibe seyifelwa yiyo bonke.

Nxa sekupelile ukudhla inyama inkosi ibuyela enhla nesibaya lapo sekubekwa kona isihlalo sayo sobukosi, sesihlotshiswe ngezikumba zezingwe, nezingulule nendhlozi, nengonyama. Pansi lapa kwendhlalwe izikumba zezingonyama yenabele kuzo. Izinceku nxa libalele seziyiphahle ngezihlangu ukuba ingashiswa ilanga, uJeqe useqojeme lapo ngakwesokunene eduze nayo. Lapo amabuto asezagubha, ipume imbongi iti isaqala nje ukubonga amaqawe adhlale, babongane kusuke izintuli.

Emva kwaloku isukume inkosi ibize uNdunankulu, amemeze ngezwi elikulu eyihumushela eti, "Uti okaNdaba uludhlile uselwa, ngako lonke izwe selingeshwama "Uyizulu!" Sebezogida, begubha kuze kucishe kushona ilanga, lapoke inkosi nomdhlunkulu sebebuyeke ngapakati, umuntu osemkulu ngalesosikati seku uNdunankulu, uye osetshela izinduna zamabuto okufanele kwenziwe. Amabuto azonikwa umhlambi wezinkomo awudhle ezigabeni kuze kube pakati kobusuku, kuyasa ayaciteka abanga emakaya sekusala izikonzi. Mhlau-mbe abazuhlala nasikati emakaya kuTshaka. Bazoti besahlezi sekutiwa abahlome bayozidhla ekutini.

UJeqe ubamba iselelesi

Kute kungakabi nsuku zatshwala emva komkosi lo ekade silanda ngawo uJeqe ubamba iselelesi ngapakati esigodhlweni ebusuku. Uti esapuma enkosini nje

esacabanga ukuyolala ubona umuntu engena ngesipondo somdhlunkulu. Ukumbula ukuti wehlulwa esinye iselelesi, wangena elawini lake watata iwisa, wanyonyoba, ute lapo edhlula enye indhlu sase simbonile, sabaleka saqonda entubeni, bakandana kona, site la siti siyapuma, wabasa ngewisa uJeqe edolweni sawa pansi iselelesi, wamemeza izinceku zafika, sabanjwa. Bambopu, kwati ekuseni wayiswa pambi kwenkosi, kanti enye yezinceku. Kwatiwa uJeqe makaye kombulala.

UJeqe uqala ukubulala umuntu

Wayeyiqawe uJeqe, lapo kuliwa kona waejabula kakulu, kodwa ukubulala umuntu engalwi kwayinto elukuni kuye. Lelolanga lamenza wafisa sengati ngengezanga komkulu. Pho, izwi lenkosi laliumteto wake, nokulukuni kangakanani waemelwe ukuba akwenze. Wasigqubake uJeqe iselelesi lesi; futi si-umngane wake, bebekolana kakulu. Seside siti kuye, "Au, wena kaSikunyana, masishone lapaya eqeleni ungiyeke ngohamba ukupela ngeduke nezwe. Kufike ukumhaukela eti enhliziyweni ngizokwenzenjani? Akumbule ulaka lukaTshaka oyakuti angezwa ukuti umyekile abulale yena. Ifike inhliziyu kuJeqe ati akunani kubulawe mina kunokuba ngibulale umuntu engalwi. Abuye ekumbule ati ngiyinsila yenkosi, ukungalaleli izwi layo into embi. Bahamba basondela odongeni lapo sekumhlope amatambo abantu, wazikalela lomfo, wati, "Impela ngizobulawa uwe Jeqe?" Wamtela ngemvula yezingembezi, loku uJeqe iqawe, kwaqubuka isihawu kuye naye wakala, bahlala pansi bobabili batula, amuko owakulumisa omunye. Sati iselelesi, "Ak'usenani sale sewenza umteto wenkosi nami kuyangikanyela ukuti kufanele ngife, inhliziyu ingumtakati, angazi ukuti bengihungwe yini!" Wasukuma njalo uJeqe, wamshaya enhlafunweni, wenaba, wapinda esijingweni ukuba asheshe afe, nembala wapela ngasolesosikati, wamponsa enqwabeni yamatambo. Ayezula amanqe

ngapezulu eselungele ukumudhla, wafulatela uJeqe wapindela ekaya. Azange akudhle ukudhla ngalelolanga, inhliziyu yake yaba buhlungu kabi.

UJeqe kutiwa ayontshontsha izinkomo

Kute ngelinye ilanga ekuseni engazelele luto uJeqe, uTshaka umbuka-umbuka uti kuye, "Amadolo ako azotamba kade wahlala ndawonye, yiya lapa ezigabeni ukete izinsizwa eziqata zibe amashumi amabili, izingenise esibayeni esipondweni samatole, ubuye uze lapa kimi. Nembala wenza njengoba etunjiwe. Wati lapo esezibizile izinsizwa wabuyela kuTshaka. Wati, "Sebesesibayeni nkosi." Yati inkosi, "Bheka ngizwa kutiwa ziningi izinkomo ngalapa eBatenjini. Hamba nalezi 'nsizwa niyokweba amashumi amabili ezinkabi ezikulupeleyo ngibone ukuti nizinsizwa." Washwaqeka nje uJeqe, pho, nxashana esekulumile uTshaka usekulumile, ayiseko enye indhlela. Wayeseya kubo njalo abalisa eseti, "Inkosi iti asilande izinkabi ezimashumi amabili eBatenjini, noma singazitola ngayipi indhlela, Hambani nifune umpako sohamba ngomhlomunye." Wafuna amabele esalukazini uJeqe, samupa imbenge enkulu, wawagazinga, wawagaya wawafaka esewuputu esikwameni sake sesikumba sembuzi. Walola imikonto yake emitatu wayifaka emgodhleni onelengiselo eligaxwa emhlane. Wakanda isihlangu sake saqonda. Lafika ilanga lokuba bahambe. Wema pambi kwelawu lenkosi, wayibonga, wayibonga wati, "Nkosi sengihamba njengokutunywa kwami inkosi."

Yati inkosi, "Zipi izinsizwa engite hamba nazo?"

Wati uJeqe, "Zisesibayeni."

Inkosi yati, "Akenikahle, akenginipe umpako, nohamba ngomso."

Yabanika itole elimpevu, balihlaba badhla bapeka, balungisa umkusu abayohamba bewupete.

Wapinda ekuseni waya enkosini wati, "Nkosi sesi-hamba."

Yati inkosi, "Hamba Jeqe onjengempisi, ngiyazi wobuya nazo wena."

Wakuleka uJege watata izikali zake nompako wahamba. Wangena esibayeni, wababiza bapuma ngesango elikulu bahamba. Bahamba kakulu baye bayolala kubo kaJege. Wabiza uyise wambizela emnyango wayakohleba. Wati, "Au baba, indaba kangiyizeki lapa. Sengibulala abantu, namhla kutiwa angihambe nalab'abantu esifike nabo ngiyokweba izinkabi ezimashumi mabili eBatenjini.

Uyise wati, "Njengoba uyinsila yake nje usehamba ekufaka kulezontenje uzosala nobani ekaya?"

Kwala ukuba uJege angamhlebeli unina indaba abahamba ngayo. Esezwile yonke indaba unina wati kuye, "Mntanami, yini ungeqi uye eMampondweni noma uye eSwazini njengoba ukubulala abantu nokweba izinkomo zabantu awuzwani nje nako?"

Wapendula wati uJege, "Mame, izwe lakiti nenkosi yakiti ngiyayitanda. Njengoba bengiza lapa ekaya nje ngipuma koMkulu, bengiti nxashana ngibona amagquma nemifula yezwe lakiti, engikulele kulo, lapo ngibona izinkalo engelusela kuzo, kuqubuke pakati kwezibilini zami utando olumangalisayo, ngiqome ukuba umbulali kunokuba ngiyokonza kwelinye izwe nokubuswa amanye amakosi. Noma inkosi yakiti inenhliziyi enje yokutanda ukubona igazi liciteka, ngehlulwa ubuqawe bayo obuncomekayo lapo sesihlangabezane nezita. Ngizonyamezela kuze kufike isikati lapo amadhlozi awobabamkulu eyongisiza.

Uyise wati, "Ungahlali lapa ekaya funa izita ziyokuhlala ziti uhlezi ekaya umsebenzi owatunywa wona kauwenzi. Nansi intondolo, ibulaleni nidhle nivuke nihambe." Bayihlaba, bayipeka kona ebusuku badhla, bavuka ekuseni bahamba. Bahamba njalo abayazi nendhlela eqonde eBatenjini. Bahamba bawela uTukela benyuka baqondana neQudeni. Bate bepansi kweQudeni bevuka endhle ngalelolanga, kuzinkungu, bawukanda umhlambi omkulu wemizi yakona zikandene ndawonye. Wati uJege, "nazi madoda, ketani ezikulupele." Nempele baziketa zaba amashumi amabili nambili, bati, ezinye lezi ezimbili sozidhla endheleni."

Zabasiza izinkungu, bahamba ibanga elide zingakembuki, zite ziqala zembuka basebesitele ehlanzeni bahamba impela, kute kuba isemini enkulu babewela uTukela. Bawela qede bapumula.

Emva lapa kute ngezikati zokuba sekuzosengwa abafana bafika izinkomo zingapelele, balanda umzila babona ukuti ziqutshwe abantu izinkomo lezi. Babuyela emakaya bayohlaba umkosi. Zaqoqana izinsizwa, zahloma, zapela amashumi amatatu, zalanda umkondo. Kute ntambama lapo libantu bahle bazibona zidundubala entabeni, loku bahamba bebuza emizini abantu babatshele bati, "Bakona abantu abalidhlanzana esibabone bequba izinkomo. Bashone lapaya, bebeyigwema imizi abapambukelanga." Bahamba baye balala emizini abayaziyo laba abalandela izinkomo zabo. Bafika kufike abayeni ukudhla kuhlapakile. Badhla bapuzo balala besuti.

Kanti impi yaoJege yanele yadundubala nje, lashona ilanga yangenisa endhle. Kulale abanye, abanye bazibheke izinkomo, zibahlupa zifuna ukubuyela emva. Basizwa unyezi, uma kwakumnyama zaziyobedukela. Kwanela kwapuma ikwezi, besuka nazo oJege. Abazi ukuti balandelwa eduze kepa banomqondo wokuti ziyafunwa izinkomo lezi. Bahamba ngamandhla, beqonde ukufinyelela emizini yakubo.

Zavuka izinsizwa lezi ekuseni kakulu. Bazinika izinkamba ezimbili zotshwala, zapuzo zahamba. Ngalelo langa inkungu kayiko. Bate beti dundu pezulu, bazibona zisitela pansi. Bahamba ngendhlela engapezulu enqumayo, bona kuyizwe lakubo belazi. Bate beyopenduka enhla nokalo kwabe kuyilapo bekupuka ezansi abakwaZulu, sebetiywe isiwa enzansi. Bate bedundubala enhla nokalo babehlangana.

Laba abebelwe izinkomo bati koJege, "Akenime, sibuze" Bema, bati lapo besondela, bala oJege bati, Buzani nikona lapo, musani ukusondela kiti. Nempele babona nabo ukuba kutsho izinsizwa zivutiwe, uye uJege lo ongumholi wabo, okuuyena sengati mncane.

"Izinkomo zakiti lezo niziya?" kubuza laba abantshontshelweyo "Siya nazo kiti," kupendula uJeqe, "uma nitanda ningazikalima." Zesuka izinsizwa, zenza uhla sengati zifuna ukubakaka oJeqe.

Wati uJeqe kulaba bakubo, "Qelukani ningavumi basikake."

Yesuka insizwa yakona ende yazikalima ilandelwa ezinye.

Lapo amuko owatshela omunye. Kwatinje ngokupazima kweso, yayisihlangene kulaba abapambili bobabili, loku ipete imikonto yombili, kwati klebhukle-bhu, mbo. Yashukana, waesetokoza lapa ngasentshonalanga uJeqe onjengempisi wati, "Ngadhla ngenkomo kababa!" yashayeka pansi amatumbu eselenga insizwa ende. Lapo asalwi usendiza pezu kwezindwani uJeqe, zamfikela izinsizwa ezimbili, umkonto wenye wafike wadhlula ihau, wakhebhula isikumba engalweni, ite laiti ayimtate enye, lapo iwuponsile umkonto, wavika wagoqongana uJeqe, isihlangu sake sesibomvu igazi elopa enxebeni elisengalweni. Lapo iponse ipelele insizwa ende kuJeqe, umkonto wawushaya ngehau, waesefikile uMtwazi wakubo kaJeqe, wawufaka ohlangotini kulensizwa eti ayiqede uJeqe. Watokoza wati, "Ngadhla mina Mtwazi lotwishi." Wahlomula uJeqe, bamhlala pansi. Kanti ngale sebemhlabile umfo wakwa Ndwandwe ohamba noJeqe. Kulomkati munye ofileyo koJeqe, babili kubalandeli bezinkomo.

Baningi laba abalande izinkomo kepa abakwejwayele ukulwa njengalaba abahlala besempekwani wako. Babe beyate befuna ukubakaka zala izinsizwa zika Tshaka, kepa ukopa sekuqala ukumqeda amndhla uJeqe, usomele amanzi, akona lapa esigujini sake emhlanene, noko ituba lokupuza aliko. Wamemeza eti, "Ugotini uLembe eladhla amanye na? Lapo kwaba sengati uzichelile uJeqe, zabahlaba zabasunduzi. Watola ituba lokuleta isigubhu ngapambili apuze. Bayigwaza enye insizwa ebomvu abakwaZulu, benanela, lapo uJeqe waziposa pakati kwabo, walwa, bayisusa, bazishonisa ngale kokalo, yabaleka ekwehleni, bayi-

gingqela ngamatshe, bahlala pansi bapumula. Batata amahlamvu emiti, baxoza umunga, babopa inxeba likaJeqe nabanye ababili. Besuka baqoqa izinkomo bahamba. Beyishiya kona lapo insizwa yako Sokulu, basipula utshani bayimboza bahamba. Bemukela lati lishona babekude.

Kanti isale yahloma lapa emva yabaningi namakehla alandela izinsizwa. Bahlangana kuwo lowomuzi lapo bebelele kona, abanye bexuga, abanye benamaxebe, abanye sebejiyelwe, behamba bexugela, sebehlengwa. Sebebalandisa ukulwa kwayo.

Lempi entsha esapuma ekaya yati, "Siyabalandela, sesiyopindisela nezidumbu lezi zakiti." Bate befika esikungweni, zaziqungquluzile izinsizwa zakubo ezintatu, abakwa Zulu behamhile. Bazitwala zayolahlwa emakaya.

Kute pakati kobusuku abavukela nabo amaxebe oJeqe nabanye abatola amanxeba. Bapambukela emzini wakubo kwaButelezi, sebefike emizini abayaziyo. Sebeyixoxa, bebatshela ukuti, "Besitunywe inkosi ukuba siyodhla izinkomo ngalapa eQudeni, balwa nati abafo, kodwa sabehlula, noko asesigunyele amanxeba."

Izinkomo bazishiya ngapandhle nazo zikatele, zadhlaidhla zalala.

Umnumzane wati, "Ai, uTshaka uzozenzani izinkomo kwezingaka, ehambepuca abantu izinkomo zabo, ebulala nani ngemikonto yabafo."

Batotshwa, aboshwa kahle amanxeba ekaya, bapiwa ukudhla balala. Bacela abafana ukuba babelusele izinkomo, bapumula lonke lelo langa. Babengasesabi luto ngoba basebefikile emizini yakubo. Ngangomuso bahamba baye bafika komunye umuzi wakubo kaMtwazi, balala. Batata enqamlayo ebange kwaDukuza, balalela eduze kwaMaDundube. Bangena nazo ekuseni koMkulu.

Watsho uJeqe, esebonga inkosi, yapuma yazibuka, loku ezimbili bazishiye endheleni, bengasazihlabanga. Zefika zingamashumi amabili, wasondela kubo, wabo-

ma amaxeba, kwaba ilowo wamxotshisa itole, kwahlathwa zaba zimbili, kwadhliwa kuxoxwa impi yazo.

Kute kungakabi zinsuku eziningi oJege bebuye eku-dhleni izinkomo eQudeni, kwafika komkulu amadoda esihlanu epuma eNonoti. Ahlala ebandhla nenkosi esibayeni noJege ekona. Ati, "Sifikenje Nkosi, sizobika udaba lapa enkosini. Abantu benkosi bapelile emizini yakiti, bakunkulwa uMbali kaNtulo wakwa Mkwanzazi. Zonke izanusi zinuka gena."

Inkosi yati, "Hambani nigoduke, ngizomlungisa." Bate ukuba bahambe yati, "Jege, hamba uye ezigabeni ufune izinsizwa zibe ishumi nesihlanu, uhambe nazo niyobulala uMbali. Ningashiya luto, nicotshise izalukazi nezingane, nishise umuzi, nipange izinkomo zake nizilete lapa kimi."

Nembala uJege wayakozifuna izinsizwa lezo. Esezifumene wabika enkosini. Yati inkosi, "Anovuka ekuseni, kuyaswelela niyawukaka umuzi wake, ubatshele bangakohleli, koti lapa kusayo niwuvimbezele umuzi wake."

Kwaba njalo njengokutsho kwenkosi. Bavuka eku-seni bahamba baye bafika eNonoti, bahambe sebefuna ukudhla emizini bashonisa ilanga. Bafika kupuzwa kwaMagqumeni omunye walaba ababezohlala uMbali. Wabona ukuti sekuyiko lapa ebona uJege, wabapa ukudhla, bahlala kona kwaze kwangati sebeyalala, kute lapa kwendhlalwa, bapuma baqonda kona kwa-Mbali. Bahlala enhla komuzi. Bayabezwa bekuluma ezindhlini, nezinja zalizwa ipunga labo, zabakonkota baze besuka baya ngalapo kuya ngakona umoya.

Kute lapa kukala izinkuku ezizolandelwa ezokugcima wayifaka uJege. Yajena pakati komuzi, yashaya izicaba, badhliwa imikonto, bebagwazela emacansini. Umuntu wezwa nje oMayebabo! ngafela ocansini mina kababa.

UJege akako lapa umi ngenhla komuzi; akumjabulisi ukugwazela umuntu ocansini. Omunye umfazi ka-Mbali wapambana nabo ebelete umntwana, elandelwa umfanyana wake owelusa amatole neqikiza likaMbali

eselikuza impisi. Bate beti bayeqa gaga kuJege. Bati, "Au, muntu wenkosi!" Wati uJege, "Dhlulani ngamandhla nibaleke." Basinda labo, uJege wasondela eduze wafica ijongosi lentombi selidindilizile egcekeni, wagcoba umkonto wake ngegazi lalo ukuze bangasho ukuti ubengabulali gena. Babaqeda lapa, uJege wababiza abakubo wati mabahudulele zonke izidumbu ezindhlini bashise izindhlu, ababili bakipe izinkomo esibayeni nezimbuzi. Nempela kwenziwa loko baziquba, kute lapa kufudumala ilanga bafika emfuleni, bageza, bahlaba izimbuzi ezimbili, bapehla uvati, bapemba umlilo, bosa inyama yezimbuzi badhla.

Kute kuntambama bafika nazo izinkomo zingamashumi asitupa nezimbuzi eziyishumi nambili. Wabonga inkosi uJege. Akaze apuma ukuzibona uTshaka. Watuma induna wati maziqiswe kwelinye ikanda. Kwabanjalo.

Wangena uJege, wema ngapandhle kwelawu lenkosi wayilandisa ukuhamba kwabo.

Yati, "Ipelile inkani kumtakatshana ndini."

Okukulu okwehlela uJege

Iloku kutunywa uJege nje ukuba abulale abantu, inkosi ifuna ukususa isihau kuye abenjengayo ngesibindi sokubulala njengoba eyinsila yayo nje. Naye wayeseze wejwayela ukubulala abantu ngoba noma into imbi nxa umuntu eseyenzele futi ayibe isabambi. Noko wayengakehlelewa iloku okwamehlela ngelinye ilanga, besesigodhlweni esingapandhle lapa kuhlala kona izinceku eziganaweyo. Bahamba nayo inkosi, ute etuka nje owesifazana ekulelwe uti nqamana nabo oJege nenkosi.

Iti inkosi, "Jege tata lomfazi ubheke umkonto omfashanyana, umqage isisu kesibone ukuti ingane ihlala kanjani esiswini ingakazalwa." Kwati ashone pansi uJege, pho, uzotini sekukulume izulu elipezulu. Wabe uyazikalela owesifazana; wamqaga uJege. Wabuka uTshaka wahleka, wahamba. Zazimtata izinsizwa ziga komhlala umfazi kwangabandabazaluto.

Kusondela umkosi

Sebepumile abayofuna izingwe zokugubha umkosi nabayofuna uselwa olwandhle. Kodwa inkosi kayikangeni endhlini enkulu eyelashelwa kuyo, noko amabuto aseqalile ukusondezela umkosi, ananye asaka amaxiba awo. Ukudhla endhle kuyakihliza, okunye kuyashuqa. Ngalesosikati sekukona uzungu olukulu pakati kwaMabuto asekulile lokuba sengati uTshaka angafa noma abulawe. Amanye asahlala isikati eside engaganiwe ngoba ayejutshwa iyo inkosi; kepa iwali-bazisa ngezimpi, ngesinye isikati kupele unyaka kuyiloku ahamba eyohlasela ebulawa izita niendhlala. Noko wayengeko owayengapumesela obala. Abantu babenyenyeza. UDingana esede enyenyeza nabangane bake efuna isu lokubulala uTshaka.

Bambulala uTshaka

Wati ehlezinje engazelele luto uTshaka, kanti uDingana nabangane bake usehlose ukumbulala. Wayengazi ukuti aseyuwudhlala umkosi lo ayeselungiselele abantu ukuba bawuhlelele, sekutunyelwe nezwi enyangu yake ukuba ilungise imiti yokunyatelisa inkosi. UDingana usehlangene noMhlangana noMbopa ukuba bamzume bambulale. Nembala ute ehlezi yedwa bamngenela bamgwaza. Lagxuma iqawe elidala, lati, "Nibulala minanje ngeke nalibusa, lohanjwa zinkwenjane ezimhlope." Ebikezela ukuti lobuswa abelungu.

Uyeqa uJeqe

Njengoba insila yenkosi imbelwa nayo, wanele wabona nje uJeqe ukuti inkosi yake sebeyigwazile, sekumelwe ukuba aze abulawe nxatshana isilahlwa, wafikelwa imicabango eminingi. Owokuqala umqondo wake kwaba ukuba afe nenkosi yake njengoba nasempini wayelungele ukufa. Loku inkosi bayigwaze ntambama, wayitabata esizwa abesifazane, wayifaka endhlini nezinye izinceku zayo, wayigoqonga, wayembatisa

ngengubo yayo. Bahlalake sebelungele ukuze kulungiswe ingcwaba layo. Kute ebusuku efikelwe isihlambi sobutongo, ngoba buyinkosi, noma umuntu elinde isidumbu wetuka esengqapazela nje, wapupa uJeqe. Wapupa kufike oyisemkulu, onke amadhlozi akubo epelele, ati kuye, "Akukabi isikati sokuba uye kagoqanyawo Jeqe, kukulu izwe lakini osazolenzela kona, ukuhlabana kwako uhlabanela uTshaka. Suka uhambe konamanye ungalindi noma kuzekuse." Wapapama uJeqe, ute epapama enye yezinceku yayikwezela isihlonti soqunga, wacikica amehlo, wacabanga. Wati enhliziyweni ngizolilalela noma angizulilalela yini izwi lawobaba? Wapuma endhlini njengomuntu oya ngapandhle. Ute epandhle umqondo wokweqa wagunya. Ukuze angabonakali ukuti uyeqa, wapuma entubeni engapete zikali, wahamba waye wafika emfuleni. Wageza enzela ukuba abene-dhlala emhlope njengoba naku esuka esidunjini, weqela ngapesheya wasipula isiqunga, wahlafuna impande yaso wakwifa, esusa wona umnyama wesidumbu. Weqa ukalo, wagijima, wagijima engaqondi malapo eya kona. Kwafika umqondo wokuti kuhle ayodhlula ekaya, wawususa lomqondo ngokuti funa kubulawe wonke umuzi kayise nxatshana eficwe esekaya. Wati mangibange ngasolwandhle, bayopuza ukungitola, nokufuna abayucabanga ukuba ngiye ngasolwandhle. Kute la kumpondozankomo, engazange ehlangana namuntu, wangena esihlahleni walala. Njengoba wayesehambe bonke ubusuku, kwenye indawo ehamba ngokugijima, wazumeka waze wavuka emini enkulu, kwabe nokulamba sekuti ngilapa. Wazelula, wapuma esihlahleni, wahamba eqonda ezinkomeni ayezibona ziklabile, ziyibanga. Waqonda ukuti imizi iseduze, angabona amasimu uyokweba ukudhla. Ute lapo eseseduze nezinkomo ilanga selibantubahle, wababona abafana sebeziquqa, nemizi eseyibona eduze namasimu. Wahlala pansi wapumula. Kute lapa kuti hwaqa, wabanga emasimini, loku uwafica ekihlize, nemfe isiyikipile iminyani, kodwa ingakavutwa kahle. Wati ngibonwa yini emfeni engamakikizela! Wafula nombila

wawetshata, wakohlwa manje ukuti uzowosa ngani. Wasondela emzini wabona ukuti kupekwe emnyango, waququbala buqamamana nomuzi, baze bepula bange-na endhlini, wasondela, izinja zamuzwa, zamkonkoti wabuyela emuva, wafuna isu lokuyotata isikuni esivutayo lapo bekade bepeke kona. Walandela umoya, zati zisalibele izinja ukunxiba ukudhla, ezwa bedo bezikuza beti, "Hame, inani, ayipume!" Wasuka ngelikulu ijubane waziponsa eziko elisezaleni, lapo bekade bepeke kona, wasitata isikuni esivutayo, wahamba wafika pansi komuti, wabasa, wosa umbila, wadhla wasuta, Waselandela indhlela eya emfuleni, esefika epuza. Manje waqala ukucabanga ngezikali, ukuti loku, ngihamba izwe linezilwane, angipete mkonto, nxa ngihlangana nesilwane nasebusuku ngokwenzanjani. Waqunga isibindi wati mangiyokuleka kona lapaya emzini, ngicele indawo yokulala, ngeke bangibone ngoba sekuhlile noma kukona abangaziyo.

Ute lapo esondela zamkunga izinja wazikuza, wakuleka esemnyango. Bambuza ukuba ungubani uvelapi? Wazibiza ngelinye igama wati, "Ngingowalapa eMatigulu, ngihlwelwe, ngikuleka indawo." Bati, "Ngena" wangena. Bambuza bati, "Isibongo sako ungowapi na?" Wati, NgingowakwaQwabe, ngibange ngalapa olwandhle, ngifuna umuti wokukipa inyongo, sipetwe umkuhlane ngapa ngakiti." Ayike bampakela izinkobe embenge-ni wadhla, kwati lapo sekuyolalwa, wahamba nabafana bakona wayolala elawini lezinsizwa. Bate abafana besakanyisile bendhlala iso lake walibeka emgibeni wemikonto. Wati nansiya lapa beyibeka kona! Bamnika isihlandhla wendhlala, watata isikumba sembu-zi esendhlalalwa udaka ngasemnyango, wembata. Kute pakati kobusuku, loku akalele ubutongo uququbele-nje, kade elele emini enkulu, wavuka, ebezwa sebehonqa, wanyonyoba, waye wafinyelela emgibeni wemikonto, watata yabamibili newisa, wapuma njengomuntu oyakucama; washaya wacita' Uyahamba nomzimba usuqinile epete izikali. Bavuka qede bati, "Upi lomfo obelele lapa, kanti unjani uhambisa okweTonga,

asavalelisi!" Bepuza ukubona ukuti uhambenje untsho-ntshe imikonto yabo.

Emva le komkulu kuyagaluzwa kufunwa insila yenkosi uJeqe. Sekuhlangene amakanda amaningi kuzolahlwa inkosi, sekutunywe nabantu kuDingane eyotshelwa ukuti insila yenkosi uJeqe kayibonwa. Watukutela wafelwa ngamanzi uDingane. Wati ufuna ukuba afunwe abulawe embelwe noTshaka funa abeyisitunzi esibi kuye embusweni wake amenzele umnyama omubi. Kwakishwa iviyo lahlakazeka ngezindhlela ezitile lihamba limfuna. Kwaze kwakitshwa izwi lokuti asale esengcwatshwa uTshaka, isidumbu sesiganuka uJeqe use-ngo bulawa mhla etolwayo.

Kwaba ilanga elikulu mhla esembelwa uTshaka loku ituna limbiwe labalikulu, kwati eceleni pansi nalo, kwagunjwa indawo eyanele isidumbu sake ehlezi egogongiwe. Amabuto aselete inqwaba yamahlahla, nezibonda ezicijwe izindawo zombili, nezitongo zokubiya. Sekuhlatshwe izinkomo ezinkulu, kunuka inyama umuzi wonke, kukona izinkabi ezilishumi ezimnyama, eseziketwe ukuba zelashwe, izikumba zazo okuzogqitshwa ngazo inkosi. Akuvunywa ukuba kukalwe, esibayeni lapa amabuto ahuba amagama amakulu obukosi bakwaZulu, ashaya amahawu. Sekuketwe izintombi esigodhlweni ezizopelekezela inkosi, sekukishwe onke amacansi ake nemicameo, nesihlangu, nemitsha yake, konke okwakuhlala emzimbeni, nezinkamba zokudhla nezinkezo nemikonto yake. Sekuqogelwa eduze netuna. Sekubizwa uNozitshela nezinye izinceku ukuba zisondede. Izinkabi ezimnyama sezihlatshiwe, inyanga yazifafaza ngomuti izikumba, zasondezwa etuneni; loku limbiwe laba isikelekehle. Kwaketwa izinsizwa ezilishumi zabanumzane. Sakishwa isidumbu endhlini, sesimbozwe ngesinye isikumba salezinkabi ezimnyama, sata-twa amadoda ayisitupa, amane afike angena pakakati etuneni, asemukele, asifake kahle egumbini elimbiwe ecaleni, kwasekusondezwa umdhlunkulu lowo obusuketiwe, abanye kuwo behamba beshayana amadolo abanye bewa pansi bezikalela, pho, banakwe ubani,

bahlatshwa ngamunye, ngamunye, bemukelwa etunenī wapela qede umdhunkulu, kwangenwa ezincekwini zahlatshwa, kwasondela abafana bahlatshwa. Kwata-twa izikumba ezine zabamboza bonke laba kanye nalamadoda amane akade ehlela isidumbu, wona egwazwa abangapandhle—bonke laba kutiwa bayokonza inkosi ezweni elizayo. Kwafakwa impahla yonke yayo kwambozwa ngesikumba, izikumba ezazisasalele; kwasekutelwa umhlabati, kugxinyekwa izibonda zizungeza iliba, kubiywa ngezintungo, sekufakwa amahlala aze abengangendhlu pezu kwetuna. Asuke wonke amabuto aya kogeza emfuleni ngesiqunga namagxolomganu.

Simshiya epuma emzini antshontsha kuwo umkonto uJeqe. Wahamba njalo wabanga ngasolwandhle. Kute emini wezwa kuxokozelwa komunye umuzi, waqonda ukuti kuyapuzwa, nepango eselizwa, wati akengipambukele lapa ngicele utshwala. Ngalesosikati abakezwa abantu kuleyondawo ukuti inkosi ifile. Ute esati gaga pansi komuti ibandhla lapo lipuzela kona utshwala, wakangwa ilaba abatunywa ukuba baye kofuna uselwa behlezi ebandhla bepuza. Bambona qede betuka, au, uJeqe lo, insila yenkosi ubekwa yini lapa! Ai, waku-leka nje bambingelela wavuma, wabika indhlala. Lambiza elinye ikehla, wapuza. Izitunywa lezi zakomkulu sezide zibukana, zikohliwe ukuti ulapanje kwenzenjani. Wayesezibiza njalo uJeqe, eseti ngilapanje ngifuna nina, inkosi isitukutele kade natunywa kanibuyi.

“Ayi, amanga, wena wakomkulu, sesifune lonke ughu lolu asitoli luto, ukati luhlanzayo uselwa zisencane”. Wati uJeqe “Hambani kona-manje nami ngiyanilandela ngisapuza. Basukela pezulu sebenovalokuti sekuze kwakitshwa inceku esondele enkosini, mhlaumbe sebofike babulawe. Bate beshona enzansi nokalo uJeqe wayekupula ukalo, wabona ukuti kuzoze kufike izwi lokuti inkosi ifile bamdalule ukuti bambonile. Nanguya esekupuka manje, eselugwema ulwandhle, ehamba aze ayolala emizini ngaseNyezane. Ukusa kwabonwa aye wakwela wabanga ngas'Ongoye. Uhamba njalo

usepote imizi waqela ngayo, yalifihla lonke ibunzi lake, yaze yafika pezu kwamashiya, ukuze nomaziyo angasheshi ukumbona ukuti ubani.

Ute lapo epakati kweZimfolozi zombili, edofuza ohlongeni, eselahlekelwe indhlela ehamba elandela izindhlela zezinyamazane, zibuye zipela, ute eti qamu la kuubala wayekwela pezu kweSibejane, umoya uteleka kuso, sesimqamele, uponjwana lwaso selumi selute qinqo. Wanele waqamuka nje ohlongeni, wezwa sesitsho sesiti. “Bhe! bhe! bhe! sesimponsa. Sati lapo sesigxumile sesicimele, siti sitata kanye, waponseka ecaleni, sati lapo isidumbu saso siqondene naye eduze mpela, wawufaka emhlabankomo mahlanze, wangena wapelela, sabhodhla sabaleka, akazi noma saye safelapi. Lapo usengene ehlanzeni elibi, lezindhlovu, nezingonyama, nezinyati, kutimula yonke indawo kumetuka; imizi kayiseko lapo nendhlala isimbulele. Kute kuntambama wafica isinyamu sembabala silele. Wasigwaza, wapuza igazi laso, watata imilenze yombili, wafukuta usu nesibindi wahamba. Wabona ukuti liyashona, wakwela emtini omkulu, onamagatsha asabalele ngokwendhlaleka, wazigaxa kwamabili, imikonto yake wayigximeka ngokudhla kwayo emtini, iwisa walibopela egatsheni ngenotwane walala. Ede epapangiswa ukubhodhla kwezilwane ebusuku, zizwa ipunga lomuntu. Ai, noko kwaze kwasa engatikinyeswa iluto ngapandhle kokwetuswa umsindo wazo izilwane. Kwasa qede, wahamba esehamba efuna uvati, waze walutola walupehla, ecija isipehlo ngomkonto. Wawutola umlilo wabasa, wosa amadanda esinyamu asimbulele ngayizolo wadhla, waqubeka. Wayiwela eMnyama iMfolozi, wadundubala kuMasibhe, pezulu eMasundwini wafica imizi lapo.

Wangenisa emzini kaMhagi wakwa Mkwanazi ntambama, lapo libantu-bahle. Wemukelwa, kwabe kukona ukambana oludhliwayo wasinda. Bampa isinambati sesangcobe, wadhla walala. Ulalanje asalele kahle,

kute esapuza ebandhla, enye indoda yati "Kudhlule amadoda amatatu izolo ayobika eMdhletsheni ukuti uTshaka kaseko, ubulewe uDingane."

Enevuso lalezindaba azizwile, wepuza ukulala; isizungu wasiqedwa izingane zidhlala umdhlalo wazo wakusihlwa zikanyise ngezimbaqa. Enye iti, "Sakubona! uvelapi?" Ipendule enye iti, "Ngipuma koMatshekane." "Wadhlani-na?" "Ngadhla isinambati." "Sasingani-na?" "Sasingomceleketshana." "Abantu po?" "Musanje, uve-mvane luyavakasha emagangeni, impunzikazi itwele umqele, kayibhekeki koMekle!"

Zibuye zikatale ilomdhlalo ziqale omunye ezazifunda ngawo ukubala zibeke uhla lwezinhlamvu zombila, zilubopele ngambili. Ezokuqala ezimbili zime ngazodwa ibe isibuza enye kwenye iti, "Yinile, yinile?" Iti enye, "Isalukazi sami," "Yinile?" "Umgqumankundhlani." "Yinile?" Umatabata antshinge."

Ibe isilususa sekusala ezintatu ezimi zodwa. Ibuyele emva ibuze iti, "Yinile?" "Isalukazi sami." "Yinile?" "Umgqumankundhlani." "Yinile?" "Umuzi." "Yinile?" "Umatabata antshinge." Njalo esezintshingiwe emva kweziyisalukazi nomgqumankundhlani izikumbule ngekanda ukuti umuzi. Ize ipambuke ekubaleni kuqalise enye.

Wavuka ekuseni wayigwema indhlela edhlula eMdhletsheni waqonda pezulu sengati uya kwaNongoma. Asazitandisisi izindhlela ezi'mendo, usede enqamula, futi usenesibindi sokuti abaningi lapa abamazi noko atandi ukuba aziveze obala ngoba ezinye izikonzi zika Tshaka zingambona. Waqinisela wadundubala ezinkangala, waqonda kwaMandhlakazi, ehamba emizini yakona elala, avukele endhleleni. Waze wabuya wayongena ehlanzeni loMkuze elipansi koBombo.

Yapela lapo imizi, selihanjwa izilwane ezimbi, izingwe, izingulube, amankentshane nezimbubhe nezindhlovu. Wabona umkaya omkulu kusakanya, wakwela walala. Ukusa kwabonwa uye, wehla emtini, wahamba lati lapo lifudumalayo wawela uMkuze. Uye lo edonsa intabakazi enkulu yoBombo aye alale emizini yakwa Ma-

ngwazane; lapoke usefike kwabakuluma isiSwazi esixubene nesiTonga. Wafika litule sebedhla ihlobo, ukudhla aze akweswela. Noko wati kuhle ngiqubeke, mhlaumbe lamadoda ayeftunywe ukuyobika ukuti inkosi kayiseko eMdhletsheni, ayelayiwe ukuti aze ahambe engifuna. Wehla oBonjeni waye walala pesheya ko Pongolo, oTobotini.

Kute kulowomuzi alele kuwo wahlatshwa umkuhlane, ikanda kwaba sengati liqekazeka pakati. Kwapela amandhla, bati asimbulale simlahle lomuntu usiletele ukufa kwezwe lakubo. Bavumelana, bati, "Kodwa kuhle kuyobikwa kumnumzane." Umnumzane wati, "Qa, funa kube siziletele umkonto esingawaziyo, ngahle kube ulandelwa abanye bakubo, bafike bezwe ukuti wabulawa kulesi sifunda sakiti. Mtateni niye nimbeke ogwini lomfula, zofika izilwane zimdhle ebusuku." Nembala bamtata kanye nezikali zake, bezivikela ukuti nabambonayo boti wadhliwa izilwane ngoba nansi nemkonto yake ificwe eduze kwamatambo ake. Kute ekuseni wazingingqa waze wafika emanzini wawapuza egcwala isisu, wayigabha inyongo yagobhoza. Kwati damu waqala nokubona ukuti upi. Kepa amandhla kawako. Walala wati jha esihlabatini.

Kanti isihe sokuzala simpete omunye wesifazane wakulomuzi abamkiye kuwo bayomlahla emfuleni. Wati, "Konje wazalwa unina nje lomuntu olahlwa ezwa." Watata iyambazi ngesicatuywana sokamba, wasifaka pakati embizeni yamanzi, waba njengomuntu oyakoka amanzi. Wambona sevukile eqojeme, wafika kuye wati, "Muntu wezizwe ngisuswe ukukuhawukela, ulahlwa uzwa." Wamlandisa yonke indaba yokuti ubesezobulawa kwala umnumzane opete isifunda wati, qa kuhle ayolahlwa emfuleni. Ngikupatele nanti iyambazi, idhla, ngizokufunela amakambi ozowapuza omkuhlane walezizwe, nati singabakona nje kawusishiya. Unawo amandhla okufingelela kulowomkiwane omkulu, ikona koti nxa lishona ilanga ukwele ulale pezulu, ngoba izilwane zalapa ziyesabeka, unenhlanhla nje ngoba ulale lapa kwaze kwasa zingafikanga."

UJeqe, wabonga, kwafika umungu wakumbula unina ekaya ashiya engamvalelisanga, angaziyo noma usayobuye ambone yini. Wati. "Qa mame, amandhla kanginawo, umkuhlane ungidubule kabi." Wati umfazi, "Wozaz ngikubelete." Waguqa eduze kwake, wambeleta waye wambeka pansi komkiwane. Wabuya walanda izikali zake wazibeka eduze kwake. Watata imbiza wayigcwalisa amanzi wagoduka. UJeqe, esedhlile, kute lapo ukudhla sekuqala ukuhleleleka esiswini, wawatola amandhla alingene ukuba akwele. Waqonda wati kuhle ngikwele ngisawatolile nje. Watata izikali zake wazimisa ngomuti, watata amakambi ashiywe umfazi wawabamba ngomlomo, wazama waze wafinyelela lapo kukona indawo yokuhlala. Amakambi lawa wawahlilikhla ngezandhla ede ewafela ngamate akote uchwana lawo ayenokulutola. Pho, alalanga omiyane, kwaze kwasa epungana nabo, waze wapumula sekupume ilanga. Kwafika ubutongo walala wati zu, wapapama emini enkulu. Wehla wagxoba amakambi ewapuzan gesandhla, waeseti ntu isisu samanzi. wayipinda futi eyigabhla inyongo. Wezwa umzimba ubangcono kancane. Wafikelwa ipango. Loku usehlezi pansi kwomuti ufihlwe amaxantela omkiwane amila ezimpandeni. Kute ntambama wambona umngane wake wangayizolo, etula imbiza, ekipa kuyo ucegezana kanti usamletele wona umpunga weyambazi. Wafika wati, "Unjani namhla mtanami na? wati uJeqe, "Akunjengayizolo, into nje amandhla akabuyi kahle." Wamnika umpunga, watata wapuzaz. Wati, "Ngofika nangomuso ngizokuhlola." Wakwela uJeqe esexotshwa omiyane pansi, sengati bancono pezulu. Ngelesitatu ilanga wezwa esencono, wati noma epalaza kwabonakala ukuti inyongo ayisapumi njengoba ibikade ipuma. Kwaze kwapela izinsuku eziyisikombisa uJeqe esogwini loPongolo eletekwa ukudhla owesifazana onesihawu. Kute mhla efika nokudhla ngolwesishiyangalombili usuku uJeqe, wati, "Mame, angazi ukuti ngingakubonga ngitini. Ngeswele namagama engingakubonga ngawo. Ngobongelwa uMvelingqangi owenza ukuba ngibekona emhlabeni.

wawe wakwenza, namadhlozi akini ayokubheka. Uma soze sibuye sibonane, cabasimbe kukona engobonakalisanga ngako ukutakazela umusa ongenzele wona." Owesifazana wati, "Amanga, mtanami, nami ngezwa ngifikelwa umungu lapo ngibona bekwetwele ungakafi, beyokudedela nezilwane zasendhle. Mhlaumbe uma zakudhla ngelanga lokuqala owawulele ngalo esihlabatini wawungeyukuzwa luto njengoba nomiyane kawubezwanga ngalolosuku. Uhambe kahle, kazi uyapi?"

UJeqe wamlandisa yonke indaba yokusuka kwake kwaDukuza, nesizatu asuka ngaso. Wati, "Ngifuna ukuwelela kwelama Tonga ngapesheya kwoSutu lapo abakiti bengenakufinyelela, sengokonzaz enkosini yakona". Owesifazane wati, "Izindaba zihamba ngokushe-sha, izwi lifike izolo lipuma kwaba kaNyawo, beti, ufikle uTshaka. Hamba uqinise ungaze ubonwe abakini, kodwa abafiki kakulu kulelizwe, kuze kufike abafuna izinsimba bakwa Mandhlakazi nabafuna imiti. Bafika bepete izindondo namasakabuli, batangelane nabakiti ngezinsimba nemiti yakulelizwe. Ungaqali uhambe ngamandhla uvukwe umkuhlane. Ukona umuzi womuntu wakwa Zulu olungileyo pambili, bokutshela. "Igama lake uJiyane wakwa Gumede, naye wabalekela kona kulelizwe, kubulawa umuzi wakubo abakwa Zulu. Ngicinga ukuti uyojabula ezwa umuntu okuluma kahle ulimi lwakubo, ezwe nezindaba zakubo." Baxawulana behlukana.

Kute lapo selitambeme ilanga nempela wafika kwaJiyane uJeqe. Ute esakuleka nje yahleka godwa insizwa endala yakwa Zulu, yati "Owakwa Zulu umuntu ubekwa yini lapa? ngiti sekupele iminyaka emitatu ngingambonanga."

Wati uJeqe, "amanga, mngane, ngiya ngalapa kwelama Tonga ngiyofuna imiti." Bahlala kwaze kwaswelelela emnyango bexoxa indaba. UJeqe wati, "Nami ngizwa sengisendheleni nje ukuti uTshaka kaseko ubulele uDingana." Wati uJiyane, "Uti angafa lowo mntakati owaqeda umuzi kababa. Nami ngilapa nje ngasinda sivinjezelwe ngabaleka ngaze ngazokonzaz kuleli-

zwe. Amuko owaziyo ukuba ngikona ngoba babeti bashaye baqotula, kanti mina ngilele esibayeni samatole ngoba izinkomo zazidhle amasimu abantu ngesaba abanewetu ukuti bazongishaya, kanti ilanga okuzovinjazelwa umuzi wakiti ngalo. Bati bebagwaza ezindhlini ngapuma esibayeni samatole ngapapateka. Angazi lapo ngangiya kona, anginakukuqeda ukuhlupeka kwendhlela. Kepa ngafika neqinga lokubhabhisa izinsimba ababengalazi abalapa, futi ngacupa izinsimango ngomowane ngaze ngatola umuzi. Ngiyisilomo ngidhlula abokudabuka enkosini yakulelizwe. Kepa uhambe kabi kulelizwe ehlobo. Umkuhlane kumuntu opuma kwelinye izwe mubi. Ungalingi upuze utshwala besundu nobamaganu uyokufa inyanga ingakapeli. Kodwa ungakadhluli kusasa ngokukotisa izinsizi zakulelizwe, ezixutshwe nomhlabati walapa, ukuze ungasheshi utole umkuhlane." Wapumula izinsuku ezilishumi ku lowomuzi uJeqe, elatshwa. Kute mhla esehamba uJiyane wamhlabisa imbuzi, wahamba epete umkusu wayo, wamqondisa kahle nendhlela ebange oSutu lapo esedhlule eNgwavuma.

Pho, wangena kwelamahanze, imizi waye wayitola esesondele eNgwavuma. Bampata kahle kuleyo mizi, ngangomso wati elala waelubona uSutu luguduza emahlatini, ebona isinindolo nje sehlanze osengati yonke imiti iyalingana njengoba waesokalweni olupakemeyo. Bamkombisa indhlela kepa uti uJeqe iloku azalwa azange afike lapo izilwane zingakaya. Indhlela iukondwana oluncane ehlatini, aliqala kupuma ilanga waze waliqeda sekuzoba imini enkulu. Ehambe eti kimilili, etuswa zinyamazane, imihlambi yezingulube zasendhle idhlula pambi kwake. Izinyala, lapo imiti ite ukugqayingana, zime, zimbuke, zitim'le zingene ehlatini, akulumi ngemihlambi yezindangala ezazimkuza kubande esiswini, namagoqo anele ezwe ipunga lomuntu nje eduze akalise okwenja ikonkota etuke akeme. Uyahamba umkonto usewukokile. Wati kisi esigodaneni esizishaya udonga, uyaqalaza ngalapa entshonalanga ubani lo! umhuqa omdala webhubesi uqojeme pezu

kwetshe, ude upulula amadevu nje ngonyawo. Uti uvalo lwamshaya kwavimbana izindhlebe, kepa walivivinya ijozi lake, walibuka ngeziqu zamehlo ibhubesi wati, "Ngoti ngifa nalo lobelifa. Wanele walidhlula nje lasuka nalo enhla kwake noma wayengaliboni sonke isikati wayelizwa lifohloza eduze kwendhlela, esebheke nje ukuba likwele. Pho, umoya uya lapo beqonde kona benebhubesi, uteleka ezinyamazane umoya walo, kuduma ihlati lonke zibaleka, zibalekela ibhubesi, zisuke kwenye indawo bezibutile ziumhlambi sengati kwepuka imiti. Lahamba ecaleni njalo waze waqamkela obala, lakonya lapindela emuva. Uti uJeqe akazi noma lalimpelekezela noma kwakuti alikwele kuye, libuye izizikuze yini; kepa enye yezinto aze afa engayikohlwanga. Ngalelo langa walala emizini eka amanzi oSutu. Ulele uzwa izimboma zikonya ecibini elikulu eliseduze nomfula. Bamtshela ngezingwenya bati, "Uyowela kanjani ezingwenyeni zas'oSutu na?" Kwahlwa nje kuJeqe ukuti uzokwenzenjani. Kanti banazo izikebhana eziziqoshwe emitini abawelisana ngazo, kepa owezwawo ukoka inkuku, yena uJeqe kanayo inkuku. Walala izinsuku ezimbili, ngolwesitatu izinsizwa zaya kozingela wahamba nazo. Kute besangena nje ehlatini, izinja zasusa iPiva lenkunzi. Lite lapo zilisondeza ngakuye zalimisa, zakalela. Esaba amaTonga engaqondi ukuti zimise silwane sini. Wasondele uJeqe, Hamo! kanti zimise iPiva! Wasondele lisalibele ukude libhula pansi ngezimpondo liti lixosha izinja, waliciba, umkonto wangena enzansi nepango wadhla izinso lahlala ngesinqe pansi, watokoza. Zalibambha izinja, bezwa selibhonga pansi, basondela, baliqeda. Au, kanti usezenzele ugazi kubo, uJeqe, ebulalele inyama engaka. Kwadhlula ilanga labalinye bamwelisa, bati, "Inyama osibulalele yona idhlula izinkuku eziningi."

Emva le kwaZulu uJeqe uyafunwa. Sebeke bawutola umkonto wake abanye. Bati ukuba bahlangane nezinsizwa ezaziyofuna uselwa olwandhle zabatshela ukuti uJeqe wafika kitina emzini otle, sipuza utshwala wati utunywe inkosi ukuba azosisheshisa noselwa.

Kwati noma singabaza ukuti kungaze kutunywe inceku nje umpakati ungaka kwenziwa yini, sabuye sawuyeka nje lowo mqondo ngoba sicinga ukuti katisimbe kukona okunye atunywe kona. Sesibona manje ukuti wayeqa uJeqe. Pho, ake niyotatela kuwo lowo muzi lapo sehlukana naye kona. Nempela abatunywe ukufuna uJeqe, baye bafika kulowo muzi, babuza nendhlela apuma ngayo, babayalela.

Bate ukuba bapume kulowo muzi behlukana pakati. Abanye baqonda ngasolwandhle abanye baqonda ngasentshonalanga. Abaqonde ngasentshonalanga bahamba bahamba baze bafika lapo ayelele kona mhla kuzokusa angene ehlanzeni leziMfolozi zombili. Babatshelela ukuti nabo abaqondi indhlela apuma wahamba ngayo. Kute sebehambe befuna bati, "Qa amuko umuntu owayengangena kulelihlanze ehamba yedwa. Kuhle sikupule yona iMfolozi emhlope okuyiyona sicinga ukuti wahamba ngayo." Bahamba bahamba, umkondo wabalahlekela nya, bahamba baze badundubala ezinkangala lapo kwake abaQulusi manje, pinde bezwe luto ngoJeqe,

UJeqe kwelamaTonga

Cishu sakohlwa ukulanda ukuti lapaya oPongolo lapo uJeqe wayegula kona, kukonainja yakuwo lowomuzi, eyamejwayela, kuti lapo lomfazi owayeletela uJeqe ukudhla, eya kuJeqe ihambe naye, adhle nokuncane ayishiyele, yaze yamejwayela, kwati mhla ehambayo, yamlandela ngomkondo yaze yamfica, yaba seyibainja yake njalo. Namhla esewela uSutu yahlamba eduze kwesikebhe yaye yapumela ngapesheya. Amukomunye umngane kaJeqe owaba njengaleyonja. Yayingasali noma eyapi. Naye futi waeyazisa sengati umuntu.

Esewelele kwelamaTonga yahlonga imizi eduze nomfula, wahamba waze wadundubala pezu kwesihlambo somfula kwaba ikona ebona imizi, ezwa nezinkomo zikonya. Uwela nje usesesifundeni sikaNdhlebede, inkosi

epete amaTonga lapo. Waya wafika wakuleka komunye umuzi, wahlala pansi komuti. Amadoda asondela kuye abuza ukuti upumapi, wawatshelela ukuti upuma kwaZulu, uze kulelizwe uzofuna imiti yokwelapa ngoba wezwa idumela ngabasuka lapa beti miningi imiti. Bampa ukudhla, wadhla, walala, kanti useye wabikwa enduneni yatuma izinsizwa ezimbili zayombika enkosini le emzini wayo oseMpandhleni pezu kwecibi elikulu. Bafika kaNdhlovu wabawelisa kona pakati kobusuku bafika lapo kutata ukusa koMkulu.

Ukuputuma loku kwenziwa ukuba babecinga ukuti uJeqe inhloli, utunywe kwaZulu ukuba azohlola, kulandele impi ngoba ukulanda kwake kokufika kwake ezweni labo akubahlabanga umxwele. Kute ngakusasa, esedhlile eseti usehamba, bati, "Qa ake uhlale." Aike wahlala nezwe litule badhla naye utshwala. Kute kuntambama kwakufika izinsizwa ezisihlanu zipuma enkosini iti azilande uJeqe aye kuyo. Zafika zakuluma nabakona uJeqe engazi ukuti kukulunywa ngani. Balala kute ekuseni bamtata uJeqe bamjisa enkosini.

Inkosi imbuzwe kahle izindaba zakwaZulu. Ayilandise kahle ayitshalele nokuti uzwe esesendheleni kutiwa uTshaka ubulewe umnawake uDingane. Inkosi iti akukoluto kulomuntu, mtateni nimyise emzini kaNdhlovu ambhekisise ukwenza kwake nokuhamba kwake.

UNdhlovu lo naye akuye umuntu wokudabuka ebuTonga, wafika ehamba ngokufuna imiti epuma eMahlutshini, wafika lingaf'inkonyane, wejwayela wasehlala kona esenomuzi. Ekuxoxeni basheshe bezwana noJeqe bajwayelana, nenja kaJeqe yejwayela idhla amasi. UJeqe kulipisi ehamba nabafana endhle ezingela efunda nokucupa izinyoni nezingamazane ezincane.

Kute ngelinye ilanga kwaba kona abayeni bezolobola intombi emzini oseduze nakwaNdhlovu. NakwaNdhlovu babugayiwe utshwala bwalaba bayeni. Bahambake abakaNdhlovu beya kubayeni kanye nenjana yake engasaliyo. Badhla utshwala nenyama kwatula kwati dhu. Kukona ijongosi lentombi yeTonga kulowomuzi elihle, lite klwi ngoti lomzimba, libhince umtsha

walonje okawula pakati kwamatanga ulingana indawo yonke ngemva nangapambili. Zite lapo sezigidela abayeni, lwamngena utando uJeqe ngaleliya jongosi, kwangati nalo seliyamqedela ngobugagu balo; ziti nxa sezikala izingumbu nemiqangala namagemfe, ishaye intokazi yeTonga ize ifike eduze kwake lapo ehlezi kona, yenze isaga sakubo, imfulatele ibhijanise umzimba wayo omude. Idhlala nje ngoba ibona umuntu wezizwe engamazi, sengati iti "Ufikileke lapa kiti ebuTonga, nampa tina zintombi zakona. Kanti usefile uJeqe! Usede eti enhliziyweni kodwa ngingenwa yini, kade ngangihlala esigodhlweni lapa ngangipakati kwezintombi zeketelo uZulu epelele, nezigqili ezidhliwa empini, eziketelwa ukuba zikonze esigodhlweni, angizange ngifikelwe iloku. Wasondela kuNdhlovu wati, "Ake ungitshele igama lalentombi." Uti uNdhlovu "Uze ukete yona nje ziziningi kangaka ukwazi igama layo ngani?" Wati, "Ngiyayitanda." UNdhlovu wati, Musa amaTonga angakubulala. Iqonyiswa um'tanenkosi, kodwa iyamala, mhlambe izomvuma, yenziwa ubungane nje, ayikazingeni izindaba zokuqoma." Ite lapo ipinda yenza umkuba pambi kwake, wasukuma uJeqe naye washaya owakubo kwaZulu umkuba bahleka ababukeli nentombi leyo — uZaki, loku useyizwile ibizo layo.

Kute eziyalwini uJeqe watuma umfana wakwaNdhlovu wati ake ambizele uZaki. Wafika ngokushesha uZaki wafika wati, "Ibizo lami ulitshelwe ubani ungumuntu wezizwe nje, futi ungibizelani ngingakwazi?" Asakuzwa nekukulumayo intombi uJeqe, ukangwa amazinyo ayo amhlope, nezinkope zayo ezinde nomzimba obushelezi sengati ubugudulwa ngembokodwe. "He! kuyazalwa ebuTonga" kusho uJeqe. Wema pambi kwake umtwana weTonga kwangati uti. "Buka uze ugcine ngefusi olitandayo." Eti, "Ngitshele mfokazi, ungibizelani na?" Wazilahla amatambo uJeqe wati, "Ngikubiza ukuba ngikutshele ukuti ngiyakutanda." Intombi yati, He! he! he! imhleka usulu, "utanda ba? ungowapi wena oti uqalisa ukungibona negama lako ngingalazi uti

uyangitanda. Goduka ubuyeke kwini kwaZulu." Yafu-latela yangena emshungwini wabakubo, uJeqe wabizainja yake wagoduka waya kubo kwaNdhlovu lapo abekwa kona inkosi. Uhambanje usehlabekile ngoZaki, usehamb'ecabanga amasu okuti konje ngitanda umtwana womuntu loku anginayo nenkuku yodwa le kona uma engivuma ngingamlobola ngani? Konje isu lini engingatola ngalo izinkomo? Yeka ezami engazixoshiswa uTshaka kwaZulu! Intombi le yona ngiyabona ukuti ngeke ingehlule uma sengiyisukile impela. Kepa ngihlushwa ilelizwi engilizwe ngoNdhlovu eti yeshelwa um'tanenkosi. Kodwa anginakuze ngiyiyeke noma kunjani, naye insizwa uyazeshelwa, akungoduso yamuntu. Uti esacabanga lemicabango kufika uNdhlovu epuma kona kubayeni. Uti uNdhlovu, "Kunjani Jeqe, uwubonile umdhlalobabatsa bakulelizwe?" "Ayi indaba angiyidhli Ndhlovu! Umdhlalo ubumuhle kakulu, kodwa okuhle kakulu engikubonile uZaki." Ati uNdhlovu, "Ai bo! kususe loko enhliziyweni yako. Azokubulala amaTonga nxa uzokulumisa leyongane, baningi ababegifisa, kodwa kwati ukuba yetshelwe um'tanenkosi bayeka."

UJeqe ati, "Naye woyitola ngamandhla ake, anginakuyeka intombi enjeya ngiyiyekele omunye umuntu engenkosi, ngoba ezalwa inkosi nje, nentombi ingamqomile; ngefunguTshaka, ngeke kwenzeke. Iyoti ingangiqoma ngeqe nayo."

Ati uNdhlovu, "njengoba kade ungilandisanje ngokuhamba kwako' uhambe uhlupeka, uyacinga ukuba ingane yabantu le wohambe ulala nayo emahlatini, kuze kuse ibhodhlelwa izilwane! Futi nxa weqa lapa awubonile ukuti uyongibeka icala njengoba yati inkosi angikubheke?" "Ati uJeqe, "Kona uma ngisemzini wayo ngingeqe! Bangaze bakubeke icala ngaloko! Akuko loko; ngiti futi bangajabula nxatshana bezwa kutiwa ngisukile kulelizwe lakubo. Njengoba silapa nje nantuya uBombo, singahamba nayo ebusuku siye silale pansi kwalo, kuyasa sidundubalela eSwazini."

Ati uNdhlovu, "Uti imbala uyalazi izwe lalapa, uti ungahamba wedwa nomuntu wesifazana? Awazi ukuti kuhamba

mba iZindhlovu nezimpisi neZibhejane namankentshane? Yena uZaki uyakwazi loko, noma engakutanda anakuvuma ukuba neqe ebusuku.

Kute ekuseni ngangomso uJeqe wanele wavuka nje wabiza umfana kaNdhlovu owelusayo, wati, "Hamba uye kongikombisa lapa zika kona amanzi izintombi zakulowamuzi ebesikuwo izolo. Ngizofike ngime ngasemfuleni uhambe wena uye ekaya kubo; ufike uti kuyo, ukona umuntu okulinde emfuleni, intombazana yakiti ifuna ukukuluma nawe., Nembala uJeqe abange ngasecibini lapo kukiwa kona amanzi, umfana aqonde ekaya afike alibale nabanye abafana, bosa inyama bedhla, kwaze kwaba isemini engakakulumi noZaki. Ai, noko wamtola itubana, behla naye babanga emfuleni. Ute ukuba afike emfuleni wahleka wafa uZaki, wati "Uye udadewenu ongibizile? Bheka wena muntu wakwaZulu awulungile neze, uzofundisa izingane zakiti amanga.

Noma ebete ngibizwa uwe bengizokuzanje ukungixoxele izindaba zezwe lakini. Uyazi ubuqawe ngibutanda kabi' esibuzwa ngamajaha akini. Lapa kiti kuvame amagwala nje. Ake ungixoxele ezokulwa" Watsho ehlala ehlabatini eti tekence! Lapo uJeqe wabajabula wafa, walanda izindaba eziningi zamanga nezamaqiniso etshonalapa wayegwaza kona, wayilandisa nangokubulala kwake isibhejane eyedwa, Esete kexe umlomo uZaki!

Wezwa sekufika imizwa yokumejwayela, wati "Wokuza ekaya ngomso uzosixoxela zonke izindaba ezinkulu zakwaZulu. Behlukana, bagoduka.

Wati enhliziyweni uJeqe, "Angingayixini ngokuyetshelela, sengiyibonile inxeba engizoyingena ngalo." Waka izindaba zobuqawe eziningi zakwaZulu, kodwa ukushiya konke akwaziyo kokubulawa kwabantu amakosi akona. Wati, "Nantike inxeba engizoyingena ngalo."

Bahamba futi ngelanga elilandelayo, uJeqe wati: "Angifuni ukuya ekaya, hamba uyibize ize emfuleni." Kwadhlula isikatshana waqamuka nayo umfana, ivunule iconsa ngalelolang, ifake ubuhlalu bayo, nesigege sayo sobuhlalu, itebhisile ngemva, yagcoba amafuta wonke umzimba. Wahluleka nokuxoxa indaba

uJeqe, ugcwele utando, sengati angade eyibuka nje. Kanti uyingqobe kona izolo, iside imbuka ngokukopoza noma wayengemuntu ojwayele isifazane, njengoba wayeqalisa ukuqomisa, noko akohlwanga ukuti isizabalazile nje ipelile; isiyenza ubuntombi ukuba kungati sengati ibihlalele pezulu.

Manje wagila imikuba ukuba ingenwe utando. Elinganisa ukulwa kwezinsizwa, agxume abheke pezu-lu, engqe amangqabangqetshe, ayikombise namanxeba lapo bangwaza kona eQudeni, kodwa angasho ukuti bebeyontshontsha izinkomo. Lapo uZaki usede engekuza ngekandanje, kokukulu ukutanda izindaba zobuqawe. Wazewati uJeqe, Uma wawungumliisa Zaki, wawuzohlabana." Wati "He, utini Jeqe, mina," wapakamisa izingalwana zake wafumbata isibhakela, wati "Ngangoyishaya ngiyilahle pansi insizwa." Wati uJeqe "Xaula kuloko." Baxaulisana, wasibamba isandhla, wayibuka emehlweni wati, "Ngitshene Zaki utini ngami na? Watamba umzimba kaZaki, wazilahla izikali abezipete uJeqe, wamgona wampulula ehlonbe; kwehla izinyembezi kuZaki, angazaziyo noma ezotando noma, ezomunyu noma ezovalo, ebona etambela umuntu wesilisa ngohlobo olunje, futi besabonene isikati esincane kangaka. Wabanamahloni, wati "Ngiyeke ngigoduke uze ufike lapa emfuleni ngomhlomunye." Bagoduka uJeqe nomfana nenja. Baze bashona ezihlahleni eabuka uZaki' ehamba kancane, utando ngoJeqe selumeqe ikanda.

Bahamba endhlehleni lapa umfana uti, "Iyakutanda impela lentombi. Idume yonke imizi yakiti ukuti ayivumi noma umuntu ayinamate ngesandhla." "Utini mfana na?" kutsho uJeqe, "Ngiqinisile impela, akubheke ngemva nansiya isabheke ngalapa." "Tula mfana sobona ngomhlomunye ukuti iyotini njengoba ngibizwe yiyo."

Lwafika olungaliyo, olwanqunywa uye uZaki. Bapuma ekaya oJeqe nomfana nenja, beqonde lapo zika kona amanzi. Uyengena uJeqe ukutshena izinsizwa zalapa kwaNdhlovu, uNdhlovu yedwa amtshelayo. We-

saba ukuti funa zimonele isidhleke sake, imukele ingakabeki namaqanda. Umfana lo ulaywa futi-futi kutiwa avale umlomo wake ngalendaba. Bati befika nje zazifika izintombi zizintatu; ku uZaki nodadewabo ababili abadala kunaye. Ubuqalagala bupelile namhlanje kuZaki, usede etanda ukubhaca ngodadewabo.

Akulumeke udadewabo kaZaki omkulu ati, "Yebo Butelezi, silapanje sinodadewetu, sipelekezele uZaki njengezwi lake alikipa kuwe eti, uze ufike lapa namhla azokutshela izwi lake. Ingane le yakwetu isiyakutanda Butelezi, kepa ngomteto walapa kiti, ayinakuze ikunike isandhla sayo sokunene, isivuma impela ukuti ijintombi yako, ngapandhle kokuba uhlanze udadewabo ngobuhlalu noma ngesinye isipo abasitandayo, simvumeleke uZaki ukuba akunike isandhla sake sokuvuma. Hambake Butelezi ulande ubuhlalu betu, woti nxatshana usubutolile utumele umfana lo azositshena somyalela indawo esohlangana kuyo."

Pho, ngize ngihambe singaxoxanga noZaki balamu bami na?" "Aji, mkwenya wetu, tina kuleli sihamba ngomteto, usengowako otandweni, awusadingi ukuzihlupa kodwake feza esikutshoyo kuqala.

Basuka bahamba oJege nomfana nenja. Kwaqala umfana ukukuluma uJege esatule ecabanga. Umfana wati, "Ziyahlupa lezintonjana, ukuma kwazo esezetuka eti okutize kwati-kwati. Uti uyazi Jege, - Ah, nami angiti Butelezi, zilitatapi leligama ezikubiza ngalo? Uti uyazi lapo ubuhlalu ezibufunayo soye sibutole kona! Lobuya obufana nobabubincwe uZaki mhla evunule kakulu. Sohamba ilanga lonke sibuye ngomuso sesikade silele kweminye imizi. Bengingati wabubona, amagobolondo eminenke yasemacibini aseduze nolwandhle amancane, amanye ahungqu amanye amhloppe, baye batate usinga bawahlele kahle entanjeni yosinga benze umgexo, bati nxa befuna ukwenza umutsha batate amancane kakulu bawatungele ngentambo abe isigege, noma ngefosi lembabala, elishukiweyo. Yibo ke ubuhlalu bakiti lobo, Jege, kazi ezakini zibhince obunjani.

Lapo u Jege usejabula kabi ukuzwa izindhlela zokutola ubuhlalu ngoba bekuhlwile nje ukuti uzobutatapi, "Ati, uhlakanipile mfana asovuka siliambe siye kona okunye loku okubuzayo sobuye sikuxoxe.

Wafika ekaya qede uJege wacela isinkwa ukuba bampekele wati uya ngapa olwandhle lapo kupenduka kona uSutu selubheke eNyakato. Nempela bampekela wavuka nabangane bake, umfana nenja ekuseni bahamba. Bafika kona emva kwemini enkulu, sebeke basinda kwomunye umuzi badhlula kuwona kupuzwa batata amatamo badhlula.

Bafika bawacotsha amagobolondo eminenke, amancane kakulu namakuywana ezinhlobo ezintatu zombala. Agcwala imbenge ababeyipete, bapenduka ntambama baye balala kulowo muzi abadhlule kupuzwa kuwo; isinkwa sabo basiqedela emfuleni. Umnumzana akipe ukamba obelusele, bapuzwa balala besuti.

Ngokufika kwabo ekaya ngangomso, acele amantombazane kaNdhlovu ati makamenzele imigexo emihle ibe mibili ngalobuhlalu. Avuma amantombazana, akipa inhliziyi yesineke, enza imigexo ati lapa eseyibuka isipelile uJege wagxuma ukujabula.

Washeshisa umfana ukuba ayobikela izintombi ukuti uselungile. Zafika zati sesohlangana naye emfuleni lapo kukiwa kona amanzi." Ngalelolangi uJege wacela izintombi ezimbili zakwaNdhlovu ukuba zibapelekezele benomfana nenja. Wayengasesabi ngoba basebazi bonke kwaNdhlovu ukuti uqongiwe. Bahamba ubuhlalu busebengeni, ipetwe enye yezintombi zakwaNdhlovu. Bafika bahlala panshi komuti ehlabatini, zaqamuka ngalelolangi ziyisihlanu ngaye uZaki. Zafika zema pambi kwabo, yati enkulu kaNdhlovu, "Hlalani pela makosazana sixoxe indaba." Bahlala wasekuluma uJege eti, "Makosazana, nansi impahla yenu sengifike nayo sembengeni lapo kuQamile. Waseyikipa njalo uQamile wasemaNdhlovini wayibeka pambi kwazo izintombi.

Zabonga zanconcoza, zati, "Ubani lo onesu elihle kangaka lokwenza ubuhlalu na?" Wati uQamile benziwe yiti nodadewetu ekufikeni kwalaba, esho ekomba oJeqe nomfana nenja, "bekade beye kobucotsha ogwini loSutu. Zaseziti izintombi, "Suka pela ubonge Zaki."

Wesuka uZaki waya pambi kukaJeqe. uJeqe wasukuma, baxawulisana, uJeqe waqabula isandhla sikaZaki zezwakala izintombi ngepimbo:—

"Singama Tonga akwa Sotshangane,

Yiti laba bakoSoxaka,

"Siyakuvuma wena Butelezi,"

"Yiti laba bakoSoxaka,"

Zaze zafudumala sengati zishaya indhlamu zihlezi pansi, zasukuma, kwaqala lona ubhijana olu uZaki lwatata kahle ngesu,—Yiti laba bako Soxaka: Yacaka-fula intokazi yakwabo, igema kancane ngekanda, ilandelisa ngonyawo igama: "Yiti laba bako Soxaka," Zadhla kwaba mnandi izintombi, kwasuka nalezi zaka Ndhlovu zahlangana nazo zitsho: "Singamatonga akwaSotshangane." Enye yagijima yaya ekaya yabuya nesipongwana sigwele utshwala, bapuzwa kwaba kuhle, kwabanjeya. Kwati ntambana bagoduka kwala uJeqe noZaki nenja, abaze behlukana litshona oJeqe nenja bagoduka.

Pho, kute ngangomuso uJeqe watata umfana wati "Hamba ungibizele uZaki aye endaweni yokuhlanganela." Nempela bafika kanyekanye endaweni yokuhlanganela. Wakuluma uJeqe wati, "Uyabona ngahamba ngizobulawa kiti ngigqitshwe nenkosi, engakube lobukosi botando lwako angizange ngisabubona. Kanti ngihlaliselwe lezizinsuku ezinhle kangaka. Kepa kuhle sicabange isu lokuba ngitole izinkomo zokukulobola. Mina angilalanga kusihlwa ngicabanga. Naku engikutole emcabangweni. Celani ninodadewenu niti nigosika incema ngapa OSutu, mina ngofika ngicoshe ubuhlalu uyongenzela bona, ngitengise ngabo, imigexo emibili imvu, ngobuye ngitwale incema ngiyotenga izimbuzi nezimvu eSwazini, ngibe sengitenga izinkomo



Isangoma.

ngezimvu nezimbuzi ngikulobole. Bavumelana kulelocebo; kwadhlula izinsuku ezimbili bahamba baya ngasogwini oJeqe noZaki nodadewabo nenja.

Ngokufika kwabo ogwini, basebenza ngamandhla bedebuya bezolala emzini oseduze noghu. Waze wafikelwa ubumnandi botando uZaki waqamba igama:

Ngeke zingikohle

Lezinsuku ezimnandi Jeqe,

Sicotsha amagobolondo

Ogwini loSutu.

Jeqe, zimnandi lezinsuku sicotsha amagobolondo

Ogwini lwoSutu.

Leligama elaqanjwa uZaki etakazela ukutandana kwabo noJeqe. Yayiti nxatshane isilivuma, intokazi yakwabo, asuke adakwe utando uJeqe, akohlwe naukucotsha amagobolondo, eseloku ebukana nobhijane lwake.

Emva le indodana yenkosi eyeshela uZaki ite ukuba izwe ukuti uZaki nempela uliqomile iZulu, yatukutela yatelwa ngamanzi yati "Ngeke ngitshele nobaba ngoba uzokwala ukuba simbulale. Wabiza izinsizwa zaba lishumi, zahloma zapelela, kwaba uye lo weshumi nanye. Banikela kona endhleleni eqonde ngasogwini. Balala emzini osekusele ibangana elincane bafike kulo okulala kuwo oJeqe nentombi yake nodadewabo wentombi yake. Umnumzane wafike umntwana wambambela itole elibomvu, balihlaba kona kusihlwa badhla eyokosa, wati, "Anovuka niyipeke ngobuya ngiyidhla ngisaya ngalapa oSutu.

Kute la kufudumala ilanga bababona bobatatu, oJeqe noZaki becotsha amagobolondo, udadewabo esika ince-ma. Wapenduka uZaki wati, "Kushwaqa unwele, Yini ngiti sikona isilwane esibi esisibukayo. Sondeza izikali zakokuwe Jeqe, nazi izimbokodwe ezimbili sengizicotshile, nami ngokwelekela." Aligwinyanga uZaki, wati ependuka etata imikonto yake emibili nehawana elincane elivikela amatupa kupela, nobhoko; zasezilapa izinsizwa zika Ndhlebende, "Mina kuti, kuti! "zimetuka uJeqe, "ubani ote wozalapa nalezingane? Wavimba

uZaki ngapambi kwezinsizwa wati, "Buzani kimi, Yimi engite asipelezele size lapa." "Suka wena asikulumi nawe," Bamciliza, lapo udadewabo usete galoyapuka ebanga kulomuzi abalala kuwona. Wabe uyazabalaze uZaki zamsunduzwa izinsizwa zasondela kuJeqe. Lapo uselikokile uJeqe iklwa lakwabo. Inja yake isiyaveva lapa eceleni kwake. Owokuqala owapakamisa umkonto eti uyatata kuJeqe, yayisimpete isinene inja, uJeqe weqa, umkonto wagwaza isihlabati, nenja inamatele esineneni yamhlalisa pansi, uJeqe wayetokoza kulowo obesecaleni engakazeleli luto, watsho wati, "Ngadhla ngenkomo yakwetu, ngadhla mina Jeqe onjengempisi," Kwavuka usinga oludala. Zamfica izinsizwa, enye yamgwaza esihlakaleni umkonto wake wawapansi. Waesefikile uZaki lapo iti ayimqedele, wabasa ngembokodo enhlafunweni yawa pansi insizwa, kanti inja ngalapaya amatumbu isiwadilizele ngapandhle, Yabona ukuti isimehlule, yamshiya yahlangana nomtanenkosi, imbangi kaJeqe, yayisi-kwela kuye ngemva, amazingo yawafaka entanyeni yamwisa, yafika insizwa yati iyaqeda enjeni, kanti iyihlaba esicutshini somlenze, yakala inja kanti isimenze kabi umtwana lapa emsundulweni. Kwafika enye insizwa yalifaka lapelela iklwa esibindini senja, yapela kona lapo. Usede evikanje uJeqe asenawo amandhla okulwa bamgwaze esihlakaleni banquma umsipa. Sekulwa uZaki yedwa, naye alwi luto ngapandhle kokuba ede evikela uJeqe, ema pambi kwake lapo beti bayamtata ngomkonto, kepa umtwana ubalaye kakulu ukuti bangamtinti uZaki. Ute esabheke laba abapambi kwake kwavela enye insizwa yamuti hlwi, yamponsa lapaya, batelekake kuJeqe, bamgingqa pansi. Bashesho bamshiya eselele ete jha, baputuma umtanenkosi osede efikelwa izinxixi zokopa lapo elunywe kona inja. Abanye sebebambe uZaki bamhlalisa pansi. Baputuma ukumetwala umtwana bamsondeze emanzini, bade bempuzisa amanzi, bamgeza amanxeba ngekambi elinqamula ukopa.

Esikungweni lapa abalele pansi, uJeqe nenja yake, nensizwa egwazwe uJeqe ngomhlanganiso insizwa ebhoshozwe isisu inja, nensizwa eshaywe uZaki ngetshe.

Bazitata zonke izidumbu lezi baziya kulomuzi lapo bekulala kona oJeqe ngoba iwona wawuseduze kuneminye. Balwa noZaki engavumi ukuhamba baze bambopa izingalo nezinyawo, bamenzela uhlaka lomhlanga bametwala ngalo. Eti, "Niyibulele indoda yami, kuhle ningibulale ningimbele nayo. Abanasihau, naye uma nempela kwakuya ngabo babeyomgwaza bakoke lensizwa ayibulale ngetshe. Pho, babazi ukuti ukubulala uZaki kungaba elikulu icala. Baputuma umtwana, wafike wakotiswa izihlungu, waboshwa ngemiti emanxebeni enja, bamhlalisa kwasa engcono, kwembiwa ituna bagqitshwa labo abafayo; oJeqe nenja basala kona esigcawini. Kanti umkonto lo ababeti umqede nya uJeqe, awungenanga ebubendeni, wahlangana netambo lesifuba wawusugwegwesa ungena uti ukuqepula ipapu enhla nalo. Elinye inxeba ngapandhle kwelisesihlakaleni lalisetangeni. Kute lapo kufika umoya wokusa obandayo, waqabuka uJeqe, kepa engenamandhla ukuvuka nokuhamba, kepa ukoma sekuti nginawe qo. Wade ezama egingqika, umlenze ubuhlungu kabi usuvuvukele; kepa ukomela amanzi kwamenza ukuba anyamezele ubuhlungu obukulu, waze wafika eduze necibi, wabona ukuti angasondeli kakulu ecibini ngoba naku unuka igazi izingwenya zizombamba nomkonto wokuzixakalaza uwushiye lapo ebeweke kona, wayesepanda ngesandhla sokohlwa, ede etola isicibana econsisela empinjeni, kwaze kwanela. Manje kwaba ikati ecabanga ngoZaki, wakala izinyembezi wati, "Ngizofela lapa esihlabatini, uZaki ngingamboni!" Ubuhlungu benhliziyo baba bukulu; waze wafikelwa isihlambi sobutongo walala.

USitela ufica uJeqe

Kwaku usuku lokuba uSitela umfundisikazi wezinyanga nezangoma zasebuTonga epumile esiqingini esisolwandhle ezofundisa abafundi bake imiti engamakubalo namakambi engeko esiqingini. Ugwedhlwa abantu ababili emkunjaneni omncane, abane abefunda ubunyanga. Ha, lapa kulele kona uJeqe ilapa umkunjana uzopumela kona.

Bati bengakaveli kona laba abasemkunjaneni babona kuvuka amandhla kuSitela, ebheja ebusweni, ebubula ebhodhla. Wati, "Ikona into esizoyibona, gwedhlani niqinise ukona umuntu osebunzimeni, amakosi ati mangiye komsiza. Siqongwane leta lapa isibuko sami," uSiqongwane itshe elinesibuko, lapo uSitela ebona kona yonke into walileta. Wayeseti, "Ha, nangu umfana ulele ezibukweni sengati unamanxeba, ngibona igazi kuye, nansiyainja nayo igwaziwe, kukulu bekwenziwa lapa. Gwedhlani niqonde kulesiya siqingana, nipume entshonalanga kwaso. Benza njengoba belayiwe inyangakazi enkulu. Nembala bate beti qamu nanguya umuntu equngquluzile ogwini. "Donselani kona bantabami," Idhevu lomkunjana lasigqula isihlabati soghu, eduze nalapo kulele kona uJeqe. Behla, bakipa intambo nogoqwana olucijileyo balugxumeka esihlabatini, wema umkunjana, wehla noSitela; wasondela wabona ukuti akafi lomuntu, wasondela wamcingisisa, wagoqongana, wenuleka, wabhuncana; wajuluka; wema wamjolozele emehlweni. Bezwa uJeqe ekala sengati kukona okumtusile. Lapo uSitela wambamba, wamcindezela pansi, uJeqe wati, "Musa ukungibulala, ngiyeke bo! Lapo umuntu usebona ngezindebe zomlomo kaSitela ukuti bakona akuluma nabo. Watsho kakulu wati, "Vuka, vuka!" Qingqo ngesinqe uJeqe! wayeseti kulaba ahamba nabo, "Tatani indebe leyo, nike amanzi nilete lapa. Wampuzisa amanzi egcwala isisu, wamshiya nabagwedhli ababili waya ezihlahleni efundisa izinyanga imiti. Emva lapa emkunjaneni uJeqe usengqebelekile exoxela abagwedhli impi yake yayizolo, eseti, "Basinde ngoba basheshe bangijiyenza esandhlani, bengizobaqeda, ngefunga uTshaka! Kazi intombi yami bayenzenjani! Nxa bengayibulalanga ngeke bayitole, ngoze ngipile ngiyoyitata ngezikali. Bona bati ngifile, abazi ukuti ngumafavuke njengedangabane. Ngizwe sekumnandi izolo ngomhlanganiso wokugqala, ngakumbula kiti kwaZulu, kwasuka usikisiki lwempi, kwati lapo ngiti ngizobaqeda abafokazana bangijiyenza.

Kute ntambama wabuya uSitela nezinyanga zake ezine. Bate beseyibangana uJeqe, wati, Yibapi laba?" Abagwedhli bati. "Kanti awumbonanga yini okusindisileyo na?" "Qa, kusho uJeqe. Bati "Uyeke lo ozayo uNkosazana uSitela, umpati wesiqingisi sezinyanga, owazi konke okufihliweyo."

Ute efika nje uSitela wayeti, Tatani lomlisa nimfakke emkunjini, sihambe ilanga seliqubekile. Bamtatamisa uJeqe bamfaka emkunjini, bamonyula utana olubambe umkumbi, bakuponsa ngapakati kanye nentambo, bagwedhla sebebuyela esiqingini. Utule ute nya uJeqe, iloku esamangaliswe ukubona lo owesifazana olalelwa kangaka nohlonishwa kangaka abesilisa.

Bahamba emtateni wolwandhle okude kuqubuka kuwo izimvubu, oziqingana zawo kwetamele izingwenya, ezazanele zibabone zicwile emanzini; bahamba baze bange-na otikitini nje olunomhlanga lapo amanzi eseqala ubumuncu badweba endhleleni yomkumbi esengati yalungiselwa wona pakati kwomhlanga, bafika lapo amanzi esebuyela apela ubumuncu, bagwedhla laze lashona behamba lapoke uJeqe asaqondi yena ukuti upi. Kute lapa kuti hwelele, uJeqe wabona izihlonti zomlilo ukanya lapa kuzishaya ughu. Wezwa abangapesheya sebememeza beti, "Kanya Nkosazana!" "Eu, nisapila bantabami?" "Kanya Nkosazana!" Abagwedhli baluponsa uti, balubamba abangapesheya, wema umkumbi wehla uSitela. Bakotama, bakuleka beti, "Kanya Nkosazana wena owatola imfihlo eyehlula amadoda, kanya mame, mame wetu!

Wati uSitela "Tatani lomuntu nimtwale nifike nimngenise elawini likaNgqelebani, simtole ngapesheya egwaziwe, uzokwelashwa apile. Bamtatamisa uJeqe bayebametule emnyango kwaNgqelebani. Ute efuka uJeqe kwakupuma emhumeni ixegu elidala ekuyilona kutiwa UNgqelebani. Lati, "Yini lomfunzi eniwuleta lapa? Lomuntu otwelweyo akwazi yini ukuzihambela. Bamlandisa uNgqelebani ukutolwa kukaJeqe nokuti uSitela ute makaletwe kuye uzokwelashwa.

Lelixegu uNgqelebani ukokoti nje lwendoda endala, izinqulu lezi sezabalukuni njengesikumba senkomo, ematangeni lapa nasezitweni kuhamba iziyinge nje zezimbali, amahlombe asagoba. Uhlala yedwa, ukudhla ukuletelwa abafana sekuvutiwe. Umsebenzi wake ukwelusa otokoloshe nomantindane nezinye izilwane okwelashwa ngazo kulesosiqingini esinendawo enkulu yezi-nyanga. Bate uma bamngenise uJeqe wezwa ipunga angalaziyo elidabula ikanda; wati, "Ngisizeni ningikipele pandhle," bala bati, "Sisakuyisa pambili." Bate uma bedhlula kulowomhume baqamuka lapo kukona isikala kushaya umoya omuhle, igceke lakona lendhlalwe ngezikumba zazo zonke izinyamazana zakulelozwe. Bafika bametula kona, kanti uNgqelebani uyabalandela. Wayesebakombisa elinye igumbi ngakwesokohlwa eti abametule kona. Sekufika umfana endhlala izikumba, ebasa umlilo, uJeqe wacambalala, umqondo wake uduma nje, engazi ukuti namhla ufike endaweni enjani. Kwadhlula isikatshana kwafika abafana ababili bemletele isinambati. Elambile kuyiloku kwayizolo ukudhla engakwazi wati ngibonwa yini. Wabona abafana sebedhlala izikumba pakati negceke, beshayela, beleta amacansi amahle encema bewendhlala, baleta isihlalo esihle esibaziweyo besibeka pezu kwawo amacansi.

Ute etuka uJeqe kwakungena yena uSitela elandelwa abafana namantombazane bati, "Kanya Nkosazana!" Wafike qede wahlala kona kulesosihlalo. Lapuma ixegu eliuNgqelebani lati, "Kanya Nkosazana!" Wabona uJeqe ukuti 'mkulu lomuntu kulendawo.

Watsho uSitela wati, "Ake usixoxele ukuti upumapi, mfo."

Watata pansi uJeqe ukuzalwa kwake nokuya kwake enkosini uTshaka nokufa kwayo nokweqa kwake aze afike ebuTonga nokutandana kwake noZaki okumbangele ukuba bamgwaze abakwa Ndhlebende.

Watata itshe lake uSitela elinesibuko esiveza konke asuke efisa ukukubona ngobungoma abetwasayo. Wabuka wayeseti, "Intombi yako abayibulalanga isekaya

kubo, kepa ifuna isu lokuba ngomso ikizohlola esikundhleni ukuti ufe nya noma ubuye wavuka."

"Au. utini Nkosazana na! Nxa kunjalo pho unge-ngibuyisele kona ngomso ngize ngiyibone na? "Qa, njengoba ungene lapa, woze upume usuhlakanipile ezintweni zalapa," kutsho uSitela. "Yinge into engingakusiza ngayo? Jeqe ukuba ngitumele abafana bami baye koyihlola, bati uma beyibona bayitshele ukuti kawufile, kepa ulapo uzotola kona ukwelashwa amanxeba." Ati uJeqe, "Nkosazana."

Abe eseti uSitela, "Uyabona Jeqe ngikulete lapa ukuba welashwe uNgqelebani, uti nxa usupilile ufunde ubunyanga ikona uyoosiza abantu abagulayo. Ungesabi luto, konke ozokubona lapa okupetwe uNgqelebani akusoze kwakulimaza, uNgqelebani uyakubhekela. Imihume miningi lapa eyizindhlu zezilwane ongazange uzibone. Ngizwa beti ute lapo udhlula umhume wamandiki ukunuka kwakwehlula wati mabakubuyisele emuva. Yebo, amandiki anuka kabi, noma selipuma kumuntu ebelimngene, kuye kunuke kabi. Nxa usufunde ukusebenza kwalapa uyowakipa lapo uwafika kona egulisa abantu, netshe likatokoloshe wolitola, abahlushwa otokoloshe ubasize. Kepa ukufunda yonke lemikuba kutata isikati eside. Kuningi ozokubona lapa esiqingini sakiti. Lala kahle uyofika akupe imiti kusa uNgqelebani."

Wasuka uSitela esehamba, basukuma bonke bati, "Kanya Nkosazana." Ute engakalali uSitela walaya abagwedhli ababili wati abovuka batate umkumbi bayoqamela intombi kaJeqe, bayitshele ukuti kafile uJeqe, uyelashwa esiqingini, mayigoduke ihlale imlinde noma kuze kube isikati eside.

Pho, uyayizeka indaba uJeqe loku alalanga evuswa umsindo angazange awuzwe iloku azalwa wezilwane zifika ngezigaba kuNgqelebani ebusuku ezikuza ekuluma nazo, ezipa ukudhla, yena usete kose engosini abekwe kuyo etutumela eti zizomudhla. Kwaze kwasa ebheke ngayizolo.

Kute ekuseni abagwedhli bapuma baya emfuleni batata umkumbi bapindela ezibukweni lapo beface kona uJeqe ngayizolo. Bafika kungeko muntu nenja isidhliwe noma yadhliswa zimpisi noma izingwenya abaqondanga ngoba abazikatazanga noma basondele babheke ukuti yini. Bahlala lapo kwaze kwaba isemini.

Kute bengazelele sebecabanga ukupindela emuva babona umuntu eqamuka, babona ukuti umuntu wesifazana. Wahamba wahamba wema, wabukisisa. Basebememeza beti, "Woza lapa," Wetuka, waqalaza esefuna ukubaleka. Bati, "Woza sikuxoxele izindaba zesoka lako." Waqunga isibindi waya kubo. Bamlandisa yonke indaba yokuficwa kukaJeqe enjengofileyo ogwini nokuti inyanga enkulu yasesiqingini imtatile, kuhle angesabi, uzokwelashwa ahlale afunde ubunyanga, wopuma qede babonane. Bati, "Nesidumbu senja yake besikona lapa esihlabatini izolo, kepa namhla sifike singaseko; siyabona ukuti sidhliwe izilwane.

Wati uZaki, "Nibone yena impela na?" Bamsho zonke izici zesimo sake, wakolwa, wagoduka ejabula enetemba ukuti bobuye babonane nesitandwa sake. Bagwedhla abasesiqingini babuyela emva, emva kokuba uZaki esekumle umgexo wake wabanika wona wati aboze bamkonzele kuJeqe.

Emva lapa esiqingini uJeqe uyelashwa. Utatwe uNgqelebani wamlalisa eduze nembiza egcwele izinhlobonhlobo zamakambi namagxolo, ibaselwe ngapansi, ibekwe pezu kwamatshe amatatu. Kute lapo isibila wayesetata izikumba ezimbili emboza ukuze intutu yokubila ifinyelele kuJeqe. Wati emembula wayesejuluke emanzi. Wayesemgeza ngawo amanzi axubene nomuti esashisa kakulu kodwa efakwe icimamlilo ukuba angamyobuli. Ute eqeda loko, wayemesula ngesipuku, ebopa amanxeba ngesikumba sikaxamu.

Wezwa umzimba uti dwi. Ute esaqala ukuxoxa indaba noNgqelebani kwase kufika abafana bepete isinambati ngezinkamba ezimbili, olunye kungoluka Ngqelebani olunye kungoluka Jeqe. Badhla. Bate bengaka-

qedi ukudhla babuye bafika abafana bepete ukamba lotshwala bapuzi. Bahamba abafana balanda ukudhla kwezilwane, bate nxa sebekubeke lapaya ngapansi komuti uNgqelebani washaya imfengwana, ute etuka uJeqe kwakuqamuka zonke izinhlobo zezilwanyazane, ezinye zinezimwana zobuntu, zihamba ngezinyawo ezimbili, ezinye zihamba ngezinyawo ezine. Kwapetuza nje, lapo uJeqe wangenelwa uvalo, waguqazela eseya engosini yake. Lapo uNgqelebani wakuluma nazo zehlukana ngezinhlobo zazo. Imikovu wayipa izinsipo, otokoloshe wabapa isijingi njalo njalo. Kwaba ubuxafuxafu kupangelwana, okuncane kukala futufuti kulungwa, kuklwejwa ezindala. Kute lapo seziqedile ukudhla, wayeseshaya imfwengwana yake, zapindela ezindaweni zazo. Lapo uJeqe usete kexe. Ukohliwe nje ukuti zonke lezizilwane zaqoqwa kanjani nokuti zefuyelweni.

Zite ukuba zikukule, uJeqe waguqazela waya kuNgqelebani egobuza ukuti lezizilwane zifuyelweni lapa esiqingini.

Wati uNgqelebani, "Kanti kawazi yini ukuti iseziko lezinyanga lapa, lapo zifunda kona, ngonyaka njalo kufika abemunge noma ababili abapuma ezweni ngapandhle bazofunda ubunyanga obukulu kuSitela zonke izinyanga nezidumileyo ngokubhula nokwelapa zifunda kona lapa. Nawe nje nxa usupilile uzongena kuleloziko. Watula uJeqe wacabanga. Asikolwa imikovu kodwa uJeqe uti watshelwa uNgqelebani ukuti ezinye lezi izilwane imikovu.

Manje uNgqelebani wafunela uJeqe uti lokudondolozela. Wabe iloku ehamba edondolozela egcekeni lakwa Ngqelebani. Welashwa waze wapila, uNgqelebani wayeseyakobika ukuti uJeqe usepilile. Yati inkosazana, "M'lete lapa." Weza naye ehambe edhlula imihume ngemihume, ebona abantu, abanye bepeka abanye behlezi. Bate ukuba bapume emhumeni, uJeqe wabona elihle izwe, ekonjiswa namasimu, nentaba okwehla kuyo umfula wamanzi. Lapaya panshi kwe-

ntaba bamtshela ukuti kukona indhlu kaSitela. Wabuza uJege wati, "Uhlala nobani kona lapaya?" Bati "Uhlala nabafana namantombazana abamkonzayo."

Ute lapo esesondezwa ekaya lika Sitela engakafiki wabona intombazana iza ngejubane sengati iyabahlalngabeza benoNgqelebani. Yafike yati, "Inkosazana iti ayinasikati namhla sokubonana noJeqe, kuhle uze umlethe ngomso. Namhla mbonise zonke izinto ezenziwa lapa esiqingini.

Nembala uNgqelebani wam'tata njalo uJeqe bahamba. Bate beti ukudundubala kwelinye idulana, uJeqe wabona amalangabi omlilo. Wati, "Yini lokuya okubomvu okufana nomlilo?" Wati uNgqelebani, "Isitando lapo kukishwa kona intsimbi ematsheni, lapaya ngapambidhlana esinye isitando lapo ikandwa kona. Futi lesiya sesitatu ilapo kukandwa kona itusi elenza izindondonamasongo afakwa ezingalweni nasemaqakaleni."

Wati uJeqe, "Ngiyejabula ngoba nakiti ngizwa nge-ndaba nje ukuti intsimbi itolwa eNkandhla. Loku sasiyontshontsha izinkomo eQudeni bayikomba intaba lapo kwenziwa kona intsimbi yemikonto namageja, kepa angiqondi ukuba bakwenza kanjani."

Wati uNgqelebani, "Uzobona namhla ukwenziwa kwentsimbi kuleli lakiti, kodwa angazi noma kini bayenza kanjani." Basondela ezitandweni zomlilo, amalangabi ekepuzela enqamuka izivingi pezulu. Wabona abanye betwele amatshe akade esekandwa izingqepu- ngqepu bewasondeza esitandweni, abanye betwele amalahle enziwe ngezinkuni zemiti bewaleta kona ukuba abaselwe esitandweni. Wabuka uJege amanyela entsimbi bewahlukanisa namatshe ngomlilo omkulu, nalapo sebeyiqoqela ndawonye. Kwaba sengati ubuhlakane obungaka azange abubone kubo kwaZulu. Badhlula kuleso sesibili isitando baya kwesesitatu lapo wafica izinyanga zikanda imikonto namageja. Lapo wahlala pansi wabukisisa isikati eside, esede eququzwa uNgqelebani eti abahambe usekumbule ukuyokupa izilwane.

zake. Balibala kakulu kulendawo wangabe esabona lapo kwenziwa kona itusi. Bati sebebuyela ekaya likaNgqelebani uJeje waengasatandi, ekangwa izindhlu ezinhle ezakiwe ngobunono ngapandhle komhume ogcwele izilwane ezinuka kabi. Uhamba nje inhliziyokayiseko emhumeni, isilapa la kukandwa kona imikonto, lapo abantu behlala ezindhlini, beshaywa umoya. Pho, umyalo wenkosazana uzowutini. Wapindela emhumeni inhliziyokasibuhlungu, ekumbula ukuti uyohlala lapo ezode efikelwa zihaqahaga zezilwane ezimbi.

Kwasa okungaliyo! usuku lokuya kobonana nenkosazana endhlini yayo. Banele baqeda ukudhla nje, uNgqelebani wapa izilwane zake, bapuma emhumeni bebange endhlini yenkosazana. Yababona besaqa'mka kude, loku ilapo ipakati kokufundisa amadoda amane ukushaya amatambo.

Ukangwa indhlu eyiqugwane, icakiwe ngebumba elimpofu. Umnyango wayo wehlukile ezindhlini azaziyo, mude nesicabha sakiwe ngomhlanga. Umfica ehlukile kulokuya kumbona kwake mhla efikayo. Namhla wembete isipuku esishukiweyo sendhlozi, isihlutu sake usikipile. Muhle umuntu lo! Amehlo ake kepa abhekeki, abukali, umuntu umbuka sengati umbona izibilini ngapakati.

Akuleke uNgqelebani eti, "Kanya Nkosazane!" NoJe-
qe amlingise etsho njalo. Loku uhlezi ufulatele umnya-
ngo wendhlu, ubheke kulamadoda amane aseduze kwa-
ke, awafundisayo, wapenduka wabiza isigqili somfana
wati asilete isikumba sembuze, bahlale kuso oNgqele-
bani noJeqe. Wangabanaka nje, waquba umsebenzi
wake. Amatambo awagcwalise izandhla zombili abe
esewasakaza pambi kwabo ati abawefunde. Babhede,
babhede, abe esebakombisa ukuti uma ubani emi kanje,
usuke eti, nxa elandelwa eduze uSobanibani kusuke
kuukuti. Ngoba sebewafunde onke amagama awo.

Wabuka ujeqe esede eti enhliziyweni kazi mina situta sakwa Zulu ngoze ngakwazi nje nokubiza onke lamatambo ngamagama awo na! abuye ati, kodwa ngi-

ze ngizindhle konke loku nje ngizobe ngifundiswa kona yini.

Inkosazana iqede ukufundisa ibe isikuluma noNgqelebani iti, "Zisapila kahle izilwane zami?" Ati, "Kanya Nkosazana!" Ibuye ibuze futi inkosazana iti, "Nihlezi kahle nalomlisa wakwa Zulu?" Ati, "Kanya Nkosazana!"

Ibe isipendukela kuJeqe iti, "Usujwayele lapa kiti Jeqe?" Ati uJeqe, "Kanya Nkosazana!" "Zinjani izilwane zika Ngqelebani?" kubuza inkosazana, Ati uJeqe, "Ayi Nkosazana izona ngingakazijwayeli." Ibisiti kuye, "Uzozejwayela. Iyonampi yami njalo leyo Jeqe. Akuko sizwe esingenza lapa sizotabata izwe lami, ngingasitela ngazo nawe ubuke kahle zilwa. Lapo esexoxa indaba ubuso bake butambe, wabona amazinyo ake amhlope, amahle lapo ihleka inkosazana. Emaqakaleni lapa ifake amasongo etusi, kwati lapo isukuma ilungisa isipuku sayo wabona umutsha wayo wezindondo. Yangena endhlini ite ipuma yayibuya, nokamba ipete okunye ngesinye isandhla, kanti zimpondo ezintatu ezincane osengati ezipiti, kanye noti lomhlanga. Yaziponisa pansi yayisiti "Sukumani bafana bami, zesuka zema. Wazibuka kahle uJeqe. Wabona ukuti zitungele kahle zavalwa ngengcina ngapezulu, zase zisuka zigximekeka otini lomhlanga, sezide zizulazula kulo, inkosazana ilumise okambeni. Wamangala uJeqe ebona lomlingo. Ute esamangele wabona izindebe zomlomo wenkosazana zingakaza kanti ikuluma nazo izimpondo lezi. Olunye ute etuka lwalunamatela esihlatini sake. Wagxuma waposeka lapaya. Wazama ukuluhlanguka, yamkuza inkosazana. Waluyeka lwahlala kona esihlatini. Yabuye yakuluma lwabuyela kwezinye. Yabe seyiti, "Qa, kanti uzobufunda ubunyanga." Yati kuNgqelebani, "Ngomso womkhipa emhumeni umyise lapa kuhlala abefundi. Usezongena ekufundisweni."

Nempela ngangomuso uJeqe wapuma emhumeni waya lapa kuhlala kona abefundiswayo. Wangena empekweni efunda amagama amakubalo, efundiswa nezifo eziwelapayo, nendhlela asuswa ngayo yezibhiba namafu-

ta ezilwane namatshe ayimikando. Abuye ahambe nayo inkosazana nabanye abefundayo bayofunda amakamibi nemiti eyelapa isihuda neyelapa abesifazana nxa bengatoli kahle inzalo. Loku ufike mva uJeqe ute upela unyaka wayesebadhlula laba abafika kuqala.

Wacela ngelinye ilanga enkosazaneni wati, Ngifike-lwe ukukumbula umame ngicela inkosazana ike ingibhukele esibukweni sayo ukuti basapila nje abakiti. Nempela yasitata isibuko sayo, yati, "Yima pambi kwami ufise loku okucelayo." Wema uJeqe njengoba eyaliwe.

Yati ngibona imizi emibili ikake umfula. Nangu unyoko ukonganeno, nanguya uyihlo ukongapesheya, izinkomo zegcwele isibaya. Kuyapilwa ekaya. Ngibona nabafowenu nodadewenu lapa esibukweni. Wajabula uJeqe.

Kute ngelinye ilanga esengene kowesibili unyaka esesiqingini, wavuka ekuseni kakulu kungakasi kahle eya kogeza amfuleni, kanti isikati sokuba inkosazana isepungulweni. Waqale wabona sengati kubaswe umlilo eduze nesihlahla, wabhekisisa wabona zonke izilwane ezikulu nezincane zikake umuntu wesifazana, efingela abuye asukume, engabhince luto. Izilwane lezi zimkake pakati ubukeka sengati uyageza kanti umjuluko. Usemanzi teke ukujuluka. Abuye apakamise izingalo uJeqe abone kutandela kuye izinyoka nezibankwa nezintulo, zonke ezihuquzelayo. Aze atutumele, akohlwe ukuti yini loku. Akase ngamadolo esondela efuna ukubona kahle. Abone sengati ezinye ziyamgongoza, abuye abone zihlehla zimzungeza. Kuti nxa sekubhejile ezansi zinyamalale izilwane kube ikati ebona kahle ukuti uSitela. Esabe sengati umbonile. Ati nhe pansi. Ambone ehamba bhushu ebange emfuleni eyakogeza. Wanele wasitela nje, uJeqe wabanga esihlahleni eyobhaca nokuba abone ukuti uzobuya yini. Wahlala wahlala wabona esebuya, wafika lapo ekade epungulwa kona, watata isipuku sake waqonda ekaya lake. Kwenzeke konke loku nje besekupele izinsuku

ezingafika esihlanwini bengasayi kofunda, futi kungavungelwa muntu wesilisa asondele endhlini yake, eko-nzwa amantombazana azigqili kupela. Wabona uJeqe ukuti kanti lomuntu amandhla uwatola kanjani. Wawuhlaba inhlali. Esabe ukuti uma eke wayixoxa yafika kuSitela mhlaumbe angabulawa.

Kute lapo unyaka wesibili upakati nawo, inkosazana yam'tabata uJeqe eseya kofunda amakubalo angeko esiqingini namakambi. Bakwela emkunjini nomunye umlisa ofundayo. Yibo labaya begwedhla baye bapumele ezibukweni lapo uJeqe bamtola kona. Wezwa kusuka usinga lwaleyompi yake, wakumbula nentombi yake.

Bahamba ehamb' ebafundisa baze bapenduka ntabama, bafinyelela esiqingini lishona.

Kwaba omkulu umkosi mhla sebetulwa bebatatu. Loku nezilwane usefundisiwe ngazo, wanikwa netshe lawotokoloshe elatungelwa engcabeni yesikumba sikhaxamu. Walaywa kwatiwa, "Lengcaba uyoyivula kupela nxa ufica abantu behlushwa otokoloshe noma ufunakudhlula endaweni embi bangaze bakubona."

Yati inkosazana, "Hambani kahle nalemiti nokwazi engininike kona niyosiza iziguli. Ningatakati, nipilise kube kupela. Nxatshana nitakata bonke ubunyanga benu buyakupupa nokubhula ningabe nisakwazi Ngiyakubona konke enikufisayo. Lesisipiwo ngasinikwa ukuba ngisize ngaso abantu. Ngohlala nginibona enikwenzayo esibukweni sami. Nxatshana niganga ngemiti engininike yona bopela ubunyanga kini."

Wabhekisa kuJeqe wati, "Intombi yako ikuhlalele." Ungayitumbi ubaleke nayo. Hamba udundubale oBonjeni kumaSwazi, ufike welape, iyoti ipela inyanga ube uzitolile izinkomo ezinhlalu, ngoba ngibona umkuhlane wesihuda uvimbezele ehlanzeni elisentshonalanga kwoBombo eSwazini. Wolala kanye kaNdhlovu utumele umfana ayotshela intombi yako lapo nohlangana kona udhlule. Iyokupelekezela ibuye iyolala ekaya kubo."

Basishiga isiqingini oJeqe, nemigodhla yabo yemiti. Bate ukuba bawezele ezweni behlukana, lomunye oyi-Tonga wabheka enyakato ngalapo avela kona. UJeqe waya kaNdhlovu. Bamangala abakwa Ndhlovu bati, "Sasiti ufile, babuya lapa ababehamba nomntwana bati bakubulele, kepa umntwana sewazama wazama eti uzotola uZaki, pinde avume." Wayesebalandisa yonke indaba yokutolwa kwake inkosazana yasesiqingini, nokufunda kwake ukwelapa.

Bamangala bati "Utini Jeqe na? Loku sihlutshiwa imfene yomtakati ifika njalo lapa uti ungayixosha na?" Wati "Nxa ifikile ngizoyibamba ngemiti, ngoyibulala ngingakahambi. Wahloa izikonkwane ezimbili kupela Watuma umfana ukuba ahambe ayotshela uZaki aze ahlalane naye endhlini.

Kute ekuseni intombazana ipuma yabona imfene idondobele ngasengolobaneni, yasuka yamemeza, nansiya imfene ibaleka. Wati uJeqe kwone intombazana ngayingamemezanga ngayibize yena wayibamba. Wati "Noko ingebuye ilubeke lapa ekaya, isingaze ilwe nomnikaziyo nxa eyinyanzelela ukuba ize lapa.

Abange esahlala uJeqe lapo kwaNdhlovu. Wapuma kona ekuseni, wahlangana noZaki ngakubo. Futi ukujabula kukaZaki kwakuti ahambe pezu kwezindwane zotshani, ebona isoka lake emva kwesikati eside kangaka behlukana. Loku nesimo sake sesiesingye, seba-pela ubungane, useliqikiza elivutiweyo, nenkatazo yokuhlala kwake ekaya abazali bengasamtakazele ngoba ala ukugana umtanenkosi, abenzele 'sikundhla esibanzi ebukosini, sekwenza inhliziyi yake idikibale. Sonke lesikati ubehlezi ngotando lukaJeqe, umtombo wokoto-koza kwake. Yiko nje ngalelolanga kwakungati udakiwe, naye uqobo engazi nomia uyapupa noma upilile yini ebona isitandwa sake.

Wabuza kuJeqe wati, "Ufika udhlula ngingasakubonanga nokukubona kahle nje kwenzenjani?"

Wati uJeqe, "Qa, m'takwetu, ngipanga ukudundubalela eSwazini lapo ngizwa kutiwa abantu bayapela

umkuhlane wesihuda, kubo bonke ubunganga engibufunde esiqingini abuko obungangoba ngikwazi ukunqanda lowomkuhlane. Ngiyabona ukuti ngizosheshe ngizitole izinkomo zokukulobola. Yikonje, angifuni lomnyaka upele ngingakakutati kuYihlo. NoNdhlovu ngimtshelile ngati, ngokwanele ngitole inkomo yokuqala ngibe sengituma umuntu kuye, aye kuyihlo ayongicelela ngaleyo nkomo. Uyabona ilanga selikwelile, kuhle ubuye emva ufike lingakashoni ekaya, izwe ligcwele izilwane ezimbi.

Azabalaze uZaki ati asafuni ukubuyela ekaya, usefuna ukuhamba naye njalo uJeqe; izinkomo sebozilanda kona eSwazini abakubo.

Ati uJeqe, "M'takwetu ngalaywa kakulu inkosazana eyayisifundisa esiqingini. Yati angingakwebi kubazali bako. Ngifuna indhlela yokuganana kwetu ibemhlope ngibe umkwenyana oncomekayo kini, babone nabo ukuti um'tanenkosi akangidhluli ngaluto. Uzobona ngizofikisa izwi konamanje; mhlaumbe nami uzobona ngifika ngikuhambela ngoba umuntu ulala kanye endhleleni kuse efika lapo ngiya kona. Namhla ngizolala pansi kwentaba, ngodundubala ekuseni ngiqamukele eSwazini.

Enobuhlungu obukulu benhliziyo wapenduka uZaki eselibangisa ekaya. Waze wasitela emitini uJeqe, uZaki ede ependuka embuka, wafikelwa isilingozi wakala, wahlala pansi kwomtunzi wakala wakala, wasesuka esula izinyembezi wati, "Akuluto uzobuya konamanje angilande. Wezwa kufika isibindi siti gidi; wafikelwa itemba elisha notando oluyisimangalisano ngo Jeqe. Wakumbula igama aliqamba ogwini becotsha amagobolondo, walihlabelela. Wafica izinsizwa zakubo zivela kokwetshela emizini engapansi kwentaba, wayesehambisana nazo, esezilandisa yonke indaba kaJeqe, ayizwe emlonyeni wake ngokufunda ubunganga esiqingini, nokupuma kona esebetwese. Lati lalibantubahle bafika ekaya.

Uhambe wahamba uJeqe, wafica kudhliwa emzin engapambi kwaseMpandhleni walibala umzuzwana epu-

za, wadhlula wapata ukalo olude, olungenamizi, wati etuka wayeti gaga eduze namabhumbesi amabili, lenkunzi nelensikazi, edhla umgankla wenkomazi, unone unguba! Wamemeza, wawakuza asuka enyobozela kanti asesuti. Wafike wakipa umlenze ngomkonto, wawunquma pakati, wawetshata, wahamba. Lite lingakashoni ukuti nya wangenisa emzini lapo sekuxubene amaTonga namaSwazi. Pho, epete inyama, kwalula ukungenisa kwake, abafana bampekela inyama yake.

Kwaba ikona ezwa kahle ukuti lapo ngapezu komBombo bapeli abantu esifundeni sikaMtsingana. Eminye imizi seyavalwa ngamahlahla. Bamlandisa ukuhambisa kwesifo, bati, "Tina asisalubeki unyawo, nawe uyobe uyisituta nxatshana ukupukela kona. Abakiti abaya le pambili sebehamba baye bayoguquka eGoba, kube ikona bega entshonalanga.

Ati uJeqe, "Kanti aziko lapo kuni izinyanga nxa nesaba ukugosiza abantu begula. Minake ngiya kona, ngingetsho ukuti ngiginyanga nxa ngingabuye ngesabe isifo.

Nembala ilanga lati lipuma wayesesendhleleni, edonsa intabakazi enkulu eduze no uSutu ngasenyakato kwalo. Ute eti dundu, nempela wabona ukuti alisahanjwahanjwa, ukuba angaboni muntu endhleleni engumendo, epezulu oBonjeni. Kwati umuzi afika kuwo kuqala, wafica usuvalwe ngehlala, izinkomo ziklabile okalweni. Wadhlula waya enxulumeni elikulu elingasenyakato kwalowo wokuqala. Ute esengapandhle wezwa ukuti kuyakulunywa. Wangena wakupula izindhlu waye wakuleka enhla nomuzi. Bapuma endhlini bambukisisa, bati "Lomuntu ohamba lapo kungaseze kungapambukela muntunje gena upumapi?"

Wati uJeqe, "Ayi akuko luto. Ngisuka lapo ngapansi kwesikaNdlebende. NgingowakwaZulu ngokuzalwa, kepa ngafika ngisemncane kulelizwe ngihambe ngifunda imiti. Ngezwa kutiwa isihudo siyaniqeda lapo, kwabe kuyilapa ngisifundile kakulu, nokwelashwa kwaso."

"Au, utini nyanga na! uti uyakwazi ukuselapa; loku tina sesahlanyukwa nazinyanga, asisakulumi ngabantu, abako abasadhlula ngalezindhlela ezidabula esifundeni sakiti. Asazi nawe isibindi esingaka usitatapi? Nxa ungena kuzo zonke izindhlu lezi balele, sekuyanuka abantu balahlwa malanga onke. Nxa ungelapa ngikukombisa nasiya isitole esimpevu ngapandhle kotango, ngiti silugxa lwako."

"Yebo, mnumzane, ngiyasemukela. Ngicela umfana engizomtuma." Nempela bamnika insizwa eqata, wati mayifune imbiza okwakupekela kuyo utshwala ayigeze abase umlilo, ayibeke emasekweni, ayigcwalise ngamanzi. Ite ikwenza loku insizwa, yena wayekumula umgodhla wake ekipa ikubalo elibomvu, eligaya, impupu eyitela opondweni lwenkomo olungenaluto pakati. Wapumela ngapandhle kwomuzi, wemba imipumputo, waxoza igxolo lomganu. Waligxoba walihlanganisa nalempupu yekubalo. Waya nensizwa le esihotsheni wabuya neminye imiti wayitaka embizeni eziko, yabila. Ite nxatshana isibile isikati eside bayepula. Wagxoba amakambi egcwala enye imbiza wabapuzisa bonke ekaya, abagulayo nabapililego. Kute lapo usupolile lomuti obubiliwa, wabapuzisa bonke abagulayo loku bayishumi nambili. Wati mabacatwe bonke. Kwabonakala ukuti banirigi asebedhlekele, nopo-ndo seluyazigijimela nje. Wati, "Bapuziseni labo ngizobapepeta ngompumputo. Nembala wafuna uhlanga wabapepeta, wabaqinisa ngamakambi ngapezulu."

Alalanga ngalelologa uJege kwaze kwasa elapa, kakulu enye intombazana kwakungasalindelwe ukuti kosa isekona. Wayiqinisa ngempumputo izilonda zema ndawonye, wayipuzisa ikubalo namakambi. Kute pakati kwobusuku yaqala yati ilambile. Wati mabagaye iyambazi balicolisise, lipindwe kuze kube katatu, balenze umpunga. Yatata yati shashalazi, yazumeka yalala.

Kute lakusayo uJege kwaba ikati efikelwa ubutongo elala. Umnumzane wavuka ekuseni, wafica intombi yake abebheke ukuyilahla isikwazi nokuhoshoza ikulu-

ma. Abanye laba ababengakadhleki kakulu bazibika ubungcono ngangomuso bati abahudanga kakulu ebusuku.

Ngokuvuka kwake uJege wati akukishwe umquba wezinkomo osugcwele ezindhlini ngoba abantu besebepumela kuwo utelwa njalo sekunuka kuti phu. Waki-shwa wonke, zasindwa izindhlu zonke emva kokuba sezishanelisisiwe. Umquba waletwa nxa ekona opumelayo, abakwazi ukuzivukela wati abafunelwe izinde-ngezi zokupumela. Kwasindwa wafafaza ngezintelezi zancipa izimpukane, loku besekubhuza nje neziluhlaza.

Wabiza insizwa le anikwe yona ukuba ayitume, bahamba nayo behlela ehlanzeni ngendhlela aqamuka ngayo lapo ebone kona imiti angayitoliyo pezulu enkan-gala. Baxebula, bemba babuye nenyanda yemiti. Bagxoba, bapeka, bacatwa abagulayo bapuziswa, kute kupela izinsuku eziumkoti, babepilile abanye, nabasebegula kabi sebencono. Pho, udumo lwanda, wati engakazipotuli iziguli zake zakulomuzi wakwaDhlamini, wayesebizwa kweminye, esebenza ubusuku nemini. Wapiwa inhlanhla abantu abaningi bapila abelapayo, imitonseyana yafa, kodwa iningi lapila. KwaDhlamini washaya izinkomo eziyisihlanu sezixubene nogxa. Kute emzini kaMbini wahola zabazimbili, wati eyiqeda inyanga kulesosigodi wayetole amashumi amabili ezinkomo. Umnumzane opete isifunda watuma abantu baya kobika komkulu izimangaliso ezenziwe ilenyanga epuma ebuTonga.

Wacela izinsizwa ezimbili uJege zampelekezela wehla nezinkomo eziyisihlanu eqonde kwaNdhlovu eMpan-dhlani. Ute efika nje wayeti, "Hamba uyongicelela uZaki, nazi izinkomo ezine engilobola ngazo, le-yesihlanu yohlatshwa mhla kugcagcwa," Wala uNdhlovu wati, "Ngingeke ngikucelele ukuba ugcagcele lapo. Kungasuka esikulu isidumo. Into ofanele ukuyenza ukuba unike uyise zonke lezinkomo utate umfazi wako uhambe. Kumbula ukuti umtanenkosi usenenhliziyo ebuhlungu ngalentombi oyilobolayo. "Wakubona

naye uJege okushiwo uNdhlovu ukuba kusiminya. Wayake uNdhlovu wayisa izinkomo, kwadhlula izinkomo ezintatu wabopa uZaki izimpahlana zake emacansini amane, basuka bahamba noJege. Uyise ka-Zaki wati, "Ilobolo kalipelele, koba kuhle abuye akiye izinkomo ezimbili." Wati uJege "Nxa utumela abafana bako behamba nati bangabuya nazo." Lati ixegu, "Ngobatumela emva kwezinyanga ezintatu sengizwe kahle ukuti isihuda sipela nya.

Uyafika uJege nomkake lapa kwaDhlamini, sekufike izwi livela komkulu kwaNgwane liti inkosi iyayifuna lenyanga ukuba ize kuyo. Wahlala izinsuku eziyisitupa, wadhlula esebange ekaya kwaNgwane ebukosini, uZaki wamshiya kona lapa kwaDhlamini. Lapo usedumile. usetwalelwe abafana ababili. Wafika enkosini, wenza imilingo ayifunda esiqingini, welapa inkosi nabantabayo, waba esikulu isilomo. Wacela abantu enkosini balanda umkake, inkosi yamakela umuzi, yamnika izinhlanzi ezimbili ezazifike nenkosikazi eyayisanda kugcagca enkosini. Izinhlanzi eSwazini amantombazana aye apekezele indodakazi yesikulu nxa igana ahlale nayo abezigqila zayo, umyeni wayo abenze omkake, nxa etanda, abaganise atole izinkomo ngabo.

Wati eqalisanje ukwaka umuzi wabe esenabafazi ababatu. Imiti yake yacuma, kwauye inyanga enkulu yenkosi. Udumo lwake lwaye lwafika kwaZulu enkosini uDingane. Lapa asaziwa ngokuti uJege, nokuti uButelezi. Usefike wazibiza ngelinye igama wati unguMshayikazi wase Macunwini. Edume ngokubizwa ku-tiwe Mcunu. Usemlayile noZaki angalingi ati Butelezi

UJege esigodhlweni sakwaZulu futi

Inkosi yakwaZulu uDingane wezwa ngodumo luka Mcunu inyanga yase Swazini. Watuma abantu enkosini yamaSwazi ecela ukuba itumele uMcunu aze kwelapa abantwana bayo abagulayo. Kwakugula intandokazi yayo engumdhlunkulu. Yavuma inkosi yamaSwazi. UMcunu wahamba epekezelwa abafana banye ababili, nendoda epuma enkosini yamaSwazi.

Ufika ezweni lakubo uJege esenesilevu, ebunzini lapa uqela ngesipandhla ukuze ababemazi eseyinsizwa kuTshaka bangamboni. Wafika qede wahlala endhlini, anikwe yona, wangatanda ukuya ebandhla esaba ukuti uzodaluleka. Wafika into yokuqala welapa inkosi wati ngemilingo ayenzayo, wesabeka bati abazange bayibone inyanga enje kwaZulu. Wanikwa ukuba angene esigodhlweni elape abantwana namantombazana enkosi. Washayelwa amashumi amatatu ezinkomo.

Wacela ngelinye ilanga wati ufisa ukuya kobamba izinyamazane zasolwandhle washiya ikehla nomunye umfana, wahamba naye wamunye, kanti uqonde ukuba ayobona abazali bake. Ute efika ekaya kubo wayenza umuntu wezizwe nje ebuza indaba, ngangomso way'ekhleni elinguyise waziveza kulo kuqala, wati malitshela unina, kepa angabiko omunye owazi lendaba. Wajabula unina wakala wati, "Ngasengidelile m'tanami, ngangingasetembi ukuba ngobuya ngikubone."

Loku basenhla komuzi bobatatu uJege wasuka pansi esikatini sake ebaleka kufe uTshaka wabalandisa indaba yonke. Loku usesisusile isipandhla ebunzini, sebembona njengoba enjalo, abam'funi nokumfuna, ngoba ufana nabanewabo. Bati, "Ungahlali isikati eside lapa kwaZulu, uzodaluleka, uDingane akubulale." Wati, uJege, "Qa, nami ngilapa nje ngoba ngatanda ukuzobona nina, umsebenzi wami upelile kuDingane, inhliziyoyami ayitokozi ngemikuba yalapa kwaZulu ngokubulawa kwabantu. Ngicela nje baba ukuba uhlenge isalukazi lesi usiyise emzini wami eSwazini ngiyekosibusisa noma kungapela inyanga, nihamba nilala eduze akucala. Kepa kuhle ufune isu lokuti nihambe nibadalanje, niyapi. Mina ngibuyele kuDingane ngohlala izinsuku noma zimashumi mabili ngitate izinkomo zami zokwelapa ngibuyele eSwazini.

Bahlala noyise wamzekela izindaba ezasale zenzeka. Wati, "Asihlezi kahle lapa kwelakwaZulu Jege. Sikumbula uTshaka noma wayesikataza ngokuhlasela ezizweni, uDingane usebaqedile abantu ngokubabulala. Se-

wababulala bonke abakayise uSenzangakona. Sewabulala abafowabo oGubhuzela, oMhlangano, oMatambo, oMacapashiye, oMpansi, oNtsikalende, noMbulali. UMpande wasala naye ngoba wayezishaya isituta, ebhuquzeka emloleni, ati nxa ebona uDingane atate namatambo ezinkomo esezafa, ade ewanuka abuye awalahle; bati asiyeke angasibulali isituta lesi, nembala wamyeke.

Mzukwana kugqabuka iGoda

Kanti uMpande uhlakanipile uyazenzisa. Kwati ngelinye ilanga kuxoxwa impi nenkosi eMgungundhlovu esibayeni, uTshaka wadinwa ukuba ibuto eliyintanga yake lehlulwe, Awu, Awu, Awu, Isibejane, Isibejane, Awu, Awu, Awu.

Basuka lapo baya kuMpande, kwaqoqana izwe elikulu kuMpande, abantu sebenengwa uDingane. Wayeseti uDingane kuNdhlela induna yake enkulu, "Nati uMpande situta angingambulali, naku abantu esebatumbile. Futi usezele, uzele uCetshwayo, uzele uHamu, uzele uZiwedu.

Manje uDingane wafuna isu lokubulala uMpande, wakipa umqeku wezitole ezimbala munge eseti akuhambe uNgcangwana noMatunjana baziye kuMpande, ikona eyokuza kozibonga, afike ambulale, kulandwe nabantabake bafike babulawe. Bafika nazo emzini kaMpande bati, "Uti okayihlo bamba." Lapo kwapuma isifazane sikikizela, sahalalisa ukufika kwezinkomo. UMpande esebabizela endhlini laba abafika nazo esebahlabisa incokazana kwezaseMbelebeleni, kanti izona uDingane ayezidinwa kakulu lezonkomo ngoba uMpande waziphiwa unina.

Mhla besuka ekaya uNdhlela, uNdunankulu kaDingane wayelaye uNgcangwane wati, "Anoti nxa senivalelisa ukipe isigqobela endhlebeni sengati uyabheka, usibeke panshi ngamabomu, sengati sikukohlile kanti uzobuyela uti ukohlwe yiso ube usumnyengezela uMpande uti asuke awele uTukela, uDingane uhlose ukumbulala."

Wayete uDingane akuze kutshelwe uMpande amazise nxa esemhambela ezobonga izinkomo ikona eyotshela abantu bamhlinzeke ngotshwala nezinkomo endheleni.

Lezwa qede iqili elinguMpande lawela uTukela, lawelela eDhlokweni.

Igenge elidhlule umuti lawuyeka,
Isiyengane sika Ndaba,
Siyengwe uNgcangwana,
NoMatunjana,
Besiyenga ngomqeku wezitole.
UMpandeke lowo!
UMjokwane ka Ndaba.

Emva le kuDingane kuxoxwa impi, ixoxwa njalo izinduna kazisezwani. UNdhlela, uNdunankulu kezwani noNzobo owayemlandela ebuduneni; uNzobo utanda kakulu ukubulala abantu, kanti uNdhlela akumtokozisi loko. UMpande usehlangana namaBhunu ukuba amcitishe uDingane, amaBhunu esebuzela indhlalifa yake. Usewakombisa uCetshwayo, uCetshwayo amaBhunu esetata isikeye enjokeni, esecindezela kuso indhlebe kaCetshwayo emenza upawu ngomese. Zinjalo ke ezalapa kiti m'tanami.

Uti lapo eyixoxa eyokuhambela ekaya emva kokunyamalala iminyaka etile kwakumnandi sengati angebe esahamba. Wati lapo esedundubele egqumeni elingapesheya komfula okukiwa kuwo amanzi emzini wakubo, wahlala panshi, wabuka izihlahla nezinkalo lapo ayelusela kona. Wakumbula abafana ayeqatwa nabo, bepundhlana ngezinduku, akumbule nalapo behlaba insema eqeleni lalona lololukalo; umqondo wake wabuyela ezinsukwini zobufana begibela izigude, becupa izingoni ngezifu nangenhlali; bamba amagonsi badhle belambile ezinkomeni. Amehlo waweqisa kulololukalo wabuka isinindolo sehlati elingale komuzi wakubo lapo babezingela kona beyinqina; wakumbula amagama ababegubha ngawo enqineni beti,

Wayishay'inyamazane,

Yetshe!

Washay' ingyamazane,

Yetshe!

"Izonzo layo M'tonga, nazi izikali zetu, zimhlope, iloku sizilole emakaya, asiziboni izinyamazane, uzisonge kanjani, ulaie kanjani Mtonga na?"

Wakumbula nalapo uMtonga eseyiteta

Inqina eti,	"Eve buzimba,
Inqina iti,	"Zibanjwe jhi!"
Umtonga eti,	"Umkonto enyameni,"
Inqina iti,	"Zibanjwe jhi!"
Umtonga eti,	"Eve buzimba"
Inqina iti,	"Zibanjwe jhi!"
Umtonga eti,	"Niqina kweyenkomo."
Inqina iti,	"Zibanjwe jhi!"
Umtonga eti,	"Nazo izinyamazane."
Inqina iti,	"Zibanjwe jhi!"
Umtonga eti,	"Umkonto enyameni."
Inqina iti,	"Zibanjwe jhi."

Wati uJege, "Wo, he! izinsuku azibuyiselwa emuva. Ngiyakumbula ngihaduliswa uSofoca kuloluyakalo engishaya, izinkomo zakiti zidhle insimu yake. Wati, suka mfana, sihambe."

Ute efika uJege emzini wenkosi kwasekugcwele izinyanga nezangoma zibizwe uye uDingane, uzohlola uJege ukuti angabhulelana nje nezanusi zakwaZulu, nokuti angayenza nje imilingo engenziwa izingedhla zakwaZulu. Uti esangena elawini lake, ngenhla lapa uzwa izangoma zitimula, zizamula, zibhodhla; wakohlwanje ukuti kwenzenjani. Kwasekufika izwi lipuma kuDingane ngesitunywa kuye liti, "Inkosi iti wenze kahle ufike, itanda ukuba ikuqate nezangoma nezinyanga zakwaZulu ngom'so."

Kute ekuseni kungakasi kahle, wezwa umuntu ukuti ikulile indaba ezanusini. Seziyapalaza ngobulawu bazo, ziyabhodhla, ziyabubula, kutule kute kwishi.

Watata isikwama sake samatambo okubhula uJege. Wawatela pansi amatambo wawabuka, wayesetula

isikwama semiti, esewakwifa, esewabiza ngamagama awo, ewaponsa pansi. Wahleka yedwa wati nxa ngingabehlulanga kobe uSitela angifundisanga luto. Wasibopa isikwama sake namatambo wawabuyisela emgodhlени.

Kanti pakati kwobusuku uDingane utume inceku wati ayitabate umnyakanya wake wesakabuli, iwufihle esibayeni, iwumboze ngomquba ngasentubeni engenhla.

Kute lapo kufudumala ilanga inkosi yangena esibayeni, nebandhla labutana. Wati uDingane kuNdunankulu, "Biza izangoma nezinyanga zize lapa." Zangena esibayeni, inkosi yakipa ingcazi yotshwala zapuza kuyileonyanga nalesosangoma sipuza kolwaso ukamba. UJege epete umgodhlana wamatambo ake kupe-la.

Wasukuma uDingane wati, "Nginibizenje zinganga nani zanusi ngoba kufike lapa inyanga ebhulayo negelapayo yaseSwazini. Ngayizwa ngodumo, ngatume-la enkosini yakona ukuba ikize lapa izongelapela abantabami. Ngifuna ukuba ngiyiqate nezangoma kuqala zokubhula, ngibuye ngiyiqate nezinyanga zokwelapa. Ngifihle into lapa pakati kwomuzi, isangoma esiyoyitata silete lapa kimi ngosinika izinkomo eziyisihlanu."

Zasuka lapo izangoma zabhodhla, zabubula, zasina.

Wayehlezi nje etule uJege. Zangena ngapakati kwomuzi zafuna pinde zitole mpahla. Wapenya umquba eduze nalapo ehlezi kona uJege, wawacita amatambo ake. Wawabuka, wawabuka wahleka. Wawaqoqa, wakuluma nawo, wapinda wawacita. Wati, "Sengiyitolile into etukuswe inkosi. Biza zonke izangoma ngizikombise ukuti zingabafana kimi." Yazibiza inkosi zahlala pansi, wasukuma uJege, wabiza umfana wake, wati; "Hamba upenye emqubeni lapaya uzofumanisa umnyakanya wesakabuli, uwulete lapa. Nembala umfana wawukipa umnyakanya emqubeni wawuleta kuJege, wawutata uJege wawubeka pambi kwenkosi. Yati inkosi, "Qa, uzehlulile izinyanga zakiti. Yati ezanusini, "Bhekani nginiyeka ngabomu. Bekuti anginibu-

lale nonke, kanti nikohlisa izwenje anazi luto! Hamba-ni nigoduke kona manje." Zasuka sezinyobozela zapuma esibayeni zatata yonke into yazo zahamba.

Wayeseti uDingane, "Ngifuna ukubona umlingo kinina zinyanga zemiti." Wapuma uJege walanda isikwama sake. Wakipa ikubalo lalinye nje nesikunjana esincane. Wahlala, zayaluza izinyanga zihluleka ukwenza into eqamileyo, kwaze kwafika isikati sikaJege. Wati, "Nkosi ngicela ubisi ngesicatulo." Nempela baluleta ubisi, wati, "nina bakwaZulu niyalubona lolubisi olumhlope ngizoponsa udosi lubelunye lwalesi sikumba luzopenduka lubebomvu." Kanti lesisikunjana esesidawana, nempela wanele waluponsa nje udosi lwesidawane ubisi lwapenduka igazi. Yamemeza inkosi yati, "Au, nanko pela umhlola." Lwacitwa. Wati uJege, nazi izinhlanga ezimbili zizohamba." Watata ukamba olunamanzi, wafuta ezinhlangeni, bazibona zigcogcoma pezu kwamanzi.

Wati uDingane, "Ubehlulile mfo waseSwazini. Nazi izinkomo zako," wayeseti kuNdunankulu, "Hamba uye esigodhlweni ubheke isigqili esibukekayo usilete lapa ngisendisele kulenganga." Lambongela uJege ibandhla.

Kute ntambama uDingane wabiza uJege wati, "Ngifuna usuke eSwazini uze lapa ngizakwenza inyanga yami enkulu ngikwakele umuzi." Wabonga uJege wati, "Kodwa pela nkosi ngitanda ukuhamba nezinkomo inkosi engiholele zona nomfazi lo inkosi enginike yena, ikona nabakiti beyosheshe bavume ukuba size lapa, bebona ukwepana kwenkosi." Yavuma inkosi yati, "Hamba ngizokunika abafana ababili bakupelekezele."

Emva lapaya ekaya lakubo ka Jege uyise nonina sebahamba balibangise eSwazini. Wabalaya uJege ukuba baze bazibize ngesibongo azibiza ngaso eSwazini. Noko ukuhamba kwesalukazi sibuye sivuvuke izinyawo bahlala emzini isikati eside size sibencono. OJege nabahamba naye bafika kuqala eSwazini uyise nonina bengakafiki. Kwajatshulwa ekaya umnumzane efika nomhlambi wezinkomo, omkake bapuma ezi-

ndhlini bangcwenga. Ngalesosikati umfana wamazibulo owazalwa uZaki useyelusa. Wazizungeza izinkomo ezifika noyise ezibukisisa. Ababetunywe uDingane ukuba bapekezele uJege, bahlala izinsuku ezimbili bepumla, bapindela emva, kwasala ababili; bati mhla kuzokusa bahambe wabahlabisa imbuzikazi bayidhla baze bapata momkusu wayo. Ababili abasalayo babelindele ukuyokonzela uDingane enkosini yamaSwazi.

Kwadhlula izinsuku eziyishumi nambili befikile, bafika oyise kaJege nonina. Bafikanje usewubikele umuzi wake uJege ukuti oyise nonina bayeza. Bafika imitombo isicwilisiwe, sebebheke ukuba bafikenje buqaliswe utshwala bedili labo. Mhla befikayo banikwa intondolo yembuzi, inone kuyinhlama. Bamangala nje abazali bake, befika esake inxuluma lomzi, babuza ukuti izinkomo zokulobola wazitatapi. Wabalandisa indaba yokugqeda kwake isihuda esasiqeda abantu nezinkomo azitola lapo nazihola enkosini yamaSwazi. Abafazi bakaJege bayagqigqizela bapeka utshwala bedili, yena iloku etoba isalukazi esingunina sekuze kwabohla ukuvuvuka ezitweni nasezingalweni. Wahamba waya enkosini wafike wayilandisa konke ukuhlala kwake kuDingane, nokuti waya kubo wabiza uyise nonina ukuba bazobona umuzi wake. Wati, "Ngomhlomunye ngobenzela idili." Wayitshela inkosi wati, uDingane ubefuna ukumhlubula ayoba inyanga yake, wavumanje kodwa emkohlisa ukuze asuke kahle kwaZulu.

Yajabula inkosi ngokuqoma kwake ukuba abe inyanga yayo kunokuba eka Dingane. Yamkombisa iduna elibomvu yati ihlabisa uyise, nabantabenkosi bayofika edilini. Wajabula kakulu uJege ezwa lelo, ebonga nenkomo.

Lwafika usuku lwedili olungaliyo. Loku utshwala sekuzicibi emzini kaJege.

Ekuseni zawa kumfo kaSikunyana. Wahlabisa izinkabi ezintatu neduna elipume enkosini, umkake amendiselwe uDingane wamhlabisa isitole esimpevukazi. Kute lapo kufudumala ilanga bafika abantabenkosi bepekezelwa ihele lamajaha. Loku pakati komuzi se-

kunuka ulwasi lwenyama sebeyahaya abafike ekuseni, utshwala abudingeki. Bate ukuba bafike abantwana bakonjiswa ilawu labo bodwa nezinceku zabo. Wabahlabisa eyabo bodwa inkomo umfo kaSikunyana. Kwapuzwa kwadhliwa inyama, badakwa, abanye sebebhedha nje. Omunye ebonga uJege wati wasinda ezobulawa alahlwe noTshaka, kanti uxoxa okunje kukona omunye endhlini wakwaZulu opekezele uJege nezinkomo azihole kuDingane. Watula lomfo, waqatanisa ikehla elinguSikunyana noJege. Wabona ukuba abakwaZulu impela lababantu, kepa indaba ikulunywa lonke elakwaZulu ukuti insila kaTshaka uJege weqa lapo esezobulawa alahlwe nenkosi. Pho, abantu besuti utshwala amuko osahlonipa nokukuluma noqapelle ingozi yokudaluleka kukaSikunyana benoJege. Agida amaSwazi nabantwana sebeyixubevange ekutokozeni kwalolosuku. Babona nje oSikunyana nomkake ukuti indodana yabo ingumuntu omkulu kulelizwe. Abantwana baze balala bavukela kubo utshwala ngangomuso.

Lite ukuba lidhlule idili bavaalelisa laba ababepekezele uJege epuma ebukosini kwaZulu. Loku basebeyile komkulu eSwazini beyokonzela uDingane. Babeyipatele izikumba ezintatu zivela kuDingane. Ezimbili kwakwezingwe, esinye kungesensele. Kute lapo sebeyovalelisa komkulu eSwazini inkosi yamaSwazi yabanika izikumba ezimbili zengulule, kwaba umkonzo wayo kuDingane. Wafika wajabula uDingane lapa ebona umkonzo wenkosi yase Swazini. Bate ukuba bazeneke pambi kwake wati, "ake nixoxe pela ukuti linjani elakwaNgwane nabonani kona?" Badumisa idili likaJege alenzela abazali bake abapuma kona lapa kwaZulu. Balanda baze bafika ezwini abalizwa likulunywa omunye umuntu eti inyanga le insila kaTshaka. Yetuka inkosi ukuba izwe loku.

Yabiza abantu ababili yati, "Hambani konamanje niye kobiza uSikunyana wakwaButelezi, nxashana nifika engeko nibize indodana yake enkulu." Bahamba ngokushesha lababantu, baye bafika emzini kaSikunyana bamfika

engeko, babiza indodana yake enkulu. Yabiza abafowabo ababili ukuba bayipekezele, yahamba yaye yafika kuDingane. Wayibuza uDingane ukuti uyise upi. Yati, "Obaba nomame bahamba bati bahambela kwadadewetu owendela ngalapa eMfolozi enhla nayo." "Landa ukuti bati behamba kwakungazange kufika muntu lapo kini na?" Yati "Kwafika indoda iti ingeyangalapa eSwazini kodwa mina angizange ngimbone lowomuntu ngamuzwa ngendaba. Ahlalanga isikati eside. Wati ukuba ahambe ubaba nomame bahamba nabo. Ukupela engikwaziyo, futi kuze kube namhla kabakabuyi."

Yati inkosi, "Hamba nalababantu ababili niye lapo kadadewenu nibuze ukuti oSikunyana benomkake bake bafika nje? Nisheshe nibuye nizongazisa."

Kwadhlula izinsukwana behambile babuya nezwi loku ti bafika, balala amalanga amatatu badhlula bati baya eSwazini. Kwamkanyela uDingane ukuti uye lo uJege wazifihla sonke isikati elapa komkulu. Yati, "Yitsho, ayengaze angasisusa isipandhla ebunzini! Impela isitunzi sake sasisibi kimi, ngangingajabuli nxatshana ngihlezi naye kanti ungeleka ngesitunzi sika Tshaka.

Wabiza amadoda omkandhlu wawalandisa ukuti inyangale ekade yelapa abantabenkosi uJege kaSikunyana wakwaButelezi. Ubuya ekuhambeni okuningi uza lapa emzini wenkosi nesitunzi senkosi endala, uleta imihlola yodwa angitsho nokuti izimpi siyozinqoba lomhlola unga-gezwanga. Nitini madoda ngendaba enje?

Wapendula uNdunankulu wati, "Kuhle kutunywe amadoda enkosini yamaSwazi ilete uSikunyana noJege lapa kwaZulu njengoba nempela abantu bako bobabili ayinakwala nabo." Lakalipa izwi likaNdunankulu onke amadoda alivuma. Kwasuswa amadoda asihlanu atungelwa enkosini yamaSwazi ukuba atumele uSikunyana nendodana yake uJege lo oke weza kokwelapa eNdhhlunkulu. Lite ukuba lifike lelozwi enkosini yamaSwazi, yambiza uJege gamtshela amazwi afike nezikonzi zakwaZulu. Wala uJege, wati, "Angiyi kwaZulu, nawe nkosi nxa ungasangifuni ungangitshela nje ngizidingele; kodwa ukuti ngingaya kuDingane, kungaba umhlola." "Pho, oyihlo nonyoko bazo-

kwenza njani?" kubuza inkosi. "Sebeyofela la kufele kona mna, ngoba uDingane uyofike ababulale ati babengamtshe li ngani mhla ngizidalula kubo na?" Yati inkosi, "Lingabe lifile elakwaNgwane nxa umuka lapa Butelezi. Uwena osupete yonke imiti yobukosi balelizwe, noDingane use-ngakutola ngokuba aqale anqobe amaSwazi."

Wagoduka inhliziyo yake yenamile uJeqe emva kokuzwa amazwi anje epuma emlonyeni wenkosi.

Inkosi yawabiza amanxusa kaDingane yati kuwo, "Amanga, uButelezi ayinakuze imdedele inkosi ngoba uyinyanga yayo noyise usekonzile lapa eSwazini." Amanxusa agoduka nalelozwi lenkosi yamaSwazi. Kwapembeka ubuta obukulu pakati kwamaZulu namaSwazi. Izimpi ezalandela lesosenzo zaze zaliwa indodana kaJeqe enkulu ezalwa uZaki lxege uButelezi nesalukazi sake, bafela eSwazini balahlwa uJeqe nabazukulu babo.

Umlandu walesisenzo awuzange upele pakati kwalezizizwe. NoDingane wafa ngomkonto wamaSwazi, ngapandhle kwabaningi abafa belwa.

UJeqe wacuma njalo elapa amakosi akwaNgwane waze waba indoda endala, washiya elikulu ifa lezinkomo nenza lo enkulu.

Wafika komunye umuzi inkomo izele amawele amankonyane, sekubizwe nezangoma ukuba zizobhula lomhlola ovele ekaya. Sebecabanga ukuyibulala kanye namankonyane ayo. Wala uJeqe wati, "Kiti kwaZulu ziyabhangqwa.

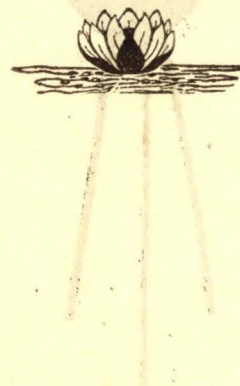
Kuhlatshwa imbuzi emnyama, isikumba sisikwe, siboshele ezintanyeni zamankonyane Nembala kwenziwa loko, amankonyane akula kahle epilile.

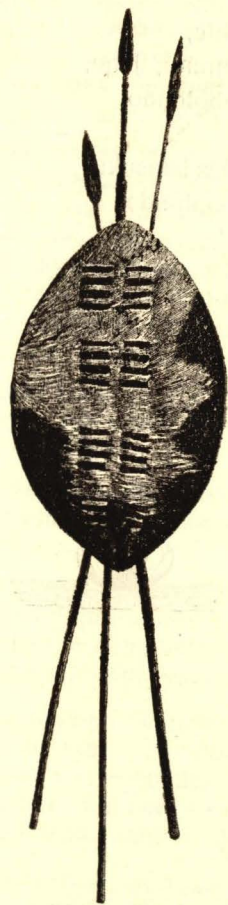
Indodana yake yafunda ubunyanga, noma ingafikanga emandhleni kayise okwelapa, yayidumile ngokwazi imiti

Inzalo yonke kaJeqe yayiziqayisa ngokuti amaZulu anqoba zonke izizwe kodwa azange awanqobe amaSwazi ngoba wayevimba ngemiti yake uJeqe, loku impi yayichelwa uye esapila. Kuningi okukumbuza indaba kaJeqe eSwazini nanamhlanje. Basekona abakwaButelezi abangamaSwazi kona le.

UZaki wakula waze waba isalukazi emva kokuzala izingane ezisitupa. Wayeke akumbule igama aliqamba ogwini lapo edhlalisa izingane zake epetwe utando lwendoda yake.

"Ngeke zingikohle,
Lezinsuku ezimnandi, Jeqe,
Sicotsha amagobolondo,
Ogwini loSutu,
Jeqe zimnandi lez'izinsuku,
Sicotsha amagobolondo,
Ogwini loSutu."





Isihlangu sika Jeqe.

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INSILA

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