

Upalesa uthola umngani



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U-Obo Usenkingeni

UPalesa wayehlala nomama wakhe kanye nabafowabo abancane abangamawele, uTshepo noTshepang. Eceleni kwakubo kwakuhlala uNkk. Malusi. Wayenenja edangele ensundu, ebizwa ngo-Obo, eboshelwe ngemva kwendlu. Isikhathi esiningi indishi yamanzi ka-Obo yayihlala yomile. Wayenxanwa kakhulu, ikakhulukazi uma ilanga lishisa kakhulu.

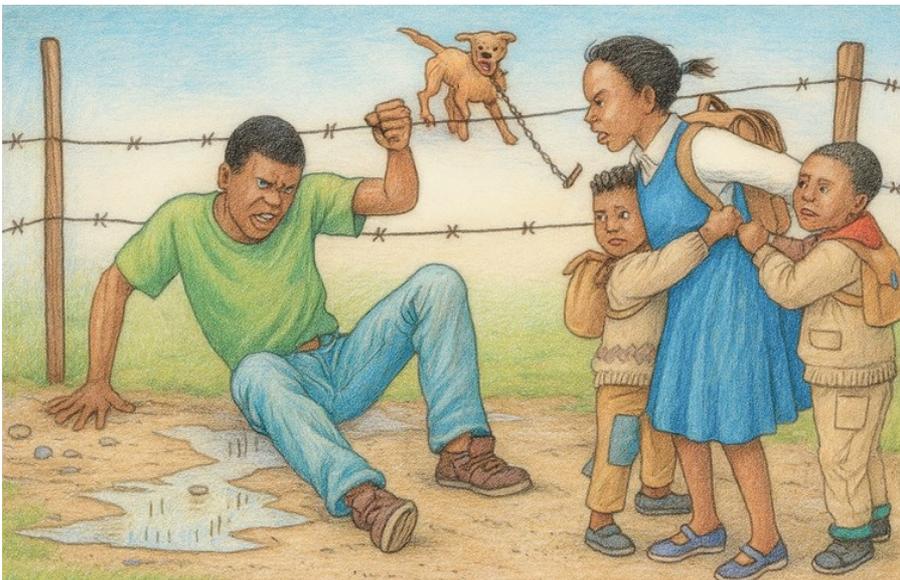
UMama kaPalesa wayesebenza kude futhi izingane zazi-ba zodwa isikhathi esiningi. Inja enkulu ensundu engu-Obo yayimthanda uPalesa. Wayekhuluma naye uma eyedwa. Ngesinye isikhathi wayenikeza u-Obo ucezu lwesidlo sakhe sasemini sasesikoleni.



Inja yayizace kakhulu futhi ilambile, uNkk. Malusi wayengamuphi kahle ukudla u-Obo. Mhla ekhumbulile wayemjikijelela ucezu lophuthu phansi ukuze u-Obo aludle.

Ngelinye ilanga ngesikhathi uPalesa kanye namawele bebuya esikoleni, babona umbono ongemuhle. Umfana omkhulu ongemuhle wayejikijela u-Obo ngamatshe. U-Obo wayegxuma ekhonkotha. U-Obo wayekhonkotha uma itshe limshaya ekhanda. UPalesa wayethukuthele kakhulu kangankuthi wagijima wadudula lo mfana. Bonke abantu bomgwaqo bahleka ngoba wayebukeka njengesiphukuphuku, ehleli odakeni.

“Hamba!” kuthetha uPalesa “Hlukana naleyo nja!”

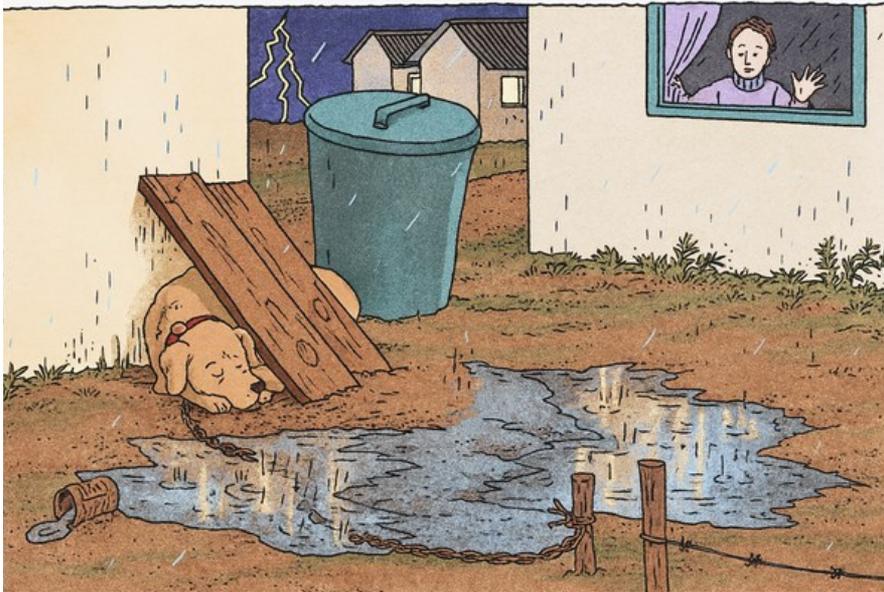


Umfana wasukuma wahamba, kodwa waphenduka wasongela uPalesa. Wenza ubuso obungebuhle. Wathi, “Ngizokuthola.” Lokhu kwenza uPalesa wesaba kakhulu, kodwa wazama ukuthi angakhombisi.

Wahambisa amawele ekhaya ngoba ayekhala. Ngenhlanhla umama wabo wabe esekhaya ebalindile. “Ugade loya mfana,” kwakho umama wakhe. “Wenza izinto ezingezinhle.”

Isivunguvungu esibi kakhulu

Ngalobo busuku kwaba nesivunguvungu esibi kakhulu. UPalesa wayelele ethokomele efudumele phakathi kukaTshepo noTshepang.



Walalela ukuduma kwezulu. Umbani wenza indlu yakubo yabukeka iluhlaza okwesibhakabhaka futhi ingajwayelekile. Kwabe sekunetha, njengezandla zishaya uphahla.

“Nginenhlanhla kanjani ngoba ngifudumele, ngomile futhi ngiphephile,” kwacabanga uPaleza ethokozile.

Wase ezwa u-Obo ekhonkotha ngaphandle emvuleni. Wayesaba futhi egodola. Akabange esajabula. Angamsiza kanjani? Kwakusanetha ekuseni.

Amawele ayefuna ukutshuza emaxhaphozini. UPaleza kwadingeka ukuba abadonse badlule endlini kaNkk. Malusi. UNkk. Malusi wayesegcekeni. Wayeshaya u-Obo ngenduku, kanti yena ekhonkotha. “Nja embi!” wamthethisa. “Nja embi. Ubukhonkotha ubusuku bonke.



UPalesa wazizwa ukuthi uya ethukuthela kakhulu. Kodwa wayemsaba uNkk. Malusi, kodwa wayengakwazi ukuzibamba abuke u-Obo eshaywa. Wamemeza wathi, “Yima, yima!” UNkk. Malusi walahla phansi induku waphendukela kuyena. “Uma kungukuthi uyithanda kakhulu le nja, kungcono uyithathe. Angisayifuni!”

UNkk. Malusi wadudulela u-Obo kuPalesa. U-Obo wabuka uPalesa ngamehlo athambile ansundu wase etshikizisa umsila wakhe. Kwakubukeka cishe sengathi uyamamatheka. UPalesa wamamatheka naye wamphulula.

U-Obo uthola ikhaya elisha

UMama wayengathokozile neze. “Uyinja enkulu. Uzodla ukudla okuningi. Uzolalaphi?”



“Ngizosebenza esitolo sikaMnu. Hlongwane ngeMigqibelo ukuze ngisize ngokukhokhela ukudla kwakhe,” kwasho uPalesa. “Angalala eduze kombhede wethu phezu kwen-gubo yokulala endala eluhlaza okotshani. Ngiyacela, ngiyacela,” wanyenyeza.

UMama wamamatheka. Wathi, “Nami bengingayithandi indlela u-Obo ebephethwe ngayo”. “Yebo, ungamgcina kodwa khumbula ukuthi uyisibophezelo sakho.” UPalesa wadansa wagxuma indlela yonke eya esikoleni, way-ethokoze kakhulu. Uma ebuya ekhaya, umama wakhe wayesepheke isidlo sakusihlwa. Wasephe no-Obo ukudla okukahle.

Wama emnyango. Wathi uma ebona uPalesa wagijima waya kuye wagcwalisa izindla zakhe ngokuqatshulwa yinja.

“Angizoshesha ukubuya emsebenzini namhlanje,” kusho umama kaPalesa.

“Unakekele uTshepo noTshepang. Nihlale endlini uma sekumnyama ukuze niphephe. Ningavuli emnyango kuze kube nizwe izwi lami.”

UPalesa wathembisa ukuthi uzokwenza njengoba kusho umama wakhe.

Waqinisekisa ukuthi amawele adlile futhi agezile; wase enza umsebenzi wakhe wesikole isikhashana. Ekuhambeni kwesikhathi babuka ithelevishini.



Ngaso sonke isikhathi u-Obo wayehleli eduze kwakhe. Ngesinye isikhathi wayemphulula izindlebe.

“Uzoba yinja enhle, Obo,” wamtshela kanjalo.

Watshikizisa umsila wakhe. Ebusuku wakhiya umnyango walalisa amawele. Wayengenalo uvalo.

Zaziziningana izikhathi umama wakhe ayengasheshi ukubuya ngazo emsebenzini. Wayejwayele ukwenza yonke into.

Ekuhambeni kwesikhathi wangena embhedeni eduze kwamawele ayelele. U-Obo wazisonga eduze kwabo phezu kwengubo yokulala eluhlaza okwesibhakabhaka.

U-Obo usindisa umndeni wakhe omusha

Kuthe kusenjalo kwakhahlelwa umnyango wavuleka, kwaphuka ukhiye. Kwakumi umfana omubi owesabisa uPalesa. Woma wuvalo.

Wathi, “ngizokufundisa isifundo.” UPalesa wavula umlomo wakhe ukuze amemeze kodwa ngaphambi kokuba umfana angene emnyango, u-Obo wamgxumela wabhongisa okwebhubesi.

Umfana waphenduka ukuze abaleke, kodwa u-Obo wadabula ibhulukwe lakhe waphinde waluma nomlenze wakhe ngamazinto akhe amakhulu amhlophe. Umfana wamemeza. UPalesa wamuzwa ememeza ehla ngomgwaqo ngesikhathi u-Obo eqhubeka nokuluma izithende zakhe.



Ukumemeza kwaya ngokuya kungazwakali.

Sekuhambe isikhathi wabuya u-Obo, etshikizisa umsila enokumamatheka ebusweni bakhe. Amawele akazange avuke kuwona wonke lowo msindo! UPalesa wabeka isitulo ngemuva komnyango, eqhaqhazela. Waguqa wagona u-Obo entanyeni wase emsingatha.

“Ngiyabonga, Obo,” kunyenyeza uPalesa. “Manje sesingacina omunye nomunye phakathi kwethu ephephile ngaso sonke isikhathi.”

Wamqabula ngokuqabula kwezinja wabe esmlalisa ngentokozo engutsheni yakhe yokulala eluhlaza okotshani. Wayethole uthando kanye nekhaya elifudumele.



Le ncwadi iphuhlisa uthando, ubulungisa nentlonipho ebomioni ngokusebenzisa ukuFunda, ukuThetha nokuBhala kulungiselelwa abafundi bamaBanga aPhantsi.



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