



# UTata wethu umgcini wezilwanyana



**NguNobusi Maqubela**



Abantwana bakwaFaku babenqwenela ukuya kundwendwela umzi wogcinozilwanyana eMonti, apho uTata wabo wayesebenza khona.

UZoli, uThemba, uTseli, kunye nodade wabo omncinane uNobusi, babehlala nabazali babo kuronta omkhulu kwilali yaseKwelera.





UTata wabo wayesala xa bemcela ukuba ahambe nabo ukuya kumzi wogcinozilwanyana.

Wawunokumva esithi, “Mhlawumbi ngomso.” Wayesebenza mihla le, engenalo ixesha lokubasa njengoko benqwena. Enye into, ukundwendwela umzi wogcinozilwanyana kwakubiza.



Bobane babezithanda izilwanyana. Kaloku uTata wabo wayedla ngokubabalisela ngazo zonke izilwanyana ezazilapho.

UTata wabo wayesebenza kwicala leentaka, kungoko ke babezazi iintlobo ngeentlobo zeentaka ukogqitha oontanga babo. Wayede athi uyakwazi ukuthetha ulwimi lwazo. Ntoleyo yayisenza bafune ngakumbi ukundwendwela lomzi.





“NgoMgqibelo yiholide, ningathanda ukundwendwela umzi wezilwanyana?” wabuza uTata ngenye intsasa. Zange bakukholelwe abakuvayo.

“Ngenene?” Athetha ngaxesha linye amawele. “Ndiza kuthetha neentaka? Ndizakuk...” wabuza ngemincili uNobusi.

“Ngokuqinisekileyo,” wancuma uTata wabo. Kaloku uNobusi akuqala ukuthetha, wawungasokuze umthulise.

Yayingathi ayipheli iveki kubo yimincili ababenayo.







Ngaloo ntsasa yangoMgqibelo,  
abantwana babesele begqibe  
nokuhlamba. Babesele bepakishile  
belindele uhambo wabe uMama noTata  
besavuka. UMama wancuma akubabona  
belungile.





Bathi besangena kumzi wogcino zilwanyana, bathabatheka bubukhulu bendawo. Emva nje kwexeshana behambahamba umyezo. Babengayivali imilomo zintlobontlobo zezilwanyana ezazilapho.





Akukho ndawo angazange ababonise yona uTata wabo. Eneneni wayenolwazi olunzulu ngazo zonke izilwanyana ezazilapho. Wayebavumela xa becela ukuzibamba kuba esazi azinabungozi.



UNobusi wayengxamele  
ukubona iintaka.  
Wayefuna ukuva xa  
uTata wakhe ethetha  
nazo.



Bathi besangena beva  
intsholo emnandi  
yeentaka.

“Zonke ziyathetha Tata? Uziva njani wena?”  
wabuza uNobusi. UTata wathatha intaka  
eyayimibala-bala wayinika uNobusi.

“Molo ntakana,” wabulisa uNobusi.  
“Molo ntakana, molo ntakana.” Yaphendula  
yatsho intaka.

UNobusi wothuka akuva le intaka ithetha  
watsho wayiphulula.

“Zonke iintaka zineelwimi zazo kwaye  
ziyavana xa zithetha nokuba thina asiziva.  
Loo nto ke ayithethi ukuba asinakuthetha  
nazo xa sifuna,” waqhuba ecacisa uTata.



Ukufika kwabo ekhaya besavula  
umnyango, bengekangeni nasendlini,  
wayesele egempeza uNobusi.

“Mama! Mama! Ndicela undithengele  
intaka. Ndiyakwazi ukuthetha nazo kaloku.  
Eyam intaka iza kulala nam, itye nam.  
Ndiza kuyifundisa ukufunda namanye  
amagama amatsha.”





Babesazi ukuba uNobusi soze ayeke ukuthetha. UZoli wathi, “mna Mama ndicela undithengele intlanzi.”

“Uza kuyenza ntoni intlanzi Zoli?” wabuza uMama.

“Kaloku...kaloku...ndiza...ndiza... ndifuna ukuyifuya ukuze xa inkulu ndiye kudada nayo elwandle.”

UZoli wayengoyena mphuphi weli khaya. Wayezibona enomhlobokazi oyintlanzi. Wayezibona edada nayo emanzini elwandle.







Amawele uThemba noTseli basondela kuMama. “Thina sifuna imivundla, owam ube nombala omnyama okaThemba wona ube nombala omhlophe,” watsho uTseli ethethela uThemba njengesiqhelo.

“Imivundla? Niza kuyenza ntoni imivundla?” wabuza uMama ejonge kuThemba. Wabe esazi ukuba uTseli uza kuba nayo impendulo.

“Umvundla unoboya obufukufuku,” watsho UTseli.

“Siza kulala nayo isenze shushu ebusika,” wongeza watsho uThemba ekhumbula ngelixa beyiphulula kumzi wogcino zilwanyana.





“Mama, uza kundithengela intaka torho?”  
wacenga uNobusi akubona ukuba kuthe  
cwaka.

“Ndiyazithanda iintaka, ingakumbi  
ezo zinemibala emihle negqamileyo.  
Ziyathanda ukuthetha kaloku zona.”

“Njengawe?” Watsho uThemba suke  
bonke bahleka.





UMama wayengayazi ukuba uza  
kuyifezekisa njani iminqweno yabantwana  
bakhe. Bonke bejonge kuye belindele  
elowo eyakhe impendulo.

“Mhlawumbi ngomso,” waziva esitsho  
elinganisa uTata wabo xa naye esala.







UTata wabona ukuba bakuthandile ukundwendwela umzi wogcinozilwanyana.

“Ngeholide elandelayo singandwendwela sonke kwakhona,” watsho uTata.

“EWE!” Bakhwaza bonke bemxholo mnye.

“Ndicinga ukuba indlu yethu incinci kakhulu, ngoko ke, asikwazi ukugcina izilwanyana. Kutheni singaceli uTata ukuba aboleke incwadi engesilwayana ngasinye kwithala leencwadi?” wabuza uMama.

“Enyanisweni ingaba licebo elihle elo!” watsho uTata wabo.

“Nam ndicinga njalo Tata,” wavumela phezulu uNobusi, uZoli, uThemba noTsili.





“Kodwa ke Mama iza kuba nini eyakho iholide kuba sifuna....”

Akazange aligqibe nokuligqiba elo uNobusi, suke gquzu indlu yonke. Babesazi uNobusi ufuna ukutyelela umzi wogcino nokhuliso lweentyatyambo.

“Yaqala ke inkathazo!” Watsho uMama noTata ngaxesha linye.