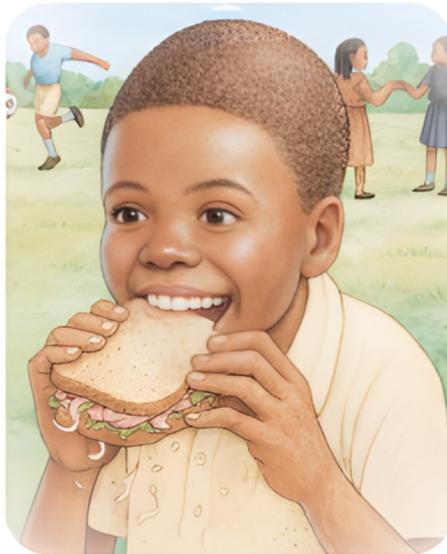


Ubongi noBongisile



Ibhalwe nguTozie Zokufa

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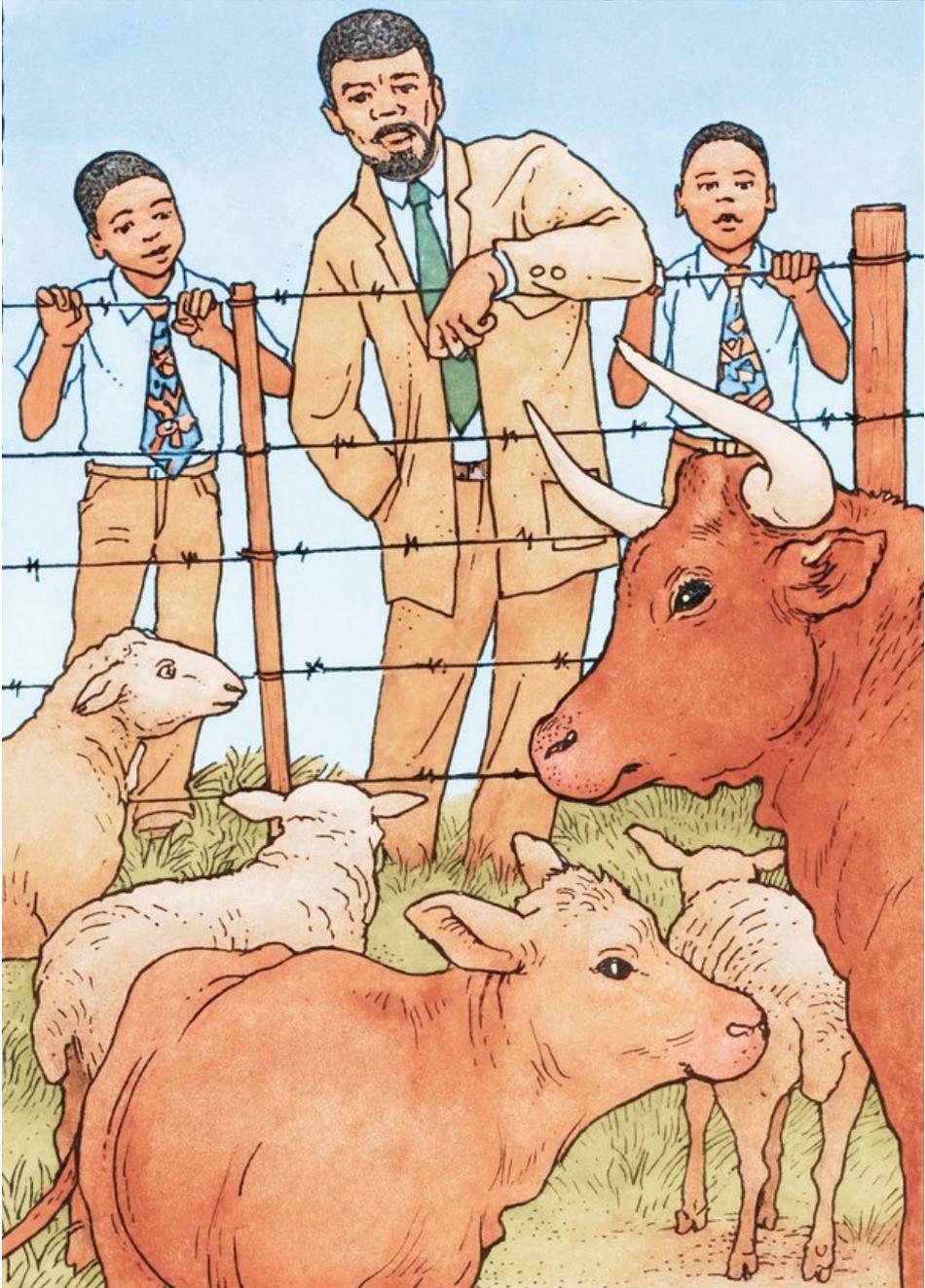
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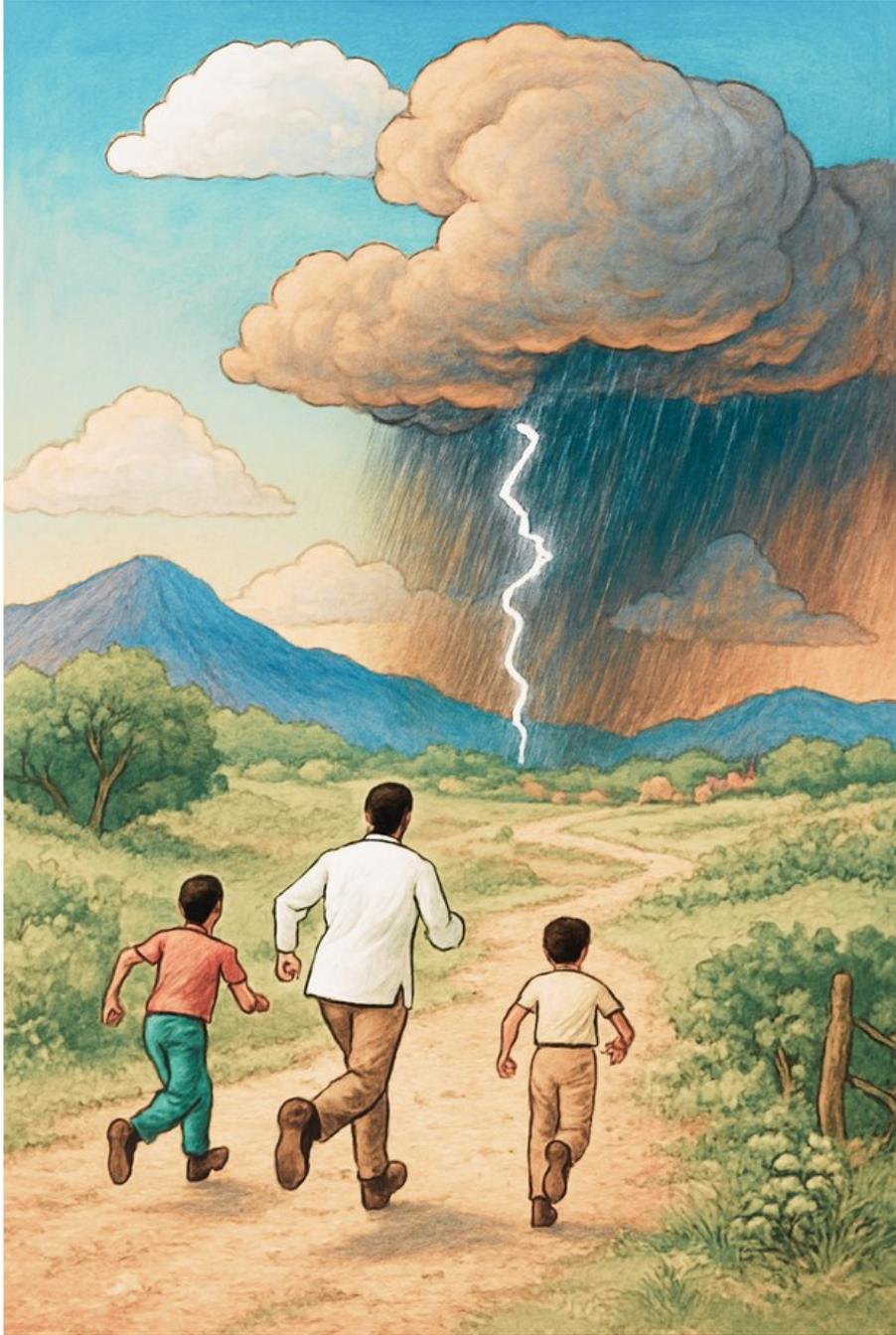


Ekuseni ngesonto elalishisa uBongi noBongisile bagqoka izingubo zabo zesonto ezinhle kakhulu baya esontweni nobaba wabo uMnu. Zondi. Izinsuku ezimbili ezandulela lolo zazikade zishisa kakhulu. Amabhungezi ayesevele echwaza kakhulu ezihlahleni ezwakalisa ukuthi nalolu suku futhi luzoshisa kakhulu. Ngesikhathi behamba nabafana bakhe abangamawele emgwaqweni owubhuqu, uMnu. Zondi wema ocingweni lwesibaya ukuze ahlole izinkomo neziklabhu zakhe. Waziqhenya ngokuzibona zikhuluphele futhi zeneme. UNkk. Zondi akazange aye esontweni ngalolo suku. Wasala ekhaya ukuze alungiselele isidlo sasemini sangeSonto. Wapheka ipotjiekos emnandi kakhulu, okwakuyintandokazi yomndeni wakhe.

Maphakathi nezikhathi zasekuseni, kwasekuqalile ukugcwala kwamafu ampunga esibhakabhakeni. Ngesikhathi besamile becula iculo elithi Avulekile Amasango, Ezulwini uBongi noBongisile bezwa ukuduma okukhulu kwezulu kude.

Ngesikhathi uMnu. Zondi kanye nabafana bakhe bephuma esontweni, imvula yase iqalile ukuna kancane. UBongi noBongisile bavala ngci amehlo abo base bebheka esibhakabhakeni. Badonsa umoya kakhulu ukuze bezwe ukunuka kamnandi kwenhlabathi emanzi.

UMnu. Zondi wayekhathazeke ngezinkomo neziklabhu zakhe.

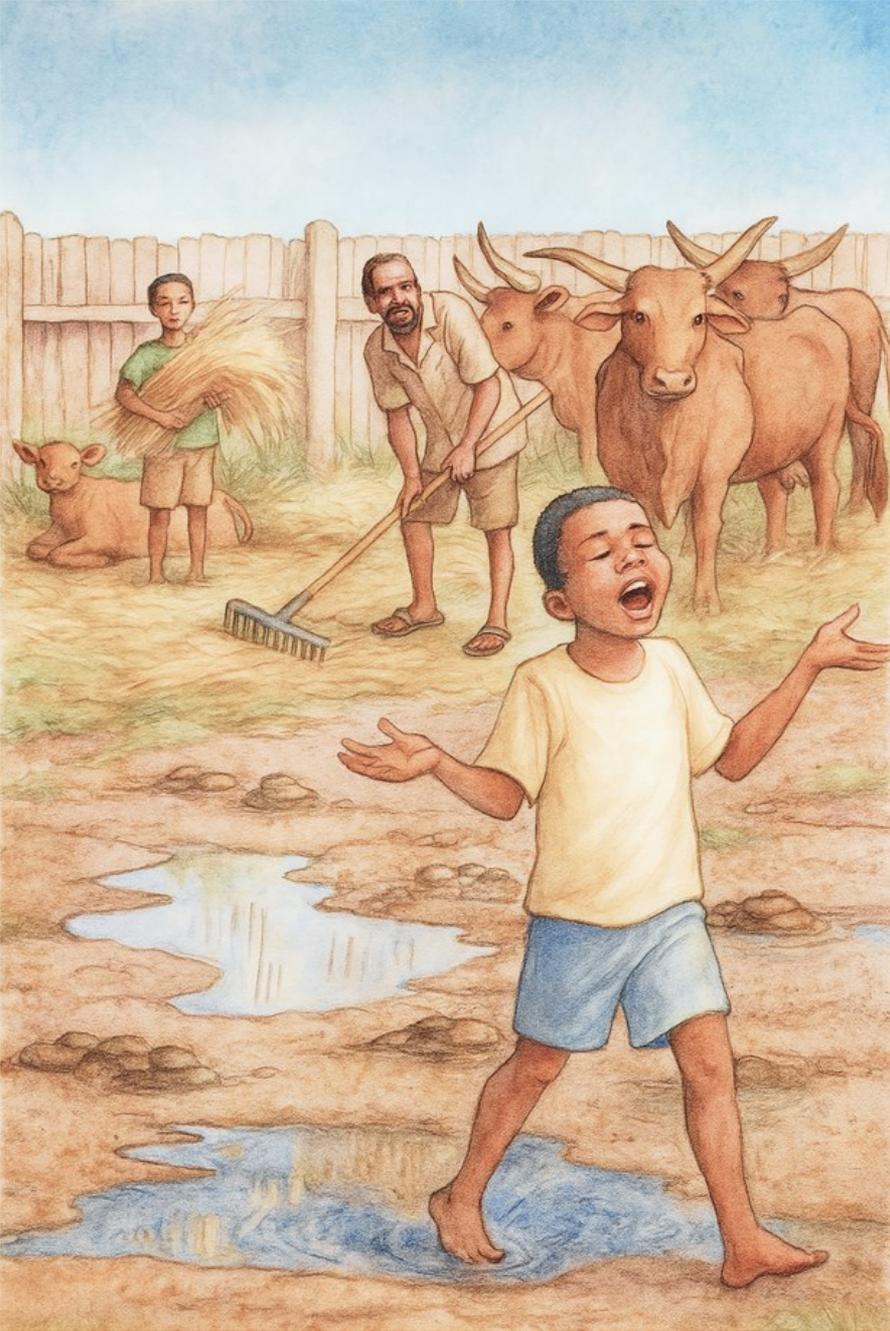


Ukuduma kwakuya ngokusondela. Umbani wadweba umugqa esibhakabhakeni. Amaconsi emvula aya ngokuba makhulu. Kwakusamele bahambe ibanga elide ukuze bafike ekhaya. Wayazi ukuthi izinkomo neziklabhu zakhe zazikusaba ukuduma okukhulu kwezulu. “Ake sithi ukugijima kancane size siyofika ekhaya,” wenza isiphakamiso kubafana.

Babemanzi te bobathathu ngesikhathi befika ekhaya. UMama wabalinda emnyango namathawula. Iphunga elimnandi elaliqhamuka ekhishini lenza baconsa amathe kodwa uMnu. Zondi wathi ufuna ukwenza isiqiniseko kuqala sokuthi ukuduma kwezulu akuzange kuphazamise kakhulu izinkomo neziklabhu zakhe, ngaphambi kokuba ahlale phansi adle.

Ebusuku, imvula yayilokhu iyithelile. UMnu. Zondi wacela abafana bakhe ukuthi bamsize ukuthi afake isihlabathi kanye notshani esibayeni ukuze izinkomo zanye neziklabhu zizolala esibayeni zomile futhi zifudumele ebusuku. Kodwa uBongisile wathi: “Baba, ngikhathele kakhulu. Kungcono kube uBongi okusizayo.”

UMnu. Zondi wadumazwa ubuvila bendodana yakhe. Waphendula wathi: “Kulungile, kodwa-ke, ndodana yami, ungalindeli ukuthi izinkomo neziklabhu nazo kube khona ezikwenzela kona.” Ehleli ngokuziphumulela kusofa, uBongisile wavuma ngekhanda wazamula kakhulu.



UBongi kanye nobaba wakhe bagqoka amajazi emvula eplastiki. Baya emnyango esibayeni ukuze bafake isihlabathi bese behhala utshani phezu kwaso. Ngale ndlela imvula ibizongena otshanini yehlele esihlabathini ishone phansi emhlabathini, bese izinkomo kanye neziklabhu zikwazi ukulala ngalobo busuku phezu komendlalo kunokuthi zilale emadamini amanzi.

Ngesikhathi uMnu. Zondi nendodana yakhe besebenza, izilwane ezimanzi zazimi ndawonye eceleni, zetshisa ngokubekezela, zazi kamhlophe ukuthi maduze-nje zizobe sezikwazi ukulala ngokuthokomala. Ngosuku olulandelayo uMama walungisa isidlo sasekuseni. Amawele ayesehleli etafuleni ngesikhathi uBongisile eqaphela ukuthi umama wakhe ukhohliwe ukufaka ubisi endishini yakhe yephaphishi.

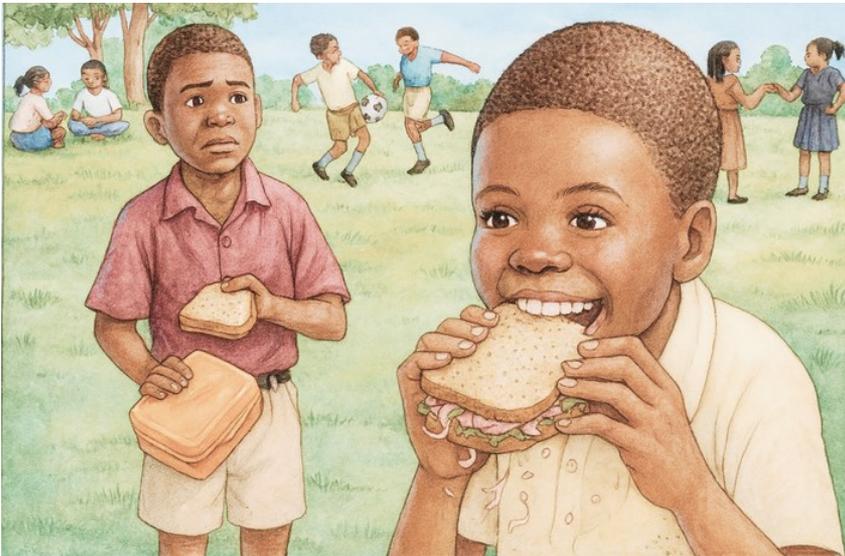


“Ngicela ungidlulisele ubisi,” washo kuBongi.

Kodwa ubaba wakhe washeshe wamphendula. “Cha, Bongisile,” washo. “Khumbula ukuthi akumele ulindele lutho ezinkomeni.” UBongisile wabuyisa izinhlonzi. Wanikina amahlombe ngentukuthelo.

Ngesikhathi sekhefu lesidlo sasemini esikoleni uBongisile waqaphela ukuthi amasemishi asesitsheni sakhe sesidlo sasemini ayengenawo ushizi. Wabuka isitsha sikaBongi sesidlo sasemini. Amasemishi kamfowabo ayegcwele ushizi ohuzuliwe. Wazizwa efisa ukushaya uBongi ngesibhakela ekhaleni.

UBongi wabona ukuthi iwele lakhe lalithukuthele. “Ngizotshela uMama noBaba uma uke wangithintanje,” exwayisa uBongisile.



“Awusakhumbuli?” awuzange usize izinkomo neziklabhu izolo. Yimina kuphela osize uBaba.”

Ngesikhathi amawele efika ekhaya ngemuva kokuphuma kwesikole uBongisile wabona umama wakhe ematasatasa epheka uphuthu lwamasi oluzodliwa ngesidlo sasebusuku. Wavele wazazela ngaleso sikhathi ukuthi angeke awathole Amasi ngalobo busuku.

Ngesikhathi ubaba wakhe efika evela emsebenzini. UBongisile wagijima wafike wambingelela. “Baba, yini engingayenza ukuze ngisize izinkomo neziklabhu? Ngiyazi ukuthi ngizicabangele mina ngedwa futhi ngavilapha izolo. Sengisifundile isifundo sami.”

UMnu. Zondi wabuza: “Isiphi isifundo osifundile, ndodana?”

UBongisile waphendula ekhophoza: “Ngiyazi ukuthi impilo imayelana nokuthi unikeze bese uthola ayi ngokuthi uthole kuphela,” washo.

“Kuhle lokho”, kusho uBaba. “Woza sikhulume ukuthi unga-ba kanjani usizo.”

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



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