

Kwaye kukho amabhere amathathu: UTat'uBhere, uMam'uBhere kunye noBhabha uBhere. UTat'uBhere wayemkhulu kakhulu; UBhabha uBhere wayemncinane kakhulu kwaye uMam'uBhere wayengamkhulwanga kakhulu kwaye engamncinanga kakhulu – wayephakathi nje. La mabhere mathathu ayehlala kwindlwana encinane ehlathini.

Yonke imihla amabhere ayesidla isidudu njengesidlo sakusasa. Ngenye imini uTat'uBhere etsho ngelizwi lakhe elingqokolayo wathi, "Isidudu sethu siyatshisa. Singake siyekuhamba-hamba ehlathini ngoku sisapholayo." Ngoko ke amabhere amathathu aphuma ahamba-hamba ehlathini. Kwangaxeshanye, kwakukho umntu owayehamba ehlathini – intwazana encinane eneenwele zegolide. YayinguNwelezelanga. Wayebizwa ngokuba nguNwelezelanga kuba iinwele zakhe zazigolide ngombala.

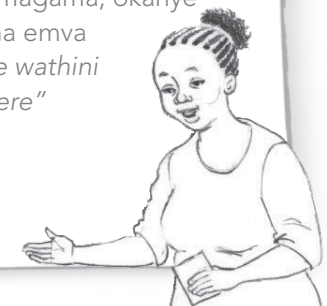
UNwelezelanga wayibona indlu yamabhere. Wenyuka ngendlela wankqonkqoza emnyango. "Nkqo-nkqo-nkqo". Akuzange kubekho mpendulo. Wakroba efestileni – kukhangeleka kukuhle kakhulu ngaphakathi. Wabetha intsimbi yasemnyango – kodwa zange kuphendulwe. Ewe, wangena endlwini yamabhere! Owu uNwelezelanga!

UNwelezelanga wabona isidudu etafileni. Kwakukho isitya esikhulu sika Tat' uBhere, isitya esiphakathi sikaMam'uBhere kunye nesitya esincinane sikaBhabha uBhere. Wayelambile uNwelezelanga waze waqale ngokungcamla isidudu sika Tat'uBhere, kodwa zange asithande kuba sasinyuwa eninzi. "Andisithandi esi sidudu, sinetyuwa eninzi," watsho uNwelezelanga. Wangcamla isidudu sikamam'uBhere, kodwa

akuzange asithande konke konke kuba sasiswiti kakhulu – sasineswekile eninzi. "Andisithandi esi sidudu, siswiti kakhulu," watsho uNwelezelanga. Emva koko wangcamla isidudu sikaBhabha uBhere. "Mhmmm," watsho, "Ndiyasithanda esi sidudu, silungile!" Waze wasitya sonke isidudu sikaBhabha Bhere.

UNwelezelanga wajonga-jonga wabona izitulo ezintathu. Okokuqala wahlala esitulweni sikaTat'uBhere, kodwa sasiqine nka. Wagxidika esitulweni wathi, "Andisithandi esi situlo, siqine kakhulu." Waphinda uNwelezelanga wachopha esitulweni sikaMam'uBhere kodwa sasithambe kakhulu. Wagxidika esitulweni wathi, "Andisithandi esi situlo, sithambe kakhulu." Waze ke uNwelezelanga wachopha esitulweni sikaBhabha uBhere, wathi sona esi sifanelekile. Wathi, "Ndiyasithanda esi situlo, silungile!"

Ibali likaNwelezelanga lisinika amathuba amahle njengoonobalisa ukuba sisebenzise amazwi awohlukeneyo – ilizwi elikhulu, elingqokolayo likaTat'uBhere, ilizwi eliphakathi Bhere. Eli bali linophindaphindo, kangangokuba nabantwana abaqalayo ukuliva baza kukhawuleza baweve amazwi. Bakhuthaze ukuba bawabize kunye nawe amagama, okanye bawabize emva kwakho. Bancine abantwana emva kokuba abalinganiswa bethethile uthi, "Uye wathini uNwelezelanga?" "Uye wathini uMam'uBhere" "Uye wathini uBhabha Bhere?" Khuthaza abantwana ukuba basebenzise amazwi abalinganiswa.



UNwelezela wayediniwe ngoku, kwaye wayefuna indawo yokulala. Wayeza kulala phi? Angalala etafileni? Hayi! Angalala esitulweni sikaBhabha Bhere? Hayi! Kuba saphukile. Niyayazi ukuba uza kulala phi? uNwelezela wakhanga ibhedi awayeza kulala kuyo. Wafumana igumbi lokulala waze wabona iibhedi ezintathu. Ibhedi kaTat'uBhere yayinkulu kakhulu. Ibhedi kaMam'uBhere yayiphakathi nje yaze yona ekaBhabha Bhere yaba ncinci kakhulu.

UNwelezela wangena ebhedini kaTat'uBhere kodwa yayiqine kakhulu. Wagxidika ebhedini wathi, "Andiyithandi le bhedi, iqine kakhulu."

UNwelezela wakhwela ebhedini kaMam'uBhere kodwa yayithambe kakhulu. Wagxidika wathi, "Andiyithandi le bhedi, ithambe kakhulu." Waze ke uNwelezela wakhwela ebhedini kaBhabha Bhere. Waye walala kuyo watsala ingubo wathi, "Ndiyayithanda le bhedi, ilungile!" UNwelezela wavala amehlo walala.

Wathi esalele UNwelezela, afika amabhere amathathu. Ayelambile. UTat'uBhere wajonga esityeni sakhe sesidudu. Wacaphuka wathi, ngelizwi elingqokolayo likaTat'uBhere, "Ngubani obemana esitya isidudu sam?" UMam'uBhere wajonga isidudu sakhe. Wayecaphuka wathi, "Ngubani obemana esitya isidudu sam?" UBhabha Bhere wajonga esidudwini sakhe. Wayecaphuka, waze wathi, "Ngubani obemana esitya isidudu sam?" Waphinda wathi, "Siphelile tu!"

Amabhere ajonga izitulo zawo. UTat'uBhere wathi, "Ngubani obemana echopha esitulweni sam?" UMam'uBhere wathi, "Ngubani obemana

echopha esitulweni sam?" UBhabha Bhere wajonga esitulweni sakhe wathi, "Ngubani obemana echopha esitulweni sam... kwawujonge... sophukile!"

Amabhere aya kwigumbi lokulala. UTat'uBhere wajonga ibhedi yakhe, wathi, "Ngubani obemana elala ebhedini yam?" UMam'uBhere wajonga ebhedini yakhe wathi, "Ngubani obemana elala ebhedini yam?" UBhabha Bhere ukhangele ebhedini yakhe wathi, "Ngubani obemane elala ebhedini yam?" Wajonga kwakhona, wathi, "Nanku!"

UNwelezela waye woyika ngeyona ndlela, waxhuma ebhedini wabaleka waya efestileni. Waphuma ngefestile wabaleka, wabaleka, wabaleka. Amabhere amathathu zange aphinde ambone uNwelezela.

Liphela njalo ke ibali lethu.

