[I]SILA KA TSHAKA

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NGU DR. JOHN L. DUBE

ICINDEZELWE NGOKWESINE

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INSILA KA TSHAKA

ISAHLUKO I.

Umuzi wakwaDukuza

Phakathi koMvoti neNonothi, ngasentshonalanga uMadunduɓe, ngasempumalanga ulwandle, kwakwakhiwe umuzi kaShaka ogama lawo uDukuza. Ilapho lapha uZulu wayehlangana khona phambi kweNkosi. Umuntu wayezwa esekude nje ukuthi manje ngisondela koMkhulu. Eɓona ukuhamba kwezinsizwa zakhona endleleni, zihamba sengathi zilungele ukushaya noma uɓani ezihlangana naye. Umuzi lo, ngoɓa wawusegqumeni, wawuɓonakala umuntu esekude. Uthango luzungeze umuzi yonke indawo. Kukhona izigaɓa eziningi umuzi umunye. Enzansi nawo laphaya kukhona izindlu zezikhulu nezinduna zeNkosi, zihenqwe ngothango lwazo. Ngakwesokudla kukhona izindlu zaɓaphatha ukudla kweNkosi, enhla kwezaɓo kukhona isiɓaya samathole amasi awo adliwa iNkosi noMdlunkulu. Isiphondo sawo sibekene nesiɓaya esingaphakathi. Laphaya enhla nomuzi kuyiSigodlo seNkosi noMdlunkulu lapho kungena izinceku kuphela nazo zingena ngemiseɓenzi yaseSigodlweni noma ziɓiziwe kuphela. Wayengekho nje umuntukazana owayengangena khona. Ecaleni ukubekana nesiɓaya samathole kwakukhona izindlu zezinyanga zeNkosi neyesanusi esikhulu seNkosi. Zonke lezizindlu zineziphondo zazo, eziphumela ngaphakathi kogange lomuzi luqonde enzansi, ezigaɓeni zomphakathi. Uthango oluphumela ngaphandle

lunamasango aɓiyiwe ahlangana athi ngci, engangeni esigodlweni seNkosi noMdlunkulu wayo, kepha ebeke enzansi, kanti lawa esiGodlo amasango abeke ecaleni omaɓili odwa engahlangani namanye amasango, ukuphela elaliqonde enzansi ecaleni nomuzi kuyilelo eliphuma liqonde esiɓayeni nasesihonqeni lapho kugezela iNkosi.

Phakathi laphaya esiGodlweni kukhona izindlu zoMdlunkulu zik'ak'e indlu yeNkosi. Ecaleni laphaya kukhona indlu kanina weNkosi namakhosikazi kayise weNkosi. Okwakuye kuthi nxa enye yezintombi zeNkosi esikhulelwe iye ngakhona ilondolozwe kahle unina weNkosi. Nxa iɓelethe intombazane kuɓe kulungile, nxa iɓelethe umfana afihlwe, anyenyiswe ayiswe koninalume iNkosi ingakamboni ngoba umfana wayesaɓeka eɓukhosini sengathi uzothi angakhula aɓangise uyise, uyise engakagugi, izinhliziyo zaɓantu zinamathele kuye.

UMdlunkulu wonke wawunezigqili zawo, eziwuphekelayo, ziwukhelele amanzi, ziwugeze, ziwendlalele, empeleni noma yini edingeka ngaphakathi yenziwe yizo izigqili. Ziphehla uvathi lokuɓasa umlilo. Izinkuni zisondezwa umphakathi ngaphandle eduze nesango lesiGodlo owauye uhambe uvuma amagama oɓuphakathi ɓwawo ukuze ungaphumi uMdlunkulu nxa kusekhona isilisa eduze nesango lawo. Kuthike izigqili ziphume zithaɓathe izinkuni zizoɓasa zipheke. INkosi yayingaphekelwa sifazane. Yayiphekelwa aɓafana aseɓeqinile, ukudla kwayo kuphathwa yisilisa. Nxa kuhlatshwa izinkomo eyeNkosi yayikhethwa ihlinzwe yilowo oku umseɓenzi wakhe, ayiɓeke endlini yenyama njengoɓa noyiphekayo wayaziwa, ingaphekwa nje yiɓo ɓonke. Aɓantwana ɓeNkosi ɓejwayele kwanina weNkosi ɓaze ɓafe kuthiwa aɓantwana, ɓengadli nongazalwa yiNkosi, ɓadle ɓodwa.

INkosi yayiphuma iye eɓandla ixoxe nezinduna okwakuyizo okuthi noma ifuna ukuhlasela iqale

Imizi yakwaZulu pesheya kwoMhlathuze

ilihlanganise nazo izwi. Nxa zenqaɓa yehluleke; kakhulu nxa kwala uNdunankulu. Yayingazenzeli ngokuɓona kwayo, kakhulu ezindaɓeni eziphathelela ezizweni ezinye. Yayithi uma ishisekele ifuna ukweqa izwi lezinduna, kuze kuɓizwe uzalo nezikhulu eziphethe izwe layo zize kuxoxa lolodaɓa, kuɓonakale isigqi senkulumo lapho sibekise ngakhona. Uma udaɓa lunzima kakhulu kuqoqwe zonke izinsika zezwe layo zizoyiphenyisisa leyondaɓa.

Omunye umuntu omkhulu phakathi komuzi weNkosi kwakuyisangoma. Sasibula njalo siɓonisa iNkosi ukuthi izovelelwa yini, noma izohlasela sibule ukuthi izonqoɓa noma izokwehlulwa, nezigangi phakathi komuzi sizinuke ziɓulawe. Uɓukhosi kwakuɓe aɓumi kahle ngaphandle kwesanusi esihlakaniphileyo, esasiye sithi siyawuɓona umhlola okhona nozovela phakathi komuzi weNkosi. Noma sekuɓonakala ukuthi kudingeka ukuɓa kuhlatshelwe amadlozi kwakusho sona, sithi: "Aɓaphansi ɓathukuthele ngokuthi nokuthi, kuhle ɓahlatshelwe ukuze ɓangalethi imihlola emiɓi."

Noma kugulwa, kwakuqala sona sibule ukuthi lesisifo siɓangwa yini emzini weNkosi.

Sekuzovelake omunye umuntu omkhulu eNdlunkulu. Lomuntu inyanga yokwelapha. Yelapha ngaphakathi esiGodlweni kuphela. Ingaze yehlele ezinduneni uma kuvume yona iNkosi. Eminye imithi ezoyifaka kulaɓa aɓagulayo ɓaseNdlunkulu izoyibulelwa isanusi.

Yayiɓa umuntu ofunde kakhulu imikhando yokuqonela ezinye izizwe, ifunde izintelezi zokushaɓalalisa noɓuthakathi, ifunde uɓulawu ɓokwenza iNkosi ithandeke kuso sonke isizwe sayo, ihloni-pheke ingaɓi novalo, iɓe nesiɓindi.

Lenyanga yiyo eyayifunde imithi yokuchela impi yeNkosi ukuze ingehlulwa izitha; yayihlala njalo ibeke impilo yeNkosi nendlu yayo. Nxa iNkosi izohlasela isizwe esesaɓekayo, inyanga

yayithatha udengezi lokhamba, kuɓizwe isalukazi esidala, ithi kuso asichele impi. Siqale ngeɓutho elikhulu eliyintanga yeNkosi, sihambe sifafaza intelezi elungiswe inyanga, size siwaqede onke amaɓutho, intelezi side siyikha ezimbizeni ezinkulu lapho iɓikade ithakwa khona inyanga. Kuleyombiza inhliziyo nesiɓindi sengwe nebuɓesi nesibejane nendlovu kwakungasileli. Okwakumangalisa ukuba inyamazanyana encane Inyengelezi yayingasileli namafutha ayo.

Amakhosi akwaZulu ayeɓa naɓantu aɓasondela kuwo ngaphezu kwezinceku, ngaphezu kwoMdlunkulu—izinceleɓana zawo. Umuntu onjalo wayeɓizwa ngokuthi insila yeNkosi. Uye owayeyibucunga nxashana igeza, uye owayebeka aɓafana namantombazane ayelusa uMdlunkulu noma ungaphakathi esiGodlweni noma uyogeza. Naɓaphatha ukudla kweNkosi ɓaɓe ɓoniswa uye. Utho olonakele phakathi kwoMdlunkulu uye owayeluhlola kuqala, neNkosi icwalwe uye. Umfana owayecoɓela igudu leNkosi, abeke ukudla kwayo wayeɓoniswa yiyo insila yeNkosi. Ngamazwi amafuphi insila yeNkosi yayinceku yezinceku eNkosini. Yayingaɓizwa njengaɓanye aɓantu nxashana ifunwa iNkosi, owayeyimemeza wayethi, "Nanguy'uɓani ɓo!" isaɓele ngokuthi "Wen'omnyama!" njengoɓa yayazi ukuthi iɓizwa kanje ifunwa iNkosi.

ISAHLUKO II.

Ukuvela kukaJeqe

Iziɓongo zikaTshaka ezithi, "Wathi esadl'ezinye wadla ezinye," zifanekisa isimo sakhe sokuɓa wayengahlali isikhathi eside engahlasele ukuɓa anqoɓe izizwe, adle izinkomo, aphendule laɓo aɓanqoɓileyo ɓaɓe uZulu. Wayelazisa iqhawe alixoshise izinkomo.

Indaɓa yethu isuka kokunye ukuhlasela kwakhe okwaveza uɓuqhawe ɓukaJeqe:

UJeqe lo kwakuyindodana kaSikhunyana wakwaɓuthelezi. Ukuze asondele kangaka kuTshaka, kwaya ngoɓa wamɓona uɓuqhawe empini, lapho eyibungu eseliqinile ethwalele uyise uSikhunyana. Wayethwala ucansi lukayise nesikhwama sotshwele olugayiweyo. Ɓaɓekhona aɓeNkosi aɓocansi nesicamelo negudu nesihlangu nemikhonto nesigubu samanzi nesotshwala, netshe likagwayi nenhlaɓa. INkosi yayiphatha uboko, kuthi lapho impi isisondele noma isiɓonakala ɓuqamamana, iɓe isiɓiza induna enkulu ukuɓa ihlele amaɓutho, isizoyiphaka, ithaɓathe izikhali zayo nesihlangu. Lonke udiɓi lolu olwethwele impahla yeNkosi lwaluye lukhonjiswe indawo lapho luzohlala khona. Imvama lwaluhlala endaweni ephakemeyo, lapho luzoɓona kahle ukuɓambana kwayo, lubeke nalapho iNkosi ikhona ukuze lwazi ukuɓa luyohamba kanjani, lusheshe lufinyelele kuyo.

Kwamanye amakhosi konke lokhu kwakungadingeki, ngoɓa ayehlala ekhaya, impi ihambe nezinduna. Kodwa ekusukeni kwakhe phansi, ukuqala kwakhe ukunqoɓa izizwe uTshaka wayeziphathela mathupha impi yakhe, nezinduna zakhe zitshelwa uye ukuthi impi izoɓamba kanjani.

Wayejwayele uTshaka ukungena esiɓayeni kusondele kuye izinduna axoxe ezempi nazo. Uthi lapho exoxa ngelinye ilanga, uthi: "Sizoze sithambe amadolo, ake sihlasele ngalapha, siye kodla khona."

Enye induna ithi:

"Au, Nkonyane yeSilo, sisand'ukufika nje singakaphumuli!"

Athi uTshaka: "Qha,, siphumule kwanele." Nempela zivume ezinye izinduna. Kuɓe sekuthunyelwa njalo ezikhulwini kuthiwa azifike namaɓutho. Zithi ziphela izinsuku ezisithupha amadlangala aɓe esegcwele amaɓutho. Sekuzwakala ngezaho. Sekunuka ulwasi lwenyama yonke indawo. Seziwe zaɓa ucasa izinkomo, kuhlatshelwa amaɓutho.

Ngeleshumi ilanga iNkosi yaɓiza uNdunankulu yathi mawavive amaɓutho angene esiɓayeni phambi kwakhe. Asho izaga zawo aqoqana, angena aphelela. Adlala kwathunqa izintuli, amaqhawe seɓewaɓonga ngokuhlaɓana kwawo.

Laqhamuka "Ilembe elidle amanye" enhla nesiɓaya, liqhamuka selihlome seliphelele, selifake namashoɓa alo.

Zathukuthela zathelwa ngamanzi izinsizwa. Izinduna zashaya kwaze kwaɓa ɓuhlungu izingalo. Kuzona sengathi ngakuɓe seziyanikwa khona lapho.

Ɓaqala ɓavuma amahuɓo amakhulu empi. Insila yeNkosi isilapha eduze kwayo. Inyanga isiyithake yaphelela intelezi yempi. Yachelwa yaze yenela.

Wayikhipha ngamaɓutho ayo yaye yalala endle ngaleyo mini. Udiɓi luyalandela nempahla yamaɓutho. UTshaka uphelekezelwa isigejana samaqhawe, eduze kulandela aɓathwele utshwala ɓakhe nogqoko lwenyama, namacansi nesicamelo, nayo yonke into ayidingayo. Lathi lishona elangomhla wesithathu ɓephume ekhaya, ɓaɓeqhamuka ezweni lezitha aɓazihlaseleyo. Yonke imizi yakhona eyencikene noZulu, yathutha konke okwayo, nezinkomo nokudla naɓafazi nezingane, isiliɓangise koMkhulu waɓo.

INkosi yakhona isilivivile lonke elayo izwe ngamaɓutho. Kwathi ekuseni yayisibekene eduze. Udiɓi selusele emuva, impi isiphethwe uye uTshaka uqobo. UJeqe ulaphaya phakathi kodiɓi.

Wath' ukuba ayiphake okaNdaɓa ngaleyo mini, lokhu ihlangaɓezana ehlanzeni lezinqawe neminga, lapho imvula seyavula izindonga eqeleni, yezwakala iMidlenevu ukuthi isiyilumekile eqeleni, iziNdlondlo zathi "Niyadela nina senilapho" lwasha uthuli, lilodwa nje iqawe elithi:

Ngadla mina kaSoɓani ɓani, othize wathi, wathi, munye nje othi: "Hloma wethu!"

Lapho sekuɓengezela inswani phakathi kwezinqawe, munye nje ogingqikayo, munye nje aɓamthuthela ngeklwa ɓamphonse odongeni. Ɓayaɓukela aɓafana aɓaludiɓi ɓeɓuka ɓelaphaya. Ilembe eladla amanye, amashoɓa alo ehla enyuka phakathi kwempi, lizihlaɓanela-kukhala inkumba lapho kuthi thu-thu-thu! Kwaɓamnyama umuntu wangaqonda ukuthi izozala nkomoni. Zaziyisunduza ngenhla eyako Tshaka, yaqala ukuhlehla ngoba isisindo sezitha sasingakuyo.

Uthe ukuɓa aɓone uJeqe ukuthi ifuna ukuza nayo, wathatha isijuyana sakhe nehawu, wathi:

"Anongibekela umthwalo wami, ngisaya kokulwa."

Nemɓala wathi galo yephuka, eqonde khona enkundleni yempi. Uthe efika nje esenephika lokugijima, wafica ɓemlahla phansi umfo oliqhawe owayelwa eduze neNkosi. Akaɓuzanga, wadimde waziphonsa nje kuleyonsizwa ende. Yathi iyathatha wahlanganisa ngehawana lakhe, umkhonto washishiliza phezu kwalo. Wafola uJeqe wawuphisela esiswini waye waphuma emhlane, wayiqethula ngesinquthu phansi — waɓona izinsizwa ezimbili seziɓange kuye uqoɓo uTshaka, waziphonsa ngaphambi kwakhe uTshaka, wayigwaza enhliziyweni engakuye, wayethatha enye uTshaka ngeklwa lakhe. UJeqe wathatha imikhonto emiɓili kulo amgwazileyo walwa, lapho uTshaka wamemeza, ɓamuzwa ethi:

"Noɓuyelaphi na?"

Lapho uJeqe asalwi usethi mhlola! Khona phambi kukaTshaka yamphisela ngeklwa uJeqe ethangeni insizwa, ithe iwukhipha umkhonto layithatha Ilembe eladla amanye. Waguqa phansi uJeqe. Waɓe uyathe uyasukuma kwala. Lapho isivuke ngokunye iMidlenevu izwa izwi likaTshaka — wayiqunga isiɓindi, ɓayisunduza eyezitha; iziNdlondlo seziyilumekile ngenzansi, aɓantu seɓewe

seɓe ucaca, igazi seliyagoboza, munye nje osemathumbu esenekeke oɓala. Ɓayisusa yaɓaleka eyezitha. Lapho uTshaka esekhathele wahlala phansi kwesinqawe, wamemeza omunye umfo wathi:

"Hamba ubeke inxeɓa lalowo mfana."

Wathi ukuɓa afike kuJeqe waɓona ukuthi ulimele, wamɓeletha wamsondeza eNkosini. Yathi iNkosi:

"Ungokaɓani mfana?" Wathi:

"Ngingoka Sikhunyana wakwa Ɓuthelezi."

Yathi iNkosi:

"Qha, ngikuɓonile mfana! Mthwaleni niyomgeza inxeɓa, nimthele amakhambi."

Ɓayixosha ɓaye ɓayithela emakhaya, ɓadla izinkomo, aɓanye ɓaɓuya nezintombi naɓafana. Yakhukhulake impi isiɓange ekhaya kwaDukuza. USikhunyana wasala noJeqe emzini wakwaQwaɓe, emthoɓa emelapha. Emva kwamasonto amaɓili waqala ukuhamba ngothi, ithe iphela inyanga wayeqala ukutotoɓa, uyise ehamba emhlenga ɓaye ɓafika ekhaya. Ɓayafika ekhaya ɓezwa kuthiwa ɓekufike isigijimi siphuma eNkosini sizoɓuza kuSikhunyana ukuthi umfana unjani. Ɓasitshela ukuthi sekuyoɓa ngozimakhaza, kodwa aɓakafiki ekhaya.

Kwadlula isonto kwafika esinye isigijimi sesiɓiza uSikhunyana ukuɓa aye koMkhulu. INkosi yafika yathi kuye:

"Uɓani iɓizo lomfana wakho na?" Waphendula wathi:

"Ndaɓa, iɓizo lakhe uJeqe." Yathi iNkosi:

"Naziya izithole ezisihlanu nenkunzi yazo, ngizixoshisa uJeqe."

Ɓaɓonga ɓonke aɓaɓekhona. Yathi iNkosi:

"Hamba nazo lezinkomo, umfana lowo ngiyamfuna ukuɓa eze lapha kimi."

Nembala wazithatha izinkomo uSikhunyana, uthe ukuɓa afike nazo ekhaya kwaphuma umuzi wonke, lokhu sezisesiɓayeni. Sezwakala isifazana

singcwenga sithakazela izinkomo. Wamemeza ngezwi elikhulu uSikhunyana elandisa umuzi wakhe ethi:

"Lezinkomo zixoshiswe uJeqe yiNkosi."

Uthe engakaligwinyi, uJeqe wangena ngentuɓa, wadlala ɓamɓonga aɓanewaɓo ɓathi:

"Mlamlankunzi-ungaziyeka ziɓulalane. Dlala Jeqe onjengempisi."

Ɓak'ik'iza onina kwajatshulwa kwaɓa nje; naɓanewaɓo ngoɓa naɓo ɓaɓengamaqhawe ɓadlala!

Lwatshakafula ol'uSikhunyana, lwangqongqotha umɓumbuluzo walo ngempiselo lwathi:

"Phindela khona Jeqe onjengempisi."

Waphinda wadlala uJeqe, ɓak'ik'iza onina.

Kwadlula izinsuku ezisihlanu uSikhunyana wenza idili, lokhu sekuphekwe utshwala, wahlaɓa inkomo yakhe eɓomvu eɓonga amadlozi awoyise amsindise empini kanye namadodana akhe onke, amveza nakoMkhulu ukuɓa umfana wakhe avele eNkosini. Kwaɓuthana sonke isigodi sakuɓo ɓeza koɓusa. Waɓatshela-ke aɓantu uSikhunyana ukuthi iNkosi imɓizile uJeqe ukuɓa ayohlala kuyo. Wayesethi:

"Mapheyana naɓanawe ɓakho, lungisani izikhali zenu, ngomhlomunye nophekezela uJeqe nimse kwaDukuza."

Loku uMapheyana inkosana kaSikhunyana kanti usengenwe umona ngoJeqe. Inhliziyo yakhe isiɓalisa ukuthi yini ukuɓa athi alwa kangaka okhalweni lwaɓantaɓaka Tayi, angenzelwa udumo lwenzelwe umfana! Wala, wathi:

"Mina angiyi lapho."

Kwasuka isidumo phakathi komuzi kaSikhunyana, wehlukana phakathi. Aɓakwaɓo kaMapheyana ɓamvuna naɓakwaɓo kaJeqe ɓamvuna uJeqe. Yaze yahlomelana izinduku, uɓuthelezi waɓiza amanye amadoda akhelene nawo azocima loluthuli. Waphuma owakwaɓo Mapheyana umuzi, yaɓa miɓili imizi kaSikhunyana.

Ɓamphekezela aɓafowaɓo aɓathathu uJeqe. Ɓasuka ekhaya ɓalala eMvoti. Mhla ɓezongena koMkhulu lalise naseɓukhweni ɓezinja, lishaya umoyana omnandi wasentwasahlobo. Ayi, muntu wethu, azisavunule lapho izinsizwa zakwaɓuthelezi sezithe mhlola. Zihlome zithe shi! Zithe ukuɓa zingene esiɓayeni lokhu uTshaka uhlezi enhla nesiɓaya, nezinduna, izinceku ziphakamise izihlangu phezu kwekhanda lakhe, uɓeke isicathulwana sokhamba lotshwala, uxoxa impi, wezwakala umfo kaSikhunyana omdala kunaɓanye edazuluka ngephimbo, eɓonga uTshaka!

ULembe eladla amanye amalembe!
Dlungwane kaNdaɓa,
Odlunge eManxulumeni,
Kwaze kwasa amanxuluma eɓikelana,
Tshaka katshayeki,
UNodumehlezi kaMenzi,
UTshaka ngiyesaɓa ukuthi nguTshaka,
UTshaka kwakuyinkosi yaseMatshoɓeni,
Inkomo ekhal'emthonjeni,
Izizwe zonke ziyizwile ikhala,
Izwiwe uDunjwa waseLuyengweni,
Yezwiwa uMangcengeza wakwa Khali.
Ut'eku lwaɓafazi ɓakwa Mongaɓi,
Ɓet'ekula ɓehlezi emlovini,
Ɓethi uTshaka kayikuɓusa kayuɓa Nkosi,
Kanti yilapho ezakuɓusa.
Umlilo wothathe kaMjokwane,
Umlilo wothathe uɓuhanguhangu,
Otshise izikhova eziseDleɓe,
Kwaye kwasha neziseMaɓedlana,
Ndaɓa wakoMkhulu!

"Amanga Ngonyama! Yithi aɓafana ɓakaSikhunyana wakwaɓuthelezi, sithunywe nguɓaɓa, uthi asilethe uJeqe, njengoɓa iNkosi yayilayezile mhlazana imxoshisa izinkomo. Siyakhuleka thina zinja zakho, sithi thuthuka Ngonyama uɓe ngangezintaɓa."

Wathi uTshaka:
"Uphi uJeqe?"
Wavela uJeqe wathi:
"Ngilapha Ndaɓezitha."
Yashoke iNkosi yathi,
"Uye lo? Ngawuɓona umhlanganiso wakhe eshiya aɓanye aɓafana, impi isisimele kaɓi wafika wayisusa." Wathi:
"Sondela lapha mfana."
UJeqe wakhwica ibeshu lakhe waguqa ngamadolo waye wasondela eNkosini. Yamthanda iNkosi, yamɓonga yathi:
"Uguqa ngedolo okhalweni lwaɓantwana ɓaka Tayi." Ithe lapho isiphuma ngesiɓonda esingenhla yamɓiza, yamxoshisa isiphuku sokwembatha nocansi. Yamkhombisa ilawu azolala kulo eduze nelawu layo iNkosi esiGodlweni.
INkosi yaɓiza inceku yathi:
"Hamba ulaye lomfana, umtshele yonke imithetho yasesiGodlweni."
Nembala inceku enkulu uNozitshela wangena elawini likaJeqe. Wathi: "Mfana kaSikhunyana, ngingena nje ngizokulaya. Wena ungathi ngiɓonwe yini ukuɓa ngingene lapha ngaphakathi. Ukufa lokhu ongene kuko. Ukusondela eNkosini ngohloɓo olunje ukufa mfana kaɓuthelezi. IsiGodlo seNkosi nezigqili zaso ukufa. Noma usulingwa kanjani ungavumeli inhliziyo, woɓe uzigwaza ngowakho umkhonto. Ungaɓi umngani wokude uhlekisana noMdlunkulu; futhi ungavumi ukuɓa ɓade ɓekuɓiza ukuɓa ungene ezindlini zaɓo. Ɓonke laɓa ɓafanyana namantombazana zinhloli. Enye into ungaɓi sigcwelegcwele sokudla. Uzoɓona inyama izigingqana uziphe ungaphiwe, kanti seku ukufa kwakho. Uzokhangwa amasi notshwala kuphihlikile, nxatshana ungaphiwe umuntu ungakuthinti. Umuntukazana akadli naɓantwana ɓeNkosi. Nxa ɓekupha ukudla ungadli ngezinkezo zaɓo, wokudla ngesandla. Ungadleli esitheɓeni saɓo, wokuthululela kwesakho. Ukudla kwaɓantwana ukusiɓekele, nesinambathi nomcaɓa waɓo uwusiɓekele ngembenge. Ungahlali phakathi kwaɓo, uqede lokho okuthunyiweyo uɓuyele emnyango welawu lakho. Noma ulambile uma kungakhumbulanga muntu ukukupha ukudla wohamba uye kokufuna ezigaɓeni emaɓuthweni. Umuntu ongaze uziɓike kuye lapha ngaphakathi isalukazi lesiya. Ɓonke laɓa aɓafana aɓancane oɓaɓonayo namantombazana, ɓanaɓaniniɓo ɓokuɓapha ukudla. Uhlale ngokuhlonipha, nxa uɓizwa uMdlunkulu usaɓele ngokuthi, 'Ndlunkulu!' Nxa sekuhlwile noma ɓekuɓiza ucashe. Zikhona izigqili zamantombazana zokuɓendlalela naɓafana aɓancane ɓokuɓa ɓaɓathume nxashana sekuhlwile. Intuɓa yakho yokuphuma nokungena iɓenye, ungaphumi ungene ngentuɓa ephuma amantombazana eNkosi. Nxa wemukela uɓisi ezincekwini zokusenga, ithunga uliɓeke phakathi kwesandla uliphathele phezulu. Ungahlali unensila ezandleni zakho, noma ulethela aɓantwana ɓeNkosi ukudla, woɓeka amanzi ngodiwo olumcenge, aɓahlambela kulo. Uɓeke isigubu samanzi eduze, kuhlambe lowo uchithe, kuhlambe lowo uchithe, uthele amanye. Uhlale uchophile ugeze umzimba ugcoɓe amafutha."

Walalelisisa uJeqe kuyo yonke lemiyalo. Wathi:
"Ungitshelile okumayelana naɓantwana, kepha awukangitsheli okuqondene noqoɓo lwayo."
Wathi uNozitshela, "OkweNkosi wokuqonda ngokutshelwa yiyo. Yona izulu eliphezulu. Nxa ungaɓa inceku yayo yokutshela okwayo. Kodwa njengoɓa ngiɓona ikunike lelilawu, ifuna ukuɓa ubeke isidumbu sayo. Ungalali kakhulu, noma uzwa umsindwana uphume ubeke. Wokhothama njalo nxa useduze kwayo, ungayeleki ngesithunzi sakho. Zonke izinto evama ukuzifuna uhlale uziqoqile ungephuzi nxa izifuna. Uqunga luhlale luseduze, utshele umfana ahlale alungise konke kwayo. Imitsha yayo namashoɓa neminyakanya

neziqhova ude ukukhipha kushaywa yilanga nomoya ukuze kungadliwa zinundu."

ISAHLUKO III.

Okwenziwa EsiGodlweni

Kwathi esanda kufika nje uJeqe esiGodlweni iNkosi yamsondeza kuyo. Kwaɓa uye osondeza amanzi okuyigeza, kwaɓe yilokhu imthuma ukuɓa abeke ukuthi ukudla kwayo kulungiswe kahle na. Athi umfana nxa esendlalile ayobeka ukuthi wendlale kahle na. Aɓale amacansi nezihlandla ukuɓa zingaki, nezicamelo.

Kwadlula izinyanga ezine uJeqe efikile esiGodlweni, waɓona enye inceku ingena ngentuɓa yoMdlunkulu lokhu uhlezi ethunzini lothango unyezi, wathi:

"Hau uthi umuntu wesifazana lowa?"

Wathulisa waɓuka, wamɓona emi ethe ne ngomhlane othangweni. Wema isikhashana, wasithela ngompheme wokuphekela. Wayeshaya ngalapha kwezindlu ezimbili, uthe ethuka lowo muntu wayesemphethe uJeqe onjengempisi. Pho, uphethe ɓani, insizwa yakwaZulu esimathambo eseqinile kunawakhe! Kwaɓa ongaphansi nongaphezulu, yadluɓulunda insizwa yaphuma yaɓaleka. Wakhohlwa ukuɓa uzotshela ɓani ukuthi uɓone lomuntu nokuthi umehlule ngamandla. Uma wayeshilo kwakoɓulawa yena uJeqe kuthiwe umyekeleni.

Uselwa lokunyathela iNkosi lwalungathunywa ɓonke aɓantu. Lwalukhethelwa aɓalo njalo okuye kuthi nxa iNkosi isizokweshwama ɓaye kolukha eduze nolwandle. Phakathi kwalaɓa kwakukhona umfo waseɓuThonga owayeseyisikhonzi kuTshaka ngoɓa waxoshwa kuɓo kuthiwa uyathakatha. Ukuze asondele eNkosini uTshaka kwaya ngoɓa wadunyiswa enye induna yathi uyifundile imithi yaseNyakatho, kunjalo nje usesindise aɓaningi ngamakhambi. Wathi ukuɓa afike eNkosini, waɓa isithunywa senyanga yeNkosi sokuya koxeɓula amagxolo angamakhuɓalo nokuya kokukha amakhambi.

Liɓiziwe-ke leliɓandla iNkosi lixoxa nayo. Lomfo waseɓuThonga uxoxa ezakuɓo lapha aphuma khona. Uɓaxoxela ngentombi enhle yakuɓo athi seyehlula namakhosi akhona. Uthi uselihambe kakhulu naleli lakwaZulu kodwa akazange ayiɓone intombi enhle njengayo.

UTshaka athi:

"Suka lapha uthi likhona iThonga elingedlula izintombi zakuleli lakithi?" Athi, "Ayi Ndaɓezitha, lowa muntu sengathi wayelolongwe ngembokodwe. Uketshezi lufike luzengame ngisho seziphelele, ilamba lidlile! Idanda liɓanzi, umzimba uyalingana ngokufanele kuze kufike onyaweni. Intamo yinde, amehlo mahle, ithi nxa ibeka ivunywe amashiyi ayo. Kepha inqaɓa lapho ikhona ayivumi ukuqoma. Udumo lwayo noɓuhle ɓayo sekuze kwafika kude. Kufika nezithunywa zamakhosi aceɓileyo zizoyeshela, kepha idimde ihleke usulu nje. Ithi nxa iziqhayisa 'Mina ngothanda insizwa okuyothi noma impofu, ingenankomo iɓe ithandwa yimi ngenhliziyo yami nayo ingithanda. Ɓakhona aɓangakhangwa ukuya esithenjini samakhosi anezinkomo ezingi kodwa konke lokho kimi akungeni!'

Umfo waseɓuThonga ukhuluma nje uJeqe ulapha eduze neNkosi ulalele.

Ukhuluma nje lomfo uTshaka uyamphikisa uthi:

"Awukalihambi leli lakithi uɓone izintombi ezinhle. Uliɓala ukuya ehlathini uyofuna imithi, uxeɓula amagxolo, ukha amakhambi. Thina esike sihambe izwe nje singakutshela ngaɓantwanyana ɓakwaZulu. Asikho esinye isizwe esizala izintombi ezinhle kangaka."

Kanti ixoxwa nje lendaɓa uJeqe usengenwe yisifiso esikhulu sengathi angake ayiɓone lentombi

eseyehlule amadoda nenhle kangaka. Wezwa esengenwa uthando lwayo engazange eyiɓona, loluthando luqhutshwa idumela layo noɓuhle ɓayo. Wezwa engasazizwa uJeqe, wazimisela ukuthi sengathi angayiɓona ngamehlo akhe. Waze wathi enhliziyweni yakhe: "Ngozimisela ukuɓa ngize ngiyiɓone."

UJeqe athi: "Kuɓuhlungu ukuɓa yinsila yeNkosi. Nxa ɓengingumuntu okhululekileyo ɓengizolihamba lelizwe eliɓanzi ngiye ngiyiɓone. Pho, kusizani lokhu ngimelwe ukuɓa ngiɓe lapho kukhona iNkosi yami." Kuthe lapho esengenwe uthando lwayo eyedwa elawini lakhe wathi:

"He, izintaɓa ezikude zingumasithela! Ezisedure ziyimboniselo! Ziyajaɓula izinsizwa ezikhululekileyo eziya lapho zithanda khona. Thina sizigxila gxila zako Mkhulu!"

Usehlezi ebeke ithuɓa lokuɓa aye ezigaɓeni aɓe ilokhu eɓuza iThonga ngalentombi. Athi angalithola aye exhiɓeni lalo, limzekele okuningi ngalentombi, waze wacishe wayazi engazange ayiɓone. Aɓuye aziɓuze uJeqe athi, "Yini kodwa? Imbala angilunjiwe nje! Ngafa impela ngomuntu ngingamazi!"

Ngalesikhathi uTshaka wayengasenalo ugazi ezikhulwini nakwaɓakayise nasezincekwini, phezu koɓuqhawe ɓakhe oɓamenzela udumo nokuɓa aɓe igugu likaZulu, wayeseɓakhathazile aɓantu ngezimpi. Namaɓutho ayesezikhalela ethi, "Size siqhakaze izimvu singaganiwe, singaɓazi uɓumnandi ɓokuhlala emakhaya, kuɓe yilokhu sihamba ezintaɓeni, silale endle, sifa yindlala! Ayi uyasiɓulala uTshaka. Sithi siɓuya nazo zimboze izintaɓa nezinkalo, igazi laɓaningi ɓakithi lichithekele ezizweni, singakaphumuli useyasiɓiza ukuɓa siye kohlasela kwezinye izindawo." Sekukhona imvunge enkulu phakathi kwaɓantu, kodwa yena engayazi ngoɓa ɓesaɓa ukumtshela.

Ɓaɓemuzwa nje ethi uphi uJeqe? Izinceku zimemeze zithi:

"Nangu uJeqe! Nanguy'uJeqe!" Ezwakale esaɓela ethi:

"Wen'omnyama, Ndaɓezitha!"

Kwathi ngelinye ilanga kuzoɓa umkhosi, sekufike inyanga izokwelapha iNkosi, iNkosi isizonyathela (umkhosi) amaɓutho esakhe amadokodo, aɓantu sekunyathelana nje ezigaɓeni, lapho kayisaphumi endlini enkulu engenhla, kungesikho elawini, endlini lapho kukhona induku yoɓukhosi eyayiphathwa uyise, lapho kukhona imithi nezinsila zamakhosi okuyilokhu zambozwa ezimbizeni ezingavulwayo, zanindwa ngoɓulongwe, kukhona amathusi nemikhonto, nezinsimbi nemikhando, amatshe okukhanda izizwe. UJeqe waɓizwa yiNkosi yathi kuye:

"Uzongena lapha, ngizogcatshwa ngegazi lakho."

Nembala uJeqe wangena kuleyondlu okungangeni muntu kuyo, kukhona isihlandla nenkatha, igama layo Indlukayingenwa, kukhona imihlezo neminyakanya. Sonke isikhathi ivulwa kuphela nxa kuzongena iNkosi noma unina weNkosi, naɓo ɓangene kukhona inyanga enkulu yeNkosi. Kwaphela isonto oJeqe neNkosi nenyanga ɓevumbeleke kuleyondlu, iɓaphethe inyanga iɓagcaɓa, iphalazisa iNkosi ngezintelezi ezinkulu, ezimhlope nezimnyama. Ekuseni uNozitshela usehlezi emnyango ukuɓa emukele okuphumayo angenise okudingekayo. Onke amanya amaɓi akhishwa eNkosini esulelwa kuJeqe. Anikwe amakhuɓalo aqinile aɓe yisiɓonda esiqinile seNkosi, kuzawulwe ocaɓangweni lwakhe uJeqe, kungeniswe imbuzi emnyama ayiɓambe, athi nxa eseyiɓambile ibotshozwe malungana nenhliziyo kuthathwe igazi layo, lithakwe namafutha engwe, nebuɓesi, nenhlwathi, iNkosi incinde, uJeqe akhothe udengezi. Isimnyama manje iNkosi ihlikihlwa, inindwa ngemithi, ayisaɓonakali isimo sayo. Akusavunywa ukuɓa iphuze utshwala ngoɓa ɓuphekwa aɓesifazane. Sekungena inyama yona ephekwe

uNozitshela, namasi athiwe uye uqoɓo. Isigubu samanzi sihlezi lapha eduze. Ekuseni lapho ilanga liphuma ilichinsa ngomhlanga, obotshozelwe imboɓo ebeke empumalanga, lapho lishona ilichinse ngemboɓo ebeke entshonalanga. Lembuzi ayidliwa okukhishwe kuyo igazi. Inceku enkulu iɓasa umlilo omkhulu, iɓekwe elangaɓini ishe ize iphele eduze nomnyango waleyondlu lapho laɓa aɓathathu ɓeɓona khona. NoMdlunkulu kulezonsuku awuvunyelwe ukuhlala nokudlela egcekeni. Ɓahlala endlini, noma ɓeyogeza ɓayaɓuya ɓangene endlini.

Sonke lesikhathi iɓutho elithile sekuphele inyanga liye kozingela ingwe, aɓathile ɓaye ogwini lolwandle, ɓayofuna uselwa iNkosi eyonyathela ngalo. Sekukhona izinkunzi ezimbili ezimnyama, ezicijileyo, ezihlaɓayo, ezingazange ziyizeke insikazi, ezanela ukwephusa zakhethwa eziyoɓanjwa amaɓutho ngezandla, ɓazidonye ngesibakela zize zife, inyama yazo iyahlinzwa, iphanyekwe othangweni lwesiɓaya ingadliwa, iyoze yelashwe iNkosi.

Mhla kuzokusa ku umkhosi iNkosi iyophuma lapho endlini kuvalwe, iholwe inyanga iphethe ukhamba lwentelezi, iyifafaze intelezi ɓaye ɓafike emfuleni, uJeqe elandela iNkosi ephethe eminye imithi okuzofikwa emfuleni igeze ngayo. Yeqe amangqaɓangqeshe inyanga emfuleni phakathi koɓusuku yelapha. Ɓageze khona lapho kwesikabadakazi wonke umuntu elele. Nxa seɓegezile ɓaɓuyele ekhaya, kufafazwe enye intelezi emnyango welawu leNkosi, ingene khona, alandele uJeqe, afike endlale, ilale elawini ngaloɓusuku emva kokuɓa ikade ilala endlini yamakhosi namadlozi. Inyanga ilandele uJeqe ɓayolala elawini likaJeqe.

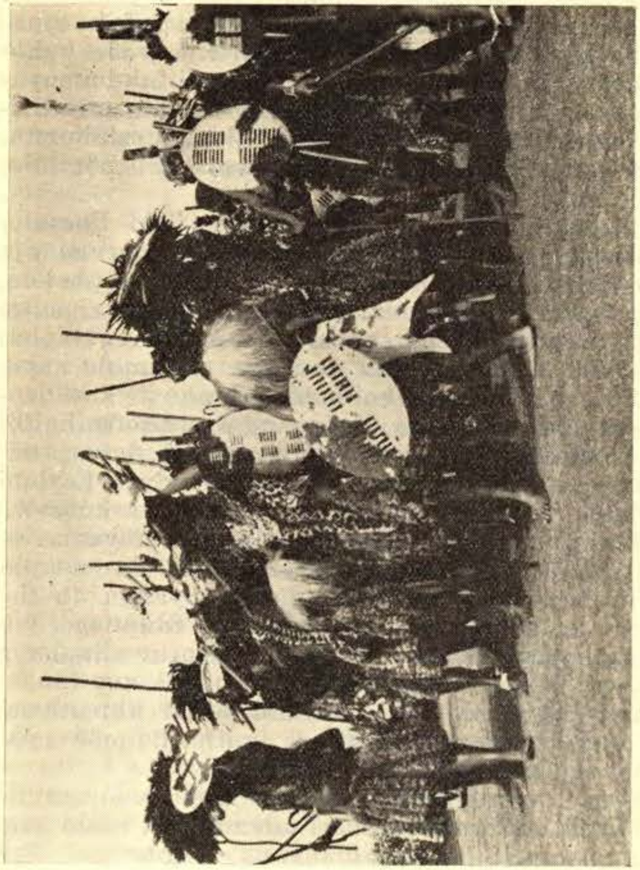
Ekuseni ilanga lingakaphumi, umuntu usezwa umsindo ezigaɓeni, ɓehaya amagama ɓebema insangu, ɓeɓonga amakhosi. Esiɓayeni lapha sekuhamba imbongi yodwa iɓonga amakhosi. Liyaphuma ilanga amaɓutho aseya emfuleni aseyogeza, sekugcwele aɓafana namantombazana aɓalethele amaɓutho ukudla. Nxa umuntu eɓuka uɓona sekumnyama izinkalo aɓantu. Lapho seɓeɓuyile ekugezeni, ɓadla, ngesikhathi ziɓuya inhlezane, ɓaqale manje ukuvunulela umkhosi. Ɓafake amashoɓa aɓo ezingalweni nasezithweni, kuɓe kuhle kudele. Iɓutho eliyintanga yeNkosi lifake umnyakanya wesakaɓuli, kuɓe yilelo liɓe nento eliyenzileyo elehluke ngayo, noma okulenga esiphundu, noma umqhele nje wombijo wotshani oɓuthile. Kuɓe kuhle kudele.

Laphoke azokusho izaga zawo, ilelo linesalo, aqoqana ngezaga. Ngesikhashana esincane nje ilelo selimi kweyalo indawo, asehlome esephelele, aseyahaya. Izinduna lapho sezijuluke zimanzi zishaya, ziqoqa, eputshuka ngalapha nangalapha.

UJeqe laphaya enhla nesiɓaya usevunule naye, useɓase umlilo waɓeka imbiza lapho iNkosi izopheka khona uselwa. Inyanga isiyiqoɓe imithi isiyesaɓeka, nengwe isihlinziwe yaɓengwa, nenyama yezinkunzi ezimnyama isiɓengiwe. Ecaleni laphaya ngasesangweni lamathole sekuɓaswe omkhulu umlilo lapho kuzokosiwa inyama le yengwe neyezinkunzi ezimnyama eɓiɓulawe amaɓutho ngayizolo. Kuzothike lapho inyanga ithathe yonke lemiɓengo iyixuɓe ndawonye emquɓeni, iyifafaze ngemithi iɓe isiyosiwa. Luyavuthwa laphaya uselwa, iNkosi iqale yaluhlaɓela ngoɓa nxa lungaphathwanga yiyo aɓakwaZulu ɓathi aluvuthwa. Inyanga izolwephula iluthele imithi, iluqoɓe amaqashana iluhlanganise nenyama.

Ezeke amaɓutho esephanga izindawo ezinhle esiɓayeni. Funa nomkhosi ungadlalwa njalo nxatshana amaɓili engahlangana esangweni izinduna zingawadedele amaɓanga kahle okungena esiɓayeni. Eke nje ahlangana angalwa kuchitheke konke neNkosi ingaɓe isaɓanamandla okulamula.

Angene ngezigaɓa zawo kuthunqe uthuli luye



Amaɓutho eselungiselela ukuya empini

phezulu phakathi lapha kuhamba imbongi iyavundla, iyehla iyanyuka iɓonga amakhosi.

Iqhamuke iNkosi lapho seɓephelele noMdlunkulu usumi wodwa laphaya enhla nesiɓaya uzoɓukela, uvunule uconsa. Ithi iqhamuka nje ezwakale uɓayede ovimba izindleɓe. Yonake kayisaɓonakali sekuyikazela nje. Umuntu uɓona isihlangu nemikhonto kuphela. Ifaka iminyakanya nemiklezo, kukhona izimpaphe zezinyoni ezinhle ezilenga eɓusweni, zivale ɓonke uɓuso zashiya indawo yamehlo kuphela, ngasemuva lapha kulenga igwalagwala okuloku lisuke ezinweleni, ngaphambi nangemuva ifaka izikhumba zezingwe, ibeshu eleNsele, ezingalweni nasezithweni amashoɓa amhlophe. Iside iya laphaya iɓasikaza ngomkhonto ɓethi, "Uyizulu! Uyizulu!" Laphoke inyanga isizothaɓatha umɓengo enqwaɓeni, iqatha lokuqala ilinike iNkosi ilidle, imiɓengo iphonswe phezulu, lowo alume adlulise, eliwa phansi lingaɓe lisacoshwa. Ulapha emva kwayo, uJeqe, noma ifunani emkhandlwini uzosondeza loko. Inyama le ayigwinywa, kugwinywa uju lwayo, iɓe seyifelwa yiɓo ɓonke.

Nxa sekuphelile ukudla inyama iNkosi iɓuyele enhla nesiɓaya lapho sekuɓekwe khona isihlalo sayo soɓukhosi, sesihlotshiswe ngezikhumba zezingwe, nezingulule nendlozi, nengonyama. Phansi lapha kwendlalwe izikhumba zezingonyama yenaɓele kuzo. Izinceku nxa liɓalele seziyiphahlile ngezihlangu ukuɓa ingashiswa ilanga, uJeqe useqojeme lapho ngakwesokunene eduze nayo. Lapho amaɓutho aseyaguba, iphume imbongi ithi isaqala nje ukuɓonga amaqhawe adlale, ɓaɓongane kusuke izintuli.

Emva kwaloku isukume iNkosi iɓize uNdunankulu, amemeze ngezwi elikhulu eyihumushela ethi:

"Uthi okaNdaɓa uludlile uselwa, ngako lonke izwe selingeshwama." Umphakathi wenanele: "Uyizulu!"

Seɓezogida ɓeguba kuze kucishe kushone ilanga, lapho ke iNkosi noMdlunkulu seɓeɓuyele ngaphakathi, umuntu osemkhulu ngalesosikhathi seku uNdunankulu, uye osetshela izinduna zamaɓutho okufanele kwenziwe. Amaɓutho azonikwa umhlambi wezinkomo awudle ezigaɓeni kuze kuɓe phakathi koɓusuku, kuyasa ayachitheka aɓanga emakhaya sekusala izikhonzi. Mhlawumbe aɓazuhlala nasikhathi eside emakhaya kuTshaka. Ɓazothi ɓesahlezi ɓayezwa sekuthiwa aɓahlome ɓayozidla ekuthini.

ISAHLUKO IV.

UJeqe Uyavivinywa

Kuthe kungakaɓi nsuku zatshwala emva komkhosi lo ekade silanda ngawo uJeqe uɓamba iselelesi ngaphakathi esiGodlweni eɓusuku. Uthi esaphuma eNkosini nje esacaɓanga ukuyolala uɓona umuntu engena ngesiphondo soMdlunkulu. Ukhumbula ukuthi wehlulwa esinye iselelesi, wangena elawini lakhe wathatha iwisa, wanyonyoɓa, uthe lapho edlula enye indlu sase simɓonile, saɓaleka saqonda entuɓeni, ɓakhandana khona, sithe lasithi siyaphuma waɓasa ngewisa uJeqe edolweni sawa phansi iselelesi, wamemeza izinceku zafika, saɓanjwa, zasiɓopha, kwathi ekuseni sayiswa phambi kweNkosi, kanti enye yezinceku. Kwathiwa uJeqe makaye kosiɓulala.

Wayeyiqhawe uJeqe, lapho kuliwa khona wayejaɓula kakhulu, kodwa ukuɓulala umuntu engalwi kwakuyinto elukhuni kuyena. Lelolanga lamenza wafisa sengathi ngayengezanga koMkhulu. Pho izwi leNkosi lalingumthetho wakhe, nokulukhuni kangakanani wayemelwe ukuɓa akwenze. Wasigquɓa ke uJeqe iselelesi lesi, futhi singumngane wakhe, ɓeɓekholana kakhulu. Seside sithi kuye:

"Awu, wena kaSikhunyana, masishone laphaya

eqeleni ungiyeke ngohamba okokuphela ngeduke nezwe."

Kufike ukumhawukela, athi enhliziyweni, ngizokwenze njani? Akhumbule ulaka lukaTshaka okuyothi angezwa ukuthi umyekile aɓulale yena. Ifike inhliziyo kuJeqe ethi: "Akunani aɓulale mina kunokuɓa ngiɓulale umuntu engalwi." Aɓuye akhumbule athi: "Ngiyinsila yeNkosi, ukungalaleli izwi layo yinto embi." Ɓahamba ɓasondela odongeni lapho sekumhlophe amathambo aɓantu wazikhalela lomfo wathi:

"Impela ngizoɓulawa uwe Jeqe?"

Wamthela ngemvula yezinyembezi; lokhu uJeqe iqhawe, kwaquɓuka isihawu kuye naye wakhala, ɓahlala phansi ɓoɓaɓili ɓathula, amukho owakhulumisa omunye. Sathi iselelesi:

"Akusenani sale sewenza umthetho weNkosi, nami kuyangikhanyela ukuthi kufanele ngife, inhliziyo ingumthakathi, angazi ukuthi mina ɓengihungwe yini!" Wasukuma njalo uJeqe, wamshaya enhlafunweni, wenaɓa, waphinda esijingweni ukuɓa asheshe afe, nembala waphela ngaso leso isikhathi, wamphonsa enqwaɓeni yamathambo. Ayezula amanqe ngaphezulu eselungele ukumudla, wafulathela uJeqe waphindela ekhaya. Azange akudle ukudla ngalelolanga, inhliziyo yakhe yaɓaɓuhlungu kaɓi.

Kuthe ngelinye ilanga ekuseni engazelele lutho uJeqe, uTshaka umɓuka uthi kuye: "Amadolo akho azothamba kade wahlala ndawonye, yiya lapha ezigaɓeni ukhethe izinsizwa eziqatha ziɓe amashumi amaɓili, uzingenise esiɓayeni esiphondweni samathole uɓuye uze lapha kimi." Nembala wenza njengoɓa ethunyiwe. Wathi lapho eseziɓizile izinsizwa waɓuyela kuTshaka, wathi: "Seɓesesiɓayeni Nkosi." Yathi iNkosi: "Beka ngizwa kuthiwa ziningi izinkomo ngalapha eɓaThenjini. Hamba nalezi'nsizwa niyokweɓa amashumi amaɓili ezinkaɓi ezikhulupheleyo ngiɓone ukuthi nizinsizwa." Washwaqeka nje uJeqe, pho, nxashana

esekhulumile uTshaka, usekhulumile ayisekho enye indlela. Wayeseya kuбo njalo aбalisa esethi: "INkosi ithi asilande izinkaбi ezimashumi maбili eбaThenjini, noma singazithola ngayiphi indlela. Hambani nifune umphako sohamba ngomhlomunye." Wafuna amaбele esalukazini uJeqe, samupha imbenge enkulu, wawagazinga, wawagaya wawafaka esewuphuthu esikhwameni sakhe sesikhumba sembuzi. Walola imikhonto yakhe emithathu, wayifaka emgodleni onelengiselo eligaxwa emhlane. Wakhanda isihlangu sakhe saqonda. Lafika ilanga lokuбa бahambe. Wema phambi kwelawu leNkosi wayiбonga wathi: "Nkosi sengihamba njengokuthunywa kwami iNkosi."

Yathi iNkosi, "Ziphi izinsizwa engithe hamba nazo?"

Wathi uJeqe, "Zisesiбayeni."

INkosi yathi: "Ake nikahle, akenginiphe umphako, nohamba ngomuso."

Yaбanika ithole elimpevu, бalihlaбa бadla, бapheka, бalungisa umkhusu aбayohamba бewuphethe.

Waphinda ekuseni waya eNkosini wathi: "Nkosi sesihamba."

Yathi iNkosi: "Hamba Jeqe onjengempisi, ngiyazi woбuya nazo wena."

Wakhuleka uJeqe wathatha izikhali zakhe nomphako wahamba. Wangena esiбayeni waбaбiza бaphuma ngesango elikhulu, бahamba. Бahamba kakhulu бaye бayolala kuбo kaJeqe. Waбiza uyise wamбizela emnyango waya kohleбa. Wathi: "Au, бaбa, indaбa kangiyizeki lapha. Sengiбulala aбantu, namhla kuthiwa angihambe nalaбantu esifike naбo ngiyokweбa izinkaбi ezimashumi maбili eбaThenjini."

Uyise wathi: "Njengoбa uyinsila yakhe nje usehamba ekufaka kulezinto nje uzosala noбani ekhaya?"

Kwala ukuбa uJeqe angamhleбeli unina indaбa aбahamba ngayo. Esezwile yonke indaбa unina

wathi kuye: "Mntanami, yini ungeqi uye emaMpondweni noma uye eSwazini njengoбa ukuбulala nokweбa izinkomo zaбantu awuzwani nje nako?"

Waphendula wathi uJeqe:

"Mame, izwe lakithi neNkosi yakithi ngiyakuthanda. Njengoбa бengiza lapha ekhaya nje ngiphuma koMkhulu, бengithi nxashana ngiбona amagquma nemifula yezwe lakithi, engikhulele kulo, lapho ngiбona izinkalo engelusela kuzo, kuquбuke phakathi kweziбilini zami uthando olumangalisayo, ngiqome ukuбa umбulali kunokuбa ngiyokhonza kwelinye izwe nokuбuswa amanye amakhosi. Noma iNkosi yakithi inenhliziyo enje yokuthanda ukuбona igazi lichitheka, ngehlulwa uбuqhawe бayo oбuncomekayo lapha sesihlangaбezene nezitha. Ngizonyamezela kuze kufike isikhathi lapho amadlozi awoбaбamkhulu eyongisiza."

Uyise wathi: "Ungahlali lapha ekhaya funa izitha ziyokuhlala zithi uhlezi ekhaya umseбenzi owathunywa wona kawuwenzi. Nansi intondolo, yiбulaleni nidle nivuke nihambe."

Бayihlaбa, бayipheka khona eбusuku бadla, бavuka khona eбusuku бahamba. Бahamba njalo aбayazi nendlela eqonde khona eбaThenjini. Бahamba бawela uThukela бenyuka бaqondana neQhudeni. Бathe бephansi kweQhudeni бevuka endle ngalelolanga, kuzinkungu, бawukhanda umhlambi omkhulu wemizi yakhona zikhandene ndawonye. Wathi uJeqe:

"Nazi madoda, khethani ezikhuluphele."

Nempela бazikhetha zaбa amashumi amaбili namбili, бathi: "Ezinye lezi sozidla endleleni."

Zaбasiza izinkungu, бahamba iбanga elide zingakembuki, zithe ziqala ukwembuka бase бesithele ehlanzeni бahamba impela, kuthe kuбa yisemini enkulu бaбewela uThukela бawela qede бaphumula.

Emva lapha kuthe ngesikhathi sokuбa sekuzosengwa aбafana бafika izinkomo zingaphelele,

ɓalanda umzila ɓaɓona ukuthi ziqhutshwe aɓantu izinkomo lezi ɓaɓuyela emakhaya ɓayohlaɓa umkhosi. Zaqoqana izinsizwa zahloma, zaphela amashumi amathathu, zalanda umkhondo. Kuthe ntambama lapho liɓantuɓahle ɓaziɓona zidunduɓala entaɓeni lokhu ɓahamba ɓeɓuza emizini aɓantu ɓaɓatshele ɓathi:

"Ɓakhona aɓantu aɓalidlanzana esiɓaɓone ɓeqhuɓa izinkomo. Ɓashone laphaya, ɓeɓeyigwema imizi, aɓaphambukelanga."

Ɓahamba ɓaye ɓalala emizini aɓayaziyo laɓa aɓalandela izinkomo zaɓo. Ɓafika kufike aɓayeni ukudla kuhlaphakile, ɓadla ɓaphuza ɓalala ɓesuthi.

Kanti impi yawoJeqe yanele yadunduɓala nje, lashona ilanga yangenisa endle. Kulale aɓanye, aɓanye ɓazibeke izinkomo, ziɓahlupha zifuna ukuɓuyela emuva. Ɓasizwa unyezi, ukuɓa kwakumnyama zaziyoɓadukela. Kwanela kwaphuma ikhwezi ɓasuka nazo oJeqe. Aɓazi ukuthi ɓalandelwa eduze kepha ɓanomqondo wokuthi ziyafunwa izinkomo lezi. Ɓahamba ngamandla ɓeqonde ukufinyelela emizini yakuɓo.

Zavuka izinsizwa lezi ekuseni kakhulu. Ɓazinika izinkamba ezimɓili zotshwala, zaphuza zahamba. Ngalelolanga inkungu kayisekho. Ɓathe ɓethi dundu phezulu ɓaziɓona zisithela phansi. Ɓahamba ngendlela engaphezulu enqumayo ɓona kuyizwe lakuɓo ɓelazi. Ɓathe ɓeyophenduka enhla nokhalo kwaɓe kuyilapho ɓekhuphuka ezansi aɓakwaZulu, seɓethiywe isiwa enzansi. Ɓathe ɓedunduɓala enhla nokhalo ɓaɓehlangana.

Laɓa aɓeɓelwe izinkomo ɓathi koJeqe:

"Akenime siɓuze."

Ɓema, ɓathi lapho ɓesondela, ɓala oJeqe ɓathi:

"Ɓuzani nikhona lapho, musani ukusondela kithi."

Nempela ɓaɓona naɓo ukuthi kusho izinsizwa zivuthiwe, uye uJeqe lo ongumholi waɓo, okunguyena sengathi mncane.

"Izinkomo zakithi lezo niziyisaphi?" kuɓuza laɓa aɓantshontshelweyo.

"Siya nazo kithi," kuphendula uJeqe, uma nithanda ningazikhalima." Zasuka izinsizwa zenza uhla sengathi zifuna ukuɓak'ak'a oJeqe.

Wathi uJeqe kulaɓa ɓakuɓo: "Qhelukani ningavumi ɓasik'ak'e."

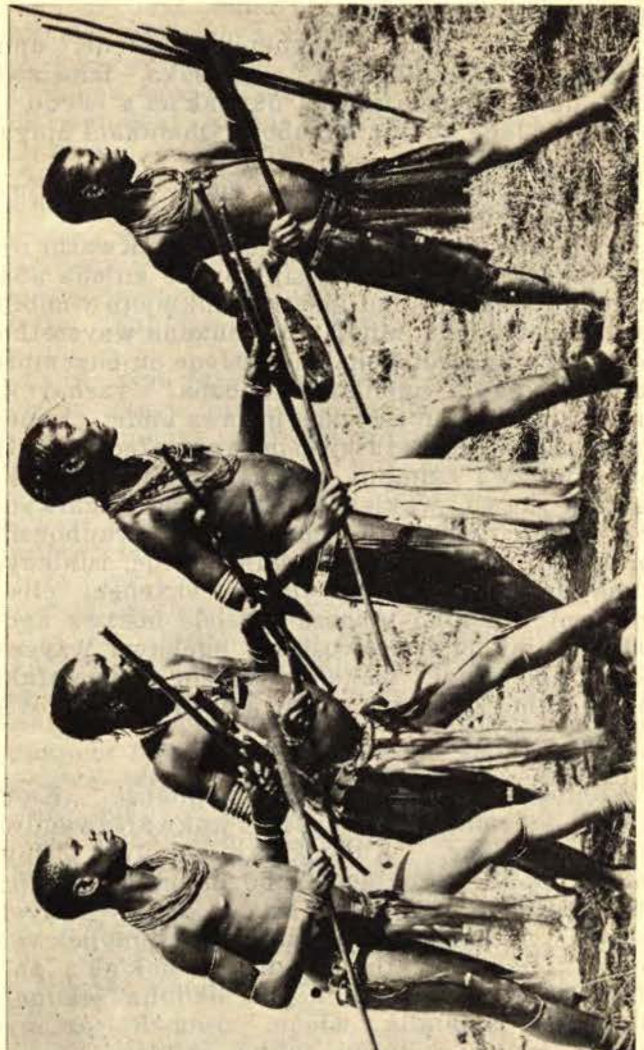
Yesuka insizwa yakhona ende yazikhalima ilandelwa ezinye.

Lapho amukho owatshela omunye. Kwathi nje ngokuphazima kweso, yayisihlangene kulaɓa aɓaphambili ɓoɓaɓili, loku iphethe imikhonto yomɓili, kwathi klebuklebu, mbo! Yashukana wayesethokoza lapha ngasentshonalanga uJeqe onjengempisi wathi: "Ngadla ngenkomo kaɓaɓa!" yashayeka phansi amathumbu eselenga insizwa ende. Lapho asalwi usendiza phezu kwezindwani uJeqe, zamfikela izinsizwa ezimbili, umkhonto wenye wafike wadlula ihawu, waklebula isikhumba engalweni, ithe layithi ayimthathe enye, lapho iwuphonsile umkhonto, wavika wagoqongana uJeqe, isihlangu sakhe sesiɓomvu igazi elopha enxeɓeni elisengalweni. Lapho iphonse iphelele insizwa ende kuJeqe, umkhonto wawushaya ngehawu wayesefikile uMthwazi wakuɓo kaJeqe, wawufaka ohlangothini kulensizwa ethi ayiqede uJeqe. Wathokoza wathi:

"Ngadla mina Mthwazi lothwishi!"

Wahlomula uJeqe, ɓamlahla phansi. Kanti ngale seɓemhlaɓile umfo wakwaNdwandwe ohamba noJeqe. Kulomkhathi munye ofileyo koJeqe, ɓaɓili kubalandeli ɓezinkomo. Ɓaningi laɓa aɓalande izinkomo kepha aɓakwejwayele ukulwa njengalaɓa aɓahlala ɓesemphekweni wako. Ɓaɓe ɓeyathe ɓafuna ukuɓak'ak'a zala izinsizwa zika Tshaka, kepha ukopha sekuqala ukumqeda amandla uJeqe, usomele amanzi, akhona lapha esigujini sakhe emhlane, nokho ithuɓa lokuphuza alikho. Wamemeza ethi:

"Uyothini uLembe eladla amanye na?"



Izinsizwa zikaTshaka mhla ziyodla izinkomo eQhudeni

Lapho kwaɓa sengathi uzichelile uJeqe, zaɓahlaɓa zaɓasunduza. Wathola ithuɓa lokuletha isigubu ngaphambili aphuze. Ɓayigwaza enye insizwa eɓomvu aɓakwaZulu ɓenanela, lapho uJeqe waziphosa phakathi kwaɓo, walwa ɓayisusa, ɓazishonisa ngale kokhalo, yaɓaleka ekwehleni, ɓayigingqela ngamatshe, ɓahlala phansi ɓaphumula. Ɓathatha amahlamvu emithi, ɓaxhoza amagxolo omunga, ɓaɓopha inxeɓa likaJeqe naɓanye aɓaɓili. Ɓesuka ɓaqoqa izinkomo ɓahamba. Ɓeyishiya khona lapho insizwa yako Sokhulu, ɓasiphula utshani ɓayimboza ɓahamba. Ɓemukela lathi lishona ɓaɓe kude.

Kanti isale yahloma lapha emuva yaɓaningi namakhehla alandela izinsizwa. Ɓahlangana kuwo lowo muzi lapho ɓeɓelele khona, aɓanye ɓexhuga, aɓanye ɓenamanxeɓa, aɓanye seɓejiyelwe, ɓehamba ɓexhugela, seɓehlengwa, seɓeɓalandisa ukulwa kwayo. Lempi entsha esaphuma ekhaya yathi:

"Siyaɓalandela, sesiyophindisela nezidumbu lezi zakithi."

Ɓathe ɓefika esikhungweni, zaziqungquluzile izinsizwa zakuɓo ezintathu, aɓakwaZulu ɓehambile. Ɓazithwala zayolahlwa emakhaya.

Kuthe phakathi koɓusuku aɓavukela naɓo amanxeba oJeqe naɓanye aɓathola amanxeɓa. Ɓaphambukela emzini wakuɓo kwaɓuthelezi, seɓefike emizini aɓayaziyo, seɓeyixoxa ɓeɓatshela ukuthi:

"Ɓesithunywe iNkosi ukuɓa siyodla izinkomo ngalapha eQhudeni, ɓalwa nathi aɓafo kodwa saɓehlula, nokho asesigunyele amanxeɓa."

Izinkomo ɓazishiya ngaphandle nazo zikhathele, zadlayidla zalala. Umnumzane wathi:

"Ayi, uTshaka uzozenzani izinkomo kwezingaka, ehambe ephuca aɓantu izinkomo zaɓo, eɓulala nani ngemikhonto yaɓafo!"

Ɓathotshwa, aɓoshwa kahle amanxeɓa ekhaya, ɓaphiwa ukudla ɓalala. Ɓacela aɓafana ukuɓa

ƃaƃelusele izinkomo, ƃaphumula lonke lelolanga. Ɓaƃengasesaƃi lutho ngoƃa ƃase ƃefikile emizini yakuƃo. Ngangomuso ƃahamba ƃaye ƃafika komunye umuzi wakuƃo kaMthwazi, ƃalala. Ɓathatha enqamulayo eƃange kwaDukuza ƃalalela eduze kwaMadunduƃe. Ɓangena nazo ekuseni koMkhulu.

Washo uJeqe, eseƃonga iNkosi, yaphuma yaziƃuka, lokhu ezimbili ƃazishiye endleleni, ƃengasazihlaƃanga. Zafika zingamashumi amaƃili, wasondela kuƃo waƃona amanxeƃa, kwaƃa yilowo wamxoshisa ithole, kwahlatshwa zaƃa zimbili kwadliwa kuxoxwa impi yazo.

Kuthe kungakaƃi zinsuku eziningi oJeqe ƃeƃuyile ekudleni izinkomo eQhudeni, kwafika koMkhulu amadoda amahlanu ephuma eNonothi. Ahlala eƃandla neNkosi esiƃayeni noJeqe ekhona. Athi:

"Sifike nje Nkosi sizoƃika udaƃa lapha eNkosini. Aƃantu ƃeNkosi ƃaphelile emizini yakithi, ƃakhunkulwa uMbali kaNtulo wakwaMkhwanazi. Zonke izanusi zinuka yena." INkosi yathi:

"Hambani nigoduke, ngizomlungisa."

Ɓathe ukuƃa ƃahambe yathi:

"Jeqe, hamba uye ezigaƃeni ufune izinsizwa ziƃe yishumi nesihlanu, uhambe nazo niyoƃulala uMbali. Ningashiyi lutho, nicoshise izalukazi nezingane, nishise umuzi, niphange izinkomo zakhe nizilethe lapha kimi."

Nembala uJeqe waya kozifuna izinsizwa lezo. Esezifumene waƃika eNkosini. Yathi iNkosi:

"Anovuka ekuseni, kuyaswelela niyawuk'ak'a umuzi wakhe, uƃatshele bangakhwehleli, kothi lapho kusayo, niwuvimbezele umuzi wakhe."

Kwaƃanjalo njengokusho kweNkosi. Ɓavuka ekuseni ƃahamba ƃaye ƃafika eNonothi, ƃahambe eƃefuna ukudla emizini, ƃashonisa ilanga. Ɓafika kuphuzwa kwaMagqumeni, omunye walaƃa aƃaƃezohlala uMbali. Waƃona ukuthi sekuyikho lapha eƃona uJeqe. Waƃapha ukudla, ƃahlala khona kwaze kwangathi seƃeyalala, kuthe lapho kwe-

ndlalwa, ƃaphuma ƃaqonda khona kwaMbali. Ɓahlala enhla komuzi. Ɓayaƃezwa ƃekhuluma khona ezindlini, nezinja zalizwa iphunga laƃo, zaƃakhonkotha ƃaze ƃasuka ƃaya lapho kuya ngakhona umoya.

Kuthe lapho kukhala izinkuku ezizolandelwa ezokugcina, wayifaka uJeqe. Yangena phakathi komuzi yashaya izicaba, ƃadliwa yimikhonto, ƃeƃagwaza emacansini. Umuntu wezwa nje o "Mayeƃaƃo! Ngafela ocansini mina kaƃaƃa!"

UJeqe akakho lapho umi ngenhla komuzi; akumjaƃulisi ukugwazela umuntu ocansini. Omunye umfazi kaMbali waphambana naƃo eƃelethe umntwana, elandelwa umfanyana wakhe owelusa amathole, neqhikiza likaMbali, eselikhuza impisi. Ɓathe ƃethi ƃayeqa, gaga kuJeqe, ƃathi:

"Awu, muntu weNkosi!"

Wathi uJeqe:

"Dlulani ngamandla niƃaleke."

Ɓasinda laƃo, uJeqe wasondela eduze wafica ijongosi lentombi selidindilizile egcekeni, wagcoƃa umkhonto wakhe ngegazi lalo ukuze ƃangasho ukuthi uƃengaƃulali yena. Ɓaƃaqeda lapho, uJeqe waƃiza aƃakuƃo wathi maƃahudulele zonke izidumbu ezindlini ƃashise izindlu, aƃaƃili ƃakhiphe izinkomo esiƃayeni nezimbuzi. Nempela kwenziwa lokho ƃaziqhuƃa, kuthe lapho kufudumala ilanga, ƃafika emfuleni, ƃageza, ƃahlaƃa izimbuzi ezimbili, ƃaphehla uvathi ƃaphemba umlilo, ƃosa inyama yezimbuzi ƃadla.

Kuthe kuntambama ƃafika nazo izinkomo zingamashumi asithupha nezimbuzi eziyishumi nambili. Waƃonga iNkosi uJeqe. Akaze aphuma ukuziƃona uTshaka. Wathuma induna wathi maziyiswe kwelinye ikhanda. Kwaƃanjalo.

Wangena uJeqe, wema ngaphandle kwelawu leNkosi, wayilandisa ukuhamba kwaƃo. Yathi:

"Iphelile inkani kumthakashana ndini."

ISAHLUKO V.

Isizwe Siyamsola uTshaka

Aɓantu nezinduna sezide zixoxa noDingane. Ɓakhala ngezingane zaɓo eziphelela ezimpini. Ngaso lesosikhathi amaɓutho amasha ayengekho eye kohlasela le kwaSoshangane, aɓanye seɓefike ɓazikhonzela kwezinye izizwe, ɓethi:

"Sikhathele uTshaka esiɓulalisa ngezinye izizwe!" UDingane uɓiza oMhlangana noMbophe, nezinye izikhulu ɓehleɓa uTshaka ngezenzo zakhe. Izinceku zikaDingane sezihamba ziɓangenela ɓonke aɓakhulu ziveza umoya wenzondo ngoTshaka. Komunye umhlangano waɓo ɓaveza iceɓo lokuɓa ɓathume umuntu njengesikhonzi ayothola uJeqe ukuɓa naye aɓe ngakuɓona, aɓadlisele uTshaka ngoɓuthi ekudleni kwakhe.

Nempela ɓamthola umuntu ongumngane kaJeqe. Wahamba waya khona koMkhulu njengesikhonzi. Kuthi nxa uJeqe esezigaɓeni aɓe yilokhu efuna amathuɓa okuɓa axoxe naye. Waze wazidela ngelinye ilanga ɓeɓoɓaɓili wathi:

"Ɓuthelezi, uyazi nje ukuthi sekukhona uzungu phakathi kukaZulu ukuɓa uTshaka lo aɓulawe kuɓuse uDingane ukuze aɓantu ke ɓaphumule ezimpini?" UJeqe athi:

"Qha, angikwazi."

Ithi lensizwa:

"Kuya ngoɓa uhlala lapha koMkhulu, awuzizwa izindaɓa ezikhulunywa ngaɓantu ezifundeni lapha. Izinhliziyo zaɓantu sezinamathele kuDingane ezethemba ukuthi izwe uzoke aliphumuze empini. Ngikhuluma nje izinsizwa zile kwaSoshangane ziyohlasela khona, aɓanye ɓathunywe le emaMpondweni. Kusoɓala ukuthi uTshaka uzoqeda aɓantu ngezikhali zempi. Uthini wena Ɓuthelezi?"

UJeqe athi: "Nami ngiyaɓona ukuthi iNkosi le inomhawu sengathi ingaɓusa lonke izwe kungaɓikho iNkosi enye."

Sithi isithunywa senhlangano yawo Dingane:

"Pho, kungenziwa njani ukunqamula lenkathazo?"

Athi uJeqe:

"Angazi, noma kuɓuhlungu kangaka ukuɓona aɓantu imihla namalanga ɓecekelwa phansi lapha ekhaya nangemikhonto yezizwe, ngenxa kaTshaka, mina ngethembekile kuye ngesivumelwano engasenza naye ukuɓa ngimufele noma kunjani."

Isithunywa sithi:

"Qha, Ɓuthelezi, aɓantu ɓangephele ngomuntu oyedwa. Kumnandi aɓantu ɓehlezi emakhaya izwe lithule. Akukho sizwe esingahlasela uZulu ezithulele. Mina ngithi uwe ongavela nesu ngoɓa usondele kakhulu kuye kunaɓo ɓonke aɓantu."

Ɓathi ɓesephakathi nalenkulumo zezwakala izinceku:

"Nangu uJeqe!"

Asaɓele uJeqe:

"Wen'omnyama!"

Afike anikwe imiseɓenzi esiGodlweni iNkosi ithi: "Akengelule amadolo. Ɓaphume nayo ɓehamba."

Iloku kuthunywa uJeqe nje ukuɓa aɓulale aɓantu, iNkosi ifuna ukususa isihawu kuye aɓenjengayo ngesiɓindi sokuɓulala njengoɓa eyinsila yayo nje. Naye wayeseze wejwayela ukuɓulala aɓantu ngoɓa noma into imbi nxa umuntu eseyenzele futhi ayiɓe isaɓambi. Noko wayengakehlelwa iloku okwamehlela ngelinye ilanga, ɓesesiGodlweni esingaphandle lapho kuhlala khona izinceku eziganiweyo. Ɓahamba nayo iNkosi. Uthe ethuka nje owesifazane ekhulelwe uthi nqamana naɓo oJeqe neNkosi.

Ithi iNkosi:

"Jeqe, thatha lomfazi ubeke umkhonto omfishanyana, umqhaqhe isisu kesiɓone ukuthi ingane ihlala kanjani esiswini ingakazalwa."

Kwathi ashone phansi uJeqe, pho, uzothini sekukhulume izulu eliphezulu. Waɓe uyazikhalela owesifazana; wamqhaqha uJeqe. Waɓuka uTshaka wahleka, wahamba. Zazimthatha izinsizwa ziya komlahla umfazi kwangaɓandaɓazalutho.

Lento yamnenga kaɓi uJeqe. Usede ethi enhliziyweni ɓaqinisile aɓathi ngayesuswa uTshaka phansi komthunzi welanga.

"Ngangingazi ukuthi ukuzinikela eNkosini yami kuyakungenza ngize ngenze izinto ezinengeka kanje."

Uthe eɓuyela ezigaɓeni wafika lesisithunywa sikaDingane sesihambile, ethi uzosixoxela lendaɓa embi neɓuhlungu yokuhlinza umuntu wesifazana ekhulelwe.

Le emva iphehliwe indaɓa yokususa uTshaka. Lomfo ufika uyaɓika uthi: "Ngimlinge ngamaqhinga amaningi uJeqe ngithi asihlangane naye adlise uTshaka. Naye kuyamkhanyela ukuthi izwe uliphethe kaɓi, kodwa wethembekile eNkosini yakhe akanakuze ayilimaze."

UDingane naɓangane ɓakhe seɓefune izanusi nezinyanga ɓezama ukumphonsa ngemithi uTshaka, phinde! Izinyanga ekwehlulekeni kwazo zibace ngokuthi uphethwe izinyanga ezihlakaniphileyo imithi yamalumbo ayinakuze imngene uTshaka. Ɓazama ɓazama ngemithi ɓehluleka. Ɓase ɓeɓiza lesithunywa aɓaɓesithume kuJeqe, ɓathi: "Ngoɓa nike naxoxa naye uɓuthelezi, kuhle uphindele umncenge uthi uDingane uyokuhlanza ɓonke uɓumnyama ɓensila kaTshaka akwakhele umuzi omkhulu emva kokuɓa usugezwe ngezintelezi, futhi mhla efayo uTshaka uyokulondoloza ungambelwa naye."

Lensizwa yaphindela njengesikhonzi koMkhulu. Yamthola uJeqe, ɓaxoxa. Wayitshela ngesimekemeke sendaɓa ayenziwe yiNkosi ukuɓa aqhaqhe owesifazane ekhulelwe.

Yathi lendaɓa ukuɓa iphumelele ngaphandle kuɓantu kwaya ngokwanda ukunengeka kukaTshaka. Ɓajaɓula kakhulu oDingane naɓangane ɓakhe. Aɓanye ɓathi: "Nithi usayozinqoɓa izimpi lo eseɓone umɓilini womuntu wesifazane?" Phezu kwakho konke lokhu osekuluthuthuva phakathi kukaZulu aɓanye ɓaɓengavumelani. Aɓanye ɓaɓemthanda kaɓi uTshaka ngoɓuqhawe ɓakhe. Kwakuvama ukuɓa ɓalwe emakhaya ɓeɓanga yena. Oke wakhuluma ngokumjivaza nje, usethinte owethembeke kuye, seɓethathelana izinduku ɓelwa. Nxa ize yafika ezinduneni indaɓa yokulwa kwaɓo, lo oɓejivaza uTshaka ayoɓikwa koMkhulu, avinjezelwe aɓulawe. Aɓe eyazikhalele umuntu ethi:

"Iyahletshwa nje neNkosi", kungalalelwa, aɓulawe, ɓethi:

"Unguɓani wena ongahleɓa iZulu eliphezulu? Inja le! Konje inja iluma umniniyo!"

Ngelinye ilanga kwasuka esikhulu isidumo esiGodlweni kuthukana izintombi ezimbili ezinguMdlunkulu kaTshaka zixaɓene. "Ududwa ngoɓa unomuthi wentando, uɓizwa njalo yiNkosi; futhi ungeneliswa nayilokho, uɓuye ugange", kusho enye kwenye. Ziɓe sezidumelene, zishayane, ziklweɓane, zilumane kuɓe nje.

Enye ithi:

"Ɓengingathi wathatha nomuthi esokeni lakho ukuɓa uɓulale iNkosi." Zithukane kuɓe nje aɓanye ɓalalele. Lokhu ukulwa, namazwi enhlamba aɓakhiphelene wona aɓikwe kuTshaka.

Ngaso leso sikhathi iNkosi iɓize uNozitshela noJeqe ɓaye koqula elikhulu icala ngaphakathi esiGodlweni. Lapho indaɓa ikhulunywa kuhlaluke ukuthi zombili lezintombi zeNkosi ziyelelesa. Laɓa aɓaɓanjwa uJeqe ɓaɓeze kuzo. Kwahlaluka futhi ukuthi inomuthi wentando, yikho nje inogazi eNkosini.

Ahambe uNdunankulu noJeqe ɓaye koyiɓikela iNkosi ukuhlola kwaɓo lelicala. Ithi iNkosi ukuɓa izwe ukuthi kanti kukhona aɓayiphathele imithi ngaphakathi esiGodlweni ithukuthele ithelwe ngamanzi. Ithi kuNdunankulu ɓenoJeqe:

"Hambani kalokhu niyophequlula yonke into elawini lalezintombi nifune imithi."

Nempela ke ɓesukele phezulu. ɓaɓize izigqili zamantombazane, zingene elawini, zikhiphe yonke impahla esendlini, uJeqe eqojeme phakathi, uNdunankulu esegcekeni ziɓekwa phambi kwakhe. Zithi sezithi ziqedile izigqili ukukhipha athi uJeqe: "Ayi, bekisisani nasezintungweni zendlu." Kanti uqinisile, esinye siluthole uphonjwana oluncane lwePhithi.

Phandle lapha phambi kwenduna sekugcwele amacansi, izicamelo, izinguɓo zezikhumba ezishukiweyo, imitsha yawo uMdlunkulu, izigqoɓela zawogwayi, uɓuhlalu, izindondo, imibijo yotshani, amathongwane, imifuma yamafutha, amasongo ethusi, amagwalagwala, isakaɓuli, nakho konke kwemvunulo yoMdlunkulu.

Isondele eduze induna ɓenoJeqe. Kusondele isigqili siɓe sinye manje esizothatha ngakunye. Laphaya sekumi izintombi ezihambe zikhethwa phakathi kwezwe ngoɓuhle ɓazo zikhethelwa iNkosi, nezethulwa aɓanumzane namakhosikazi ɓeɓukela lesisenzo esasiqala ukuze senzeke esiGodlweni. Phakathi kwalaɓa kukhona aɓanye nje eseɓaɓa amatebe, seɓehlulwa na ukuma, seɓecambalala phansi. Beka aɓantu ɓengaseɓenzi ɓedla inyama notshwala nako konke ukudla okuligugu! Mhla ethande imifino isigqili siyayisheshisa, mhla ethande umbantshi siyawusheshisa, mhla ethande ithanga noma yini kufika ngesikhathi.

ɓayaphenya oJeqe nenduna. Uphonjwana lwePhithi seluɓekwe lodwa. ɓafike esinye isishuqulwana esiɓoshwe ngesikhumba sembuzi esishukiweyo kodwa sidatshuliwe. ɓasiphenye ɓafice amakhuɓalo nemithi eyizinsizi namafutha esophondweni lwenyamazane. ɓakuthathe lokhu ɓakuɓeke nganhlanye. ɓafune empahleni ɓangaɓe ɓesathola lutho. UJeqe akuthathe konke lokhu

okuyimithi akuphathe ngesandla. Induna iyoɓika eNkosini aɓakufumene.

INkosi ithi:

"Hamba khona manje uɓize izanusi nenyanga enkulu."

ɓathi ukuɓa ɓafike laɓa aɓaɓili iNkosi ithi kuJeqe:

"ɓeka phansi lokho." Iɓe seyithi kuNdunankulu:

"Landisa laɓa lomhlola ongiveleleyo. Kanti ngihlezi nje ngiɓulawa aɓendlu yami."

Wathi ukuɓa uJeqe ayiɓeke phambi kwaɓo lemithi isangoma sasukwa amalingozi, saququɓala, sazelula, sagxuma, saya le negceke, saɓuɓula sase sizishaya phansi salala sathi ja. Sithe sesivuka sasesikhuluma sithi:

"Imithi emiɓi le. ɓafuna ukuɓulala iNkosi laɓa."

Inyanga yayihlolisisa lemithi, yafumana ukuthi omunye owentando, omunye umkhando, omunye idliso.

Enye okuyiyona iɓiphethe lemithi intombi yayiphika yathi eyalo. Ikhomba okunguyena eyidalulile. Yazishaya phansi le enye ithi eyayo.

Uthando yinto eyisimangaliso ngoɓa esikhundleni sokuthi azithathwe ziyoɓulawa uTshaka, efisa ukuɓulala le angayithandiyo, aɓone ukuthi uNdunankulu anakuvuma, uzothi uma ekhona oɓulawayo aɓaɓulawe ɓoɓaɓili, wayesethi akuɓizwe izikhonzi, ziɓentathu ziyoɓiza oyise ɓeze koMkhulu. Yathathwa leyo mithi yashiswa.

Kuthe ukuɓa ɓafike laɓa aɓanumzane uTshaka wathi induna mayiɓalandise yonke indaɓa eyenziwe amadodakazi aɓo phakathi komuzi weNkosi. Yathatha phansi induna yaze yaqeda.

ɓaphendula ɓathi:

"Ndaɓezitha, singathini thina! Izulu eliphezulu malizenzele elikuɓonayo ezinjeni zalo."

Wathi uTshaka:

"ɓathatheni aɓantaɓenu laɓa niyoɓalaya emakhaya."

Nempelake ɓaɓathatha ɓahamba naɓo. Kuthe kungakaɓinsuku zatshwala kwathunyelwa yalandwa intandokazi. Lo ongathandwayo, aɓuyange alandwe nempela.

Yakhula ingebe kuTshaka. Lokhu uɓehlezi enevuso lokuthi uyazondwa aɓakwaɓo, nevuso lokuthakathwa, lesisenzo esivele ngaphakathi esiGodlweni samngenisela ukwesaɓa okukhulu. Wahlala engasakhululekile, esede ethuka uɓala nje. Wangaɓe esaɓanawo nomnkamunkamu wokuya koxoxa neɓandla esiɓayeni. Izikhulu ezizokhonza nomphakathi owawuye ujaɓule exoxa nawo ezempi waze wenyela. "Uthi imbala iNkosi iphile kahle nje? Sayintula kangaka sifikile sizoyikhonza." Aɓanumzane ɓafuna izinyanga zezingubu nemiqangala namagemfe nazo zonke izinto ezishaywayo, ɓafunda ezigaɓeni ukuɓa ɓahlangane ukuɓa bahlanganise lemidlalo ukuze izwakale kahle. ɓathe lapho seɓeshaya ngokuzwana, ɓaɓayisa esiɓayeni, ɓaɓasondeza lapho kuzokuzwakala kahle esiGodlweni ɓehlose ukudoɓa iNkosi ingene ngaphakathi izolalela.

Ithe ukuɓa iNkosi izwe lemvunge emnandi yaɓiza uJeqe yathi:

"Yini le? Kwenzenjani esiɓayeni?"

UJeqe wathi:

"Izinja zakho Ndaɓezitha, zizokudlalela, zifisa ukuɓa ukuye kuzo uzolalela lomdlalo wazo omnandi."

Nempela yaphuma iNkosi esiGodlweni yaya esiɓayeni. Yalalela, yajaɓula, loku naɓanumzane nomphakathi usuthe shaye ngaphakathi esiɓayeni.

Yathi iNkosi:

"Loɓu ɓumnandi oɓungaka nanikade ningacaɓangi ngani ukungenzela ɓona?"

Amantombazana ayadlala

Iɓandla lathi:

"Silo esimnyama, kusa kusa. Sihlala sicaɓanga ukuɓa singakuthokozisa ngani."

UMdlunkulu ngenhla laphaya usude ujilajila sengathi ungangena nawo ulalele. Wawucelela uNdunankulu eNkosini, yavuma.

Aɓadlali seɓeqedile ukudlala, iNkosi yaɓa namaxoxo neɓandla. Kwavuka okudala kokuxoxa ngezempi. Yaɓukeka inciɓilikile. Ɓathe ɓephuma esiɓayeni ɓeya ezigaɓeni ɓaɓejaɓula ɓonke.

Seɓephumile aɓayofuna izingwe zokuguba umkhosi naɓayofuna uselwa olwandle. Kodwa iNkosi kayikangeni endlini enkulu eyelashelwa kuyo, nokho amaɓutho aseqalile ukusondezela umkhosi, amanye asakha amaxhiɓa awo. Ukudla endle kuyakhihliza okunye kuyashuqa. Ngalesosikhathi sekukhona uzungu olukhulu phakathi kwamaɓutho asekhulile lokuɓa sengathi uTshaka angafa noma aɓulawe. Amanye asahlala isikhathi eside engaganiwe ngoɓa ayejutshwa iyo iNkosi; kepha iwaliɓazisa ngezimpi, ngesinye isikhathi kuphele unyaka kuyiloku ahamba eyohlasela eɓulawa izitha nendlala. Noko wayengekho owayengaphumisela oɓala. Aɓantu ɓaɓenyenyeza. UDingane esede enyenyeza naɓangane ɓakhe efuna isu lokuɓulala uTshaka.

Wathi ehlezi nje engazelele lutho uTshaka, kanti uDingane naɓangane ɓakhe seɓehlose ukumɓulala. Wayengazi ukuthi aseyikuwudlala umkhosi lo ayeselungiselele aɓantu ukuɓa ɓawuhlelele, sekuthunyelwe nezwi enyangeni yakhe ukuɓa ilungise imithi yokunyathelisa iNkosi. UDingane usehlangene noMhlangana noMbophe ukuɓa ɓamzume ɓamɓulale. Nembala uthe ehlezi yedwa ɓamngenela ɓamgwaza. Lagxuma iqhawe elidala, lathi:

"Niɓulala mina nje ngeke naliɓusa, lohanjwa zinkonjane ezimhlophe." Eɓikezela ukuthi loɓuswa aɓelungu.

ISAHLUKO VI.

Uyeqa uJeqe

Njengoɓa insila yeNkosi imbelwa nayo, wanele waɓona nje uJeqe ukuthi iNkosi yakhe seɓeyigwazile, sekumelwe ukuɓa aɓulawe nxatshana isilahlwa, wafikelwa imicaɓango eminingi. Owokuqala umqondo wakhe ukuɓa afe neNkosi yakhe njengoɓa nasempini wayelungele ukufa. Loku iNkosi ɓayigwaze ntambama, wayithaɓatha esizwa aɓesifazane, wayifaka endlini nezinye izinceku zayo, wayigoqonga, wayembathisa ngenguɓo yayo. Ɓahlalake seɓelungele ukuze kulungiswe ingcwaɓa layo. Kuthe eɓusuku efikelwe isihlambi soɓuthongo, ngoɓa ɓuyinkosi, noma umuntu elinde isidumbu wethuka esenquphazela nje, waphupha uJeqe. Waphupha kufike oyisemkhulu, onke amadlozi akuɓo ephelele, athi kuye:

"Akukaɓi sikhathi sokuɓa uye kwagoqanyawo Jeqe, kukhulu izwe lakini osazolenzela kona kunokuhlaɓana kwakho uhlaɓanela uTshaka. Suka uhambe khona manje ungalindi noma kuze kuse."

Waphaphama uJeqe, uthe ephaphama enye yezinceku yayikhwezela isihlonti soqunga, wacikica amehlo, wacaɓanga. Wathi enhliziyweni ngizolilalela noma angizulilalela yini izwi lawoɓaɓa? Waphuma endlini njengomuntu oya ngaphandle. Uthe ephandle umqondo wokweqa wagunya. Ukuze angaɓonakali ukuthi uyeqa, waphuma entuɓeni engaphethe zikhali, wahamba waye wafika emfuleni. Wageza enzela ukuɓa aɓenendlela emhlophe njengoɓa naku esuka esidunjini. Weqela ngapheseya wasiphula isiqunga, wahlafuna impande yaso wakhwifa, esusa wona umnyama wesidumbu. Weqa ukhalo, wagijima, wagijima engaqondi nalapho eya khona. Kwafika umqondo wokuthi kuhle ayodlula ekhaya, wawususa lo-

mqondo ngokuthi funa kuɓulawe wonke umuzi kayise nxashana eficwe esekhaya. Wathi: "Mangiɓange ngasolwandle, ɓayophuza ukungithola, nokufuna aɓayucaɓanga ukuɓa ngiye ngasolwandle." Kuthe la kumpondozankomo, engazange ehlangana namuntu, wangena esihlahleni wahlala. Njengoɓa wayesehambe ɓonke uɓusuku, kwenye indawo ehamba ngokugijima, wazumeka waze wavuka emini enkulu, kwaɓe nokulamba sekuthe ngilapha. Wazelula, waphuma esihlahleni, wahamba eqonda ezinkomeni ayeziɓona, ziklaɓile, ziyiɓanga. Waqonda ukuthi imizi iseduze, angaɓona amasimu uyokweɓa ukudla. Uthe lapho eseseduze nezinkomo ilanga seliɓantuɓahle, waɓaɓona aɓafana seɓeziqoqa, nemizi eseyiɓona eduze namasimu wahlala phansi waphumula. Kuthe lapha kuthi hwaqa, waɓanga emasimini, loku uwafica ekhihliza, nemfe isiyikhiphile iminyani, kodwa ingakavuthwa kahle. Wathi ngiɓonwa yini emfeni engamakhikhizela! Wafula umbila wawetshatha, wakhohlwa manje ukuthi uzowosa ngani. Wasondela emzini waɓona ukuthi kuphekwe emnyango, waququɓala ɓuqamamana nomuzi, ɓaze ɓephula ɓangena endlini, wasondela, izinja zamuzwa, zamkhonkotha waɓuyela emuva, wafuna isu lokuyothatha isikhuni esivuthayo lapho ɓekade ɓepheke khona. Walandela umoya, zathi zisaliɓele izinja ukunxiɓa ukudla, ezwa ɓede ɓezikhuza ɓethi, "Hame, inani, ayiphume!" Wasuka ngelikhulu ijuɓane waziphonsa eziko elisezaleni, lapho ɓekade ɓepheke khona, wasithatha isikhuni esivuthayo, wahamba wafika phansi komuthi, waɓasa, wosa umbila, wadla wasutha. Waselandela indlela eya emfuleni, esefika ephuza. Manje waqala ukucaɓanga ngezikhali, ukuthi: "Loku ngihamba izwe linezilwane, angiphethe mkhonto, nxa ngihlangana nesilwane naseɓusuku ngokwenzenjani?" Waqunga isiɓindi wathi: "Mangiyokhuleka khona laphaya, emzini, ngicele indawo yokulala, ngeke ɓangiɓone ngoɓa sekuhlwile."

Uthe lapho esondela zamkhunga izinja wazikhuza, wakhuleka esemnyango. Ɓamɓuza ukuɓa unguɓani uvelaphi? Waziɓiza ngelinye igama wathi: "Ngingowalapha eMatigulu, ngihlwelwe ngikhulekela indawo." Ɓathi:

"Ngena."

Wangena. Ɓamɓuza ɓathi:

"Isiɓongo sakho ungowaphi?"

Wathi:

"NgingowakwaQwaɓe, ngiɓange ngalapha olwandle, ngifuna umuthi wokukhipha inyongo, siphethwe umkhuhlane ngapha ngakithi."

Ayike ɓamphakela izinkoɓe embengeni wadla. Kwathi lapho sekuyolalwa wahamba naɓafana ɓakhona wayolala elawini lezinsizwa. Ɓathe aɓafana seɓekhanyisile seɓendlala iso lakhe waliɓeka emgiɓeni wemikhonto. Wathi nansiya lapha ɓeyiɓeka khona! Ɓamnika isihlandla wendlala, wathatha isikhumba sembuzi esendlalelwa udaka ngasemnyango wembatha. Kuthi phakathi koɓusuku lokhu akalele uɓuthongo, uququɓele nje, kade elele emini enkulu, wavuka eɓezwa seɓehona, wanyonyoɓa waye wafinyelela emgiɓeni yemikhonto wathatha yaɓa miɓili newisa, waphuma njengomuntu oya kuchama; washaya wachitha. Uyahamba nomzimba usuqinile esephethe izikhali. Ɓavuka qede ɓathi:

"Uphi lomfo okade elele lapha, kanti unjani uhambisa okweThonga, asavalelisi?"

Ɓephuza ukuɓona ukuthi kanti uhambe nje untshontshe imikhonto yaɓo.

Emva le koMkhulu kuyayaluzwa kufunwa insila yeNkosi uJeqe. Sekuhlangene amakhanda amaningi kuzolahlwa iNkosi, sekuthunywe naɓantu kuDingane ukuthi insila yeNkosi kayiɓonwa. Wathukuthela wathelwa ngamanzi uDingane. Wathi ufuna ukuɓa afunwe aɓulawe embelwe kanye noTshaka, funa aɓe yisithunzi esiɓi kuye emɓusweni wakhe, amenzele umnyama omuɓi. Kwakhishwa iviyo lahlakazeka ngezindlela ezithile

limfuna. Kwaze kwakhishwa izwi lokuthi akasale esengcwatshwa uTshaka, isidumbu sesiyanuka, uJeqe useyoɓulawa mhla etholwayo.

Kwaɓa yilanga elikhulu mhla esembelwa uTshaka lokhu ithuna limbiwe laɓa likhulu, kwathi eceleni phansi nalo, kwagunjwa indawo eyanele isidumbu sakhe ehlezi egoqongiwe. Amaɓutho aselethe inqwaɓa yamahlahla neziɓonda ezicijiwe izindawo zombili nezithungo zokuɓiya. Sekuhlatshwe izinkomo eziningi ezinkulu, sekunuka inyama umuzi wonke, kukhona izinkaɓi ezilishumi ezimnyama esezikhethiwe ukuɓa zelashwe, izikhumba zazo okuzogqitshwa ngazo iNkosi. Akuvunywa ukuɓa kukhalwe lapha esiɓayeni, amaɓutho ahuɓa amagama amakhulu oɓukhosi ɓakwaZulu, ashaya amahawu. Sekukhethwe izintombi esiGodlweni ezizophelekezela iNkosi sekukhishwe onke amacansi akhe nemicamelo, nesihlangu nemitsha yakhe konke okwakuhlala emzimbeni, nezinkamba zokudla nezinkezo nemikhonto yakhe. Sekuqoqelwa eduze nethuna. Sekuɓizwa uNozitshela nezinye izinceku zisondele. Izinkaɓi ezimnyama sezihlatshiwe inyanga yazifafaza ngomuthi izikhumba, zasondezwa ethuneni; lokhu limbiwe laɓa yisikhelekehle, kwakhethwa izinsizwa ezilishumi zaɓanumzane. Sakhishwa isidumbu endlini, sesimbozwe ngesinye isikhumba salezinkaɓi ezimnyama, sathathwa amadoda ayisithupha, amane afike angena khona ethuneni, asemukela, asifaka kahle egumbini elimbiwe eceleni, kwase kusondezwa uMdlunkulu lowo oɓusukhethiwe, aɓanye kuwo ɓehambe ɓeshayana amadolo, aɓanye ɓewa phansi ɓezikhalela, pho, ɓanakwe uɓani, ɓahlatshwa ngamunye ngamunye ɓemukelwa ethuneni. Waphela qede uMdlunkulu kwangenwa ezincekwini, zahlatshwa, kwasondela aɓafana, ɓahlatshwa. Kwathathwa izikhumba ezine zaɓamboza ɓonke laɓa kanye nalamadoda amane akade ehlela isidumbu, wona egwazwa aɓangaphandle—ɓonke laɓa kuthiwa ɓayokhonza iNkosi ezweni

elizayo. Kwafakwa impahla yonke yayo, kwamboswa ngezikhumba, izikhumba ezazisalele, kwase kuthelwa umhlaɓathi, kugxunyekwa iziɓonda zizungeza ifipha, kuɓiywa ngezintungo, sekufakwa amahlahla aze aɓe ngangendlu phezu kwethuna. Asuke onke amaɓutho aye kogeza emfuleni ngesiqunga namagxolo omganu.

Simshiye ephuma emzini antshontsha kuwo umkhonto uJeqe. Wahamba njalo waɓanga ngasolwandle. Kuthe emini wezwa kuxokozelwa komunye umuzi, waqonda ukuthi kuyaphuzwa, nephango eselizwa, wathi: "Ake ngiphambukele lapha ngiyocela utshwala." Ngalesosikhathi aɓakezwa aɓantu ɓakuleyondawo ukuthi iNkosi ifile. Uthe ethi gaga phansi lapho iɓandla liphuzela khona utshwala, wakhangwa yilaɓa aɓathunywa ukuɓa ɓahambe ɓayofuna uselwa, ɓehlezi eɓandla ɓephuza. Ɓamɓona qede ɓethuka:

"Awu, uJeqe lo, insila yeNkosi, uɓekwa yini lapha?"

Ayi wakhuleka nje ɓamɓingelela wavuma, waɓika indlala. Lamɓiza elinye ikhehla, waphuza. Izithunywa lezi zakoMkhulu sezide ziɓukana, zikhohliwe ukuthi ulapha nje kwenzenjani. Wayeseziɓiza njalo uJeqe, esethi: "Ngilapha nje ngifuna nina, iNkosi isithukuthele kade nathunywa kaniɓuyi."

"Ai, amanga wena wakoMkhulu, sesifune lonke ugu lolu asitholi lutho. Yikhathi luhlanzayo uselwa, zisencane."

Wathi uJeqe:

"Hambani khona manje nami ngiyanilandela ngisaphuza."

Ɓasukela phezulu seɓenovalo lokuthi sekuze kwakhishwa inceku esondele eNkosini, mhlawumbe seɓofike ɓaɓulawe. Ɓathe ɓeshona enzansi nokhalo uJeqe wayekhuphuka nokhalo, waɓona ukuthi kuzoze kufike izwi lokuthi iNkosi ifile, ɓamdalule ukuthi ɓamɓonile. Nanguya esekhuphuka manje, eselugwema ulwandle, ehamba aze

ayolala emizini ngaseNyezane. Ukusa kwaɓonwa uye, wakhwela waɓanga ngas'Ongoye, uhamba njalo usephothe imizi waqhela ngayo, yalifihla lonke iɓunzi lakhe, yaze yafika phezu kwamashiya, ukuze nomaziyo angasheshi ukumɓona ukuthi uɓani.

Uthe lapho ephakathi kweziMfolozi zombili, edovuza ohlongeni, esalahlekelwe yindlela, ehamba elandela izindlela zezinyamazane, ziɓuye ziphele, uthe ethi qhamu lapha kuluɓala wayekhwela phezu kweSibejane, umoya utheleka kuso, sesimqamele, uphonjwana lwaso selumi seluthe qingqo. Wanele waqhamuka nje ohlongeni wezwa sesisho sesithi: "Be! be! be!" sesimphonsa. Sathi lapho sesigxumile sesicimele, sithi sithatha kanye, waphonseka ecaleni, sathi lapho isidumbu saso siqondene naye eduze mpela, wawufaka emhlaɓankomo mahlanze, wangena waphelela sabodla saɓaleka, akazi ukuthi saye safelaphi. Lapho usengene ehlanzeni eliɓi lezindlovu, nezingonyama nezinyathi, kuthimula yonke indawo kumethuka; imizi kayisekho lapho nendlala isimɓulele. Kuthe kuntambama wafica isinyamu sembaɓala silele. Wasigwaza waphuza igazi laso, wathatha imilenze yomɓili, wafukutha usu nesiɓindi wahamba. Waɓona ukuthi liyashona wakhwela emthini omkhulu, onamagatsha asaɓalele ngokwendlaleka, wazigaxa kwamaɓili, imikhonto yakhe wayigximeka ngokudla kwayo emithini, iwisa waliɓophela egatsheni ngenotwane walala. Ede ephaphanyiswa ukubodla kwezilwane eɓusuku, zizwa iphunga lomuntu. Ayi, nokho, kwaze kwasa engathikinyezwa yilutho ngaphandle kokwethuswa umsindo wazo izilwane. Kwasa qede wahamba esehamba efuna uvathi, waze waluthola waluphehla, ecija isiphehlo ngomkhonto. Wawuthola umlilo waɓasa, wosa amadanda esinyamu asiɓulele ngayizolo wadla, waqhuɓeka. Wayiwela eMnyama iMfolozi, wadunduɓala kuMasibe phezulu eMasundwini wafica imizi lapho.

Wangenisa emzini kaMhayi wakwaMkhwanazi, ntambama lapho liɓantuɓahle. Wemukelwa kwaɓe kukhona ukhambana oludliwayo, wasinda. Ɓamupha isinambathi sesangcoɓe wadla, walala. Ulala nje akasalele kahle. Kuthe esaphuza eɓandla enye indoda yathi:

"Kudlule amadoda amathathu izolo eyoɓika eMdletsheni ukuthi uTshaka kasekho, uɓulewe uDingane."

Enevuso lalezindaɓa azizwile, wephuza ukulala, isizungu wasiqedwa yizingane zidlala umdlalo wazo wakusihlwa zikhanyise ngezimbaqa. Enye ithi, "Sakuɓona! uvelaphi?" Ipendule enye ithi, "Ngiphuma koMatshekane." "Wadlani na?" "Ngadla isinambathi." "Singani na?" Sasingomcelekeshane." "Aɓantu pho?" "Musanje, uvemvane luyavakasha emagangeni, impunzikazi ithwele umqhele, kayibekeki koMekle!"

Ziɓuye zikhathale yilomdlalo ziqale omunye ezazifunda ngawo ukuɓala ziɓeke uhla lwezinhlamvu zombila, ziluɓophele ngambili. Ezokuqala ezimbili zime ngazodwa, iɓe isiɓuza enye kwenye ithi, "Yini le? Yini le?" Ithi enye, "Isalukazi sami." "Yini le?" "Umgqumankundleni." "Yini le?" "Umathaɓathantshinge."

Iɓe isilususa sekusala ezintathu ezimi zodwa. Iɓuyele emuva iɓuze ithi, "Yini le?" "Isalukazi sami." "Yini le?" "Umuzi." "Yini le?" "Umathaɓathantshinge." Njalo esezintshingiwe emuva kweziyisalukazi nomgqumankundleni izikhumbule ngekhanda ukuthi umuzi. Ize iphambuke ekuɓaleni kuqalise enye.

Zikhathele yilo, ziqale omunye:

Uɓani lo?
UNdwendwezana.
Uza kuɓani?
Uza kuNdwendwe.
Ndwendwe-ni?
Ndwendwe-khweza.

Khweza-ni?
Khweza iphendula.
Phendula-ni?
Phendula ubece.
Bece-ni?
Bece-mkhupha.
Mkhupha-ni?
Mkhupha-nongwe.
Nongwe-ni?
Nongwe-Inogele.
Gele-ni?
Gele-nkuku.
Nkuku-ni?
Nkuku-neqanda.
Qanda-ni?
Qanda-mcosu.
Mcosu-ni?
Mcosu-muntu.
Muntu-ni?

"Gqumelegqini, ayishitshi intaka, ikhehla laseMbo elimthuthwana, lifofolozela amabande alishumi. Isiphongo senkehli iya ececeni."

Uphele lomdlalo wazo ziɓuye ziqale omunye:

Litshe lika Ntunjambili
Ngivulela ngingene.
Litshe lika Ntunjambili
Ngivulela ngingene.

Aɓafana ɓaɓe seɓethi:

Alivulwa ngaɓantu
Livulwa yizinkonjane
Zona zindiza phezulu.

Ɓaphinde njalo ɓaze ɓazunywe uɓuthongo.

Wavuka ekuseni wayigwema indlela edlula eMdletsheni waqonda phezulu sengathi uya kwa-Nongoma. Asazithandisisi izindlela eziyimendo, usede enqamula; futhi usenesiɓindi sokuthi aɓaningi lapha aɓamazi, nokho akathandi ukuɓa aziveze oɓala ngoɓa ezinye izikhonzi zikaTshaka zingamɓona. Waqinisela wadunduɓala ezinkangala, waqonda kwaMandlakazi, ehamba emizini yakhona elala evukela endleleni. Waze waɓuya wayongena ehlanzeni loMkhuze eliphansi koɓombo.

Yaphela lapho imizi, selihanjwa zilwane ezimbi, izingwe, izinguluɓe, amankentshane, nezimbuɓe nezindlovu. Waɓona umkhaya omkhulu kusakhanya, wakhwela walala. Ukusa kwaɓonwa uye wehla emthini, wahamba lathi lapho lifudumalayo wayewela uMkhuze. Uye lo edonsa intaɓakazi enkulu yoɓombo aye alale emizini yakwaMangwazane; laphoke usefike kwaɓakhuluma isiSwazi nesiThonga. Wafika lithule seɓedla ihloɓo, ukudla akaze akweswela. Nokho wathi: "Kuhle ngiqhuɓeke, mhlaumbe lamadoda ayethunywe ukuyoɓika ukuthi iNkosi kayisekho eMdletsheni ayelayiwe ukuthi aze ahambe engifuna." Wehla oɓonjeni waye walala phesheya koPhongolo, oToɓothini.

Kuthe kulowo muzi alele kuwo wahlatshwa umkhuhlane, ikhanda kwaɓa sengathi liqhekezeka phakathi. Kwaphela amandla, ɓathi:

"Asimɓulale, simlahle lomuntu usilethela ukufa kwezwe lakuɓo."

Ɓavumelana, ɓathi:

"Kodwa kuhle kuyoɓikwa kumnumzane."

Umnumzane wathi:

"Qha, funa kuɓe sizilethela umkhonto esingawaziyo, ngahle kuɓe ulandelwa aɓanye ɓakuɓo, ɓafike ɓezwe ukuthi waɓulawa kulesifunda sakithi. Mthatheni niye nimɓeke ogwini lomfula, zofika izilwane zimudle eɓusuku."

Nembala ɓamthatha kanye nezikhali zakhe, ɓezivikela ukuthi naɓamɓonayo ɓothi wadliwa yizilwane ngoɓa nansi nemikhonto yakhe ificwe eduze kwamathambo akhe. Kuthe ekuseni wazigingqa waze wafika emanzini, wawaphuza agcwalisa isisu, wayigaba inyongo yagoboza. Kwathi damu, waqala nokuɓona ukuthi uphi. Kepha amandla awekho. Walala wathi ja esihlaɓathini. Kanti isihe sokuzala simphethe omunye wesifazane

wakulomuzi aɓamkhiphe kuwo ɓayomlahla emfuleni. Wathi:

"Konje wazalwa unina nje lomuntu aɓamlahla ezwa!"

Wathatha isiyambazi ngesicathuywana sokhamba, wasifaka phakathi embizeni yamanzi, waɓa njengomuntu oya kokukha amanzi. Wamɓona esevukile eseqojeme, wafika kuye wathi:

"Muntu wezizwe ngisuswe ukukuhawukela, ulahlwa uzwa."

Wamlandisa yonke indaɓa yokuthi uɓesezoɓulawa kwala umnumzane ophethe isifunda wathi, qha, kuhle ayolahlwa emfuleni. "Ngikuphathele nanti iyambazi. Yidla, ngizokufunela amakhambi ozowaphuza omkhuhlane wakulelizwe, nathi singaɓakhona nje kawusishiyi. Unawo amandla okufinyelela kulowa mkhiwane omkhulu, ikhona kothi nxa selishona ilanga ukhwele phezulu ulale, ngoɓa izilwane zalapha ziyesaɓeka, unenhlanhla nje ngoɓa ulale lapha kwaze kwasa zingafikanga?"

UJeqe waɓonga, kwafika umunyu wakhumbula unina ekhaya ashiya engamvalelisanga angaziyo noma usayoɓuye amɓone yini. Wathi:

"Qha, mame, amandla anginawo umkhuhlane ungiduɓule kaɓi."

Wathi umfazi:

"Woza ngikuɓelethe."

Waguqa eduze kwakhe, wamɓeletha waye wamɓeka phansi komkhiwane. Waɓuye walanda izikhali zakhe waziɓeka eduze kwakhe. Wathatha imbiza wayigcwalisa amanzi wagoduka. UJeqe esedlile kuthe lapho ukudla sekuqala ukuhleleka esiswini, wawathola amandla alingene ukuɓa akhwele. Waqonda wathi: "Kuhle ngikhwele ngisawatholile nje." Wathatha izikhali zakhe wazimisa ngomuthi, wathatha amakhambi ashiywe umfazi, wawaɓamba ngomlomo, wazama waze wafinyelela lapho kukhona indawo yokuhlala. Amakhambi lawa wawahlikihla ngezandla ede ewafela ngamathe, akhothe ujwana lwawo ayenokuluthola.

Pho, akalalanga omiyane. Kwaze kwasa ephungana naɓo, waze waphumula sekuphume ilanga. Kwafika uɓuthongo walala wathi zu, waphaphama emini enkulu. Wehla wagxoɓa amakhambi ewaphuza ngesandla, wayesethi ntu isisu ngamanzi, wayiphinda futhi eyigaba inyongo. Wezwa umzimba uɓa ngcono kancane. Wafikelwa iphango, lokhu usehlezi phansi komuthi ufihlwe amaxhantela omkhiwane amila ezimpandeni. Kuthe ntambama wamɓona umngane wakhe wangayizolo, ethula imbiza, ekhipha kuyo ucengezana kanti usamlethele wona umphunga weyambazi. Wafika wathi:

"Unjani namhla mntanami na?"

Wathi uJeqe:

"Akunjengayizolo, into nje amandla awakaɓuyi kahle."

Wamnika umphunga wathatha waphuza. Wathi:

"Ngofika nangomuso ngizokuhlola."

Wakhwela uJeqe esexoshwa omiyane phansi, sengathi ɓangcono phezulu. Ngelesithathu ilanga wezwa esengcono. Wathi noma ephalaza kwaɓonakala ukuthi inyongo kayisaphumi njengoɓa kade iphuma. Kwaze kwaphela izinsuku eziyisikhombisa uJeqe esogwini loPhongolo elethelwa ukudla owesifazane onesihawu. Kuthe mhla efika nokudla ngolwesishiyagalombili usuku, uJeqe wathi:

"Mame, angazi ukuthi ngingakuɓonga ngithini. Ngeswele namagama engingakuɓonga ngawo. Ngoɓongelwa uMvelinqangi owenza ukuɓa ngiɓe khona emhlaɓeni, nawe wakwenza. Nawe amadlozi akini ayokubeka. Uma soze siɓuye siɓonane caɓasimbe kukhona engoɓonakalisa ngakho ukuthakazela umusa ongenzele wona."

Owesifazane wathi:

"Amanga, mntanami, nami ngezwa ngifikelwa umunyu, lapho ngiɓona ɓekwethwele ungakafi, ɓeyokudedela nezilwane zasendle. Mhlawumbe

uma zakudla ngelanga lokuqala owawulele ngalo esihlaɓathini wawungeyukuzwa lutho njengoɓa nomiyane kawuɓezwanga ngalolosuku. Uhambe kahle. Kazi uyaphi."

UJeqe wamlandisa yonke indaɓa yokusuka kwaDukuza, nesizathu asuka ngaso. Wathi:

"Ngifuna ukuwelela kwelamaThonga ngaphesheya koSuthu lapho aɓakithi ɓengenakufinyelela khona, sengokhonza eNkosini yakhona."

Owesifazane wathi:

"Izindaɓa zihamba ngokushesha. Izwi lifike izolo liphuma kwaɓakwaNyawo ɓethi, ufile uTshaka. Hamba uqinise ungaze uɓonwe aɓakini. Kodwa kaɓafiki kakhulu kulelizwe. Kuze kufike aɓafuna izinsimba ɓakwaMandlakazi, naɓafuna imithi. Ɓafika ɓephethe izindondo namasakaɓuli, ɓathengelane naɓakithi ngezinsimba nemithi yakulelizwe. Ungaqali uhambe ngamandla uvukwe umkhuhlane. Ukhona umuzi womuntu wakwaZulu olungileyo phambili, ɓokutshela. Igama lakhe uJiyane wakwaGumede, naye waɓalekela khona kulelizwe, kuɓulawa umuzi wakuɓo aɓakwaZulu. Ngicinga ukuthi uyojaɓula ezwa umuntu okhuluma kahle ulimi lwakuɓo, ezwe nezindaɓa zakuɓo."

Ɓaxhawulana, ɓehlukana.

Kuthe lapho selithambeme ilanga nempela wafika kwaJiyane uJeqe. Uthe esakhuleka nje yahleka yodwa insizwa endala yakwaZulu, yathi:

"OwakwaZulu umuntu uɓekwa yini lapha? Ngithi sekuphele iminyaka emithathu ngingamɓonanga."

Wathi uJeqe:

"Amanga, mngane, ngiya ngalapha kwelamaThonga ngiyofuna imithi."

Ɓahlala kwaze kwaswelela emnyango bexoxa indaɓa. UJeqe wathi:

"Nami ngizwa sengisendleleni nje ukuthi uTshaka kasekho, uɓulewe uDingane." Wathi uJiyane:

"Uthi angafa lowo mthakathi owaqeda umuzi kaɓaɓa? Nami ngilapha nje ngasinda sivinjezelwe ngaɓaleka ngaze ngazokhonza kulelizwe. Amukho owaziyo ukuthi ngikhona ngoɓa ɓaɓethi ɓashaye ɓaqothula, kanti mina ngilele esiɓayeni samathole ngoɓa izinkomo zazidle amasimu aɓantu, ngesaɓa aɓanewethu ukuthi ɓazongishaya, kanti ilanga okuzovinjezelwa umuzi wakithi ngalo. Ɓathi ɓeɓagwaza ezindlini ngaphuma esiɓayeni samathole ngaphaphatheka. Angazi lapho ngangiya khona. Anginakukuqeda ukuhlupheka kwendlela. Kepha ngafika neqhinga lokubabisa izinsimba aɓaɓengalazi aɓalapha, futhi ngacupha izinsimango ngomowane ngaze ngathola umuzi. Ngiyisilomo ngidlula aɓokudaɓuka eNkosini yakulelizwe. Kepha uhambe kaɓi kulelizwe ehloɓo, umkhuhlane kumuntu ophuma kwelinye izwe muɓi. Ungalingi uphuze utshwala ɓesundu noɓamaganu, uyokufa inyanga ingakapheli. Kodwa ungakadluli kusasa ngokukhothisa izinsizi zakulelizwe, ezixutshwe nomhlaɓathi walapha, ukuze ungasheshi uthole umkhuhlane."

Waphumula izinsuku ezilishumi kulowomuzi uJeqe, elashwa. Kuthe mhla esehamba uJiyane wamhlaɓisa imbuzi, wahamba ephethe umkhusu wayo, wamqondisa kahle nendlela eɓange oSuthu lapha esedlule eNgwavuma.

Pho, wangena kwelamahlanze imizi waze wayithola esesondele eNgwavuma. Ɓamphatha kahle kuleyo mizi. Ngangomuso wathi elala wayeluɓona uSuthu luguduza emahlathini, eɓona isinindolo nje sehlanze osengathi yonke imithi iyalingana njengoɓa wayesokhalweni oluphakemeyo, ɓamkhombisa indlela, kepha uthi uJeqe selokhu azalwa akazange afike lapho izilwane zingakaya. Indlela ilukhondwana oluncane ehlathini, aliqala kuphuma ilanga waze waliqeda sekuzoɓa yimini

enkulu. Ehambe ethi, khimilili, ethuswa zinyamazane, imihlambi yezinguluɓe zasendle idlula phambi kwakhe. Izinyala lapho imithi ithe ukugqayingana, zime zimɓuke, zithimule, zingene ehlathini. Akakhulumi ngemihlambi yezindangala ezazimkhuza kuɓande esiswini, namagoqo anele ezwe iphunga lomuntu nje eduze akhalise okwenja ikhonkotha, ethuke, akeme. Uyahamba umkhonto usewukhokhile. Wathi khisi esigodaneni esizishaya udonga, uyaqalaza ngalapha entshonalanga — uɓani lo! Umhuqa omdala webuɓesi uqojeme phezu kwetshe, ude uphulula amadevu nje ngonyawo. Uthi uvalo lwamshaya kwavimbana izindleɓe, kepha walivivinya ijozi lakhe, waliɓuka ngeziqu zamehlo ibuɓesi wathi: "Ngothi ngifa nalo loɓe lifa." Wanele walidlula nje lasuka nalo enhla kwakhe noma wayengaliɓoni naye sonke isikhathi wayelizwa lifohloza eduze nendlela esebeke nje ukuɓa likhwele. Pho, umoya uqonde lapho ɓeqonde khona ɓenebuɓesi, utheleka ezinyamazaneni umoya walo, kuduma ihlathi lonke ziɓaleka, ziɓalekela ibuɓesi, zisuke kwenye indawo ɓeziɓuthile ziwumhlambi sengathi kwephuka imithi. Lahamba ecaleni waze waqhamukela oɓala lakhonya laphindela emuva. Uthi uJeqe akazi noma lalimphekezela noma kwakuthi alikhwele kuye liɓuye lizikhuze yini, kepha enye yezinto aze afa engayikhohlwanga. Ngalelo langa walala emizini ekha amanzi oSuthu. Ulele uzwa izimboma zikhonya echiɓini elikhulu eliseduze komfula. Ɓamtshela ngezingwenya ɓathi: "Uyowela kanjani ezingwenyeni zas'oSuthu na?" Kwahlwa nje uJeqe ukuthi uzokwenzenjani. Kanti ɓanazo izik'ebana eziqoshwe, emithini aɓawelisana ngazo, kepha owezwayo ukhokha inkuku, yena uJeqe kanayo inkuku. Walala izinsuku ezimbili ngolwesithathu izinsizwa zaya kozingela wahamba nazo. Kuthe ɓesangena nje ehlathini izinja zasusa iPhiva lenkunzi. Lithe lapho zilisondeza ngakuye, zalimisa, zakhalela. Esaɓa amaThonga engazi

ukuthi zimisa silwane sini. Wasondela uJeqe, Hamo! Kanti zimise iPhiva! Wasondela lisa liɓele ukude libula phansi ngezimpondo lithi lixosha izinja, waliciɓa umkhonto wangena enzansi nephango, wadla izinso lahlala ngezinqe phansi, wathokoza. Zaliɓamba izinja ɓezwa selibonga phansi, ɓasondela ɓaliqeda. Awu, kanti usezenzele ugazi kuɓo, aɓaɓulalele inyama engaka. Kwadlula ilanga laɓa linye ɓamwelisa, ɓathi: "Inyama osiɓulalele yona idlula izinkuku eziningi."

Emva le kwaZulu, uJeqe uyafunwa. Seɓeke ɓawuthola umkhondo wakhe aɓanye. Ɓathi ukuɓa ɓahlangane nezinsizwa ezaziyofuna uselwa olwandle zaɓatshela ukuthi "uJeqe wafika kithina emzini othile, siphuza utshwala, wathi uthunywe yiNkosi ukuɓa azosisheshisa noselwa. Kwathi noma singaɓaza ukuthi kungaze kuthunywe inceku nje umphakathi ungaka kwenziwa yini, saɓuye sawuyeka nje lowomqondo ngoɓa sicinga ukuthi khathisimbe kukhona okunye athunywe khona. Sesiɓona manje ukuthi wayeqa uJeqe. Pho, ake niyothathela kuwo lowomuzi lapho sehlukana khona naye." Nempela aɓathunywe ukuyofuna uJeqe ɓaye ɓayofika kulowo muzi, ɓaɓuza nendlela aphuma ngayo, ɓaɓayalela.

Ɓathe ukuɓa ɓaphume kulowo muzi, ɓehlukana phakathi; aɓanye ɓaqonda ngasolwandle, aɓanye ɓaqonda ngasentshonalanga. Aɓaqonda ngasentshonalanga ɓahamba ɓahamba ɓaze ɓafika lapho ayekade elele khona mhla kuzokusa angene ehlanzeni leziMfolozi zombili. Ɓaɓatshela ukuthi naɓo aɓaqondi indlela aphuma ahamba ngayo. Kuthe seɓehambe ɓefuna ɓathi: "Qha, amukho umuntu owayengangena kulelihlanze ehamba yedwa. Kuhle sikhuphule yona iMfolozi eMhlophe okuyiyona sicinga ukuthi wahamba ngayo." Ɓahamba ɓahamba umkhondo waɓalahlekela nya, ɓahamba ɓaze ɓadunduɓala ezinkangala lapho kwakhe aɓaQulusi manje. Phinde ɓezwe lutho ngoJeqe.

ISAHLUKO VII.

UJeqe kwelamaThonga

Cishu sakhohlwa ukulanda ukuthi laphaya oPhongolo lapha uJeqe wayegula khona, kukhona inja yakuwo lowo muzi eyamejwayela, kuthi lapho lomfazi owayelethela uJeqe ukudla, eya kuJeqe ihambe naye, adle nokuncane ayishiyele, yaze yamejwayela, kwathi mhla ehambayo yamlandela ngomkhondo yaze yamfica, yaɓa seyiɓa yinja yakhe njalo. Namhla esewela uSuthu yahlamba eduze kwesikebe yaye yaphumela ngaphesheya. Amukho omunye umngane kaJeqe owaɓa njengaleyonja. Yayingasali noma eyaphi. Naye futhi wayeyazisa sengathi umuntu. Esewelele kwelamaThonga yahlonga imizi eduze nomfula, wahamba waze wadunduɓala phezu kwesihlambo somfula kwaɓa ikhona eɓona imizi, ezwa nezinkomo zikhonya. Uwela nje usesesifundeni sikaNdleɓende, iNkosi ephethe amaThonga lapho. Waya wafika wakhuleka komunye umuzi, wahlala phansi komuthi. Amadoda asondela kuye aɓuza ukuthi uphumaphi, wawatshela ukuthi uphuma kwaZulu uze kulelizwe uzofuna imithi yokwelapha ngoɓa wezwa idumela ngaɓasuka lapha ɓethi miningi imithi. Ɓamupha ukudla, wadla, walala, kanti useye waɓikwa enduneni, yathuma izinsizwa ezimbili zayomɓika eNkosini le emzini wayo, oseMphandleni phezu kwechiɓi elikhulu. Ɓafika kwaNdlovu waɓa welisa khona phakathi koɓusuku, ɓafika lapho kuthatha ukusa koMkhulu.

Ukuphuthuma lokhu kwenziwa ukuɓa ɓaɓecinga ukuthi inhloli, uthunywe kwaZulu ukuɓa azohlola kulandele impi ngoɓa ukulanda kwakhe kokufika kwakhe ezweni laɓo akuɓahlaɓanga umxhwele. Kuthe ngakusasa esedlile esethi useyahamba, ɓathi: "Qha, ake uhlale." Ayike wahlala nezwe lithulile ɓedla utshwala naye. Kuthe kuntambama

Ziyagida izintombi phambi kwezinsizwa

kwakufika izinsizwa eziyisihlanu ziphuma eNkosini ithi azilande uJeqe aye kuyo. Zafika zakhuluma naбakhona uJeqe engazi ukuthi kukhulunywa ngani. Бalala, kuthe ekuseni uJeqe бamthatha бamyisa eNkosini.

INkosi imбuze kahle izindaбa zakwaZulu. Ayilandise kahle, ayitshele nokuthi uzwe esesendleleni kuthiwa uTshaka uбulewe umnawakhe uDingane. INkosi ithi: "Akukho lutho kulomuntu, mthatheni nimyise emzini kaNdlovu ambekisise ukwenza kwakhe nokuhamba kwakhe."

UNdlovu lo naye akuyena umuntu wokudaбuka eбuThonga, wafika ehamba ngokufuna imithi, ephuma eMahlutshini, wafika lingafi nkonyane, wejwayela wayesehlala khona esenomuzi. Ekuxoxeni бasheshe бezwana noJeqe, бejwayelana, nenja kaJeqe yejwayela idla amasi. UJeqe ke uliphisi ehamba naбafana endle, ezingela efunda nokucupha izinyoni nezinyamazane ezincane.

Kuthe ngelinye ilanga kwaбakhona aбayeni бezoloбola intombi emzini oseduze nakwaNdlovu. NakwaNdlovu бабugayiwe utshwala бalaбaбayeni. Бahambake aбakwaNdlovu бeya kuбayeni kanye nenjana yakhe engasaliyo. Бadla utshwala nenyama kwathula kwathi du. Kukhona ijongosi lentombi yeThonga kulowomuzi elihle, lithe klwi ngothi lomzimba, libince umutsha walo nje okhawula phakathi kwamathanga ulingana indawo yonke ngemva nangaphambili. Zithe lapho sezigidela aбayeni lwamngena uJeqe uthando ngaleliyajongosi kwangathi nalo seliyamqedela ngoбugagu бalo; zithi nxa sezikhala izingubu nemiqangala namagemfe, ishaye intokazi yeThonga ize ifike eduze kwakhe lapho ehlezi khona yenze isaga sakuбo, imfulathele ibijanise umzimba wayo omude. Idlala nje ngoбa iбona umuntu wezizwe engamazi, sengathi ithi: "Ufikile ke lapha kithi eбuThonga, nampa thina zintombi zakhona!" Kanti usefile uJeqe! Usede ethi enhliziyweni, "Kodwa ngingenwa yini, kade ngangihlala esiGodlweni lapha ngiphakathi kwezintombi zekhethelo uZulu ephelele, nezigqili ezidliwa empini ezikhethelwa ukuбa zikhonze esiGodlweni, angizange ngifikelwe yilokhu." Wasondela kuNdlovu wathi: "Ake ungitshele igama lalentombi." Uthi uNdlovu: "Uze ukhethe yona nje ziziningi kangaka ukwazi igama layo ngani?" Wathi: "Ngiyayithanda." UNdlovu wathi, "Musa, amaThonga angakuбulala. Iqonyiswa umntanenkosi, kodwa iyamala, mhlawumbe izomvuma yenziwa uбungane nje, ayikazingeni izindaбa zokuqoma." Ithe lapho iphinda yenza umkhuбa phambi kwakhe wasukuma uJeqe naye washaya owakuбo kwaZulu umkhuбa, бahleka aбaбukeli nentombi leyo — uZakhi, lokhu useyizwile iбizo layo.

Kuthe eziyalwini uJeqe wathuma umfana wakwaNdlovu wathi ake amбizele uZakhi. Wafika ngokushesha uZakhi, wafika wathi: "Iбizo lami ulitshelwa nguбani ungumuntu wezizwe nje, futhi ungiбizelani ngingakwazi?" Akasakuzwa nekukhulumayo intombi uJeqe, ukhangwa amazinyo ayo amhlophe, nezinkophe zayo ezinde, nomzimba oбushelelezi sengathi uбugudlwa ngembokodwe. "He! Kuyazalwa eбuThonga." Kusho uJeqe. Wema phambi kwakhe umntwana weThonga kwangathi uthi, "Бuka uze ugcine ngefusi olithandayo." Ethi, "Ngitshele mfokazi, ungiбizelani na?" Wazilahla amathambo uJeqe wathi, "Ngikuбizele ukuбa ngikutshele ukuбa ngiyakuthanda." Intombi yathi, "He! He! He!" Imhleka usulu, "Uthanda бa? Ungowaphi wena othi uqalisa ukungiбona negama lakho ngingalazi uthi uyangithanda? Goduka uбuyele kini kwaZulu." Yafulathela yangena emshungwini waбakuбo, uJeqe waбiza inja yakhe wagoduka waya kuбo kwaNdlovu lapha aбekwa khona yiNkosi. Uhamba nje usehlaбekile ngoZakhi, usehamba ecaбanga amasu okuthi: "Kodwa ngithanda umntwana womuntu lokhu anginayo nenkuku yodwa le, khona uma engivuma ngingamloбola

ngani? Konje lisu lini engingathola ngalo izinkomo? Yeka ezami engazixoshiswa uTshaka kwaZulu! Intombi le yona ngiyaɓona ukuthi ngeke ingehlule uma sengiyisukile ngempela. Kepha ngihlushwa yilelizwi engilizwe ngoNdlovu ethi yeshelwa umntanenkosi. Kodwa anginakuze ngiyiyeke noma kunjani, naye insizwa uyazeshelela, aku ngoduso yamuntu."

Uthi esacaɓanga lemicaɓango kufika uNdlovu ephuma khona kuɓayeni, uthi uNdlovu, "Kunjani Jeqe uwuɓonile umdlalo waɓasha ɓakulelizwe?" "Ayi, indaɓa angiyidli Ndlovu! Umdlalo uɓumuhle kakhulu, kodwa okuhle kakhulu engikuɓonile uZakhi." Athi uNdlovu, "Ayi ɓo, kususe lokho enhliziyweni yakho. Azokuɓulala amaThonga nxa uzokhulumisa leyongane. Ɓaningi aɓaɓeyifisa, kodwa kwathi ukuɓa yeshelwe umntanenkosi ɓayeka."

UJeqe athi, "Naye woyithola ngamandla akhe, anginakuyeka intombi enjeya ngiyiyekele omunye umuntu engeNkosi, ngoɓa ezalwa yiNkosi nje, nentombi ingamqomile; ngefung'uTshaka ngeke kwenzeke. Iyothi ingangiqoma ngeqe nayo."

Athi uNdlovu, "Njengoɓa kade ungilandisa nje ngokuhamba kwakho, uhambe uhlupheka uyacinga ukuɓa ingane yaɓantu le wohambe ulala nayo emahlathini kuze kuse ibodlelwa zilwane! Futhi nxa weqa lapha kawuɓoni ukuɓa uyongiɓeka icala njengoɓa yathi iNkosi angikubeke?" Athi uJeqe, "Khona uma ngisemzini wayo ngingeqe? Ɓangaze ɓakuɓeke icala ngalokho? Akukho lokho; ngithi futhi ɓangajaɓula nxashana ɓezwa ukuthi ngisukile kulelizwe lakuɓo. Njengoɓa silapha nje nantuya uɓombo, singahamba nayo eɓusuku siye silale phansi kwalo, kuyasa sidunduɓalela eSwazini."

Athi uNdlovu, "Uthi imbala uyalazi izwe lalapha, uthi ungahamba wedwa nomuntu wesifazane; awazi ukuthi kuhamba izindlovu nezimpisi nezibejane namankentshane? Yena uZakhi uya-

kwazi lokho. Noma engakuthanda akanakuvuma ukuɓa neqe naye eɓusuku."

Kuthe ekuseni ngangomuso uJeqe wanele wavuka nje waɓiza umfana kaNdlovu owelusayo, wathi, "Hamba uye kongikhombisa lapho zikha khona amanzi izintombi zakulowamuzi eɓesikuwo izolo. Ngizofike ngime ngasemfuleni uhambe wena uye ekhaya kuɓo, ufike uthi kuyo, "Kukhona umuntu okulindele emfuleni, yintombazana yakithi ifuna ukukhuluma nawe." Nembala uJeqe aɓange ngasechiɓini lapho kukhiwa khona amanzi, umfana aqonde ekhaya afike aliɓale naɓanye aɓafana, ɓosa inyama ɓedla, kwaze kwaɓa yisemini engakakhulumi noZakhi. Ayi, nokho, wamthola ithuɓana, ɓehla naye ɓaɓanga emfuleni. Uthe ukuɓa afike emfuleni wahleka wafa uZakhi, wathi, "Uye udadewenu lo ongiɓizile? Beka wena muntu wakwaZulu awulungile neze, uzofundisa izingane zakithi amanga.

"Noma eɓethe ngiɓizwa nguwe ɓengizokuza nje ukungixoxele izindaɓa zezwe lakini. Uyazi uɓuqhawe ngiɓuthanda kaɓi esiɓuzwa ngamajaha akini. Lapha kithi kuvame amagwala nje. Ake ungixoxele ezokulwa." Washo ehlala ehlaɓathini ethi thekence! Lapho uJeqe wajaɓula wafa, walanda izindaɓa eziningi zamanga nezamaqiniso, esho nalapha wayegwaza khona. Wayilandisa nangokuɓulala kwakhe isibejane eyedwa. Esethe khehle umlomo uZakhi!

Wezwa sekufika imizwa yokumejwayela wathi, "Wokuza ekhaya ngomuso uzosixoxela zonke izindaɓa ezinkulu zakwaZulu." Ɓahlukana ɓaguduka.

Wathi enhliziyweni uJeqe, "Angingayixini ngokuyeshela, sengiyiɓonile inxeɓa engizokuyingena ngalo." Wakha izindaɓa eziningi zoɓuqhawe zakwaZulu, kodwa ekushiya konke akwaziyo ngokuɓulawa kwaɓantu amakhosi akhona. Wathike, "Nanti inxeɓa engizokuyingena ngalo."

ɓahamba futhi ngelanga elilandelayo, uJeqe wathi, "Angifuni ukuya ekhaya, hamba uyiɓize iye emfuleni." Kwadlula isikhashana waqhamuka nayo umfana, ivunule iconsa ngalelolanga, ifake uɓuhlalu ɓayo nesigege sayo soɓuhlalu, itebisile ngemuva, yagcoɓa amafutha wonke umzimba. Wahluleka nokuxoxa indaɓa uJeqe, egcwele uthando sengathi angade eyiɓuka nje. Kanti uyinqoɓe khona izolo, iside imɓuka ngokukhophoza noma wayengumuntu ojwayele isifazane njengoɓa wayeqalisa ukuqomisa nokho akakhohlwanga ukuthi isizaɓalazile nje iphelile; isiyenza uɓuntombi ukuɓa kungaɓi sengathi iɓihlalele phezulu.

Manje wagila imikhuɓa ukuɓa ingenwe uthando, elinganisa ukulwa kwezinsizwa agxume abeke phezulu, eqe amangqaɓangqeshe, ayikhombise namanxeɓa lapho ɓamgwaza khona eQhudeni kodwa angasho ukuthi ɓaɓeyontshontsha izinkomo. Lapho uZakhi esede enqekuza ikhanda, kokukhulu ukuthanda izindaɓa zoɓuqhawe! Waze wathi uJeqe, "Uma wawungumlisa Zakhi, wawuzohlaɓana." Wathi, "He! Uthini Jeqe, mina!" Waphakamisa izingalwana zakhe wafumbatha isibakela wathi, "Ngangoyishaya ngiyilahle phansi insizwa." Wathi uJeqe, "Xhawula kulokho." ɓaxhawulisana, wasiɓamba isandla, wayiɓuka emehlweni wathi, "Ngitshele, Zakhi, uthini ngami na?" Wathamba umzimba kaZakhi, wazilahla izikhali aɓeziphethe uJeqe, wamgona, wamphulula ehlombe; kwehla izinyembezi kuZakhi, angazaziyo ukuthi ezothando, noma ezomunyu, noma ezovalo eɓona ethambela umuntu wesilisa ngohloɓo olunje; futhi ɓesaɓonene isikhathi esincane kangaka. Waɓa namahloni wathi, "Ngiyeke ngigoduke, uze ufike lapha emfuleni ngomhlomunye." ɓagoduka uJeqe nomfana nenja. ɓaze ɓashona ezihlahleni eɓaɓuka uZakhi, ehamba kancane, uthando ngoJeqe selumeqe ikhanda.

ɓahamba endleleni lapha umfana uthi, "Iyakuthanda impela lentombi, idume yonke imizi ya-

kithi ukuthi ayivumi nokuɓa umuntu ayinamathe ngesandla." "Uthini mfana na?" kusho uJeqe. "Ngiqinisile impela, akubeke ngemuva nansiya isabeke ngalapha." "Thula mfana soɓona ngomhlomunye ukuɓa iyothini njengoɓa ngiɓizwe yiyo."

Lwafika olungaliyo, olwanqunywa uye uZakhi. ɓaphuma ekhaya oJeqe, nomfana nenja, ɓeqonde lapho zikha khona amanzi. Uyenqena uJeqe ukutshela izinsizwa zalapha kwaNdlovu, uNdlovu yedwa amtshelayo. Wesaɓa ukuthi funa zimonele isidleke sakhe, imukele ingakaɓeki namaqanda. Umfana lo uyalwa futhi-futhi ukuɓa avale umlomo wakhe ngalendaɓa. ɓathi ɓefika nje zazifika izintombi zizintathu, kunguZakhi nodadewaɓo aɓaɓili aɓadala kunaye. Uɓuqhalaqhala ɓuphelile namhlanje kuZakhi, esede ethanda ukubaca ngodadewaɓo.

Akhulumeke udadewaɓo kaZakhi omkhulu athi, "Yeɓo ɓuthelezi, silapha nje sinodadewethu, siphelekezele uZakhi njengezwi alikhipha kuwe ethi uze ufike lapha namhla azokutshela izwi lakhe. Ingane le yakwethu isiyakuthanda ɓuthelezi, kepha ngomthetho walapha kithi ayinakuze ikunike isandla sayo sokunene, isivuma impela ukuthi isiyintombi yakho ngaphandle kokuɓa uhlanze odadewaɓo ngoɓuhlalu noma ngesinye isipho aɓasithandayo, simvumeleke uZakhi ukuɓa akunike isandla sakhe sokuvuma. Hamba ke ɓuthelezi ulande uɓuhlalu bethu, wothi nxashana usuɓutholile uthumele umfana lo azositshela, somyalela indawo esohlangana kuyo."

"Pho ngize ngihambe singaxoxanga noZakhi ɓalamu ɓami na?" "Ayi, mkhwenyawethu, thina kuleli sihamba ngomthetho. Usengowakho othandweni, awusadingi ukuzihlupha, kodwake feza esikushoyo kuqala."

ɓasuka ɓahamba oJeqe nomfana nenja. Kwaqala umfana ukukhuluma, uJeqe esathule ecaɓanga. Umfana wathi, "Ziyahlupha lezintonjana, ukuma kwazo." Esezethuka ethi okuthize kwathi.

Uthi: "Uyazi Jeqe, — A! nami angithi 'ɓuthelezi' — zilithathaphi leligama ezikuɓiza ngalo? Uthi uyazi lapha uɓuhlalu eziɓufunayo siyoye siɓuthole khona? Loɓuya oɓufana noɓaɓubincwe uZakhi mhla evunule kakhulu. Sohamba ilanga lonke siɓuye ngomuso sesikade silele kweminye imizi. ɓengingathi waɓuɓona amagoɓolondo eminenke yasemachiɓini aseduze nolwandle amancane, amanye ahungqu, amanye amhlophe. ɓaye ɓathathe usinga ɓawahlele kahle entanjeni yosinga ɓenze umgexo, ɓathi nxa ɓefuna ukwenza umutsha ɓathathe amancane kakhulu ɓawathungele ngentambo aɓe isigege, noma ngefosi lembaɓala elishukiweyo. Yiɓoke uɓuhlalu ɓakithi loɓo Jeqe. Kazi ezakini zibinca oɓunjani."

Lapho uJeqe usejaɓula kaɓi ukuzwa izindlela zokuthola uɓuhlalu ngoɓa ɓekuhlwile nje ukuɓa uzoɓuthathaphi. Athi, "Uhlakaniphile mfana, asovuka sihambe siye khona. Okunye lokhu okuɓuzayo siyoɓuye sikuxoxe."

Wafika ekhaya qede uJeqe wacela ukuɓa ɓamphekele isinkwa wathi uya ngapha olwandle lapho kuphenduka khona uSuthu selubeke enyakatho. Nempela ɓamphekela, wavuka naɓangane ɓakhe, umfana nenja ekuseni ɓahamba. ɓafika khona emva kwemini enkulu, seɓeke ɓasinda komunye umuzi ɓadlula kuwona kuphuzwa ɓathatha amathamo ɓadlula.

ɓafika ɓawacosha amagoɓolondo eminenke, amancane kakhulu namakhuywana ezinhloɓo ezintathu zomɓala. Agcwele imbenge aɓaɓeyiphethe, ɓaphenduka ntambama ɓaye ɓalala kulowo muzi aɓadlula kuphuzwa kuwo; isinkwa saɓo ɓasiqedela emfuleni. Umnumzane akhiphe ukhamba oɓelusele, ɓaphuza ɓalala ɓesuthi.

Ngokufika kwaɓo ekhaya ngangomuso, acele amantombazane akwaNdlovu athi awamenzele imigexo emihle iɓe miɓili ngaloɓuhlalu. Avuma amantombazane, akhipha inhliziyo yesineke, enza

imigexo wathi lapha eseyiɓuka isiphelile uJeqe wagxuma ukujaɓula.

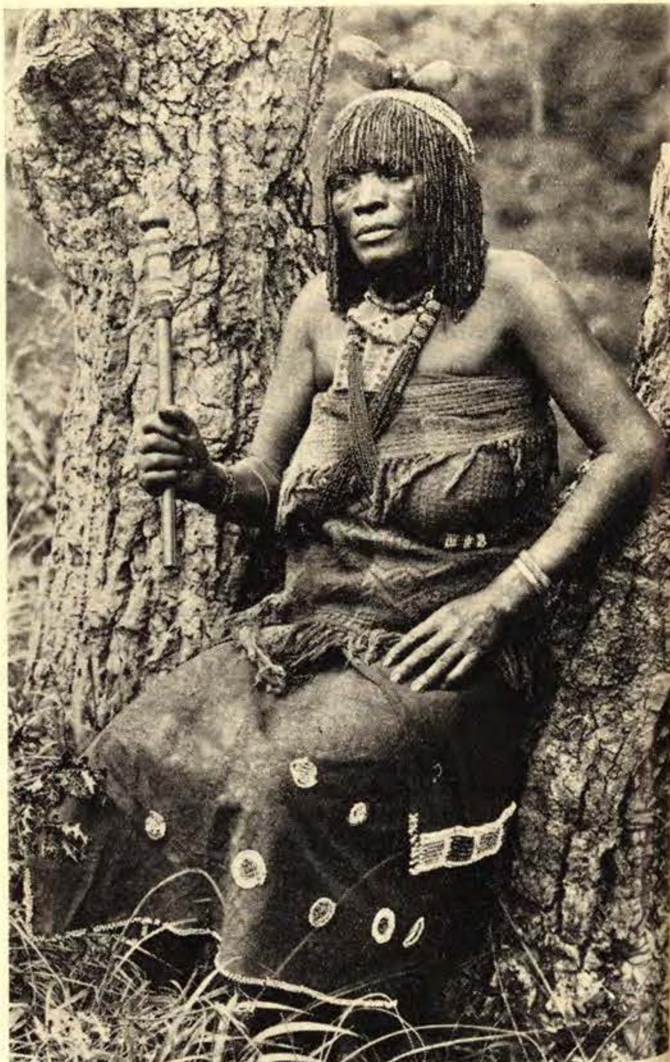
Washeshisa umfana ukuɓa ayoɓikela izintombi ukuɓa uselungile. Zafike zathi, "Sesohlangana naye emfuleni lapho kukhiwa khona amanzi." Ngalelolanga uJeqe wacela izintombi ezimbili zakwaNdlovu ukuɓa ziɓaphelekezele ɓenomfana nenja. Wayengaseɓesaɓi ngoɓa ɓase ɓazi ɓonke kwaNdlovu ukuthi uqonyiwe. ɓahamba uɓuhlalu ɓusembengeni iphethwe enye yezintombi zakwaNdlovu. ɓafika ɓahlala phansi komuthi ehlaɓathini. Zaqhamuka ngalelolanga ziyisihlanu ngaye uZakhi. Zafika zema phambi kwaɓo, yathi enkulu yakwaNdlovu, "Hlalani phela makhosazana sixoxe indaɓa." ɓahlala, wayesekhuluma uJeqe ethi: "Makhosazana, nansi impahla yenu, sengifike nayo, isembengeni lapho kuQhamile." Wayeseyikhipha njalo uQhamile wasemaNdlovini wayiɓeka phambi kwazo izintombi.

Zaɓonga zancinciza zathi, "Uɓani lo onesu elihle kangaka lokwenza uɓuhlalu na?" Wathi uQhamile: "ɓenziwe yithi nodadewethu ekufikeni kwalaɓa," esho ekhomba oJeqe nomfana nenja. "ɓekade ɓeye koɓucosha ogwini loSuthu." Zase zithi izintombi, "Suka phela uɓonge, Zakhi."

Wasuka uZakhi waya phambi kukaJeqe, uJeqe wasukuma, ɓaxhawulisana, uJeqe waqaɓula isandla sikaZakhi, zezwakala izintombi ngephimbo:

"SingamaThonga akwaSotshangane,
Yithi laɓa ɓakoSoxaka,
Siyakuvuma wena ɓuthelezi,
Yithi laɓa ɓakoSoxaka."

Zaze zafudumala sengathi zishaya indlamu zihleli phansi, zasukuma, kwaqala lona ubijane olunguZakhi, lwathatha kahle ngesu, "Yithi laɓa ɓakoSoxaka." Yacakafula intokazi yakwaɓo, igema kancane ngekhanda, ilandelisa ngonyawo igama: "Yithi laɓa ɓakoSoxaka." Zadlala kwaɓamnandi izintombi kwasuka nelezi zakwaNdlovu zahlangana nazo zitsho: "SingamaThonga akwa-



Isangoma

Sotshangane." Enye yagijima yaya ekhaya yaɓuya nesiphongwana sigcwele utshwala, ɓaphuza, kwaɓakuhle kwaɓanjeya. Kwathi ntambama ɓagoduka, kwasala uZakhi noJeqe nenja. ɓaze ɓahlukana lishona; oJeqe nenja ɓagoduka.

Pho, kuthe ngangomuso uJeqe wathatha umfana wathi: "Hamba ungiɓizele uZakhi aye endaweni yokuhlanganela." Nempela ɓafika kanyekanye endaweni yokuhlanganela. Wakhuluma uJeqe wathi: "Uyaɓona ngahamba ngizoɓulawa kithi ngigqitshwe neNkosi, engakuɓe loɓukhosi ɓothando lwakho angizange ngisaɓuɓona. Kanti ngihlaliselwe lezizinsuku ezinhle kangaka. Kepha kuhle sicaɓange isu lokuɓa ngithole izinkomo zokuloɓola. Mina angilalanga kusihlwa ngicaɓanga. Nakhu engikuthole emcaɓangweni. Celani ninodadewenu nithi niyosika incema ngalapha oSuthu, mina ngofika ngicoshe uɓuhlalu uyongenzela ɓona, ngithengise ngaɓo, imigexo emiɓili yimvu. Ngoɓuye ngithwale incema ngiyothenga izimbuzi nezimvu eSwazini, ngiɓe sengithenga izinkomo, ngezimvu nezimbuzi ngikuloɓole." ɓavumelana kuleloceɓo. Kwadlula izinsuku ezimbili ɓahamba ɓaya ngasogwini oJeqe noZakhi nodadewaɓo nenja. Ngokufika kwaɓo ogwini, ɓaseɓenza ngamandla ɓede ɓeɓuya ɓezolala emizini eseduze nogu. Waze wafikelwa uɓumnandi ɓothando uZakhi waqamba igama:

"Ngeke zingikhohle
Lezinsuku ezimnandi Jeqe,
Sicosha amagoɓolondo
Ogwini loSuthu.
Jeqe zimnandi lezinsuku sicosha
amagoɓolondo
Ogwini loSuthu."

Leligama elaqanjwa uZakhi ethakazela ukuthandana kwaɓo noJeqe. Yayithi nxashana isilivuma intokazi yakwaɓo asuke adakwe uthando uJeqe, akhohlwe na ukucosha amagoɓolondo eselokhu eɓukana nobijane lwakhe.

Emva le indodana yeNkosi eyeshele uZakhi ithe ukuɓa izwe ukuthi nempela uZakhi uliqomile iZulu yathukuthela yathelwa ngamanzi yathi: "Ngeke ngitshele noɓaɓa ngoɓa uzokwala simɓulale. Waɓiza izinsizwa zaɓa lishumi zahloma zaphelela, kwaɓa uye lo weshumi nanye. Ɓanikela khona endleleni eqonde ngasogwini, ɓalala emzini osekusele iɓangana elincane ɓafike kulo okulala khona oJeqe nentombi yakhe nodadewaɓo wentombi yakhe. Umnumzane wafike uMntwana wamɓambela ithole eliɓomvu, ɓalihlaɓa khona kusihlwa ɓadla eyokosa, wathi, "Anovuka niyipheke ngoɓuya ngiyidle ngisaya ngalapha oSuthu."

Kuthe la kufudumala ilanga ɓaɓaɓona ɓoɓathathu, oJeqe noZakhi ɓecosha amagoɓolondo udadewaɓo esika incema. Waphenduka uZakhi wathi, "Kushwaqa unwele, yini, ngithi sikhona isilwane esiɓi esisiɓukayo. Sondeza izikhali zakho kuwe Jeqe, nazi izimbokodwe ezimbili sengizicoshile, nami ngokwelekelela." Aligwinyanga uZakhi, wathi ephenduka ethatha imikhonto yakhe emiɓili nehawana elincane elivikela amathupha kuphela noboko zase zilapha izinsizwa zikaNdleɓende.

"Mina kuthi-kuthi!" zimethuka uJeqe. "Uɓani othe woza lapha nalezingane?" Wavimba uZakhi ngaphambi kwezinsizwa wathi: "Ɓuzani kimi, yimi engithe akasiphelekezele size lapha."

"Suka wena asikhulumi nawe." Ɓamchiliza.

Lapho udadewaɓo usethe galo yephuka eɓange kulomuzi aɓalala kuwona. Waɓa uyazaɓalaze uZakhi zamsunduza izinsizwa zasondela kuJeqe. Lapho uselikhokhile uJeqe iklwa lakwaɓo. Inja yakhe isiyaveva lapha eceleni kwakhe. Owokuqala owaphakamisa umkhonto ethi uyathatha kuJeqe, yayisimphethe isinene inja, uJeqe weqa, umkhonto wagwaza isihlaɓathi, nenja inamathele esineneni yamhlalisa phansi, uJeqe wayethokoza kulowo oɓesecaleni engakazeleli lutho, washo wathi:

"Ngadla ngenkomo yakwethu, ngadla mina Jeqe onjengempisi."

Kwavuka usinga oludala. Zamfica izinsizwa. Enye yamgwaza esihlakaleni umkhonto wakhe wawa phansi. Wayesefikile uZakhi lapho ithi ayimqedele, waɓasa ngembokodo enhlafunweni yawa phansi insizwa, kanti inja ngalaphaya amathumbu isiwadilizele ngaphandle. Yaɓona ukuthi isimehlulile yamshiya yahlangana nomntanenkosi, imbangi kaJeqe, yayisikhwela kuye ngemuva, amazinyo yawafaka kuye entanyeni yamwisa, yafika insizwa yathi iyaqeda enjeni kanti iyihlaɓa esicutshini somlenze, yakhala inja kanti isimenze kaɓi umntwana lapha emsundulweni. Kwafika enye insizwa yalifaka laphelela iklwa esiɓindini senja, yaphela khona lapho. Usede evika nje uJeqe, asenawo amandla okulwa, ɓamgwaze esihlakaleni, ɓamnquma umsipha. Sekulwa uZakhi yedwa, naye alwi lutho ngaphandle kokuɓa ede evikela uJeqe, ema phambi kwakhe lapho ɓethi ɓayamthatha ngomkhonto, kepha umntwana uɓalaye kakhulu ukuthi ɓangamthinti uZakhi. Uthe esabeke laɓa aɓaphambi kwakhe kwavela enye insizwa yamuthi hlwi, yamphonsa laphaya, ɓathelekake kuJeqe, ɓamgingqa phansi. Ɓasheshe ɓamshiya esalele ethe ja, ɓaphuthuma umntanenkosi osede efikelwa izinxi zokopha lapho elunywe khona yinja. Aɓanye seɓeɓambe uZakhi phansi. Ɓaphuthuma ukumethwala uMntwana ɓamsondeze ngasemanzini, ɓade ɓemphuzisa amanzi, ɓemgeza amanxeɓa ngekhambi elinqamula ukopha.

Esikhungweni lapha aɓalele phansi, uJeqe nenja yakhe, nensizwa egwaze uJeqe ngomhlanganiso, insizwa ebotshozwe isisu yinja, nensizwa eshaywe uZakhi ngetshe. Ɓazithatha zonke izidumbu lezi ɓaziyisa kulomuzi lapho ɓekulala khona oJeqe ngoɓa yiwona owawuseduze kuneminye. Ɓalwa noZakhi engavumi ukuhamba ɓaze ɓamɓopha izandla nezinyawo, ɓamenzela uhlaka lomhlanga,

ɓamthwala ngalo. Ethi: "Niyiɓulele indoda yami, kuhle ningiɓulale ningimbele nayo." Aɓanasihawu naye uma nempela kwakuya ngaɓo ɓaɓeyomgwaza ɓakhokhe lensizwa ayiɓulale ngetshe. Pho, ɓaɓazi ukuthi ukuɓulala uZakhi kungaɓa elikhulu icala. ɓaphuthuma uMntwana, wafike wakhothiswa izihlungu, waɓoshwa ngemithi emanxeɓeni enja, ɓamlalisa kwasa engcono, kwembiwa ithuna ɓagqitshwa laɓo aɓafayo; oJeqe nenja ɓasala khona esigcawini. Kanti umkhonto lo aɓaɓethi umqede nya uJeqe, awungenanga eɓuɓendeni, wahlangana nethambo lesifuɓa wawusugwegwesa ungena uthi ukuqhephula iphaphu enhla nalo. Elinye inxeɓa ngaphandle kwelalisesihlakaleni lalisethangeni. Kuthe lapho kufika umoya wokusa oɓandayo, waqaɓuka uJeqe, kepha engenamandla okuvuka nokuhamba, kepha ukoma sekuthi nginawe qho. Wade ezama egingqika, umlenze usuɓuhlungu kaɓi uvuvukele; kepha ukomela amanzi kwamenza ukuɓa anyamezele uɓuhlungu oɓukhulu, waze wafika eduze nechiɓi, waɓona ukuthi angasondeli kakhulu echiɓini ngoɓa nakhu unuka igazi izingwenya zizomɓamba nomkhonto wokuzixhakalaza uwushiye lapho eɓelwa khona, wayesephanda ngesandla sokhohlwa ade ethola isichiɓana econsisela emphinjeni, kwaze kwenela. Manje kwaɓa yikhathi ecaɓanga ngoZakhi, wakhala izinyembezi wathi, "Ngizofela lapha esihlaɓathini, uZakhi ngingamɓoni!" Uɓuhlungu benhliziyo ɓaɓaɓukulu, waze wafikelwa isihlambi soɓuthongo walala.

ISAHLUKO VIII.

USithela ufica uJeqe

Kwaku usuku lokuɓa uSithela umfundisikazi wezinyanga nezangoma zaseɓuThonga ephumile esiqhingini sasolwandle ezofundisa aɓafundi ɓakhe imithi engamakhuɓalo namakhambi engekho esiqhingini. Ugwedlelwa aɓantu aɓaɓili emkhunjaneni omncane, aɓane aɓefunda uɓunyanga. Ha, lapha kulele khona uJeqe yilapha umkhunjana uzophumela khona.

ɓathi ɓengakaveli laɓa aɓasemkhunjaneni ɓaɓona kuvuka amandla kuSithela, ebeja eɓusweni, eɓuɓula ebodla, wathi,

"Ikhona into esizoyiɓona, gwedlani niqinise, ukhona umuntu oseɓunzimeni, amakhosi athi mangiye komsiza. Siqongwane, letha lapha isiɓuko sami."

USiqongwane, itshe elinesiɓuko lapho uSithela eɓuka khona yonke into, waliletha. Wayesethi:

"Ha, nangu umfana, ulele eziɓukweni sengathi unamanxeɓa. Ngiɓona igazi kuye, nansiya inja nayo igwaziwe, kukhulu oɓekwenziwa lapha. Gwedlani niqonde kulesiya siqhingana niphume entshonalanga kwaso."

ɓenza njengoɓa ɓeyaliwe yinyangakazi enkulu. Nembala ɓathe ɓethi qhamu, nanguya umuntu equngquluzile ogwini. "Donselani khona ɓantaɓami." Idevu lomkhunjana lasigqula isihlaɓathi sogu, eduze nalapho kulele khona uJeqe. ɓehla ɓakhipha intambo nogojwana olucijileyo ɓalugxumeka esihlaɓathini, wema umkhunjana wehla noSithela; wasondela waɓona ukuthi akakafi lomuntu, wasondela wamcingisisa, wagoqongana, waluleka, wabuncana, wajuluka, wema wamjolozela emehlweni. ɓezwa uJeqe ekhala sengathi kukhona okumethusile. Lapho uSithela wamɓamba wamcindezela phansi, uJeqe wathi, "Musa ukungiɓulala, ngiyeke ɓo!" Lapho umuntu useɓona ngezindeɓe zomlomo kaSithela ukuthi ɓakhona akhuluma naɓo. Washo kakhulu wathi, "Vuka! Vuka!" Qingqo ngesinqe uJeqe! Wayesethi kulaɓa ahamba naɓo, "Thathani indeɓe leyo, nikhe amanzi nilethe lapha." Wamphuzisa amanzi agcwala isisu, wamshiya naɓagwedli aɓaɓili waya ezihlahleni efundisa izinyanga imithi. Emuva lapha emkhunjaneni uJeqe usengqeɓelekile

exoxela aɓagwedli impi yakhe yayizolo, esethi, "ɓasinde ngoɓa ɓasheshe ɓangijiyeza esandleni, ɓengizoɓaqeda ngefunga uTshaka. Kazi intombi yami ɓayenzenjani! Nxa ɓengayiɓulalanga ngeke ɓayithole, ngoze ngiphile ngiyoyithatha ngezikhali. ɓona ɓathi ngifile aɓazi ukuthi ngingumafavuke njengedangaɓane. Ngizwe sekumnandi izolo ngomhlanganiso wokuqala, ngakhumbula kithi kwaZulu, kwasuka usikisiki lwempi, kwathi lapho ngithi ngizoɓaqeda aɓafokazana ɓangijiyeza."

Kuthe ntambama waɓuya uSithela nezinyanga zakhe ezine. ɓathe ɓeseyiɓangana uJeqe wathi, "Yiɓaphi laɓa?" Aɓagwedli ɓathi, "Kanti awumɓonanga yini okusindisileyo na?" "Qha," kusho uJeqe. ɓathi: "Uyeke lo ozayo, iNkosazana uSithela, umphathi wesiqhingi sezinyanga, owazi konke okufihliweyo."

Uthe efika nje uSithela wayethi, "Thathani lomlisa nimfake emkhunjini, sihambe ilanga seliqhuɓekile." ɓamt'at'amisa uJeqe, ɓamfaka emkhunjini, ɓamonyula uthana oluɓambe umkhumbi, ɓakuphonsa phakathi kanye nentambo, ɓagwedla seɓeɓuyela esiqhingini. Uthule uthe nya uJeqe, yilokhu esamangaliswe ukuɓona lo owesifazane olalelwa kangaka nohlonishwa kangaka aɓesilisa.

ɓahamba emt'at'eni wolwandle okude kuquɓuka kuwo izimvuɓu, oziqhingana zawo kwethamele izingwenya ezazinele ziɓaɓone zicwile emanzini. ɓahamba ɓaze ɓangena otikitini nje olunomhlanga lapho amanzi eseqala uɓumuncu, ɓadweɓa endleleni yomkhumbi esengathi yalungiselwa wona phakathi kwomhlanga, ɓafika lapho amanzi eseɓuye aphela uɓumuncu, ɓagwedla laze lashona ɓehamba, lapho uJeqe akasaqondi yena ukuthi uphi. Kuthe lapho kuthi hwelele uJeqe waɓona izihlonti zomlilo zikhanya lapho kuzishaya ugu. Wezwa aɓangapheshey a seɓememeza ɓethi, "Khanya Nkosazana!" "Ewu, nisaphila ɓantaɓami?" "Khanya Nkosazana!" Aɓagwedli ɓaluphonsa uthi, ɓaluɓamba aɓangapheshey a, wema umkhumbi wehla uSithela. ɓakhothama ɓakhuleka ɓethi, "Khanya Nkosazana, wena owathola imfihlo eyehlula amadoda! Khanya mame, mame wethu!"

Wathi uSithela, "Thathani lomuntu nimthwale nifike nimngenise elawini likaNgqeleɓani, simthole ngapheshey a egwaziwe, uzokwelashwa aphile." ɓamt'at'amisa uJeqe ɓaye ɓamethula emnyango kwaNgqeleɓani. Uthe ethuka uJeqe kwakuphuma ixhegu uNgqeleɓani, lathi: "Yini lomfunzi eniwuletha lapha? Lomuntu othwelweyo akakwazi yini ukuzihambela?" ɓamlandisa uNgqeleɓani ukutholwa kukaJeqe nokuthi uSithela uthe akalethwe kuye azokwelashwa.

Lelixhegu uNgqeleɓani ukhokhothi nje lwendoda endala izinqulu lezi sezaɓalukhuni njengesikhumba senkomo, emathangeni lapha nasezithweni kuhamba iziyinge nje zezimbali. Amahlombe asagoɓa. Uhlala yedwa, ukudla ukulethelwa aɓafana sekuvuthiwe. Umseɓenzi wakhe ukwelusa ot'okoloshe nomantindane nezinye izilwane okwelashwa ngazo kulesosiqhingi esinendawo enkulu yezinyanga. ɓathe uma ɓamngenise uJeqe wezwa iphunga angalaziyo elidaɓula ikhanda; wathi, "Ngisizeni ningikhiphele phandle." ɓala ɓathi, "Sisakuyisa phambili." ɓathe ukuɓa ɓadlule kulowomhume ɓaqhamuka lapho kukhona isikhala kushaya umoya omuhle, igceke lakhona lendlalwe ngezikhumba zezilwane zazo zonke zakulelozwe. ɓafika ɓamethula khona, kanti uNgqeleɓani uyaɓalandela. Wayeseɓakhombisa kwelinye igumbi ngakwesokukhohlwa ethi aɓamethule khona. Sekufika umfana endlala izikhumba, eɓasa umlilo, uJeqe wacambalala, umqondo wakhe uduma nje, engazi ukuthi namhla ufike endaweni enjani. Kwadlula isikhashana kwafika aɓafana aɓaɓili ɓemlethele isinambathi. Elambile kuyilokhu kwayizolo ukudla engakwazi wathi: "Ngiɓonwa yini!" Waɓona aɓafana seɓendlala izikhumba phakathi negceke, ɓeshayela, ɓe-

letha amacansi amahle encema, ɓewendlala, ɓaletha isihlalo esihle esiɓaziweyo ɓasiɓeka phezu kwawo amacansi.

Uthe ethuka uJeqe kwakungena yena uSithela elandelwa aɓafana namantombazane ɓathi "Khanya Nkosazana!" Wafika qede wahlala khona kulesosihlalo, laphuma ixhegu elingu-Ngqeleɓani lathi, "Khanya Nkosazana!" Waɓona uJeqe ukuthi mkhulu lomuntu kulendawo.

Washo uSithela wathi, "Ake usixoxele ukuthi uphumaphi mfo."

Wathatha phansi uJeqe ukuzalwa kwakhe nokuya kwakhe eNkosini uTshaka nokufa kwayo nokweqa kwakhe aze afike eɓuThonga nokuthandana kwakhe noZakhi okumɓangele ukuɓa ɓamgwaze aɓakwaNdleɓende.

Wathatha itshe lakhe uSithela elinesiɓuko esiveza konke asuke efisa ukukuɓona ngoɓungoma aɓethwasayo. Waɓuka wayesethi, "Intombi yakho aɓayiɓulalanga isekhaya kuɓo, kepha ifuna isu lokuɓa ngomuso ike izohlola esikhundleni ukuthi ufe nya noma uɓuye wavuka."

"Awu, uthini Nkosazana na? Nxa kunjalo pho ungengiɓuyisele khona ngomuso ngize ngiyiɓone na?"

"Qha, njengoɓa ungene lapha uyoze uphume usuhlakaniphile ezintweni zalapha," kusho uSithela. "Yinye into engingakusiza ngayo Jeqe: Ukuɓa ngithumele aɓafana ɓami ɓaye koyihlola, ɓathi uma ɓeyiɓona ɓayitshele ukuɓa kawufile, kepha ulapho uzothola khona ukwelashwa amanxeɓa."

"Khanya Nkosazana!" Kusho uJeqe.

Aɓe esethi uSithela, "Uyaɓona Jeqe ngikulethe lapha ukuɓa welashwe uNgqeleɓani, uthi nxa usuphilile ufunde uɓunyanga ikhona uyosiza aɓantu aɓagulayo. Ungesaɓi lutho konke ozokuɓona lapha okuphethwe uNgqeleɓani akusoze kwakulimaza, uNgqeleɓani uyakubekela. Imihume miningi lapha eyizindlu zezilwane ongazange uziɓone. Ngizwa ɓethi uthe lapho udlula umhume wamandiki ukunuka kwakwehlula, wathi maɓakuɓuyisele emuva. Yeɓo, amandiki anuka kaɓi, noma seliphuma kumuntu eɓelimngene kuye kunuke kaɓi. Nxa usufunde ukuseɓenza kwalapha uyowakhipha lapho uwafica khona egulisa aɓantu, netshe likat'okoloshe wolithola, aɓahlushwa ot'okoloshe uɓasize. Kepha ukufunda yonke lemikhuɓa kuthatha isikhathi eside. Kuningi ozokuɓona lapha esiqhingini sakithi. Lala kahle uyofika akuphe imithi kusasa uNgqeleɓani."

Wasukuma uSithela esehamba, ɓasukuma ɓonke ɓathi: "Khanya Nkosazana!" Uthe engakalali uSithela walaya aɓagwedli aɓaɓili wathi aɓovuka ɓathathe umkhumbi ɓayoqamela intombi kaJeqe, ɓayitshele ukuthi kafile uJeqe, uyelashwa esiqhingini, mayigoduke ihlale imlinde noma kuze kuɓe yisikhathi eside.

Pho, uyayizeka indaɓa uJeqe lokhu akalalanga evuswa umsindo angazange awuzwe ilokhu azalwa wezilwane zifika ngeziga6a kuNgqeleɓani eɓusuku ezikhuza ekhuluma nazo, ezipha ukudla, yena usethe khose engosini aɓekwe kuyo ethuthumela ethi zizomudla. Kwaze kwasa ebeke ngawayizolo.

Kuthe ekuseni aɓagwedli ɓaphuma ɓaya emfuleni ɓathatha umkhumbi ɓaphindela eziɓukweni lapho ɓefice khona uJeqe ngayizolo. Ɓafika kungekho muntu, nenja isidliwe, noma yadliwa zimpisi noma izingwenya aɓaqondanga ngoɓa aɓazikhathazanga noma ɓasondele ɓabeke ukuthi yini. Ɓahlala lapho kwaze kwaɓa isemini.

Kuthe ɓengazelele seɓecaɓanga ukuphindela emuva ɓaɓona umuntu eqhamuka, ɓaɓona ukuthi umuntu wesifazane. Wahamba wahamba wema, waɓukisisa. Ɓase ɓememeza ɓethi: "Woza lapha!" Wethuka, waqalaza esefuna ukuɓaleka. Ɓathi, "Woza sikuxoxele izindaɓa zesoka lakho." Waqunga isiɓindi waya kuɓo. Ɓamlandisa yonke indaɓa yokuficwa kukaJeqe enjengofileyo ogwini nokuthi inyanga enkulu yasesiqhingini imthathile,

kuhle angesaɓi, uzokwelashwa ahlale afunde uɓunyanga wophuma qede ɓaɓonane. Ɓathi, "Nesidumbu senja yakhe ɓesikhona lapha emhlaɓathini izolo, kepha namhla kasisekho siyaɓona ukuthi sidliwe zilwane."

Wathi uZakhi, "Niɓone yena impela na?" Ɓamsho zonke izici zesimo sakhe, wakholwa wagoduka ejaɓula enethemba ukuthi ɓoɓuye ɓaɓonane nesithandwa sakhe. Ɓagwedla aɓasesiqhingini ɓaɓuyela emuva, emuva kokuɓa uZakhi esekhumule umgexo wakhe waɓanika wona wathi aɓoze ɓamkhonzele kuJeqe.

Emva lapha esiqhingini uJeqe uyelashwa. Uthathwe uNgqeleɓani wamlalisa eduze nembiza egcwele izinhloɓonhloɓo zamakhambi namagxolo, iɓaselwe ngaphansi iɓekwe phezu kwamatshe amathathu. Kuthe lapho isiɓila wayesethatha izikhumba ezimbili emboza ukuɓa intuthu yokuɓila ize ifinyelele kuJeqe. Wathi emembula wayesejuluke esemanzi. Wayesemgeza ngawo amanzi axuɓene nomuthi esashisa kakhulu kodwa efakwe icimamlilo ukuɓa angamyoɓuli. Uthe eqeda lokho wayesemesula ngesiphuku, eɓopha amanxeɓa ngesikhumba sikaxamu.

Wezwa umzimba uthi dwi. Uthe esaqala ukuxoxa indaɓa noNgqeleɓani kwase kufika aɓafana ɓephethe isinambathi ngezinkamba ezimbili, olunye kungolukaNgqeleɓani olunye kungolukaJeqe. Ɓadla. Ɓathe ɓengakaqedi ukudla ɓaɓuye ɓafika aɓafana ɓephethe ukhamba lotshwala ɓaphuza. Ɓahamba aɓafana ɓalanda ukudla kwezilwane, ɓathe nxa seɓekuɓeke laphaya ngaphansi komuthi uNgqeleɓani washaya imfengwane uthe ethuka uJeqe kwakuqhamuka zonke izinhloɓo zezilwanyazane, ezinye zinezimwana zoɓuntu, zihamba ngezinyawo ezimbili ezinye zihamba ngezinyawo ezine. Kwaphethuza nje, lapho uJeqe wangenelwa uvalo, waguqazela eseya engosini yakhe. Lapho uNgqeleɓani wakhuluma nazo zehlukana ngezinhloɓo zazo. Imikhovu wayipha

izinsipho, ot'okoloshe waɓapha isijingi njalo njalo. Kwaɓa uɓuxhafuxhafu kuphangelwana, okuncane kukhala futhi-futhi, kulunywa, kuklwejwa ezindala. Kuthe lapho seziqedile ukudla wayeseshaya imfengwane yakhe, zaphindela ezindaweni zazo. Lapho uJeqe usethe khexe. Ukhohliwe nje ukuthi zonke lezizilwane zaqoqwa kanjani nokuthi zefuyelweni.

Zithe ukuɓa zikhukhule uJeqe waguqazela waya kuNgqeleɓani eyoɓuza ukuthi lezi izilwane zefuyelweni lapha esiqhingini.

Wathi uNgqeleɓani, "Kanti kawazi yini ukuthi iseziko lezinyanga lapha, lapha zifunda khona? Ngonyaka njalo kufika aɓemunye noma aɓaɓili aɓaphuma ezweni ngaphandle ɓazofunda uɓunyanga oɓukhulu kuSithela. Zonke izinyanga ezidumileyo zokubula nokwelapha zifunda khona lapha. Nawe nje nxa usuphilile uzongena kuleloziko. Wathula uJeqe wacaɓanga. Asikholwa imikhovu kodwa uJeqe uthi watshelwa uNgqeleɓani ukuthi ezinye izilwane lezi imikhovu.

Manje uNgqeleɓani wafunela uJeqe uthi lokudondolozela. Waɓe yilokhu ehamba edondolozela eɓaleni lakwaNgqeleɓani. Welashwa waze waphila. UNgqeleɓani wayeseyoɓika ukuthi uJeqe usephilile. Yathi iNkosazana: "Mlethe lapha." Weza naye ehamba edlula imihume ngemihume, eɓona aɓantu aɓanye ɓepheka aɓanye ɓehlezi. Ɓathe ukuɓa ɓaphume emhumeni uJeqe waɓona elihle izwe, ekhonjiswa namasimu nentaɓa okwehla kuyo umfula wamanzi. Laphaya phansi kwentaɓa ɓamtshela ukuthi kukhona umuzi kaSithela. Waɓuza uJeqe wathi, "Uhlala noɓani khona laphaya?" Ɓathi, "Uhlala naɓafana namantombazane aɓamkhonzayo."

Uthe lapho esesondezwa ekhaya likaSithela engakafiki waɓona intombazane iza ngejuɓane sengathi iyaɓahlangaɓeza ɓenoNgqeleɓani. Yafika yathi, "INkosazana ithi ayinasikhathi namhla sokuɓonana noJeqe, kuhle uze umlethe ngomuso.

Namhla mɓonise zonke izinto ezenziwa lapha esiqhingini."

Nembala uNgqeleɓani wamthatha njalo uJeqe ɓahamba. ɓathe ɓethi ukudunduɓala kwelinye idulana uJeqe waɓona amalangaɓi omlilo. Wathi, "Yini lokhuya okuɓomvu okufana nomlilo?" Wathi uNgqeleɓani, "Yisithando lapho kukhitshwa khona insimbi ematsheni, laphaya ngaphambidlana esinye isithando lapho ikhandwa khona. Futhi lesiya sesithathu yilapho kukhandwa khona ithusi elenza izindondo namasongo afakwa ezingalweni nasemaqakaleni."

Wathi uJeqe, "Ngiyejaɓula ngoɓa nakithi ngizwa ngendaɓa nje ukuthi insimbi itholwa eNkandla. Lokhu sathi siyontshontsha izinkomo eQhudeni ɓayikhomba intaɓa lapho kwenziwa khona insimbi yemikhonto namageja, kepha angiqondi ukuɓa ɓakwenza kanjani."

Wathi uNgqeleɓani, "Uzoɓona namhla ukwenziwa kwensimbi kuleli lakithi, kodwa angazi ukuthi kini ɓayenza kanjani." ɓasondela ezithandweni zomlilo, amalangaɓi ekhephuzela enqamuka izivingi phezulu. Waɓona aɓanye ɓethwele amatshe akade esekhandwa izingqephungqephu ɓewasondeza esithandweni, aɓanye ɓethwele amalahle enziwe ngezinkuni zemithi ɓewaletha khona ukuɓa aɓaselwe esithandweni. Waɓuka uJeqe amanyela ensimbi ɓewahlukanisa namatshe ngomlilo omkhulu, nalapho seɓeyiqoqela ndawonye. Kwaɓa sengathi uɓuhlakani oɓungaka akazange aɓuɓone kuɓo kwaZulu. ɓadlula kuleso sesiɓili isithando ɓaya kwesesithathu lapho wafica izinyanga zikhanda imikhonto namageja. Lapho wahlala phansi waɓukisisa isikhathi eside, esede egqugquzwa uNgqeleɓani ethi aɓahambe usekhumbule ukuyokupha izilwane zakhe. ɓaliɓala kakhulu kulendawo wangaɓe esaɓona lapho kwenziwa khona ithusi. ɓathi seɓeɓuyela ekhaya likaNgqeleɓani uJeqe wayengasathandi, ekhangwa izindlu ezinhle ezakhiwe ngoɓunono ngaphandle

komhume ogcwele izilwane ezinuka kaɓi. Uhamba nje inhliziyo ayisekho emhumeni, isilapha lakukhandwa khona imikhonto, lapho aɓantu ɓehlala ezindlini, ɓeshaywa umoya. Pho, umyalo weNkosazana uzowuthini. Waphindela emhumeni inhliziyo isiɓuhlungu, ekhumbula ukuthi uyohlala lapho ezode efikelwa zihaqahaqa zezilwane ezimbi.

Kwasa okungaliyo! Usuku lokuyoɓonana neNkosazana endlini yayo. ɓanele ɓaqeda ukudla nje uNgqeleɓani wapha izilwane zakhe, ɓaphuma emhumeni ɓeɓange endlini yeNkosazana. Yaɓaɓona ɓesaqhamuka kude lokhu yilapho iphakathi kokufundisa amadoda amane ukushaya amathambo.

Ukhangwa yindlu eliqhugwane, icakiwe ngeɓumba elimpofu. Umnyango wayo wahlukile ezindlini azaziyo, mude nesicaba sakhiwe ngomhlanga. Umfica ehlukile kulokuya kumɓona kwakhe mhla efikayo. Namhla wembethe isiphuku esishukiweyo sendlozi, isihluthu sakhe usikhiphile. Muhle umuntu lo! Amehlo akhe kepha awabekeki, aɓukhali, umuntu umɓuka sengathi umɓona iziɓilini ngaphakathi.

Akhuleke uNgqeleɓani athi, "Khanya Nkosazana!" NoJeqe amlingise etsho njalo. Lokhu uhlezi ufulathele umnyango wendlu ubeke kulamadoda amane aseduze kwakhe, awafundisayo waphenduka waɓiza isigqili somfana wathi asilethe isikhumba sembuzi, ɓahlale kuso oNgqeleɓani noJeqe. Wangaɓanaka nje, waqhuɓa umseɓenzi wakhe. Amathambo awagcwalise izandla zombili aɓe esewasakaza phambi kwaɓo athi aɓawefunde; ɓabede, ɓabede aɓe eseɓakhombisa ukuthi uma uɓani emi kanje, usuke ethi, nxa elandelwa eduze uSoɓaniɓani kusuke kungukuthi. Ngoɓa seɓewafunde onke amagama awo.

Waɓuka uJeqe esede ethi enhliziyweni, "Kazi mina sithutha sakwaZulu ngoze ngikwazi nje nokuɓiza onke lamathambo ngamagama awo na."

Aɓuye athi: "Kodwa, ngize ngizindle konke lokhu nje ngizoɓe ngifundiswa khona yini?"

INkosazana iqede ukuɓafundisa iɓe isikhuluma noNgqeleɓani ithi, "Zisaphila kahle izilwane zami?" Athi, "Khanya Nkosazana!" Iɓuye iɓuze futhi iNkosazana ithi, "Nihlezi kahle nalomlisa wakwaZulu?" Athi, "Khanya Nkosazana!"

Iɓe isiphendukela kuJeqe ithi, "Usujwayele lapha kithi Jeqe?" Athi uJeqe, "Khanya Nkosazana." "Zinjani izilwane zikaNgqeleɓani?" Athi uJeqe, "Ayi Nkosazana, izona ngingakazijwayeli." Iɓisithi kuye, "Uzojwayela. Iyonampi yami njalo leyo Jeqe. Akukho sizwe esingeza lapha sizothaɓatha izwe lami. Ngingasithela ngazo nawe uɓuke kahle zilwa." Lapho esexoxa indaɓa uɓuso ɓakhe ɓuthambe, waɓona amazinyo akhe amhlophe, amahle, lapho ihleka iNkosazana. Emaqakaleni lapha ifake amasongo ethusi, kwathi lapho isukuma ilungisa isiphuku sayo waɓona umutsha wayo wezindondo. Yangena endlini, ithe iphuma yayiɓuya nokhamba iphethe okunye ngesinye isandla, kanti zimpondo ezintathu ezincane okusengathi ezephithi, kanye nothi lohlanga. Yaziphonsa phansi yayisithi, "Sukumani ɓafana ɓami," zesuka zema. Waziɓuka kahle uJeqe. Waɓona ukuthi zithungelwe kahle zavalwa ngengcina ngaphezulu. Zase zisuka zigxumekeka othini lomhlanga sezide zizulazula kulo, iNkosazana ilumise okhambeni. Wamangala uJeqe eɓona lomlingo. Uthe esamangele waɓona izindeɓe zomlomo weNkosazana zinyakaza kanti ikhuluma nazo izimpondo lezi. Olunye uthe ethuka lwalunamathela esihlathini sakhe. Wagxuma waphoseka laphaya. Wazama ukuluhlangula, yamkhuza iNkosazana. Waluyeka lwahlala khona esihlathini. Yaɓuye yakhuluma lwaɓuyela kwezinye. Yaɓe seyithi, "Qha, kanti uzoɓufunda uɓunyanga." Yathi kuNgqeleɓani, "Ngomuso womkhipha emhumeni umyise lapha kuhlala aɓefundi. Usezongena ekufundisweni."

Nempela ngangomuso uJeqe waphuma emhumeni waya lapha kuhlala khona aɓefundiswayo. Wangena emphekweni efunda amagama amakhuɓalo, efundiswa nezifo eziwelaphayo, nendlela asuswa ngayo yeziɓiɓa namafutha ezilwane namatshe emikhando. Aɓuye ahambe nayo iNkosazana naɓanye aɓefundayo ɓayofunda amakhambi nemithi eyelapha isihudo neyelapha aɓesifazane nxa ɓengatholi kahle inzalo. Lokhu ufike muva uJeqe uthe uphela unyaka wayeseɓadlula laɓa aɓafika kuqala.

Wacela ngelinye ilanga eNkosazaneni wathi, "Ngifikelwe ukukhumbula umame, ngicela iNkosazana ike ingiɓukele esiɓukweni sayo ukuthi ɓasaphila nje aɓakithi." Nempela yasithatha isiɓuko sayo yathi. "Yima phambi kwami ufise loku okucelayo." Wema uJeqe njengoɓa eyaliwe.

Yathi: "Ngiɓona imizi emiɓili ik'ak'e umfula. Nangu unyoko ukonganeno, nanguya uyihlo ukongaphesheya. Izinkomo zigcwele isiɓaya. Kuyaphilwa ekhaya. Ngiɓona naɓafowenu nodadewenu lapha esiɓukweni." Wajaɓula uJeqe.

Kuthe ngelinye ilanga esengene kowesiɓili unyaka esesiqhingini wavuka ekuseni kakhulu kungakasi eya kogeza emfuleni, kanti yisikhathi sokuɓa iNkosazana isekuphungulweni. Waqale waɓona sengathi kuɓaswe umlilo eduze nesihlahla, wabekisisa waɓona zonke izilwane ezinkulu nezincane zik'ak'e umuntu wesifazane, efinyela aɓuye asukume engaɓince lutho. Izilwane lezi zimk'ak'e phakathi uɓukeka sengathi uyageza kanti umjuluko. Usemanzi t'e ukujuluka. Aɓuye aphakamise izingalo uJeqe aɓone kuthandela kuye izinyoka, neziɓankwa nezintulo, zonke ezihuquzelayo. Aze athuthumele akhohlwe ukuthi yini lokhu. Akhase ngamadolo esondela efuna ukuɓona kahle. Aɓone sengathi ezinye ziyamgonyoza, aɓuye aɓone zihlehla zimzungeza. Kuthi nxa sekubejile ezansi zinyamalale izilwane kuɓe yisikhathi eɓona kahle ukuthi uSithela. Esaɓe sengathi umɓonile. Athi ne phansi. Amɓone

ehamba bushu eɓange emfuleni eyogeza. Wanele wasithela nje, uJeqe waɓanga esihlahleni eyobaca nokuɓa aɓone ukuthi uzoɓuya yini. Wahlala wahlala wamɓona eseɓuya, wafika lapho ekade ephungulwa khona, wathatha isiphuku sakhe waqonda ekhaya lakhe. Kwenzeka konke lokhu nje ɓese kuphele izinsuku ezingafika esihlanwini ɓengasayi kofunda, futhi kungavunyelwa muntu wesilisa asondele endlini yakhe, ekhonzwa amantombazane azigqili kuphela. Waɓona uJeqe ukuthi kanti lomuntu amandla uwathola kanjani. Wawuhlaɓa inhlali. Esaɓe ukuthi uma eke wayixoxa yafika kuSithela mhlaumbe angaɓulawa.

Kuthe lapho unyaka wesiɓili uphakathi nawo, iNkosazana yamthatha uJeqe eseya kofunda amakhuɓalo angekho esiqhingini namakhambi. Ɓakhwela emkhunjini nomunye umlisa ofundayo. Yiɓo laɓaya ɓegwedla ɓaye ɓaphumele eziɓukweni lapho uJeqe ɓamthola khona. Wezwa kusuka usinga lwaleyompi yakhe, wakhumbula nentombi yakhe.

Ɓahamba, ehambe eɓafundisa ɓaze ɓaphenduka ntambama, ɓafinyelela esiqhingini lishona.

Kwaɓa omkhulu umkhosi mhla seɓephothulwa ɓeɓathathu. Lokhu nezilwane usefundisiwe ngazo wanikwa netshe lawot'okoloshe elathungelwa engcaɓeni yesikhumba sikaxamu. Walaywa kwathiwa, "Lengcaɓa uyoyivula kuphela nxa ufica aɓantu ɓehlushwa ot'okoloshe noma ufuna ukudlula endaweni embi ɓangaze ɓakuɓona."

Yathi iNkosazana, "Hambani kahle nalemithi nokwazi engininike khona niye kosiza iziguli. Ningathakathi, niphilise kuɓe kuphela. Nxashana nithakatha ɓonke uɓunyanga ɓenu ɓuyakuphupha, nokubula ningaɓe nisakwazi. Ngiyakuɓona konke enikufisayo. Lesi siphiwo ngasinikwa ukuze ngisize ngaso aɓantu. Ngohlala nginiɓona enikwenzayo esiɓukweni sami. Nxashana niganga ngemithi engininike yona ɓophela uɓunyanga kini."

Wabekisa kuJeqe wathi, "Intombi yakho ikuhlalele. Ungayithumbi uɓaleke nayo. Hamba udunduɓale oɓonjeni kumaSwazi, ufike welaphe, iyothi iphela inyanga uɓe uzitholile izinkomo ezinhlanu, ngoɓa ngiɓona umkhuhlane wesihudo uvimbezele ehlanzeni elisentshonalanga kwoɓombo eSwazini. Wolala kanye kwaNdlovu uthumele umfana ayotshela intombi yakho lapha nohlangana khona udlule. Iyokuphelekezela iɓuye iyolala ekhaya kuɓo."

Ɓasishiya isiqhingi oJeqe nemigodla yaɓo yemithi. Ɓathe ukuɓa ɓawelele ezweni ɓehlukana, lo omunye oliThonga wabeka enyakatho ngalapha avela ngakhona, uJeqe waya kwaNdlovu. Ɓamangala aɓakwaNdlovu, ɓathi, "Sasithi ufile, ɓaɓuya lapha aɓaɓehambe noMntwana ɓathi ɓakuɓulele, kepha uMntwana sewazama wazama ethi uzothola uZakhi, phinde avume." Wayeseɓalandisa yonke indaɓa yokutholwa kwakhe iNkosazana yasesiqhingini nokufunda kwakhe ukwelapha.

Ɓamangala ɓathi, "Uthini Jeqe na? Lokhu sihlushwa imfene yomthakathi ifika njalo lapha, uthi ungayixosha na?" Wathi uJeqe, "Nxa ngizoyiɓamba ngemithi, ngoyiɓulala ngingakahambi." Wahloma izikhonkwane ezimbili kuphela, wathuma umfana ukuɓa ahambe ayotshela uZakhi aze ahlangane naye endleleni.

Kuthe ekuseni intombazane iphuma yaɓona imfene idondoɓele ngasenqoloɓaneni yasuka yamemeza; nansiya imfene iɓaleka. Wathi uJeqe kwone intombazane, ngayingamemezanga; ngayiɓize yena wayiɓamba. Wathi: "Nokho ingeɓuye iluɓeke lapha ekhaya, isingaze ilwe nomnikaziyo nxa eyinyazelela ukuɓa ize lapha."

Akaɓange esahlala uJeqe lapho kwaNdlovu. Waphuma khona ekuseni, wahlangana noZakhi ngakuɓo. Futhi ukujaɓula kukaZakhi kwakuthi akahambe phezu kwezindwane zotshani, eɓona isoka lakhe emva kwesikhathi eside kangaka ɓehlukana. Lokhu nesimo sakhe sesi esinye seɓaphela uɓu-

ngane, useliqhikiza elivuthiweyo, nenkathazo yokuhlala kwakhe ekhaya aбazali бengasamthakazele ngoбa ala ukugana umntanenkosi, aбenzele isikhundla esiбanzi eбukhosini, sekwenza inhliziyo yakhe idikiбale. Sonke lesikhathi uбehlezi ngothando lukaJeqe, umthombo wokuthokoza kwakhe. Yikho nje ngalelolanga kwakungathi udakiwe, naye uqoбo engazi noma uyaphupha, noma uphilile yini eбona isithandwa sakhe.

Waбuza kuJeqe wathi: "Ufika udlula ngingasakuбonanga nokuбona kahle nje kwenzenjani?" Wathi uJeqe: "Qha, mntakwethu, ngiphanga ukudunduбalela eSwazini lapho ngizwa kuthiwa aбantu бayaphela umkhuhlane wesihudo, kuбo бonke uбunyanga engiбufunde esiqhingini aбukho oбungangoбa ngikwazi ukunqanda lowomkhuhlane. Ngiyaбona ukuthi ngizosheshe ngizithole izinkomo zokukuloбola. Angifuni lonyaka uphele ngingakakuthathi kuyihlo, noNdlovu ngimtshelile ngathi ngonele ngithole inkomo yokuqala ngiбe sengithuma umuntu kuye aye kuyihlo, aye kongicelela ngaleyo nkomo. Uyaбona ilanga selikhwelile, kuhle uбuyele emva, ufike lingakashoni ekhaya, izwe ligcwele izilwane ezimbi."

Azaбalaze uZakhi athi akasafuni ukuбuyela ekhaya, usefuna ukuhamba naye njalo uJeqe, izinkomo seбozilanda khona eSwazini aбakuбo.

Athi uJeqe: "Mntakwethu, ngalaywa kakhulu iNkosazana eyayisifundisa esiqhingini. Yathi angingakweбi kuбazali бakho. Ngifuna indlela yokuganana kwethu iбemhlophe, ngiбe umkhwenyana oncomekayo kini, бaбone naбo ukuthi, umntanenkosi akangidluli ngalutho. Uzoбona ngizofikisa izwi khona manje; mhlawumbe nami uzoбona ngifika ngikuhambele ngoбa umuntu ulala kanye endleleni kuse efika lapho ngiya khona. Namhla ngizolala phansi kwentaбa, ngodunduбala ekuseni ngiqhamukele eSwazini.

Enoбuhlungu oбukhulu бenhliziyo, waphenduka uZakhi eseliбangisa ekhaya. Waze wasithela emithini uJeqe, uZakhi ede ephenduka emбuka, wafikelwa yisilingozi, wakhala wahlala phansi kwomthunzi, wakhala wakhala, wasesuka esula izinyembezi wathi: "Akulutho uzoбuya khona manje angilande." Wezwa kufika isiбindi sithi, gidi; wafikelwa ithemba elisha nothando oluyisimangaliso ngoJeqe. Wakhumbula igama aliqamba ogwini бecosha amagoбolondo, walihlaбelela. Wafica izinsizwa zakuбo zivela kokweshela emizini engaphansi kwentaбa, wayesehambisana nazo, esezilandisa yonke indaбa kaJeqe, ayizwe emlonyeni wakhe ngokufunda uбunyanga esiqhingini, nokuphuma khona eseбethwese. Lathi laliбantuбahle бafika ekhaya.

Uhambe wahamba uJeqe wafica kudliwa emzini engaphansi kwaseMphandleni waliбala umzuzwana ephuza, wadlula waphatha ukhalo olude, olungenamizi, wathi ethuka wayesethi gaga phezu kwamabuбesi amaбili, elenkunzi nelensikazi edla umgankla wenkomazi, unone unguбa! Wamemeza wakhuza, asuka enyoбozela, kanti asesuthi. Wafika wakhipha umlenze ngomkhonto, wawunquma phakathi, wawetshatha, wahamba. Lithe lingakashoni lithi nya wangenisa emzini lapho sekuxuбene amaThonga namaSwazi. Pho ephethe inyama kwalula ukungenisa kwakhe, aбafana бamphekela inyama yakhe.

Kwaбa yikhona ezwa kahle ukuthi lapha ngaphezu koбombo бaphelile aбantu esifundeni sikaMtsingana, eminye imizi seyavalwa ngamahlahla. Бamlandisa ukuhambisa kwesifo, бathi: "Thina asisaluбeki unyawo, nawe uyoбe uyisithutha nxashana ukhuphukela khona. Aбakithi aбaya le phambili seбehamba бaye бayoguquka eGoбa, kuбe yikhona бeya entshonalanga."

Athi uJeqe: "Kanti azikho lapha kini izinyanga nxa nesaбa ukuyosiza aбantu бegula? Minake ngiya khona, ngingesho ukuthi ngiyinyanga nxa ngingaбuye ngesaбe isifo."

Nembala ilanga lathi liphuma wayesesendleleni, edonsa intaɓakazi enkulu eduze noSuthu ngasenyakatho kwalo. Uthe ethi dundu, nempela waɓona ukuthi alisahanjwahanjwa, ukuɓa angaɓoni muntu endleleni engumendo, ephezulu oɓonjeni. Kwathi umuzi afika kuwo kuqala, wafica usuvalwe ngehlahla, izinkomo ziklaɓile okhalweni. Wadlula waya enxulumeni elikhulu elingasenyakatho kwalowo wokuqala. Uthe esengaphandle wezwa ukuthi kuyakhulunywa. Wangena wakhuphula izindlu waye wakhuleka enhla nomuzi. Ɓaphuma endlini, ɓamɓukisisa ɓathi: "Lomuntu ohamba lapha kungaseze kungaphambukela muntu nje yena uphumaphi?"

Wathi uJeqe: "Ayi akukho lutho. Ngisuka lapha ngaphansi kwesikaNdleɓende. NgingowakwaZulu ngokuzalwa, kepha ngafika ngisemncane kulelizwe ngihambe ngifunda imithi. Ngezwa kuthiwa isihudo siyaniqeda lapha kwaɓe kuyilapha ngisifunde kakhulu, nokwelashwa kwaso."

"Awu, uthini, nyanga na? Uthi uyakwazi ukuselapha, lokhu thina sesahlanyukwa nazinyanga, asisakhulumi ngaɓantu, aɓakho aɓasadlula ngalezindlela ezidaɓula esifundeni sakithi. Asazi nawe ukuthi isiɓindi esingaka usithathephi. Nxa ungena kuzo zonke izindlu lezi, ɓalele, sekuyanuka aɓantu ɓalahlwa malanga onke. Nxa ungelapha ngikukhombisa nasiya isithole esimpevu ngaphandle kothango, ngithi singulugxa lwakho."

"Yeɓo, mnumzane, ngiyasemukela. Ngicela umfana engizomthuma." Nempela ɓamnika insizwa eqatha; wathi mayifune imbiza okwakuphekelwa kuyo utshwala ayigeze aɓase umlilo, ayiɓeke emasekweni, ayigcwalise ngamanzi. Ithe ikwenza lokho insizwa yena wayekhumula umgodla wakhe ekhipha ikhuɓalo eliɓomvu eligaya impuphu eyithela ophondweni lwenkomo olungenalutho phakathi. Waphumela ngaphandle kwomuzi wemba imiphumputho, waxhoza igxolo lomganu. Waligxoɓa walihlanganisa nalempuphu yekhuɓalo. Waya

nensizwa le esihosheni waɓuya neminye imithi, wayithaka embizeni eziko yaɓila. Ithe nxashana isiɓilile isikhathi eside, ɓayephula. Wagxoɓa amakhambi egcwala enye imbiza waɓaphuzisa ɓonke ekhaya, aɓagulayo naɓaphilileyo. Kuthe lapho usupholile lomuthi oɓuɓiliswa, waɓaphuzisa ɓonke aɓagulayo lokhu ɓalishumi nambili. Wathi maɓachathwe ɓonke. Kwaɓonakala ukuthi ɓaningi aseɓedlekile, nophondo seluyazigijimela nje. Wathi: "Ɓaphuziseni laɓo, ngoɓaphephetha ngomphumputho." Nembala wafuna uhlanga waɓaphephetha, waɓaqinisa ngamakhambi ngaphezulu.

Akalalanga ngalelolanga uJeqe, kwaze kwasa elapha, kakhulu enye intombazane kwakungasalindelwe ukuthi kosa isekhona. Wayiqinisa ngemiphumputho, izilonda zema ndawonye, wayiphuzisa namakhambi. Kuthe phakathi kwoɓusuku yaqala yathi ilambile. Wathi maɓagaye iyambazi ɓalicolise, liphindwe kuze kuɓe kathathu, ɓalenze umphunga. Yathatha yathi shashalazi, yazumeka yalala.

Kuthe lakusayo uJeqe kwaɓa ikhathi efikelwa uɓuthongo elala. Umnumzane wavuka ekuseni, wafica intombi yakhe aɓebeke ukuyilahla isikwazi nokuhoshoza ikhuluma.

Aɓanye laɓa aɓaɓengakadleki kakhulu ɓaziɓika uɓungcono ngangomuso ɓathi aɓahudanga kakhulu eɓusuku.

Ngokuvuka kwakhe uJeqe wathi akukhishwe umquɓa wezinkomo osugcwele ezindlini ngoɓa aɓantu ɓase ɓephumela kuwo uthelwa njalo sekunuka kuthi phu. Wakhishwa wonke, zasindwa izindlu zonke emva kokuɓa sezishanelisisiwe. Umquɓa walethwa nxa ekhona ophumelayo, aɓakwazi ukuzivukela wathi aɓafunelwe izindengezi zokuphumela. Kwasindwa wafafaza ngezintelezi, zancipha izimpukane, lokhu ɓese kubuza nje neziluhlaza.

Waɓiza insizwa le anikwe yona ukuɓa ayithume, ɓahamba nayo ɓehlela ehlanzeni ngendlela aqhamuka ngayo lapha eɓone khona imithi angayitho-

liyo phezulu enkangala. Ɓaxeɓula, ɓemɓa ɓaɓuya nenyanda yemithi. Ɓagxoɓa, ɓapheka, ɓachathwa aɓagulayo, ɓaphuziswa, kuthe kuphela izinsuku eziwumkhothi ɓaɓephilile aɓanye, naɓaseɓegula kaɓi seɓengcono. Pho, udumo lwanda, kwathi engakaziphothuli iziguli zakhe zakulomuzi wakwaDlamini wayeseɓizwa kweminye, eseɓenza uɓusuku nemini. Waphiwa inhlanhla aɓantu aɓaningi, ɓaphila aɓelaphayo, imithonseyana yafa, kodwa iningi laphila. KwaDlamini washaya izinkomo eziyisihlanu sekuxuɓene nogxa. Kuthe emzini kaMɓilini wathola zaɓa zimbili, wathi eyiqeda inyanga kulesosigodi wayethole amashumi amaɓili ezinkomo. Umnumzane ophethe isifunda wathuma aɓantu ɓaya koɓika koMkhulu izimangaliso ezenziwe yilenyanga ephuma eɓuThonga.

Wacela izinsizwa ezimbili uJeqe zamphelekezela wehla nezinkomo eziyisihlanu eqonde kwaNdlovu eMphandleni. Uthe efika nje wayesethi: "Hamba uyongicelela uZakhi, nazi izinkomo ezine engiloɓola ngazo, le yesihlanu yohlatshwa mhla kugcagcwa." Wala uNdlovu, wathi: "Ngingeke ngikucelele ukuɓa ugcagcele lapha. Kungasuka esikhulu isidumo. Into ofanele ukuyenza ukuɓa unike uyise zonke lezinkomo, uthathe umfazi wakho uhambe. Khumbula ukuthi umntanenkosi usenenhliziyo eɓuhlungu ngalentombi oyiloɓolayo." Wakuɓona naye uJeqe okushiwo uNdlovu ukuɓa kusiminya. Wayake uNdlovu wayisa izinkomo, kwadlula izinsuku ezintathu waɓopha uZakhi izimpahlana zakhe emacansini amane, ɓasuka ɓahamba noJeqe. Uyise kaZakhi wathi: "Iloɓolo kaliphelele koɓa kuhle aɓuye akhiphe izinkomo ezimbili." Wathi uJeqe: "Nxa uthumela aɓafana ɓakho ɓehamba nathi ɓangaɓuya nazo." Lathi ixhegu: "Ngoɓathumela emva kwezinyanga ezintathu sengizwe kahle ukuthi isihudo siphele nya.

Uyafika uJeqe nomkakhe lapha kwaDlamini sekufike izwi livela koMkhulu kwaNgwane, lithi

iNkosi iyayifuna lenyanga ukuɓa ize kuyo. Wahlala izinsuku eziyisithupha wadlula eseɓange kwaNgwane, eɓukhosini, uZakhi wamshiya khona lapha kwaDlamini. Lapho usedumile, usethwalelwe aɓafana aɓaɓili. Wafika eNkosini wenza imilingo ayifunda esiqhingini, welapha iNkosi naɓantaɓayo, waɓa esikhulu isilomo. Wacela aɓantu eNkosini ɓalanda umkakhe, iNkosi yamakhela umuzi, yamnika izinhlanzi ezimbili ezazifike nenkosikazi eyayisanda kugcagca eNkosini. Izinhlanzi eSwazini amantombazana aye aphekezele indodakazi yesikhulu nxa igana, ahlale nayo aɓe zigqila zayo, umyeni wayo aɓenze omkakhe, nxa ethanda aɓaganise athole izinkomo ngaɓo.

Wathi eqalisa nje ukwakha umuzi wakhe wayesenaɓafazi aɓathathu. Imithi yakhe yachuma, kwanguye inyanga enkulu yeNkosi. Udumo lwakhe lwaye lwafika kwaZulu eNkosini uDingane. Lapho akasaziwa ukuthi uJeqe, nokuthi uɓuthelezi. Usefike waziɓiza ngelinye igama wathi unguMshayikazi waseMachunwini. Edume ngokuɓizwa kuthiwe "Mchunu." Usemlayile noZakhi angalingi athi "Ɓuthelezi."

ISAHLUKO IX.

UJeqe uyalwa ngokwesiɓili ngemithetho yesiGodlo

"Uyaɓona iNkosi ikuɓonile ukuthi ufundile ngemithi kepha kuhle wazi amasiko alapha eNdlunkulu yaseSwazini ukuthi njengoɓa uzokwelapha iNkosi nomuzi wayo kuhle wazi amasiko amaSwazi.

"Ungalokothi lapha eSwazini welaphe aɓantu. Imithi owelapha ngayo iNkosi ungalokothi welaphe ngayo aɓanye aɓantu."

"Kukhona izindlu okungangeni kuzo aɓantu, uyinyanga nje ungalokothi ungene kuzo, ngaphandle kokuɓa ulaywe yiNkosi ukuɓa ungene ngoɓunyanga ɓakho.

"Esiɓayeni, ehlambelweni leNkosi kakungeni muntu, aɓafana ɓenNkosi ɓodwa, umuntu oɓonwa engena khona uyaɓulawa. Ihlambelo yisiɓayana esincane enhla nesiɓaya. INkosi igezela khona, nxa isilungela iNcwala. Iqala kuseze iNcwala encane eyandulela enkulu. Ingene nenyanga yayo eɓusuku, yelashwe kungasaɓoni muntu. Izinyanga ezaziwayo ezisuka ngasolwandle. Ezinye ziyelapha ukuɓa iɓe nolaka ezoluthela emaɓuthweni akhaliphe, nxa ehlangana nezitha. Ezinye izinyanga ezaɓalozi ezindiza phezulu esibakabakeni. Zonke lezizinyanga ngeziqondene nokumiswa kweNkosi ukuɓa iɓe yisiɓonda somhlaɓa.

"Kukhona inyanga enkulu ephehla uɓulawu ɓezulu. Lapha kwaNgwane izulu liniswa yiNkosi; zonke izizwe uma lomisile izulu zilicela lapha eNkosini. Igama laloɓo ɓulawu "Zihlathi." Akekho omunye umuntu ophatha lowo muthi, uphathwa aɓathile okuthi nxa iNkosi isinisa izulu ɓawulande endle lowo muthi, uphehlwe, igweɓu lawo liqonge okhambeni liye phezulu, iNkosi ikhulume namadlozi akuɓo ithi ifuna imvula.

"Njengoɓa lapha kithi eSwazini kuɓusa amakhosi amaɓili, owesilisa nowesifazane, izulu ɓalinisa ɓoɓaɓili. Izulu eliza ngokuduma liniswa yiNkosi yesilisa, elingumvimbi nemvula ethuleyo liniswa yiNkosi yesifazane."

"Unina weNkosi kufanele azale umfana aɓemunye aɓe esehlala njalo angaɓuyi amazi owesilisa. Lomfana uyoɓa yiNkosi nonina aɓe yiNkosi, eɓizwa ngokuthi yiNdlovukazi, kodwa ingaɓizwa ngokuthiwa yiNgonyama nokuthi "ɓayede" kuthiwe kuyo "Nkosi." Nxa kufa indodana yayo yiyo ephatha izwe isekelwe zinduna, nezikhulu, iwaphethe amandla okunisa izulu."

"Zonke lezizindlela zinezinyanga zazo. Wenake uɓizelwe ukwelapha izifo phakathi komuzi weNkosi, nokuyimisa ingangenwa ukufa okulethwa aɓathakathi, ngakhoke kufanele wazi onke amasu okuhamba kwesizwe sakithi kanye nokuhamba phakathi kwoMndlunkulu.

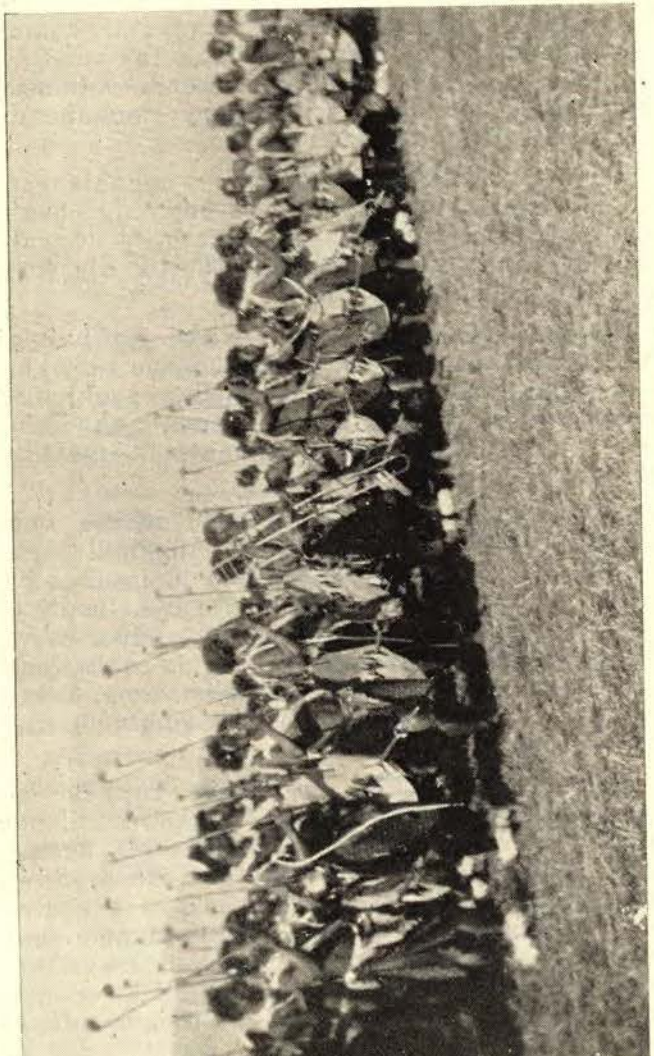
"Isizwe samaSwazi simiswe ngenhlangano enkulu, lenhlangano inguMkhosi omkhulu oɓopha ndawonye amaSwazi oɓizwa ngokuthiwa iNcwala. Uhlangana ekwethwaseni kwehloɓo ukudla sekuvuthwa kwaɓendulelisayo.

"Kuqala encane okuthiwa 'iNkosi iyakhafula'. Kufika izinyanga ziyelaphe eziqondene nokukhafula. Zona zihlanganisa imithi iNkosi ezokhafula ngayo. Ivuke ekuseni ikhafule ilanga lapho liphumayo, nantambama lapho lishonayo. Amaɓutho esefikile aɓe egida esiɓayeni.

"Lifike-ke ilanga elikhulu sekuɓuthene onke amaɓutho, iNkosi isidla uselwa olungamili yonke indawo, olumila phansi koɓombo. Loluselwa kaluvuthwa inxa luphekwa ngaɓantu nje, luvuthwa inxa luphekwa iNkosi yona eludla yodwa selwelashwe zinyanga. Amaɓutho ayagida njalo. Emadlangaleni awo kunuka ulwasi lwenyama, iNkosi iwahlaɓela izinkomo, aɓafazi namantombazane ɓalethele aɓakuɓo ukudla.

"Phakathi nayo iNcwala, ngoɓa kuphela izinsuku eziyisikhombisa idlalwa, kukhethwa ilanga lenkunzi emnyama ezoɓulawa ngezandla ngamaɓutho, ayiɓambe ayiduɓuze ize ife, iɓe seyosiwa khona esiɓayeni kuthi amathambo ayo aqoqelwe ndawonye lingaɓikho nelilodwa eliphumela ngaphandle. Kuɓaswe umlilo phakathi kwesiɓaya ashiswe, kuthi lapho isisi sawo siqongile kwenanele wonke umkhandlu uɓongela iNkosi nesizwe, ufisela iNkosi impilo enhle."

Lapho uJeqe uthule ulalele ude eɓuzisisa angakwaziyo, amchazele.



Amajaha aseSwazini elungisela iNcwala

"Izimbongi zehla zenyuka nomkhandlu ziɓonga iNkosi zithi:

USongcongcoɓezela ungumanzi okuhlalela,
Mpikumpuku kawusenansiɓa zokuphapha,
Ucela kwezimaphiko made,
USobuza kwezinde ngumasiɓekela,
Sinyakuza lapha imizi yamadoda yingaɓola.
USomhlola ngokuhlola izindaɓa,
Uɓambelele phansi uSobuza
Kwavela ingazi ezandleni.

"Nxa seɓenza uyoɓona nawe ukuthi sekusiphuzela unwele kumaSwazi, izilomo namaqhawe eNkosi eseɓongwa.

"Kukhona omunye umkhosi oɓizwa ngokuthi uMcwasho. Kumenywa izintombi zesizwe zizokukha umhlanga wokwenza izihonqa emzini weNkosi, zihlakule amasimu eNkosi, zigide zivunule ngemvunulo yazo enhle.

"Umuntu kangeni nje azikhulekele eNkosini. Uqale aɓikwe enduneni enkulu, yona imɓize alande udaɓa eze ngalo. Nxa luphathelela eNkosini uzoɓizwa khona yizinduna eneke udaɓa eze ngalo.

"EsiGodlweni samakhosikazi kavunyelwe umuntu wesilisa osekhulile ngaphandle kwaɓafana aɓaseɓancane. Kuye kufunwe amantombazane angamajongosi aɓathi ɓona zidandana, akhelele amakhosikazi amanzi, awaphekele.

"INkosi iphekelwa umuntu aɓe munye. Akuvunywa ukuɓa iphekelwe ngamakhosikazi.

"INkosi kayiwaphuzi amanzi aɓandayo, noma yomile amanzi ezowaphuza aqala ngokuɓiliswa kuɓe ikhathi iwaphuzayo esafudumele."

Wakhomba lo olandisa uJeqe lezizinto wathi: "Uyayiɓona leyantaɓa, uMdimba. Inezinqaɓa ezinkulu, asikho isizwe esingawakhipha khona amaSwazi. Nxa izwe lihlaselwe, kuthuthelwa khona ukudla. Eminye imithi yamakhosi angaphambi kukaSobuza ihlala khona."

Umlandisi kaJeqe wakhomba enye intaɓa wathi: "Laphaya kukhona izithando zensimbi eyenza amakhuɓa okulima, enzansi kwayo kukhona isithando sethusi eliyimvunulo enkulu. Kukhona izinyanga ezenza amakhuɓa nezindondo zethusi. Lamatshe awasileli ekumiseni iNkosi ngoɓa ayimikhando yokukhanda izizwe. Nawe woɓe awelaphi ngokubekwe ngamaSwazi inxa ungayi ezinyangeni zensimbi ufune kuzo imikhando."

UJeqe wathi: "Nami ngifike nokwami ukuhlakanipha, ningengisindezele kokuthandwa yinina."

"Umuntu wesifazane kawadli amasi alapho egane khona, uze aphakelwe kuqala. Indoda yakhe ishaya inkomo, imɓize imphakele amasi, akhangeze ngezandla zombili ithi: 'Namhla yidla amasi alapha ekhaya, nansi inkomo engikuphakela ngayo. Lenkomo eyakwakho, noma kuganwa umntanakho uyolotsholelwa ngayo.' "

Athi uJeqe: "Pho nxa kufe iNkosi kwenziwa njani? Ngiyeke ngezokudla amasi, nakithi kufana nalokhu ongitshela kona."

"Ha, uɓuza indaɓa enkulu njalo, engifanele ngikulandise ngayo.

"Nxa kufe iNkosi enkulu yesilisa kuye kulungiswe kahle isidumbu sayo ngaɓanumzane nezinduna. Kwakhiwe uhlaka lwezinti nomhlanga lapho isidumbu sizoɓekwa khona. Siɓe sesiyiswa endlini yayo enkulu. Sekuzofunwa izinkaɓi ezimnyama ezikhulwini, ziɓe lishumi. Kufunwe imbuzi emnyama. Kuthi phakathi koɓusuku oɓukhulu lapho kukhala izinkuku zokuqala liphume naso isidumbu iɓandla nomphakathi.

"EsiGodlweni laphaya sekukhethwe aɓafazi ɓayo aɓathile noma ɓangaɓa yishumi; kuthathwe aɓemunye wesilisa oɓevama ukuyiphekela, kuthathwe amakhanzi, nezitsha, nempahla eɓivunula ngayo, ɓonke laɓa baphelekezele isidumbu esithwelwe aɓayiɓutho layo ɓehamba ɓephumuzana ɓekhwela intaɓa ɓeya emgedeni oyindlu yemvelo. Naɓanye ɓagquɓa izinkomo nembuzi eyodwa.

ɓathi ukufika emgedeni lapho kulahlwa khona onke amakhosi akwaNgwane kungene aɓathwele isidumbu ɓekhanyiselwe ngezihlonti zobaqa. Kungeniswe izinkomo, enye ihlatshwe naɓafazi ɓayo ɓaɓulawe kanye nalo oyedwa wesilisa aɓulawe kuthiwa ɓazoliɓazisa iNkosi. Kuɓe sekuvela imbongi iɓonge onke amakhosi asafa ithi: 'Nango uSoɓaniɓani othize, wathi, wathi. Simlethe kini, nazi nezinkomo esizethula kini nina madlozi amakhulu esizwe sakithi.' Kuɓuywe khona phakathi koɓusuku, kuyasa seɓegezile emfuleni ɓaya emakhaya. Sekuzokhalwa njalo ekuseni ngezinkuku zokugcina kukhalelwa iNkosi."

Aɓuze uJeqe athi: "UMdlunkulu uzila kanjani?"

Umlandisi aphendule athi: "Kuzilwa kuze kuphele iminyaka emithathu. Amakhosikazi eluka utshani aɓuqhele emakhanda, eluke oɓunye aɓubince ɓuvundle ezidunjini kanye nasokhalweni. ɓaɓemhlophe yiɓo, umuntu angaɓafuni aɓafelweyo. Kuthi nxa sekwedlule iminyaka emiɓili, ngowesithathu kuqoqwe lonke uzalo. Kuɓe umkhosi omkhulu, kuhlatshwe izinkomo, kugaywe utshwala, kuɓe sekuthiwa siphelile isililo. Amakhosikazi asengangenwa aɓanawe ɓeNkosi. Futhi asengaziqomela aɓathandayo, kodwa ɓonke aɓantwana aɓazalwa ngokungenwa, aɓeNkosi—ɓayifa leNkosi."

ISAHLUKO X.

UJeqe esiGodlweni sakwaZulu futhi

INkosi yakwaZulu uDingane yezwa ngodumo lukaMchunu inyanga yaseSwazini. Wathuma aɓantu eNkosini yamaSwazi ecela ukuɓa ithumele uMchunu aze kokwelapha aɓantwana ɓayo aɓagulayo. Kwakugula intandokazi yayo enguMdlunkulu. Yavuma iNkosi yamaSwazi. UMchunu

wahamba ephekezelwa aɓafana ɓakhe aɓaɓili, nendoda ephuma eNkosini yamaSwazi.

Ufika ezweni lakuɓo uJeqe esenesilevu, eɓunzini lapha uqhela ngesiphandla ukuze aɓaɓemazi lapha eseyinsizwa kuTshaka ɓangamɓoni. Wafika qede wahlala endlini anikwa yona, wangathanda ukuya eɓandla esaɓa ukuthi uzodaluleka. Wafika into yokuqala welapha iNkosi, wathi ngemilingo ayenzayo wesaɓeka ɓathi aɓazange ɓayiɓone inyanga enje kwaZulu. Wanikwa ukuɓa angene esiGodlweni elaphe aɓantwana namantombazana eNkosi. Washayelwa amashumi amathathu ezinkomo.

Wacela ngelinye ilanga wathi ufisa ukuyoɓamba izinyamazane zasolwandle, washiya ikhehla nomunye umfana, wahamba naye wamunye, kanti uqonde ukuyoɓona aɓazali ɓakhe. Uthe efika ekhaya kuɓo wayezenza umuntu wezizwe nje eɓuza indaɓa, ngangomuso waya ekhehleni elinguyise waziveza kulo kuqala, wathi malitshele unina, kepha angaɓikho omunye owazi lendaɓa. Wajaɓula unina wakhala wathi, "Ngase ngidelile mntanami, ngangingasethembi ukuɓa ngiyoɓuye ngikuɓone."

Lokhu ɓasenhla komuzi ɓoɓathathu uJeqe wasuka phansi esikhathini sakhe eɓaleka kufe uTshaka, waɓalandisa indaɓa yonke. Lokhu usesisusile isiphandla eɓunzini, seɓemɓona njengoɓa enjalo, aɓamfuni nokumfuna ngoɓa ufana naɓanewaɓo. Ɓathi: "Ungahlali isikhathi eside lapha kwaZulu, uzodaluleka, uDingane akuɓulale." Wathi uJeqe: "Qha, nami ngilapha nje ngoɓa ngathanda ukuzoɓona nina, umseɓenzi wami uphelile kuDingane, inhliziyo yami ayithokozi ngemikhuɓa yalapha kwaZulu ngokuɓulawa kwaɓantu. Ngicela nje ɓaɓa ukuɓa uhlenge isalukazi lesi usiyise emzini wami eSwazini ngiye kosiɓusisa noma kungaphela inyanga nihambe nilala eduze, akucala. Kepha kuhle nifune isu lokuthi nihamba

niɓadala nje niyaphi. Mina ngiɓuyele kuDingane ngohlala izinsuku noma zingaɓa amashumi amaɓili, ngithathe izinkomo zami zokwelapha ngiɓuyele eSwazini."

Ɓahlala noyise wamzekela izindaɓa ezasale zenzeka. Wathi: "Asihlezi kahle lapha kwelakwaZulu, Jeqe. Sikhumbula uTshaka noma wayesikhathaza ngokuhlasela ezizweni, uDingane useɓaqedile aɓantu ngokuɓaɓulala. Sewaɓulala ɓonke aɓakayise uSenzangakhona. Sewaɓulala aɓafowaɓo oGubuzela, oMhlangano, oMathambo, oMachaphashiye, oMphansi, oNsikalende, noMɓulali. UMpande wasinda naye ngoɓa wayezishaya isithutha ebuquzeka emlotheni, athi nxa eɓona uDingane athathe namathambo ezinkomo esezafa ede ewanuka aɓuye awalahle; ɓathi akasiyeke angasiɓulali isithutha lesi, nembala wamyeka.

"Kanti uMpande uhlakaniphile uyazenzisa. Kwathi ngelinye ilanga kuxoxwa impi neNkosi, eMgungundlovu esiɓayeni, uDingane wadinwa ukuɓa iɓutho eliyintanga yakhe lehlulwe, Awu, Awu, Awu, Isibejane, Awu, Awu, Awu!

"Ɓasuka lapho ɓaya kuMpande, kwaqoqana izwe elikhulu kuMpande, aɓantu seɓenengwa uDingane. Wayesethi uDingane kuNdlela induna yakhe enkulu, 'Nathi uMpande sithutha, angingamɓulali, nakhu aɓantu eseɓathumbile. Futhi usezele, uzele uCetshwayo, uzele uHamu, uzele uZiwedu'.

"Manje uDingane ufuna isu lokuɓulala uMpande, wakhipha umqeku wezithole ezimɓala munye esethi akuhambe uNgcangwana noMathunjana ɓaziyise kuMpande, ikhona eyokuza koziɓonga, afike amɓulale, kulandwe naɓantaɓakhe ɓafike ɓaɓulawe. Ɓafika nazo emzini kaMpande ɓathi: 'Uthi okayihlo, ɓamba'. Lapho kwaphuma isifazane sik'ik'izela sahalalisa ukufika kwezinkomo. UMpande eseɓaɓizela endlini laɓa aɓafika nazo, eseɓahlaɓisa incokazana kwezaseMɓeleɓeleni, kanti yizona uDingane ayezidinwa kakhulu

lezonkomo ngoɓa izona uMpande aziphiwa unina.

"Mhla ɓesuka ekhaya uNdlela, uNdunankulu kaDingane weyelaye uNgcangwana wathi, 'Anothi nxa senivalelisa ukhiphe isigqoɓela endleɓeni sengathi uyabema, usiɓeke phansi ngamaɓomu, sengathi sikukhohlile, kanti uzoɓuyela uthi ukhohlwe yiso, uɓe usumnyenyezela uMpande uthi akasuke awele uThukela, uDingane uhlose ukumɓulala'.

"Wayethe uDingane akuze kutshelwe uMpande amazise nxa esemhambela ezoɓonga izinkomo ikhona eyotshela aɓantu ɓamhlinzeke ngotshwala nangezinkomo endleleni.

"Lezwa qede iqili elinguMpande lawela uThukela, lawela eDlokweni.

Igenge elidlule umuthi lawuyeka,
Isiyengane sikaNdaɓa,
Siyengwe uNgcangwana,
NoMathunjana,
ɓesiyenga ngomqeku wezithole.
UMpande ke lowo!
UMjokwane kaNdaɓa.

"Emva le kuDingane kuxoxwa impi, ixoxwa njalo izinduna kazisezwani. UNdlela, uNdunankulu kezwani noNzoɓo owayemlandela eɓuduneni; uNzoɓo uthanda kakhulu ukuɓulala aɓantu, kanti uNdlela akumthokozisi lokho. UMpande usehlangana namaBunu ukuɓa amchithise uDingane, amaBunu aseɓuza indlalifa yakhe. Usewakhombisa uCetshwayo, uCetshwayo amaBunu asethatha isikeyi ejokweni, esecindezela kuso indleɓe kaCetshwayo emenza uphawu ngommese. Zinjaloke ezalapha kithi, mntanami."

Uthi lapho eyixoxa eyokuhambela ekhaya emva kokunyamalala iminyaka ethile kwakumnandi sengathi angeɓe esahamba. Wathi lapho esedunduɓele egqumeni elingaphesheya komfula okukhiwa kuwo amanzi emzini wakuɓo, wahlala phansi, waɓuka izihlahla nezinkalo lapha ayelusela

khona. Wakhumbula aɓafana ayeqhathwa naɓo, ɓephundlana ngezinduku, akhumbule nalapho ɓehlaɓa insema eqeleni lalona lololukhalo; umqondo wakhe waɓuyela ezinsukwini zoɓufana ɓegiɓela izigude, ɓecupha izinyoni ngezife nangenhlali; ɓambe amagonsi ɓelambile ɓadle ezinkomeni. Amehlo waweqisa kulololukhalo waɓuka isinindolo sehlathi elingale komuzi wakuɓo lapho ɓaɓezingela khona ɓeyinqina; wakhumbula amagama aɓaɓeguba ngawo enqineni ɓethi:

"Wayishayinyamazane,
Yetshe!
Wayishayinyamazane,
Yetshe!"

"Izonzo layo Mthonga, nazi izikhali zethu, zimhlophe, yilokhu sizilole emakhaya, asiziɓoni izinyamazane, uzisonge kanjani, ulale kanjani Mthonga na?"

Wakhumbula nalapho uMthonga eseyithetha
inqina ethi, "Eve ɓuzimba,
Inqina ithi, "Ziɓanjwe ji!"
Umthonga ethi, "Umkhonto enyameni",
Inqina ithi, "Ziɓanjwe ji!"
Umthonga ethi, "Eve ɓuzimba"
Inqina ithi, "Ziɓanjwe ji!"
Umthonga ethi, "Niqina kweyenkomo."
Inqina ithi, "Ziɓanjwe ji!"
Umthonga ethi, "Nazo izinyamazane."
Inqina ithi, "Ziɓanjwe ji!"
Umthonga ethi, "Umkhonto enyameni
Inqina ithi, "Ziɓanjwe ji!"

Wathi uJeqe: "Wo, he! Izinsuku aziɓuyiselwa emuva. Ngiyakhumbula ngihaduliswa uSofoca kuloluyakhalo engishaya, izinkomo zakithi zidle insimu yakhe." Wathi, "Suka mfana, sihambe."

Uthe efika uJeqe emzini weNkosi kwase kugcwele izinyanga nezangoma ziɓizwe uye uDingane, ezohlola uJeqe ukuthi angabulelana nje nezanusi zakwaZulu, nokuthi angayenza nje imilingo eyenziwa izingedla zakwaZulu. Uthi esa-

ngena elawini lakhe, ngenhla lapha uzwa izangoma zithimula, zizamula, zibodla; wakhohlwa nje ukuthi kwenzenjani. Kwase kufika izwi liphuma kuDingane ngesithunywa kuye lithi: "INkosi ithi wenze kahle ufike, ithande ukuɓa ikuqhathe nezinyanga nezangoma zakwaZulu ngomuso."

Kuthe ekuseni kungakasi kahle, wezwa umuntu ukuthi ikhulile indaɓa ezanusini. Seziyaphalaza ngoɓulawu ɓazo, ziyabodla, ziyaɓuɓula, kuthule kuthe khwishi.

Wathatha isikhwama sakhe samathambo okubula uJeqe. Wawathela phansi amathambo wawaɓuka, wayesethula isikhwama semithi esewakhwifa, esewaɓiza ngamagama awo, ewaphonsa phansi. Wahleka yedwa wathi: "Nxa ngingaɓehlulanga koɓe uSithela kangifundisanga lutho." Wasiɓopha isikhwama sakhe, namathambo wawaɓuyisela emgodleni.

Kanti phakathi koɓusuku uDingane uthume inceku wathi ayithaɓathe umnyakanya wakhe wesakaɓuli iwufihle esiɓayeni, iwumboze ngomquɓa ngasentuɓeni engenhla.

Kuthe lapha kufudumala ilanga iNkosi yangena esiɓayeni, neɓandla laɓuthana. Wathi uDingane kuNdunankulu: "Ɓiza izangoma nezinyanga zize lapha." Zangena esiɓayeni. INkosi yakhipha ingcazi yotshwala zaphuza, kuyileyonyanga nalesosangoma siphuza kolwaso ukhamba. UJeqe ephethe umgodlana wakhe wamathambo kuphela.

Wasukuma uDingane wathi: "Nginiɓize zinyanga nani zanusi ngoɓa kufike lapha inyanga ebulayo neyelaphayo yaseSwazini. Ngayizwa ngodumo ngathumela eNkosini yakhona ukuɓa ike ize lapha izongelaphela aɓantaɓami. Ngifuna ukuɓa ngiyiqhathe nezangoma kuqala zokubula, ngiɓuye ngiyiqhathe nezinyanga zokwelapha. Ngifihle into lapha phakathi komuzi. Isangoma esiyoyithatha siyilethe lapha kimi ngosinika izinkomo eziyisihlanu."

Zasuka lapho izangoma zabodla, zaɓuɓula, zasina. Wayehlezi nje ethule uJeqe. Zangena ngaphakathi kwomuzi zafuna, phinde zithole mpahla. Waphenya umquɓa eduze nalapho ehlezi khona uJeqe, wawachitha amathambo akhe. Wawaɓuka, wawaɓuka, wahleka, wawaqoqa, wakhuluma nawo, waphinda wawachitha. Wathi: "Sengiyitholile into ethukuswe iNkosi. Ɓiza zonke izangoma ngizikhombise ukuthi zingaɓafana kimi." Yaziɓiza iNkosi, zahlala phansi, wasukuma uJeqe, waɓiza umfana wakhe, wathi: "Hamba uphenye emquɓeni laphaya uzofunyanisa umnyakanya wesakaɓuli, uwulethe lapha." Nembala umfana wawukhipha umnyakanya emquɓeni wawuletha kuJeqe, wawuthatha uJeqe, wawuɓeka phambi kweNkosi. Yathi iNkosi: "Qha, uzehlulile izinyanga zakithi." Yathi ezanusini: "Bekani nginiyeke ngaɓomu. Ɓekuthi anginiɓulale nonke, kanti nikhohlisa izwe nje anazi lutho? Hambani nigoduke khona manje!" Zasuka sezinyoɓozela zaphuma esiɓayeni, zathatha yonke into yazo zahamba.

Wayesethi uDingane: "Ngifuna ukuɓona umlingo kinina zinyanga zemithi." Waphuma uJeqe walanda isikhwama sakhe. Wakhipha ikhuɓalo lalinye nje, nesikhunjana esincane, wahlala; zayaluza izinyanga zehluleka ukwenza into eqamileyo, kwaze kwafika isikhathi sikaJeqe. Wathi: "Nkosi ngicela uɓisi ngesicathulo." Nempela ɓaluletha uɓisi wathi: "Nina ɓakwaZulu, niyaluɓona loluɓisi olumhlophe. Ngizophosa udosi luɓe lunye lwalesikhumba, luzophenduka luɓeɓomvu." Kanti lesisikhunjana esesidawana, nempela wanele waluphonsa nje udosi lwesidawana uɓisi lwaphenduka igazi. Yamemeza iNkosi yathi: "Awu, nanko phela umhlola!" Lwachithwa. Wathi uJeqe: "Nazi izinhlanga ezimbili, zizohamba." Wathatha ukhamba olunamanzi, wafutha ezinhlangeni, ɓaziɓona zigcogcoma phezu kwamanzi.

Wathi uDingane: "Uɓehlulile mfo waseSwazini, nazi izinkomo zakho." Wayesethi kuNdunankulu: "Hamba uye esiGodlweni, ubeke isigqili esiɓukekayo usilethe lapha ngisendisele kulenyanga." Lamɓongela uJeqe iɓandla.

Kuthe ntambama uDingane waɓiza uJeqe wathi: "Ngifuna usuke eSwazini, uze lapha ngizokwenza inyanga yami enkulu ngikwakhele umuzi." Waɓonga uJeqe, wathi: "Kodwa phela Nkosi ngithanda ukuhamba nezinkomo iNkosi engiholele zona, nomfazi lo enginike yena, ikhona naɓakithi ɓeyosheshe ɓavume ukuɓa size lapha, ɓeɓona ukwephana kweNkosi.". Yavuma iNkosi yathi: "Hamba ngizokunika aɓafana aɓaɓili ɓakuphelekezele."

Emva laphaya ekhaya kuɓo kaJeqe uyise nonina seɓahamba ɓaliɓangisa eSwazini. Waɓalaya uJeqe ukuɓa ɓaze ɓaziɓize ngesiɓongo aziɓiza ngaso eSwazini. Nokho ukuhamba kwesalukazi siɓuye sivuvuke izinyawo, ɓahlale emzini isikhathi eside size siɓe ngcono. OJeqe naɓahamba naye ɓafika kuqala eSwazini uyise nonina ɓengakafiki. Kwejatshulwa ekhaya umnumzane efika nomhlambi wezinkomo, omkakhe ɓaphuma ezindlini ɓangcwenga. Ngalesosikhathi umfana wamaziɓulo owazalwa uZakhi useyelusa. Wazizungeza izinkomo ezifika noyise waziɓukisisa. Aɓeɓethunywe uDingane ukuɓa ɓaphekezele uJeqe, ɓahlala izinsuku ezimbili ɓephumule, ɓaphindela emuva, kwasala aɓaɓili; ɓathi mhla kuzokusa ɓahambe, waɓahlaɓisa imbuzikazi ɓayidla ɓaze ɓaphatha nomkhuso wayo. Aɓaɓili aɓasalayo ɓaɓelindele ukuyokhonzela uDingane eNkosini yamaSwazi.

Kwadlula izinsuku ezilishumi nambili ɓefikile, ɓafika oyise kaJeqe nonina. Ɓafika nje usewuɓikele umuzi wakhe uJeqe ukuthi oyise nonina ɓayeza. Ɓafika imithombo isicwilisiwe, seɓebeke ukuɓa ɓafike nje ɓuqaliswe utshwala ɓedili laɓo. Mhla ɓefikayo ɓanikwa intondolo yembuzi, inone kuyinhlama. Ɓamangala nje aɓazali ɓakhe ɓefika

esakhe inxuluma lomuzi, ɓaɓuza ukuthi izinkomo zokuloɓola wazithathaphi. Waɓalandisa indaɓa yokuqeda kwakhe isihudo esasiqeda aɓantu, nezinkomo azithola lapho nazihola eNkosini yamaSwazi. Aɓafazi ɓakaJeqe ɓayagqigqizela ɓapheka utshwala ɓedili, yena ilokhu ethoɓa isalukazi esingunina, sekuze kwaɓohla ukuvuvuka ezithweni nasezingalweni. Wahamba waya eNkosini wafike wayilandisa konke ukuhlala kwakhe kuDingane, nokuthi waya kuɓo waɓiza uyise nonina ukuɓa ɓazoɓona umuzi wakhe. Wathi: "Ngomhlomunye ngiyoɓenzela idili." Wayitshela iNkosi wathi uDingane uɓefuna ukumhluɓula aɓe yinyanga yakhe, wavuma nje, kodwa emkhohlisa ukuze asuke kahle kwaZulu.

Yajaɓula iNkosi ngokuqoma kwakhe ukuɓa aɓe inyanga yayo kunokuɓa ekaDingane. Yamkhombisa iduna eliɓomvu yathi ihlaɓisa uyise, naɓantaɓenkosi ɓayofika edilini. Wajaɓula kakhulu uJeqe ezwa lelo, eɓonga nenkomo.

Lwafika usuku lwedili olungaliyo. Lokhu utshwala sekuzichiɓi emzini kaJeqe.

Ekuseni zawa kumfo kaSikhunyana. Wahlaɓa izinkaɓi ezintathu neduna eliphume eNkosini, umkakhe amendiselwe uDingane wamhlaɓisa isithole esimpevukazi. Kuthe lapho kufudumala ilanga ɓafika aɓantaɓenkosi, ɓephekezelwa ihele lamajaha. Lokhu phakathi kwomuzi sekunuka ulwasi lwenyama, seɓeyahaya aɓafike ekuseni, utshwala aɓudingeki. Ɓathe ukuɓa ɓafike aɓantwana ɓakhonjiswa ilawu laɓo ɓodwa nezinceku zaɓo. Waɓahlaɓisa eyaɓo ɓodwa inkomo umfo kaSikhunyana. Kwaphuzwa, kwadliwa inyama, ɓadakwa, aɓanye seɓebeda nje. Omunye eɓonga uJeqe wathi, wasinda ezoɓulawa alahlwe noTshaka, kanti uxoxa nje, kukhona omunye endlini wakwaZulu ophekezele uJeqe nezinkomo azihole kuDingane. Wathula lomfo, waqhathanisa ikhehla elinguSikhunyana noJeqe. Waɓona ukuɓa aɓakwaZulu impela laɓaɓantu, kepha indaɓa ikhu-

lunywa lonke elakwaZulu ukuthi insila kaTshaka uJeqe weqa esezoɓulawa alahlwe neNkosi. Pho aɓantu ɓesuthi utshwala amukho osahlonipha nokukhuluma noqaphela ingozi yokudaluleka kukaSikhunyana noJeqe. Agida amaSwazi, naɓantwana seɓeyixuɓevange ekuthokozeni kwalolosuku. Ɓaɓona nje oSikhunyana nomkakhe ukuthi indodana yaɓo ingumuntu omkhulu kulelizwe. Aɓantwana ɓaze ɓalala ɓavukela kuɓo utshwala ngangomuso.

Lithe ukuɓa lidlule idili ɓavalelisa laɓa aɓaɓephekezele uJeqe ephuma eɓukhosini kwaZulu. Lokhu ɓaseɓeyile koMkhulu eSwazini ɓeyokhonzela uDingane. Ɓaɓeyiphathele izikhumba ezintathu zivela kuDingane. Ezimbili kwaku ezezingwe, esinye kungesensele. Kuthe lapho seɓeyovalelisa koMkhulu eSwazini, iNkosi yamaSwazi yaɓanika izikhumba ezimbili zengulule kwaɓa umkhonzo kuDingane. Wafika wajaɓula uDingane lapho eɓona umkhonzo weNkosi yaseSwazini. Ɓathe ukuɓa ɓazeneke phambi kwakhe wathi: "Ake nixoxe phela ukuthi linjani elakwaNgwane, naɓonani khona?" Ɓadumisa idili likaJeqe alenzela aɓazali ɓakhe aɓaphuma khona lapha kwaZulu. Ɓalanda ɓaze ɓafika ezwini aɓalizwa likhulunywa omunye umuntu ethi inyanga le insila kaTshaka. Yethuka iNkosi ukuɓa izwe lokhu.

Yaɓiza aɓantu aɓaɓili yathi: "Hambani khona manje niye koɓiza uSikhunyana wakwaɓuthelezi, nxashane nifika engekho niɓize indodana yakhe enkulu." Ɓahamba ngokushesha laɓoɓantu, ɓaye ɓafika emzini kaSikhunyana, ɓamfica engekho, ɓaɓiza indodana yakhe enkulu. Yaɓiza aɓafowaɓo aɓaɓili ukuɓa ɓayiphekezele, yahamba yaye yafika kuDingane. Wayiɓuza uDingane ukuthi uyise uphi. Yathi: "Oɓaɓa nomame ɓahamba ɓathi ɓahambela kwadadewethu owendela ngalapha eMfolozi, enhla nayo." "Landa ukuthi ɓathi ɓehamba kwakungazange kufike muntu lapho kini na?" Yathi: "Kwafika indoda ithi

ingeyangalapha eSwazini kodwa mina angizange ngimɓone lowo muntu ngamuzwa ngendaɓa. Akahlalanga isikhathi eside. Wathi ukuɓa ahambe uɓaɓa nomame ɓahamba naɓo. Ukuphela engikwaziyo, futhi kuze kuɓe namhla kaɓakaɓuyi."

Yathi iNkosi: "Hamba nalaɓaɓantu aɓaɓili niye lapho kwadadewenu niɓuze ukuthi oSikhunyana ɓenomkakhe ɓake ɓafika nje? Nisheshe niɓuye nizongazisa."

Kwadlula izinsukwana ɓehambile ɓaɓuya nezwi lokuthi ɓafika, ɓalala amalanga amathathu ɓadlula ɓaya eSwazini. Kwamkhanyela uDingane ukuthi uJeqe wazifihla sonke isikhathi elapha koMkhulu. Yathi: "Yisho, ayengaze angasisusa isiphandla eɓunzini! Impela isithunzi sakhe sasisiɓi kimi, ngangingajaɓuli nxashane ngihlezi naye kanti ungeleka ngesithunzi sikaTshaka."

Waɓiza amadoda omkhandlu wawalandisa ukuthi inyanga le ekade yelapha aɓantaɓeNkosi uJeqe kaSikhunyana wakwaɓuthelezi. Uɓuya ekuhambeni okuningi uza lapha emzini weNkosi endala, uletha imihlola yodwa, "Angisho nokuthi izimpi siyozinqoɓa lomhlola ungagezwanga. Nithini madoda ngendaɓa enje?"

Waphendula uNdunankulu wathi: "Kuhle kuthunywe amadoda eNkosini yamaSwazi ilethe uSikhunyana noJeqe lapha kwaZulu njengoɓa nempela aɓantu ɓakho ɓoɓaɓili ayinakwala naɓo." Lakhalipha izwi likaNdunankulu onke amadoda alivuma. Kwasuswa amadoda asihlanu athunyelwa eNkosini yamaSwazi ukuɓa ithumele uSikhunyana nendodana yakhe uJeqe lo oke weza kokwelapha eNdlunkulu. Lithe ukuɓa lifike lelozwi eNkosini yamaSwazi yamɓiza uJeqe yamtshela amazwi afike nezikhonzi zakwaZulu. Wala uJeqe wathi: "Angiyi kwaZulu. Nawe Nkosi nxa ungasangifuni ungangitshela nje ngizidingele; kodwa ukuthi ngingaya kuDingane

kungaɓa umhlola." "Pho, oyihlo nonyoko ɓazokwenzenjani?" kuɓuza iNkosi. "Seɓeyofela lakufele khona mina, ngoɓa uDingane uyofike aɓaɓulale athi ɓaɓengamtsheli ngani mhla ngizidalula kuɓo na?" Yathi iNkosi: "Lingaɓe lifile elakwaNgwane nxa umuka lapha ɓuthelezi. Uwena osuphethe yonke imithi yoɓukhosi ɓakulelizwe, noDingane usengakuthola ngokuɓa aqale anqoɓe amaSwazi."

Wagoduka inhliziyo yakhe yenamile uJeqe emva kokuzwa amazwi anjena ephuma emlonyeni weNkosi.

INkosi yawaɓiza amanxusa kaDingane yathi kuwo, "Amanga, uɓuthelezi ayinakuze imdedele iNkosi ngoɓa uyinyanga yayo noyise usekhonzile lapha eSwazini." Amanxusa agoduka nalelozwi leNkosi yamaSwazi. Kwaphembeka uɓutha oɓukhulu phakathi kwamaZulu namaSwazi. Izimpi ezalandela lesosenzo zaze zaliwa indodana kaJeqe enkulu ezalwa uZakhi. Ixhegu, uɓuthelezi nesalukazi sakhe ɓafela eSwazini ɓalahlwa uJeqe naɓazukulu ɓaɓo.

Umlandu walesisenzo awuzange uphele phakathi kwalezizizwe. NoDingane wafa ngomkhonto wamaSwazi ngaphambi kwaɓaningi aɓafa ɓelwa.

UJeqe wachuma njalo elapha amakhosi akwaNgwane waze waɓa indoda endala, washiya elikhulu ifa lezinkomo nenzalo enkulu.

Wafika komunye umuzi inkomo izele amawele amankonyane, sekuɓizwe nesangoma ukuɓa sizobula lomhlola ovele ekhaya. Seɓecaɓanga ukuyiɓulala kanye namankonyane ayo. Wala uJeqe wathi: "Kithi kwaZulu ziyabangqwa. Kuhlatshwa imbuzi emnyama, isikhumba sisikwe, siɓoshelwe ezintanyeni zamankonyane." Nembala kwenziwa lokho, amankonyane akhula kahle ephilile.

Indodana yakhe yafunda uɓunyanga, noma ingafikanga emandleni kayise okwelapha yayidumile ngokwazi imithi.

Inzalo yonke kaJeqe yayiziqhayisa ngokuthi amaZulu anqoɓa zonke izizwe kodwa awazange awanqoɓe amaSwazi ngoɓa wayevimba ngemithi yakhe uJeqe, lokhu impi yayichelwa uye esaphila. Kuningi okukhumbuza indaɓa kaJeqe eSwazini nanamhlanje. ɓasekhona aɓakwaɓuthelezi aɓangamaSwazi khona le. Kwathi ukuɓa kudaluleke ukuthi uJeqe lo owakwaɓuthelezi, lacima igama nesiɓongo sokuthi "Mchunu", kwachuma esempela.

UZakhi wakhula waze waɓa isalukazi emva kokuzala izingane ezisithupha. Wayeke akhumbule igama aliqamba ogwini lapho edlalisa izingane zakhe ephethwe uthando lwendoda yakhe:

"Ngeke zingikhohle,
Lezonsuku ezimnandi, Jeqe,
Sicosha amagoɓolondo,
Ogwini loSuthu,
Jeqe, zazimnandi lezozinsuku,
Sicosha amagoɓolondo,
Ogwini loSuthu."

SILA KA TSHAKA

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