

Ngaminazana ithile kwaye kukho uMama Ntaka, owaye wakha indlwana entle emthini omkhulu. Wabeka iqanda kwindlwana yakhe waze walifukamela ukuze lihlale lifudumele. UMama Ntaka wahlala endlwini yakhe, phezu kweqanda lakhe ixesha elide. Kodwa, waye walamba kakhulu. Waye wafuna ukuphuma aye kufuna umnyiki otyebileyo notamtam ukuze atye. Ucinga ukuba wenza njani? Ewe, uMama Ntaka wabhabha waya kufuna iminyiki.

Niyazi ukuba kwenzeka ntoni ngelixa angekhoyo? INTshontsho leNtaka lalikiwandana elincinane kodwa lalifuna ukuphuma. Lanqola iqanda ngomlomo walo. Laphinda lalingqola, lavula umngxunyana omncinane. Lanyakathisa umlomo walo emngxunyeni laze lohuka iqanda, laphuma ke iNtshontsho leNtaka.

Lavuya kakhulu, lavuthulula amaphikwana alo. Intshontsho leNtaka lajonga-jonga lifuna umama walo, lathi: "Uphi umama?" INTshontsho leNtaka lajonga phezu naphantsi nasemacaleni, kodwa alambona.

"Ndiza kuhamba ndiyokufuna umama," latsho iNtshontsho leNtaka. Niyazi ukuba lenza ntoni? Laphuma endlwini yentaka kwaye ke lalingekakwazi ukubhabha, laliselincinane. Laphuma ngaphandle kwendlwana yentaka! Lawa, lehla, lehla, laya kuthi bhum emhlabeni. Lalilintshontsho elincinane elomeleleyo nelibukhali, ngoko ke laphakama lazivuthulula, lahamba laya kufuna umama walo.

Uza kufumanisa ukuba abantwana bayalithanda yaye bavakalelwa ngokufanayo neNtshontsho lentaka kwaye bayakonwabela ukulingisa indima yakhe ebalini. Ungathi, "Ningakwazi ukushukumisa izandla zenu njengamaphiko kaNtshontsho leNtaka?" uphinde uthi, "Jongani phezu nasezantsi nasemacaleni kanye njengoNtshontsho leNtaka" kwaye uthi, "Ndiboniseni indlela enibonakala ngayo xa nilusizi njengoNtshontsho leNtaka."



Isilwanyana sokuqala eladibana naso yayinkomo. "Nkomo, ungumama wam wena?" labuza kwinkomo. "Mhu-u-u," yatsho inkomo. "Andingomama wakho, kodwa ndingakupha ubisi". "Hayi enkosi," latsho iNtshontsho leNtaka, "Kufuneka ndifumane umama". Laqhubeka lahamba, lisithi, "Uphi umama? Kufuneka ndifumane umama."

Kwamsinyane ladibana nebhokhwe. "Ungumama wam, Bhokhwe?" labuza kwibhokhwe. "Mh-e-e-e Mh-e-e-e" yatsho ibhokhwe ishukumisa intloko yayo enoboya. "Yiza uzokutya ingca emnandi nam." "Hayi enkosi," latsho iNtshontsho leNtaka, "Kufuneka ndifumane umama." INTshontsho leNtaka laqhubeka lihamba lisithi, "Uphi umama? Kufuneka ndifumane umama."

Esinye isilwanyana eladibana naso yihagu. "Ungumama wam, Hagu?" labuza iNtshontsho leNtaka linethemba. "Andingomama wakho, kodwa ungeza uzokubhuqa-bhuqeka nam apha eludakeni, grho grho." "Hayi enkosi!" latsho iNtshontsho leNtaka, "Kufuneka ndifumane umama."

INtshontsho leNtaka lalikhathazekile laze wacinga: Ingaba ndiyakuze ndimfumane umama? Kwangoko uMakhulu wayesihla ngendlela ephethe ibhaskithi yakhe. Weva ilizwana elincinane lisithi: "Tswi tswi." Wayengazi ukuba iNtshontsho leNtaka lalisithi, "Uphi umama?"

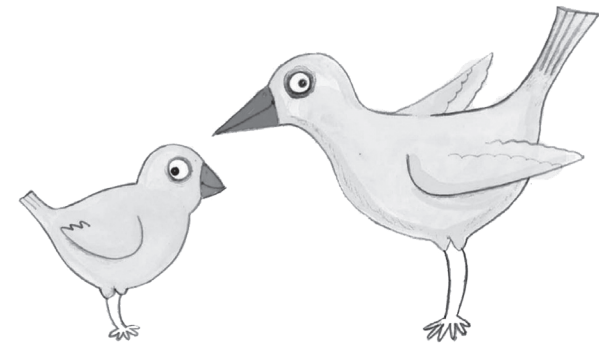
Nicinga ukuba wenza ntoni uMakhulu? Mamelani ndiza kunixelela. Waliphakamisa iNtshontsho leNtaka walifaka ebhaskitini yakhe. "Ukhangeleka ulahlekile," watsho uMakhulu. "Ndiyamazi ukuba uphi na umama wakho."

Wahamba wehla ngendlela esiya emithini. Umakhulu wayifumana indlu yentaka, waze ngocoselelo walibuyisela iNtshontsho leNtaka endlwini yalo. Waye ke wahlala elityeni wabukela. Niyazi ukuba kwenzeka ntoni? Nicinga ntoni?

Kwamsinyane uMama Ntaka wabhabha wabuyela endlwini yakhe ephethe umnyiki omde ngomlomo. INtshontsho leNtaka lakhwaza ngochulumanco, "Ungumama? Ndiyazi ukuba ungumama wam!" Wathi, "Ewe ndingumama

wakho." Lavula umlonyana walo omncinane, lawuthi lwambu lawutya umnyiki. UMama Ntaka wahlala nobhabha wakhe endlwini yentaka. INtshontsho leNtaka lonwaba kakhulu lakuba nomama walo kwakhona.

**Liphela njalo ke ibali lethu.**



Kweli bali kukho amathuba ambalwa okuba ukhuthaze abantwana ukuba baqikelele into elandelayo eza kwenzeka ebalini. Le yindlela elungileyo yokwenza ukuba abantwana bacinge ngedlela elihamba ngayo ibali kunye nokulandelelana kweziganeko zalo.

