

UHAMBO LOMHAMBI

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Isandulelo

UJohane Bunyane, umlobi wo-“Hambo loMhambi”, wazalelwa eElstow eduze leBedford eNgilandi ngo-1628, njalo wafa ngo-1688. Waba ngumtshumayeli wevangeli, kodwa wabots shelwa ngabakubiza ngokuthi “yikutshumayela ungelancwadi” ngoba ngalesosikhathi umtshumayeli wayefanele avumelane “lenkonzo yesizwe yeBandla leNgilandi”. Ngenxa yokuthi wala ukuvuma, waphoselwa entolongweni yeBedford ngo-1660, lapho ahlala khona okungaba yiminyaka elitshumi lambili; emva kwalokho, waphinda wavalelwa okwesikhathi esifitshane.

Esentolongweni ngenxa yokholo lwakhe, uJohane Bunyane wabhala ingwalo ezithile ezacindezelwayo njalo ezingafundwa. Olwaziwa kakhulu lwazo lu “Hambo loMhambi”, umfanekiso odumileyo osuguqulelwe endimini ezinengi. Abantwana bayalukholisa loludaba kubekanti abadala bayafundiswa yilo endleleni yempilo yesiKristu. Uyalandisa ngendlela kaMkristu esuka eMzini wekuBhubheni esiya eMzini weZulwini, kwangani wayekubonile ephutsheni. Omunye umfanekiso owaziwa kakhulu okaBunyane yi “Mpi Engcwele”.

“UHambo loMhambi” lwakelwathutsha mandulo lucindezelwe ngesiZulu njalo emva kwalandela uhlobo lwesiNdebele (London Missionary Society) lwabhalwa, osekuleminyaka eyedlula elikhulu; khathesi kalusacindezelwa.

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1. Ukusuka koMhambi

Ngathi ngihamba enhlane yalumlaba, ngafika endaweni ethile lapho okwakulobhalu khona. Ngacambalala lapho ukuthi ngilale: ngathi ngilele ngaphupha iphupho. Ngaphupha, khangela-ke, ngabona umuntu egqoke amadabudabu emi endaweni ethile efulathele indlu yakhe ephethe ugwalo esandleni sakhe, elomthwalo omkhulu emhlane wakhe. Ngakhangela, ngasengimbona evula ugwalo ebala kulo; wathi ebala, wakhala, waseqhuqha; engelakuzibamba wadazuluka ngelizwi lesililo esithi: “Ngizakwenzani?”

Ekhathazekile kanje wabuyela ekhaya, wazibamba aze aphela amandla akhe, ukuze umkakhe labantwana bakhe bangaluboni usizi lwakhe. Kodwa wayengelakuthula okwesikhathi eside ngoba ukudabuka kwakhe kwanda. Waze waphumisela ingqondo yakhe kumkakhe lakubantwana bakhe; waseqala ukukhuluma labo ngalindlela: “Mkami othandekayo, lani bantwana begazi lami, mina sihlobo senu esithandekayo ngiphelelwe ngesizatho somthwalo ongelekileyo; njalo ngitshelwe sibili ukuthi umuzi wakithi uzatshiswa ngomlilo ovela ezulwini; kuzakuthi ngokuchitheka lokho okwesabekayo mina kanye lawe mkami engimthandayo, lani bantwana bami abathandekayo, sibhubhe ngokwesabekayo, nxa kungazuzwanga icebo esingaphelpha ngalo (engingakaliboni mina).”

Zathi ukuzwa lokhu izihlobo zakhe zamangala kakhulu, zingethuki ngoba zisithi lokho akutshoyo kuliqiniso, zisithi ikhanda lakhe liphambene ngenxa yokuhlanya. Ngakho-ke kusaqala ukuhwalala, bathi ingqondo yakhe kungathi izathula ebuthongweni, baphangisa bamlalisa. Kodwa ebusuku kwamhlupha njengemini; ngakho endaweni yokuthi alale, wachitha ubusuku bonke elesilokozane lemnyembezi. Kwathi ekuseni bathanda ukuzwa ukuthi ulele njani; wathi kwandile njalo okubi; waphinda wakhuluma labo futhi. Kodwa baqala ukuba lukhuni; bathi bazakuxotsha ukukhathazeka kwakhe ngokumhlupha langokumphatha ngolaka, ngesinye isikhathi bahlekisana ngaye, ngesinye isikhathi bamthethisa njalo bangamnanzi. Waqala ukubacatshela, waya endlini yakhe ukubakhulekela

ebahawukela aziduduze laye ngosizi lwakhe. Waphuma ezihambahambela yedwa emangweni, kwesinye isikhathi efunda njalo kwesinye ekhuleka; kwaba njalo okwensuku ezithile.

Kodwa ngambona ngesinye isikhathi ehambahamba emangweni efunda ogwalweni lwakhe, njengokujwayela kwakhe, wasesizwa ubuhlungu kakhulu enhlizweni yakhe; wathi esafunda wabubula njengokwenza kwakuqala ememeza esithi: “Ngizakwenza njani ukuthi ngisindiswe?”

Ngambona ethalaza ngapha langapha kungathi uzabaleka, kanti umi (njengokubona kwami) ngoba engazi lapho azaqonda khona. Ngakhangelisisa ngabona umuntu esiza kuye obizo lakhe nguNdabezinhle, wasembuza wathi: “Ukhalelani?” Waphendula wathi: “Nkosi, ngiyabona ngalolugwalo olusesandleni sami ukuthi ngimiselwe ukufa, emva kwalokhu ngiye ekugwetshweni, kodwa angithandi ukwenza okokuqala, njalo angilamandla okwenza okwesibili.”

UNdabezinhle: “Kungani ungathandi ukufa lokhu le impilo ihlangene lendaba ezimbi ezingaka?”

Waphendula lowomuntu: “Kungoba ngiyesaba lo umthwalo ongelekileyo emhlane ukuthi uzangitshonisa phansi okwedlula ingcwaba, njalo ngiwele eTofethi, kodwa nkosi nxa ngingalungelanga ukubotshwa angilungelanga lokuthonisiswa, lekusukeni lapho ngiye ekubulaweni futhi ukucabanga lokho kuyangikhalisa.”

Wasesithi uNdabezinhle: “Nxa kunjalo kuwe, umeleni ungenzi lutho?”

Waphendula wathi: “Ngoba angazi ukuthi ngizaqonda ngaphi. Wasemnika ugwalo lwesikhumba, kulotshwe phakathi kwalo ukuthi, ‘Balekela ulaka oluzayo.’”

Ngakho lowomuntu walufunda wamkhangela uNdabezinhle, emkhangelisisa wathi: “Ngibalekele ngaphi?”

UNdabezinhle wasesithi ekhomba ngomunwe ngaphambili kumango obanzi kakhulu, wathi: “Uyalibona leliyana isangwanyana?”

Wathi umuntu: “Hatshi.”

Wasesithi omunye: “Angithi uyabona ukukhanya okukhazimulayo lokhuyana?”

Wathi: “Yebo, ngithi ngiyakubona.”

Wasesithi uNdabezinhle: “Khangelisisa kulokhuyana ukukhanya, uqonde kukho njalo, uze ubone isango; oyakuthi nxa ufika uqoqode uzatshelwa ozakwenza.”

Emva kwalokhu ngabona ephutsheni lami lowomuntu eqala ukugijima. Kodwa engakabi khatshana emangweni wakhe, umkakhe labantwana bambona baqala ukummemeza bemphendula; kodwa umuntu wavimba indlebe ngezithupha, wagijima waqonda phambili ememeza esithi: “Impilo! impilo! elaphakade!” Kazakhangela emuva; wagijima wangena phakathi komango.

Omakhelwane labo baphuma bamkhangela ebaleka; esagijima abanye bamhleka, abanye bamsongela, abanye bambiza ukuthi aphenduke. Kwakukhona phakathi kwabo ababili abathanda ukumphendula ngamandla. Omunye wayenguPhikakonke, omunye enuVumakonke. Kodwa lowomuntu wayesebedlulile, esekhatshana labo; kanti babezimisele ukumlandela, benza njalo-ke baze bamfika emva kwesikhatshana. Wasesithi lowomuntu: “Bomakhelwane, lilandeni?”

Bathi: “Sizekuncenga ukuthi uphenduke ubuyeke lathi.”

Kodwa wathi: “Lokho kungeke kwenzekwe. Lina lihlezi emzini wekuBhubheni, indawo lapho engazalelwa khona lami. Ngiyabona ukuthi kunjalo, njalo nxa lifela khona emva kwesikhatshana, loba sisifitshane loba siside, lizatshona okwedlula ingcwaba, endaweni evutha umlilo lesibabule. Ngivumelani, bomakhelwane, lihambe kanye lami.”

Wathi uPhikakonke: “Hawu! Sitshiye izihlobo zethu lokuhle kwethu emva kwethu yini?”

Wathi uMkristu (yilelo-ke ibizo lakhe): “Yebo-ke ngoba konke lokho elizakutshiya kungelinganiswe lokuncinyane kwalokhu engifuna ukukukholisa; njalo nxa lizahamba lami, likuqinise, lizaphila njengami; ngoba lapho engiya khona kudliwa kusale. Woza-ke uqinise amazwi ami.”

UPhikakonke waphendula: “Yizinto bani lezo ozidingayo lokhu phela utshiye umhlaba wonke ukuzizuzwa?”

UMkristu: “Ngidinga ilifa elingaboliyo lelingangcolanga lelingabuniyo

elilondolozwe ezulwini, limi liqinile; kuthi ngesikhathi esimisiweyo labelwe labo abalidingayo ngokukhuthala. Ake ufunde ogwalweni lwami, uzabona.” UPhikakonke wathi: “Suka, ususe ugwalo lwakho! Uzabuyela lathi kumbe hatshi?”

UMkristu wathi: “Hatshi bo! ngoba ngibeke isandla sami ekhubeni.”

UPhikakonke: “Woza-ke Vumakonke, mfowethu, sibuyele emuva siye ekhaya simtshiye. Likhona ibandla labantu abanjalo abahlanyayo, ababuchopho babo bonakele, abathi bangathanda ulutho ekucineni bathi bahlakaniphile kulabantu abayisikhombisa abangaveza izizatho.”

Wasesithi uVumakonke: “Yekela ukwethuka; nxa kuliqiniso akutshoyo uMkristu, izinto azidingayo zingcono kulezethu. Inhliziyo yami ithanda ukuhamba lomfowethu.”

UPhikakonke wathi: “Hawu! Lawe uyisithutha! Ake ubuswe yimi ubuyele emuva. Kwaziwa ngubani lapha umfokazana onje obuchopho bakhe bonakele azakusa khona? Buyela, buyela uhlakaniphe!”

Kodwa uMkristu wathi: “Woza uhambe lomfowenu uVumakonke; zikhona izinto engazitshoyo ezingatholakala khona, lezinye njalo ezinengi ezinhle. Nxa ungangikholwa ake ufunde kulolugwalo. Ngoba ngeqiniso lalokhu okubhalwe kulo khangela konke kuqinise ngegazi lalowo owakwenzayo.”

UVumakonke: “Ngakho mfowethu Phikakonke, sengizazimisela. Sengizimisele ukuhamba lalindoda elungileyo ngihambe ndlelanye layo. Kodwa sinini sami, uyayazi indlela eya kuleyondawo ethandekayo yini?”

UMkristu wathi: “Yebo, ngitshelwe ngumuntu othiwa nguNdabezinhle. Wathi angiphangise ngiye esangweni elincinyane eliphambi kwethu lapho esizalayelwa khona indlela.”

UVumakonke: “Woza-ke mfowethu, asihambe!”

Basebehamba ndawonye.

Wasesithi uPhikakonke: “Mina ngizabuyela endaweni yami, angiyikuba yisিনি sabantu abanje abakhohlisiweyo, abakholwa ize.”

2. IChibi leMpelamandla

Kunjalo ngabona ephutsheni lami ukuthi esebuyele uPhikakonke, uMkristu loVumakonke bahamba bexoxa emangweni, baqala ukuxoxa ngalamazwi.

UMkristu wathi: “Woza-ke sinini sami, Vumakonke, kunjani? Ngiyathokoza ngoba uvumile ukuhamba lami. Aluba uPhikakonke ubekuzwile lokho engikuzwileyo mina, okulamandla lokwesabekayo, okungakabonwa ubengayikusifulathela kalula.”

UVumakonke wathi: “Woza-ke mfowethu Mkristu, lokhu sisobabili nje akungichasisele lezizinto ukuthi ziyini, zizazuzwa njani lapho esiya khona?”

UMkristu: “Pho-ke, kulula ukuthi ngizikhumbule enhliziyweni kulokuba ngizikhulume ngomlomo kodwa njengoba uthanda ukuthi uzazi ngizafunda lapha ogwalweni lwami.”

UVumakonke: “Ucabanga ukuthi wonke amazwi asegwalweni lwakho aliqiniso isibili?”

UMkristu: “Yebo aliqiniso, ngoba lwenziwe ngulowo ongeqambe manga.”

UVumakonke: “Kuhle, yizinto bani lezo?”

UMkristu: “Kukhona umbuso ongapheliyo oyakuhlalwa, lempilo elaphakade esiyakuyiphiwa ukuthi sihlale kulowombuso phakade.”

UVumakonke: “Kuhle lokho okutshoyo, okunye-ke?”

UMkristu: “Ikhona imiqhele yobukhosi esizayinikwa; lezambatho ezizasenza sikhanye njengelanga emkhathini wezulu.”

UVumakonke: “Kumnandi lokho, okunye-ke?”

UMkristu: “Akusayikuba khona ukukhala losizi ngoba umnini waleyondawo uzakwesula izinyembezi zonke emehlweni ethu.”

UVumakonke: “Sizahlangana lobani lapho?”

UMkristu: “Lapho sizakuba ndawonye lezingilosi ezizaphandla amehlo ukuzikhangela. Lapho njalo sizahlangana lezinkulungwane lezinkulungwane ezilitshumi ezihambe phambi kwethu zaya kulendawo. Akulamuntu owonayo kubo, bonke bangabathandayo labangcwele, wonke ehambahamba ebusweni bukaNkulunkulu emi phambi kwakhe ngokuvunywa kwaphakade. Ngelizwi elilodwa, lapha sizabona abadala belemiqhele yabo yegolide; lapho sizabona intombi ezingcwele zilamachacho azo egolide; lapho sizabona abantu abaqunywa baba

ngamaqatshana, betshiswa ngomlilo, benikelwa ezilwaneni, begaluliswa olwandle, ngokuyithanda kwabo iNkosi yaleyondawo – bephilile bonke, njalo bembathiswe ukungafi kungathi yisembatho.”

UVumakonke: “Ukukuzwa lokhu kwanele ukujabulisa inhliziyi. Lezizinto zizazuzwa njani? Sizakuba lesabelo kuzo njani?”

UMkristu: “Inkosi, umbusi walelolizwe, ikubhale kulolugwalo, yathi, isiqokoqela sakho yikuthi nxa sithanda ukuba lakho, uzasinika ngesihle.”

UVumakonke: “Kuhle sinini sami, ngithokozile ukuzwa lezozinto; woza-ke asiphangise!”

UMkristu: “Angilakuphangisa njengokufisa kwami ngenxa yalumthwalo osemhlane wami.”

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami, sebeqedile lokhukukhuluma kwabo, basondela echibini elilodaka olunengi eliphakathi komango; bathi benganazelele, bahle bawela emgodini. Ibizo lalelochi kuthiwa kuseMpelamandla. Lapho-ke bagiqika okwesikhathi batshudula kakhulu baze baba ndaka ndaka ngodaka; uMkristu-ke ngenxa yomthwalo osemhlane wakhe, waqala ukutshona edakeni.

Wasesithi uVumakonke: “Hawu, mfowethu Mkristu singaphi khathesi?”

Wathi uMkristu: “Sibili lami kangazi.”

Khona uVumakonke waqala ukusola, waba lolaka kumfowabo: “Kambe yikho lokho ukuthokoza obukutsho yini? Uba sisehlelwa yilobububi sisasuka, singalindelani kulolu uhambo yini? Angiphume-ke ngisaphila, usuzalidla wedwa lelolizwe elihle!” Esatsho njalo, wazama ngamandla kabili wazikhupha odakeni, waphumela nganeno kwendlu yakhe, wasebuyela nje; uMkristu kabe esambona njalo.

UMkristu wasala etshudula eChibini leMpelamandla yedwa. Kodwa wazama ukuya eceleni lechibi elalikhathshana lendlu yakhe eduze kwesangwana. Wenza lokhu sibili kodwa wayengezikhuphe ngenxa yomthwalo osemhlane wakhe. Ngabona-ke ephutsheni lami ukuthi kweza umuntu, obizo lakhe nguMsizi, wabuza wathi: “Wenzani lapho?”

Wathi uMkristu: “Nkosi, ngalayelwa ukuthi ngihambe ngalindlela, ngilayelwa ngumuntu obizo lakhe nguNdabezihle; wangiqondisa kuleliyana isangwana wathi khona ngizakuphepha ulaka oluzayo. Kodwa ngisaqonda khona, ngawela lapha.”

UMsizi: “Kungani ungadinganga amatshe asezibukweni?”

UMkristu: “Ukwesaba kwangiqhuba ngokunjalo ngaze ngaphaphatheka ngaqonda phambili, ngawela lapha.”

UMsizi wasesithi: “Yelula isandla sakho.” Waselula wamkhupha wammisa emhlabathini owomileyo. Wathi kaqhubeke ngendlela yakhe.

Khona-ke ngasondela kuye omkhuphileyo ngathi: “Nkosi, kungani ukuthi kulindawo esendleleni yokusuka emzini wekuBhubheni, isiya kuleliyana isangwana, lelichibi lingalungiswanga ukuze kuthi izihambi ezingabafokazana zihambe kulo zingalimali?”

Wathi kimi: “Lelichibi elilodaka yindawo engalungisekiyo. Ngoba kulapho konke ukungcola lamagwebu asala khona, ukungcola okuvezwa yikuhlabeke ngesono. Ngakho kuthiwa liChibi leMpelamandla. Ngoba uba isoni sivuswa ngokulahleka kwaso kusuke kuvele emphefumleni waso ukwesaba okunenginengi lokuthandabuza. Konke lokhu kuyahlangana kutshone kukulindawo. Kungakho-ke umhlabathi wonakele. Akukuhle eNkosini ukuthi lindawo ihlale imbi kangaka. Abayisebenzelayo, ngokulaywa yizinduna zeNkosi kade basebenza kule indawo yalelilizwe sekuyiminyaka engamakhulu alitshumi laficaminwembili, bethi mhlawumbe izakulunga. Yebo, ngokwazi kwami kuminzwe lapha imithwalo ezinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili. Yebo-ke ngitsho izigidi zamazwi amahle okufundisa okulethwa ngezikhathi zonke kuvela kuzo zonke indawo zamazwe eNkosi, bathi bona abaziyo yizinto ezinhle isibili zokwenza umhlabathi omuhle wendawo, kuthiwa izakulungiswa. Kanti-ke lilokhu liliChibi leMpelamandla, njalo lizahlala linjalo sebekwenzile abangakwenza. Isibili akhona ngokulayezela komnikimthetho amatshe amahle aqinileyo awokuchapha ngitsho amisiweyo phakathi kwalelichibi. Kodwa kulezozikhathi, nxa lindawo ikhafula kakhulu inkuthunkuthu yayo, nxa umkhathi uphenduka, la amatshe angebonakale obala; lanxa ebonakala, abantu ngenxa yesiyezi bahambe eceleni, batshone bangcoliswe ludaka lanxa amatshe ekhona. Kodwa umhlabathi muhle nxa sebengena esangweni.”

Ngabona ephutsheni lami uVumakonke laye esefikile ekhaya endlini yakhe, omakhelwane beza ukumbona. Abanye bathi uhlakaniphile ngokuphenduka

kwakhe, abanye bathi uyisithutha ngoba ezifake engozini kanye loMkristu; abanye basoma ngobugwala bakhe, bethi: “Isibili njengoba waqala waba lesibindi wabuye wesabelani ngobunzima obuncinyane?” Kwabanjalo uVumakonke wahlala eyisithutha phakathi kwabo, waze wazuza isibinjana ng'khona bonke baphenduka, baqala ukuhlekisana ngoMkristu bemhleba. Kwaba njalo-ke ngoVumakonke.

3. USazisomhlaba

Khathesi-ke uMkristu ehamba yedwa engelamuntu wabona umuntu ekhatshana, esiza edabula umango emhlangabeza, baphambana emahlanganweni endlela. Ibizo lalo umnumzana ahlngana laye lalinguSazisomhlaba; wayakhe emzini waseBuqilini-benyama. Kanti lowomuzi ngumuzi omkhulu kakhulu owakhelene lalowo uMkristu avela kuwo. Lowomuntu esehlangene loMkristu, esazi kancinyane mayelana laye, (lokusuka kukaMkristu emzini wekuBhubheni kwaduma kakhulu, angitsho kulowomuzi akhe kuwo kuphela, kodwa kwaqala ukuduma emizini yonke lakwezinye indawo). Yena uSazisomhlaba, wananzelela ukuthi ungubani, ebona ukuhamba kwakhe okulosizi, wezwa ukububula kwakhe lokunye okunjalo, waqala ukukhuluma loMkristu ngalamazwi: “Yeyi, wakithi, uya ngaphi uthwele kangaka?”

UMkristu waphendula: “Yebo, mina ngithwele ngoba ngingumuntu olusizi othweleyo kodwa uyangibuza uthi, ‘Uya ngaphi?’, ngiya kuleliyana isangwana elingaphambili kwami; ngoba njengalokhu engikutsheliweyo ngizakhululwa kumthwalo wami ongisindayo.”

USazisomhlaba wathi: “Ulomfazi labantwana yini?”

UMkristu wathi: “Yebo, kodwa ngibandzelwe yilumthwalo ngokunjalo ngingethokoze labo njengakuqala; sekungathi angiselabo.”

USazisomhlaba wathi: “Uzangilalela yini nxa ngikweluleka?”

UMkristu: “Yebo nxa kukuhle ngoba ngiswela ukwelulekwa okuhle.”

USazisomhlaba: “Ngikweluleke-ke ukuze uphangise ukukhululwa kulumthwalo wakho ngoba ungeze wezwa ukuthula enhliziyweni ungakawehlisi wona; njalo ungekuzwe okuhle kwezibusiso uNkulunkulu akubusise ngazo kuze kwenzeke lokhu.”

UMkristu: “Yilokho-ke engikudingayo ukuthi ngikhululwe kulumthwalo; kodwa ukuwethula ngokwami ngingekwenze njalo akulamuntu elizweni lakithi ongawususa emahlombe ami. Ngakho-ke ngihamba ngalindlela njengengikutshela khona, ukuze ngikhululwe emthwalweni wami.”

USa.: “Ngubani owathi hamba ngalindlela ukuze ukhululwe emthwalweni wakho?”

UMkristu: “Wayengumuntu engingathi ungumuntu omkhulu olesithunzi;

ibizo lakhe nxa ngikhumbula nguNdabezinhle.”

USa.: “Hawu, ukweluleka kwakhe! Kayikho indlela lapha emhlabeni elengozi lenhlupho njengaleyo akuqondise kuyo, njalo uzakubona nxa ulalela ukweluleka kwakhe. Ukwehlelwa ngokuthile, ngiyakubona lakhathesi nje ngoba ngibona udaka lweChibi leMpelamandla lukunamathele; kodwa leloChibi liyiquqala kwezinsizi ezehlela labo abahamba ngalindlela. Lalela-ke ngoba ngimdala kulawe! Endleleni ohamba kuyo ulakho ukuhlangana lokudinwa, ukukhathazeka, indlala, izingozi, ukuhamba-ze, izinkemba, izilwane, imigobho, umnyama, ngitsho lokufa lakho konke! Lezizinto ziliqiniso isibili, ziqiniswa ngobufakazi obunengi. Kungani ukuthi umuntu azidele kangaka, engelakuqonda, ngokulalela omunye umuntu angamaziyo?”

UMkristu: “Kanti-ke mnumzana, lumthwalo osemhlane wami wesabeka kimi ngaphezu kwazo zonke lezozinto ongitshela zona. Yebo, ngingathi angesabi konke engizahlngana lakho endleleni nxa ngizakhululwa kulo umthwalo wami.”

USazisomhlaba: “Wena wawuthola njani lumthwalo wakho?”

UMkristu: “Kwenzeka ngokufunda lolugwalo olusesandleni sami.”

USazisomhlaba: “Ngibona njalo. Sekwenzeke kuwe njengakwabanye abantu ababuthakathaka, abathi bezifaka ezintweni eziphakeme kulabo, balahleke njengawe. Lokhu kulahleka kwenza abantu bangabi ngamadoda oqotho, njengokubona kwami kwenzeke kuwe, kodwa baziphosele emisebenzini ebangwayo ukuzuza abangakwaziyo.”

UMkristu: Ngiyakwazi engingakuzuza mina, kuyikuphumula emthwalweni wami ongisindayo.

USazisomhlaba: “Kodwa kungani udinga ukuphumula kulindlela njengoba ihlangene lezingozi ezinengi lezo? Kodwa kakhulu, nxa ubungangilalela ungizwe, bengingakutshengisa indlela zokuthi uzuze lokho okuthandayo, zingekho izingozi ozaziphosa kuzo kulindlela. Yebo, lokusizayo kuseduze. Ngiyengezelela njalo lokhu ukuthi endaweni yalezongozi, uzahlngana lokuphepha okukhulu lezihlobo ezilomusa.”

UMkristu: “Akungitshela, nkosi, leyo mfihlakalo.”

USazisomhlaba: “Yebo-ke, kulowomuzi (okuthiwa uKwenzakuhle) kukhona umnumzana, ibizo lakhe nguOkomthetho, umuntu ololwazi olukhulu, umuntu obongwayo ngokuhlakanipha kokwethula abantu imithwalo

efanana lowakho, emahlombe abo. Yebo, ngiyakwazi ukuthi wenza okuhle okunengi ngalindlela. Ngaphandle kwalokho, uyakwazi njalo ukwelapha labo abahlanyiswayo yimithwalo yabo. Kuye, njengokutsho kwami, ungaya usizwe masinyane. Indlu yakhe kayikhatshana lalindawo, njalo nxa yena engekho ekhaya, ulejaha elihle eliyindodana yakhe, obizo lalo nguMaphathakuhle; ingakwenza konke lokho, ngitsho njengayo indoda endala. Ngithi kulapho ongaphunyuzwa kuwo umthwalo wakho. Kodwa nxa ungasathandi ukubuyela emuva endaweni obuhlezi kuyo, lami-ke bengingathandi ukuba ukwenze lokho, ungabiza umkakho labantwana, lize lapha kulumuzi, lapha phela zinengi izindlu ezingelabantu; ungazuza enye yazo ngemadlana elingeneyo. Ukudla kutshiphile kulungile. Njalo okuzakuthokozisa ekuhlaleni kwakho kulakho konke; khumbula ukuthi uzahlala labantu abaqotho, ubukwe ubongwe.”

Kwabanjalo uMkristu wema ecabanga. Kodwa wakhumbula esithi: ‘Nxa kuliqiniso akutshoyo lumnumzana, kuhle ukuthi ngizwe kuye. Esakhumbula lokho, wathi: “Ingaphi indlela eqonda emzini walowomnumzana omuhle?”

USazisomhlaba: “Uyayibona intaba leyana ende?”

UMkristu: “Yebo, ngiyayibona kuhle.”

USazisomhlaba: “Qonda eceleni kwaleyana intaba; nxa ufika endlini yokuqala, yiyo eyakhe.”

UMkristu wasephambuka endleleni yakhe, ukuya koOkomthetho ukuze asizwe. Kodwa eseseduze lentaba, nansi ibonakala inde kangaka, njalo eceleni kwayo ngenano igobele endleleni nje, uMkristu wesaba ukuqhubekela phambili, esithi kumbe intaba izawela phezu kwekhanda lakhe. Ngakho wema khonapho engazi ukuthi uzakwenza njani. Njalo umthwalo wakhe kwangathi uyasinda kulakuqala esesendleleni. Kwaphuma amalangabi omlilo entabeni emesabisa uMkristu esithi uzakutsha; waginqa, wajuluka izithukuthuku ngokwesaba. Waseqala ukuzisola ngokulalela ukweluleka kukaSazisomhlaba. Wasebona uNdabezinhle esiza kuye, wathi embona wasetshona phansi ngenhloni. Khona uNdabezinhle wasondela njalo wafika kuye, wamjamela ngobuso obesabekayo. Waqala ukubuzana laye ngalamazwi:

“Wenzani lapha, Mkristu?” Ekuzwa lokho uMkristu wehluleka ukumphendula; ngakho wema ethule phambi kwakhe. Waphinda wathi

uNdabezinhle: “Awusuye umuntu lowayana engamfica ekhala ngaphandle kweganga lomuzi wekuBhubheni yini?”

UMkristu: “Yebo-ke nkosi enhle, nginguye lowomuntu.”

UNdabezinhle: “Angikuqondisanga endleleni eya esangweni elicinyane yini?”

UMkristu: “Yebo, nkosi enhle.”

UNdabezinhle: “Kungani pho uphangise ukuphambuka ngoba usuduhile endleleni?”

UMkristu: “Ngahlangana lomnumzana emuva kokuphuma kuChibi leMphelamandla, owangincenga ukuthi emzaneni ophambi kwami ngizathola umuntu ongangethula umthwalo wami.”

UNdabezinhle: “Wayenjani?”

UMkristu: “Waye ngathi ungumnumzana, wakhuluma lami kakhulu, ngazengavuma ekucineni, ngasengisiza lapha. Kodwa ngithe lapho ngibona lintaba egobele endleleni ngasengisima, ngesaba hlezi iwele phezu kwami.”

UNdabezinhle: “Wathini lowomuntu kuwe?”

UMkristu: “Wangibuza wathi, ‘Uya ngaphi?’ Ngamtshela.”

UNdabezinhle: “Wasesithini kulokho?”

UMkristu: “Wangibuza ukuthi ngilomuzi yini. Ngamtshela, kodwa ngathi, ‘Ngibandezelwe kangaka ngumthwalo osemhlane wami; ngakho angithokozi ngawo njengakuqala.’”

UNdabezinhle: “Wasesithini kulokho?”

UMkristu: “Wathi angiphangise ngizikhulule emthwalweni wami. Ngamtshela ukuthi ulutho engiludingayo kuyikuphumula. Ngathi kungakho ngisiya kuleliyana isangwana lapho engizalayelwa khona ukuze ngifike endaweni yokukhululwa. Wasesithi yena angangitshengisa indlela enhle kulale, lemfithshane engelankathazo njengendlela, nkosi, owangimisa kuyo. Wathi, ‘Lindlela izakuqondisa endlini yomnumzana ololwazi lokususa le imithwalo.’”

Mina ngasengikhulwa ngaphambuka kuleyondlela, ngangena kule ngisithi ngizaphangisa ngikhululwe emthwalweni wami. Kodwa-ke ngithe ngifika kulindawo ngabona izinto lokhu zinjalo, ngema ngesaba ingozi. Ngakho-ke angazi ukuthi ngizakwenza njani.”

Wathi UNdabezinhle: “Mana kancinyane ngikutshengise amazwi kaNkulunkulu.” Wema ethuthumela.

Wasesithi: “Qaphelani ukuthi lingamali okhulumayo. Ngoba uba bengaphephanga labo abala lowo owakhuluma okuvela kuNkulunkulu emhlabeni, kakhulu kangakanani thina esimfulathelayo lowo okhuluma evela emazulwini.’(AmaHebheru 12:25) Wathi njalo, 'Kodwa olungileyo uzaphila ngokholo, njalo uba ehlehlela emuva, umphefumulo wami kawuthokozi ngaye.’(AmaHebheru 10:38)

Waphinda wawafaka kuye ngokunjalo esithi: “Nguwe lumuntu ogijimela osizini; usuqale ukwala iseluleko soPhezukonke, uhlehlisa unyawo lwakho endleleni yokuthula kuze kuphose kube sengozini yokubhubha kwakho.”

Lapho uMkristu wawa phansi ezinyaweni zakhe njengofileyo ememeza esithi: “Maye! Ngafa mina.”

Ebona lokho uNdabezinhle wambamba ngesandla sokunene, wathi: “Zonke inhlobo zokona lokuhlambaza bazakuthethelelwa abantu; ungabi ngongakholwayo, kodwa woba ngokholwayo.”

UMkristu wasevuka kancinyane wasuka wema ethuthumela njengakuqala phambi kukaNdabezinhle.

UNdabezinhle waphinda esithi: “Qaphelisa lezozinto engizakutshela zona. Sengizakutshengisa lowo owakukhohlisayo ukuthi ngubani, lalowo njalo akusa kuye ukuthi ungubani. Lowo owahlangana lawe nguSazisomhlaba, ubizwa kuhle ngalokhu nganxanye ngoba ezwakalisa imfundiso yalilizwe lodwa, ngakho esiyakhonza isikhathi sonke koHlalakuhle; njalo ngoba ethanda limfundiso ngoba ingamusi esiphambanweni; ngakho elobuntu obunje obenyama, ufuna ukuphambanisa izindlela zami lanxa zizinhle. Zikhona-ke izinto ezintathu ekwelulekeni kwalowomuntu okumele uzizonde kakhulu. Eyokuqala ngeyokuthi akuphambule endleleni; eyesibili ngeyokuthi wazama ukuthi enze isiphambano sizondakale kuwe; eyesithathu ngeyokuthi abeke inyawo zakho endleleni eya ekufeni.

Kuqala, kumele uzonde ukukuphambula kwakhe endleleni – yebo, lokuvumelana kwakho lakho, ngoba lokho kuyikwala ukweluleka kukaNkulunkulu, ukhetho ukwelulekwa nguSazisomhlaba. INkosi ithi: 'Zamani ukungena ngesango ', yilelosangwana engakuqondisa kulo. Ngoba isango lincinyane lendlela ilukhonjwana eya ekuphileni, balutshwana abayitholayo. Kulelosangwana lasendleleni eyakulo, lowomuntu omubi ukuphambule waze waphosa ukukusa ekubhubheni. Zonda-ke

ukukuphambula kwakhe, uzisolisise ngokumlalela yena.

Okwesibili, kumele uzonde ukuzama kwakhe ukuba enze isiphambano sibe ngesizondekayo kuwe; ngoba ufanele usikhethe kulenotho yeGibithe. Njalo iNkosi yobukhosi ikutshelile yathi: Ozalondoloza ukuphila kwakhe uzalahlekelwa yikho; njalo omlandelayo engazondi uyise lonina lomkakhe labantwana labafowabo labodadewabo, yebo lempilo yakhe, angeke abe ngumfundi wakhe. Ngithi ngalokho, limfundiso kumele uyizonde, eyokuthi umuntu alinge ukukubonisa ukuthi lokho kuzakuba yikufa kwakho, ngaphandle kwakho, iQiniso lithe, ungeke uthole ukuphila okuphakade.

Okwesithathu, umele uzonde ukubeka kwakhe izinyawo zakho endleleni yomthetho esa ekufeni. Ngalokho kufanele ukhumbule yena akusakuye, lokuthi kalamandla kangakanani lowomuntu ukukuphambula emthwalweni wakho. Lowo, owasiwa kuye ukuthi uzuze ukuphumula obizo lakhe linguOkomthetho uyindodana yesigqilikazi esikhathesi sibotshiwe kanye labantwana baso njalo ngokuyimfihlakalo le yiNtaba iSinayi oyesabileyo ukuthi izawela phezu kwekhanda lakho. Kanti nxa sona kanye labantwana baso besebugqilini ungathemba njani ukuthi uzakhululwa yibo? Ngakho, lowo uOkomthetho angeke akukhulule emthwalweni wakho. Akulamuntu owake wakhululwa nguye emthwalweni wakhe, hatshi ngingathi njalo akayikuba khona. Lingethethelelwe ngemisebenzi yomthetho. Ngoba ngemisebenzi yomthetho kakho umuntu ophilayo ongehlukaniswa lomthwalo wakhe. Ngakho uSazisomhlaba ungowelinye ilizwe, uOkomthetho ungumkhohlisi; kodwa umntanakhe uMaphathakuhle loba elobuso obulungileyo uyazenzisa nje, angekusize. Kholwa kimi, ukuthi akulalutho kuwo wonke lowomsindo owuzwileyo kulabobantu, licebo lokukuwisa ngobuqili esindisweni lwakho, ngokukuphambula endleleni engakumisa kuyo.”

Emva kwalokho uNdabezinhle wamemeza amazulu ukuze akuqinise lokho akukhulumileyo. Masinyane kwaphuma amazwi lomlilo entabeni uMkristu olusizi ayemi phansi kwayo, okwenza ukuthi inwele zakhe zitshaqe. Lawomazwi amenyezwa ngokunjalo esithi: 'Abemisibenzi yomthetho baphansi kwesiqalekiso', ngoba kulotshiwe ukuthi: 'Uqalekisiwe lowo ongemi kuzo zonke izinto ezilotshiweyo egwalweni lomthetho ukuzenza'. Ngalesosikhathi uMkristu wayengasakhangele lutho ngaphandle kokufa.

Waze wakhala esekuhluphekeni okukhulu, eseqalekisa lesikhathi leso ahlangana loSazisomhlaba ngaso, ezibiza ngokuthi uyiziwula eziyinkulungwane ngokulalela amazwi okweluleka kwakhe. Wayelenhloni kakhulu ukukhumbula ukuthi lawomazwi omnumzana ayevela enyameni nje, amehlula kangaka amenza watshiya indlela enhle. Emva kwalokho wabuya wazibika kuNdabezinhle ngalamazwi.

UMkristu wathi: “Nkosi uthini? Kusekhona ithemba yini? Ngingabuyela, andubana ngiqonde kuleliya isangwana? Angiyikulahlwa ngalokho ngibuyiswe lapho ngilenhloni yini? Ngiyazisola ngoba ngilalele ukweluleka kwalo umuntu, kodwa ngingathethelelwa isono sami yini?”

Wasesithi kuye uNdabezinhle: “Isono sakho sikhulu kakhulu ngoba ngaso wenze izinto ezimbi ezimbili; ulahle indlela enhle wanyathela ezindleleni ezingavunyelwayo. Kodwa umuntu osesangweni uzakwamukela ngoba ulomusa ebantwini. Kanti nanzelela ukuthi ungaphindi uphambuke njalo hlezi ubhubhe endleleni nxa ulaka lwakhe luvutha kancinyane.”

UMkristu waseziqinisa ukubuyela, wathi, esemangile uNdabezinhle wabobotheka wathi: “Hamba kuhle.”

Wasegijima engakhulumi lamuntu endleleni; loba bembuza engavumi ukubaphendula. Wahamba kungathi unyathela emhlabathini ongavunyelwayo, wayengeke atsho ukuthi usilile waze wangena njalo indlela ayeyitshiye elandela ukweluleka kukaSazisomhlaba.

4. Esangweni elincinyane

Kwaba njalo waze wafinyelela uMkristu esangweni. Kwakulotshiwe-ke phezu kwesango ukuthi: Qoqodani, lizavulelwa. Waqoqoda kabili kathathu esithi:

Ngingangena lapha yini? Ongaphakathi
Uzangivulela mina yini engilusizi lanxa
Bengingumvukeli ongafanele? Ngakho kangiyi-
Kwehluleka ukuhlabela izibongo zakhe kweliphezulu.

Kwasekusiza esangweni umuntu ozithuleleyo obizo lakhe linguVumakuhle; owabuza wathi: “Ngubani olapho? Uvela ngaphi? Ufunani?”

UMkristu wathi: “Nangu ohluphekileyo oyisoni othweleyo. Ngivela emzini wekuBhubheni, kodwa ngiya eNtabeni iZiyoni, ukuze ngikhululwe olakeni oluzayo. Ngakho-ke, nkosi, ngoba ngitshelwe ukuthi indlela eyakhona idlula kulelisango, ngiyathanda ukwazi nxa uvuma ukungingenisa.”

UVumakuhle wathi: “Ngiyavuma ngenhliziyo yami yonke!” Esekutshilo lokhu wavula isango. Kwathi engena ngaphakathi uMkristu, lowomuntu wamdonsa.

Wasesithi uMkristu: “Kutshoni lokho?”

Wamtshela wathi: “Eduze kwalelisangwana kulenqaba eqinileyo onduna yayo nguBhelezebhule. Kusukela kuleyonqaba yena lababelaye bayabaciba ngemitshoko labo abasuka besiza kulelisango bethi mhlawumbe bazakufa bengakangeni.”

Wathi uMkristu: “Ngiyathokoza lokuthuthumela.”

Esengenile, umuntu wesango wambuza ukuthi ulayelwe ngubani lapho.

UMkristu wathi: “Uthe uNdabezinhle ngize lapha, ngiqoqode, njengoba ngenzile nje; wasesithi wena nkosi uzangitshela okufanele ngikwenze.”

UVumakuhle wathi: “Umnyango ovuliweyo uphambi kwakho. Akulamuntu ongawuvala.”

UMkristu: “Sengiqala ukuzuza okuhle kokuhlupheka kwami.”

UVumakuhle: “Kodwa kungani uze wedwa?”

UMkristu: “Ngoba akulamuntu wabakhelene lami obone ingozi yakhe

njengami ngibone eyami.”

UVumakuhle: “Bakwazile ukuza kwakho lapha yini?”

UMkristu: “Yebo! Umkami labantwabami bangibona kuqala, bangibiza besithi angibuyele emuva; labanye njalo abakhelene lami bema bamemeza bengibiza besithi angibuyele emuva. Kodwa ngavimba indlebe ngezithupha zami ngasengiqonda phambili endleleni.”

UVumakuhle: “Phoke! Kwakungekho omunye kubo owakulandelayo owalinga ukukubuyisela emuva yini?”

UMkristu: “Bakwenza lokho oPhikakonke kanye loVumakonke, kodwa lapho bebone ukuthi bangengehlule, uPhikakonke wabuyela ethuka; kodwa uVumakonke wahamba lami kancinyane.”

UVumakuhle: “Kodwa kungani engafinyelelanga lapha?”

UMkristu: “Yebo. Kulokho ngahamba kanye laye, saze safika eChibini leMpelamandla, esahle sawela kulo. Njalo umfowethu uVumakonke wasedangala, engasathandi ukuqhubekela phambili. Ngakho esekhuphukele nganeno kwendlu yakhe, wathi kimi: 'Lizuze lelolizwe elihle wedwa.'

Wasehamba ngeyakhe endlela, lami ngaya kweyami indlela; yena walandela uPhikakonke, mina ngaqonda kulelisango.”

UVumakuhle: “Maye, umuntu olusizi! Kambe ubukhosi obusezulwini budelelekile kuye kangaka ukuthi kathandi ukuthi abekezele engozini, lenkathazweni ezinlutshwana, ukuze abuthole!”

UMkristu: “Ngiqinisile sibili ngoVumakonke; kodwa nxa lami ngingakhuluma iqiniso mayelana lami, kuzabonakala ukuthi akukho okuhle lakimi okwedlula okwakhe. Yebo, yena wabuyela emuva endlini yakhe; kodwa lami ngaphambuka ngahamba endleleni yokufa, ngavuma ngenza lokho ngokweluleka okwenyama kukaSazisomhlaba.”

UVumakuhle: “Yebo, yena uhlangene lawe yini? Angithi wayefuna ukuthi udinge ukuphumula ezandleni zikaOkomthetho, bobabili bangabakhohlisayo sibili. Pho! wakuvuma ukweluleka kwakhe yini?”

UMkristu: “Ngakuvuma ngesibindi sami. Ngayadinga uOkomthetho ngaze ngabona intaba eseceleni kwendlu yakhe ingathi izawela phezu kwami; ngakho-ke ngamiswa khonapho ngathi mpo.”

UVumakuhle: “Yebo, leyontaba seyabayikufa kwabanengi, njalo izakuba yikufa kwabanye abanengi: kuhle ukuthi uphephile ingozi yokucotshozwa yiyo.”

UMkristu: “Isibili angazi ukuthi bekuzakwenzeka njani kimi lapho, ngabe uNdabezinhle engahlangananga lami futhi ngisazindla ngenhlupheko ebingehlele; kodwa kwaba ngumusa kaNkulunkulu ukuba aphinde ezekimi, ngoba aluba bekungenjalo, bengingayikufika lapha. Kodwa ngalokhu sengifikile, yimi lo obefanele ukubulawa yileyontaba, kulokuba ngime ngokunjalo ngikhulume lenkosi yami. Kodwa hawu! Umusa omkhulu kangaka owokuba ngike ngangeniswa lapha!”

UVumakuhle: “Kasali lamunye kungelandaba lokho konke abakwenzileyo bengakezi lapha; kabaxotshwa lakanye. Yebo-ke Mkristu omuhle, woza lapha kancinyane, ngikutshengise indlela ozakuhamba ngayo. Khangela phambili! Uyayibona lindlela encinyane yini? Yilindlela ofanele ukuhamba ngayo. Yalungiswa ngokhokho, labaprofethi, loKristu labaphostoli bakhe; iqondile yona, kungathi yalungiswa ngoluthi oluqondileyo. Yile indlela okufanele ukuthi uhambe ngayo.”

UMkristu: “Kambe azikho indlela eziphambukayo lezibhodabhodayo umfokazana angaduha ngazo?”

UVumakuhle: “Yebo, zikhona izindlela ezinengi, ezibhodabhodayo ezibanzi. Kodwa yona ungayehlukanisa lengesiyo, ngalokhu ukuthi yona iqondile, incinyane.”

Ngasengibona-ke ephutsheni lami ukuthi uMkristu waphinda wambuza ukuthi angemsize yini, amethule umthwalo osemhlane wakhe, ngoba wayelokhu engakawethuli; njalo wayengelakuwethula lakanye engasizwanga.

Wathi kuye: “Umthwalo wakho yanela ukuwuthwala uze uyefika endaweni yokwethulwa, ngoba lapho uzaziwela usuke emhlane wakho.”

UMkristu waqala ukuzibopha ukhalo elungela uhambo lwakhe. Wamtshela ukuthi nxa esehambe kancinyane esuka kulelosangwana uzafika endlini kaChasisela, aqoqode emnyango wakhe, njalo uzakutshengiswa izinto ezinhle. UMkristu wasesivalelisa isihlobo sakhe, laye wathi: “Hamba kuhle.”

5. Indlu kaChasisela

Wasehamba uMkristu, waze wayafika endlini kaChasisela. Waqoqoda khona kanenginengi; kwaze kweza omunye umuntu emnyango wabuza wathi: “Ungubani?”

UMkristu wathi: “Nkosi, ngiyisihambi esitshelwe yisihlobo somnikazi walindlu ukuthi ngihambele lapha ukuthi ngize lapha ngisizwe. Ngakho ngithanda ukukhuluma lomninindlu.”

Wasesiya wambiza umninindlu; okwathi emva kwesikhathi wafika kuMkristu wambuza ukuthi ufunani. Wathi uMkristu: “Nkosi, ngingumuntu ovela emzini wekuBhubheni, ngiya entabeni yeZiyoni. Ngatshelwa ngulowo umuntu omi esangweni elisekuqaleni kwalindlela, wathi nxa ngihambela lapha uzangitshengisa izinto ezinhle, ezingangisiza ekuhambeni kwami.”

Njalo uChasisela wathi: “Ngena! Ngizakutshengisa okuzakusiza.”

Wasetshela isisebenzi sakhe ukuthi silumathise isibane, wathi uMkristu kamlandele. Wamngenisa endlini ephakathi, waselaya isisebenzi ukuvula umnyango othile. Wathi esenze lokho uMkristu wabona umfanekiso womuntu ozithuleleyo ulengiswe emdulini. Wawunje: Amehlo akhe ayekhangele ezulwini, esandleni sakhe kulogwalo oluhle kulazo zonke, umthetho weqiniso ulotshwe ezindebeni zakhe, efulathele umhlaba; wema ngokungathi uncenga abantu; kulomqhele wegolide ngaphezu kwekhanda lakhe.

Wasesithi uMkr: “Kutshoni lokhu?”

UChasisela: “Lumuntu osemfanekisweni lo uyedwa phakathi kwaba zinkulungwane; angazala abantwana yena (1 Kor. 4. 15), ahelelwe ngokuzala abantwana (Gal. 4. 19), abondle sebezalwe (1 Kor. 3. 2).

Njengokuba umbona amehlo akhe ekhangele ezulwini, ephethe ugwalo oluhle kulazo zonke ingwalo esandleni, lomthetho weqiniso ulotshwe ezindebeni zakhe, kuyikukutshengisa ukuthi umsebenzi wakhe yikwazi lokuchasisa izinto ezisitheleyo kuzoni; njengoba lawe umbona emi ngokungathi uncenga abantu. Njengokuba ubona efulathele umhlaba, kulomqhele ngaphezu kwekhanda lakhe, lokho kutshengisa ukuthi udelela esola lezozinto ezikhona ngenxa yothando lokuyisebenzela iNkosi yakhe, uyazi ngeqiniso ukuthi kwelizayo ilizwe uzathola ubukhosi bube ngumvuzo

wakhe.”

Wasesithi uChasisela: “Ngikutshengise umfanekiso lo kuqala ngoba lumuntu okulufanekiso unguye yedwa iNkosi yaleyondawo oyakuyo eyamupha igunya lokuba akuphelekezele kuzo zonke izindawo ezinzima ozazifika endleleni. Ngakho qaphelisisa engikutshengise khona ukhumbule kuhle enhlizweni yakho okubonileyo hlezi usendleleni ufile abanye abazenza abokukukhokhela kuhle kanti indlela yabo yehlela ekufeni.”

Wasembamba ngesandla wamusa endlini enkulu kakhulu igcwele uthuli, ngoba sekulesikhathi ingathanyelwa. Kwasekusithi eseyikhangele okwesikhatshana uChasisela wabiza umuntu ukuzayithanyela. Kodwa eseqala ukuthanyela, uthuli lwaqala ukuthunqa kakhulu uMkristu waze waphose wafuthelana luthuli.

Ng'khona uChasisela wathi entombazaneni emi laye: “Letha amanzi lapha ufafaze endlini.” Njalo isikwenzile lokho, yathanyela ngokulula.

Wasesithi uMkristu: “Yikuthini lokhu?”

UChasisela waphendula wathi: “Lindlu yinhliziyu yomuntu engakangcweliswa ngomusa omnandi wevangeli. Uthuli lolu luyisono sakuqala, lokubola okungaphakathi okwenza umuntu wonke abe mubi. Owaqala ukuthanyela ngumthetho, kodwa lintombazana elethe amanzi yawafafaza livangeli. Njengokuba ukubonile ukuthi owokuqala esaqala ukuthanyela uthuli lwathunqa ngokunjeyana, ukuba indlu yayingehlazwe nguye, kodwa wena waphose wafuthelana luthuli; lokho yikukutshengisa ukuthi, umthetho endaweni yokuhlaza inhliziyu esonweni, uyasivusa, usinika amandla, usihlumise enhliziyweni, loba sidalulwa ngawo sisenqatshelwa ngawo uyasala ngoba ungasiniki amandla okusehlula. Njalo njengokuba wabona intombazana ifafaza indlu ngamanzi, okwathi ngakho yathanyeleka lula – lokhu kutshengisa ukuthi uba ivangeli lifika enhliziyweni ngezindaba zalo ezimnandi leziligugu lenza njengoba uyibonile intombazana ilalisa uthuli ngokufafaza ngamanzi ngokunjalo isono siyehlulwa sinqotshwe kuhlanzwe inhliziyu ngokholo lwayo, ibisilungiselwa ukuhlalwa yiNkosi yobukhosi.”

Ngaphinda ngabona ephutsheni lami uChasisela embamba ngesandla, wamusa endlini encinyane, lapho okwakuhlezi khona abantwana ababili, yilowo lalowo ehlezi esihlalweni sakhe. Ibizo elomdala linguLaka, ibizo elomncinyane linguBekezela. ULaka wayengasuthisekanga; kodwa

uBekezela wayethule kakhulu.

UMkristu wasebuza wathi: “Kungani uLaka engasuthisekanga?”

UChasisela waphendula wathi: “Obaphetheyo uyafisa ukuthi ahlale ezilindele izinto zakhe ezinhle kuze kufike umnyaka ozayo; kanti yena ufisa konke khathesi. Kodwa uBekezela uyavuma ukuzimelela.”

Ngasengibona umuntu esiya kuLaka, eletha kuye isikhwama sempahla, wazithululela enyaweni zakhe. Wazithatha, wathokoza ngazo, njalo wamhleka usulu uBekezela. Kodwa ngakhangela isikhatshana, wasechitha konke, wasala engaselalutho ngaphandle kwamadabudabu.

Wathi uMkristu kuChasisela: “Ngichasisela lokhu ngokugcweleyo.”

Wasesithi: “Lababafana bobabili bayimifanekiso. ULaka ungumfanekiso wabantu balumhlaba, uBekezela ungumfanekiso wabantu belizwe elizayo. Njengalokhu okubonayo uLaka uthanda ukuba lakho konke lonyaka, kuyikuthi kulumhlaba, banjalo abantu balumhlaba kungathi bangaba lakho konke okuhle okwabo khathesi; bengelindele umnyaka ozayo, lokho yikuthi kuze kube selizweni elizayo, ukuze bazuze ilifa labo elihle.

Lelolizwi lokuthi: ‘Inyoni esesandleni ingangezimbili ezisehlathini’ lilamandla okwedlula konke akutshoyo uNkulunkulu ngobuhle belizwe elizayo. Kodwa njengokuba ukubonile ukuthi uphangise wachithachitha konke, wasala engaphethe lutho ngaphandle kwamadabudabu, kuzakuba njalo kubo bonke abanjalo ekucineni kwalumhlaba.”

Wasesithi uMkristu: “Sengibonile ukuthi uBekezela ulokuhlakanipha okuhle kakhulu ngezinto ezinengi; okokuqala ngoba yena uhlezi elinde lezozinto ezilungileyo; okwesibili kungoba eyakuba lobukhosi bezakhe, nxa lo omunye elamadabudabu nje.”

UChasisela wathi: “Yebo, ungengezelela lokuthi ubukhosi belizwe elizayo abusayikuphela njalo, kanti lezizinto ziyedlula zithi nya. Ngalokho uLaka wayengafanele ukuthi amhleke uBekezela ngoba yena ezuze okuhle kwakhe kuqala; uBekezela uzakuba lakho ukumhleka uLaka ngoba ezuze okwakhe okuhle ekucineni! Ngoba phela okwakuqala kuzadedela njalo okokucina. Ngoba okokucina kulesikhathi sakho esizayo: kanti okokucina akusayikudedela lutho, ngoba kungekho okulandeleyo. Kunjalo oselelifa lakhe kuqala kumele abe lesikhathi phela sokulidla; kodwa olelifa lakhe ekucineni kumele abe lalo okungelasiphelo. Yilokhu okwatshiwo koyisinothi, ‘Wena wakuzuza konke okuhle okwakho usaphila, loLazaro

wathola izinto ezimbi; kodwa khathesi yena uyaduduzwa, wena uyahlutshwa.”

UMkristu. wathi: “Sengibona ukuthi akukuhle ukuhawukela izinto ezikhona; kuhle ukumelela izinto ezizayo.”

UChasisela: “Uqinisile ngoba izinto ezibonakalayo ngezalokhukuphila kodwa izinto ezingabonakaliyo ngezaphakade. Kodwa lanxa lokhu kunjalo, ngoba izinto ezikhona, lokunxwanela kwenyama yethu kwakhelene eduze okunye lokunye; njalo ngoba izinto ezizayo lokunxwanela kwenyama yethu kakwazani, ngalokho ezokuqala zalezi ziyathandana, kodwa ezesibili zehlukene njalo kwezokucina.”

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi uChasisela wabamba uMkristu ngesandla wamusa endaweni okwakubaswe khona umlilo ngasemthangaleni, kumi umuntu kuwo elokhu ethela amanzi amanengi ukuwucitsha; kodwa umlilo wanda njalo wavutha kakhulu.

Wasesithi uMkristu: “Kutshoni lokhu?”

UChasisela waphendula wathi: “Lumlilo ungumsebenzi womusa owenzeka enhliziyweni. Lowo othela amanzi kuwo esithi kawucitsha nguSathane, kodwa njengoba umlilo ulokhu uvutha kakhulu lokutshisa kwawo kusanda kakhulu, okubangela lokho uzakubona njalo.” Wasemusa emuva komduli lapho abona khona umuntu ephethe isitsha samafutha, elokhu ewathela emlilweni, ekwenzela ensitha.

Wasesithi uMkristu: “Kutshoni lokhu?”

UChasisela waphendula wathi: “Lowo owathelayo nguKristu, oqinisa njalo umsebenzi osuqalisiwe enhliziyweni ngamafutha omusa wakhe: ng'khona kuzakuthi lanxa esenzani uSathane, imiphefumulo yabantu bakhe ihlale ilomusa. Kuthi njengoba ubona ukuthi lowomuntu ovuthisa umlilo uhlezi emi emuva komduli; lokhu kuyikukufundisa ukuthi kunzima kwabalingwayo ukubona ukuthi lumsebenzi womusa usetshenzwa njani emphefumulweni.”

Ngaphinda ngabona ukuthi uChasisela umbambe ngesandla wamusa endaweni enhle lapho okwakwakhiwe indlu yobukhosi ebukekayo; wathi ekubona lokhu uMkristu wathokoza kakhulu. Wabona njalo phezu kwayo abanye abathile behambahamba, bembethe izigqoko zegolide.

Wasesithi uMkristu: “Singaya laphaya, singene yini?”

UChasisela wasehamba laye wamenyusa wamusa ngasemnyango wendlu;

emnyango kwakumi ibandla lamadoda efuna ukungena kodwa engelasibindi. Kwakuhlezi njalo umuntu khatshana kancinyane lomnyango ngasetafuleni, ephethe ugwalo losiba lwakhe lokubhala luphambi kwakhe, ukuze abhale ibizo lalowo ozangena lapho. Wasebona ukuthi phakathi komnyango kumi amabutho amanengi ehlo mile ukuze agcine isango, ezimisele ukuthi umuntu ozangena khona amlimaze amhluphe ngokwamandla awo. Wamangala uMkristu ngalokho. Ekucineni, sebhlehlele emuva bonke ngokwesaba lamadoda ahlomileyo, uMkristu wabona umuntu olobuso obuqinileyo kakhulu, esiya kulowomuntu ohleziyo obhalayo, wathi: “Nkosi, akubhale elami ibizo.”

Wathi esekwenzile lokho, wabona lowomuntu ekhupha inkemba yakhe, esethwele ingowane yensimbi yokuvikela ikhanda lakhe, waziphosa ngamandla emabuthweni; amtshaya ngamandla. Kodwa lowomuntu amandla akhe engapheli lakanye wabagwaza wabageca wabaquma. Njalo wabalamanxeba amanengi, laye esebagwazile abazama ukumvimbela phandle, wavula indlela phakathi kwabo bonke waqhubekela phambili wangena esigodlweni. Ngakho kwezwakala ilizwi livela kwabaphakathi, ngitsho lalabo abahambahamba phezulu ophahleni lwendlu enkulu, besithi:

Ngena-ke! ngena!

Uzaluthola udumo olulaphakade.

Wasengena wembatha izembatho ezinjengezabo. UMkristu wabobotheka wathi: “Ngicabanga ukuthi ngiyakwazi okutshiwo yilokho!”

Wasesithi uMkristu: “Sengihamba khathesi.”

UChasisela wathi: “Kahle! ake uhlale, ngize ngikutshengise kancinyane okunye andubana uhambe endleleni yakho.”

Wasembamba ngesandla njalo wamusa endlini emnyama kakhulu, okwakhlezi khona umuntu ezongweni lensimbi. Lowomuntu wayengathi usineme kakhulu ehlezi ekhangele phansi ehlanganise izandla; ebubula kungathi uzadabula inhliziyo yakhe.

Wasesithi UMkristu: “Kutshoni lokhu?”

Wathi UChasisela kuye: “Khuluma lalumuntu.”

Wathi uMkristu kulowomuntu: “Ungubani wena?”

Waphendula wathi: “Ngiyilokho engangingesikho kuqala.”

UMkristu: “Wawuyini kuqala?”

Wathi lowomuntu: “Ngangingumuntu webandla likaKristu, omuhle, ohlumayo emehlweni ami lasemehlweni abanye. Ngake ngaba, ekucabangeni kwami, ngofanele umuzi wasezulwini. Yebo, ngezwa ukuthokoza ngisithi ngizafinyelela khona.”

UMkristu: “Pho! Khathesi usuyini?”

UMuntu: “Khathesi ngingumuntu odelileyo; ngivalelwe yikudela njengoba ngivalelwe kulelizongo lensimbi. Kangilakuphuma, hawu, kodwa ngingephume!”

UMkristu: “Kodwa wafinyelela njani kulesisimo?”

UMuntu: “Ngayekela ukulinda lokuzikhuza, ngazinikela ezinkanukweni; ngona phambi kokukhanya komhlaba lekulungeni kukaNkulunkulu. Ngadabukisa uMoya Oyingcwele, usehambile. Ngalinga uSathane, weza kimi. Ngamcunula uNkulunkulu, laye ungitshiyile. Sengenze inhliziyoyami yaba lukhuni kangangokuba ngingephenduke.”

Wasesithi uMkristu kuChasisela: “Kodwa kalikho ithemba lelilodwa ngomuntu onje yini?”

Wathi uChasisela: “Mbuze.”

Wasesithi uMkristu: “Kalikho ithemba kuwe yini? Usuzahlala uyisibotshwa njalo kulelozongo lensimbi lokuphela ithemba yini?”

UMuntu: “Hatshi, alisekho.”

UMkristu: “Ngani? INdodana yoBusisiweyo ilesihawu kakhulu.”

UMuntu: “Mina sengibuye ngambethela esiphambanweni njalo phakathi kwami; ngimeyisile yena ngokwakhe, ngazonda ukulunga kwakhe, ngalenza into engcolileyo igazi lakhe, ngadelela uMoya womusa. Yikho ngizivalele ngaphandle kwazo zonke izithembiso. Akuselalutho oluseleyo kimi ngaphandle kwamazwi asongelayo, esongela ngokwesabekayo, esongela ngeqiniso ngokwahlulelwa langokuvutha komlilo ozangidla njengesitha.”

UMkristu: “Wazingeniselani esimeni esinje?”

UMuntu: “Kungenxa yezinkanuko, injabulo lenzuzo zalumhlaba, engangisithi ekukholiseni lokho ngizithembisa ukuthokoza okunengi, kanti yileyo laleyo yalezozinto isingiluma ingigedla njengempethu etshisayo.”

UMkristu.: “Kodwa khathesi ungingephenduke ubuye yini?”

UMuntu: “UNkulunkulu walile ukuthi ngiphenduke. Ilizwi lakhe alingikhuthazi ukuthi ngikholwe; yebo, nguye ngokwakhe ongivalele

kulelizongo lensimbi. Labantu bonke abasemhlabeni bangeke bangikhuphe. O phakade! phakade! Ngizabindana njani losizi engizakwehlelwa yilo ephakadeni?"

Wathi uChasisela kuMkristu: "Usizi lwalumuntu kalukhunjulwe nguwe, lukuxwayise kokuphela."

Wathi UMkristu: "Lokhu kuyesabeka sibili. UNkulunkulu kangisize ukuthi ngilinde ngizithinte, njalo ngikhulekele ukuxwaya imbangela yosizi lwalumuntu. Nkosi, akusisikhathi sokuthi ngihambe endleleni yami yini?"

UChasisela: "Hlala, ngike ngikutshengise into nje eyodwa, ubusuzihambela endleleni yakho emva kwalokho."

Wasembamba uMkristu ngesandla njalo, wamusa endlini lapho okwakulomuntu owayevuka embhedeni khona; wathi egqoka izigqoko waqhuhqa ethuthumela.

Wathi UMkristu: "Lumuntu uthuthumelelani kangaka?"

UChasisela watshela umuntu ukuthi amtshela uMkristu isizatho salokho akwenzayo.

Waseqala esithi: "Ngalobubusuku ngithe ngilele ubuthongo, ngaphupha ngibona amazulu esiba mnyama kakhulu; laduma kwabaneka okwesabekayo kwaze kwangesabisa kakhulu.

Hayi-ke ngakhangelanga phezulu ngiphupha, ngabona amayezi ehamba ngokungejayelekanga ngasengisizwa umsindo omkhulu wophondo njalo ngabona umuntu ehlezi phezu kweyezi, ephahlwe zinkulungwane zasezulwini; zazisemalangabini omlilo, lezulu njalo livutha umlilo. Ngasengisizwa ilizwi lisithi: Vukani bafuleyo, lize ekwehlulelweni! Amatshe asedabuka, avuleka amangcwaba, labafuleyo ababekuwo baphuma, abanye babo bethabile kakhulu bekhangele phezulu, abanye bedinga ukuzifihla phansi kwezintaba. Ngasengibona lowomuntu ohlezi phezu kweyezi evula ugwalo, esithi awusondele umhlaba. Kodwa ngenxa yelangabi elibukhali elaphuma livela phambi kwakhe, kwabakhona ibanga elilingeneyo phakathi kwakhe labo, njengaphakathi kothetha amacala labemi phambi kwakhe. Ngezwa njalo kumenyezwa kulabo abamphahlileyo lowo ohlezi phezu kweyezi kuthiwa: 'Buthani umfaba lamakhoba lamahlanga, likuphose echibini elivuthayo.'

Kwasekuvuleka umgodhi ongelamkhawulo eduze lalapha engangimi khona, okwaphuma emlonyeni wawo intuthu enengi kakhulu lamalahle avuthayo

lomsindo owesabekayo. Kwathiwa njalo kulabobantu: Buthelelani amabele ami esipheleni sami. Ngasengibona abanenginengi behluthunwa besiwa emayezini, kodwa mina ngatshiywa. Lami ngazama ukuzifihla kodwa ngingekwenze lokhu ngoba lowoMuntu ohlezi phezu kweyezi wangijolozela; ngakhumbula izono zami, lesazela sami sangicala nhlangothi zonke. Ngasengiphaphama ebuthongweni bami.”

UMkristu: “Kodwa wakwesabelani lokhu?”

UNgalungile wathi: “Phela, bengithi sekufike usuku lokwehlulela kanti ngangingakalulungeli. Kodwa lokhu kwangesabisa kakhulu ukuthi izingilosi zibuthe abanengi zingitshiye mina. Njalo umgodu wesihogo wavula umlomo wawo lapho engangimi khona. Isazela sami laso sangihlupha, kwathi njalo, njengokubona kwami, uMgwebi wangijolozela elolaka ebusweni bakhe.”

Wathi uChasisela kuMkristu: “Usuziqaphelisisile zonke lezizinto yini?”

UMkristu: “Yebo! zingimisa ekuthembeni lasekwesabeni.”

UChasisela: “Pho-ke, zilondoloze lezizinto zonke engqondweni yakho ukuze zibe njengezincijo ezizakuhlaba ukukuqhubela phambili endleleni ozahamba ngayo.”

UMkristu waseqala ukuzibopha ukhalo lwakhe esezangena kuhambo lwakhe.

Wathi uChasisela: “UMduduzi kabe lawe kokuphela, Mkristu omuhle, akuhole endleleni eya kulowomuzi!”

UMkristu wayihamba indlela yakhe ethi:

Lapha ngibonile izinto ezingavamile, ezisizayo;
Ezimnandi ezesabekayo; okokungimisa isibindi,
Kulokho engiqala ukukuphatha.
Angiziqonde-ke, ngazisise ukuthi
Ngiziboniselweni.
Ngibonge kuwe, Chasisela omuhle.

6. Isiphambano

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi indlela uMkristu azahamba ngayo iphahlwe yimithangala izinhlangothi zombili; imithangala le kuthiwa luSindiso. UMkristu ethwele wasegijima, ekhwela ngaleyondlela, kodwa wakhwela kalukhuni ngenxa yomthwalo osemhlane wakhe. Wagijima njalo waze wafika endaweni eyayingathi iyenyuca. Kuleyondawo kwakumi isiphambano, ngaphansi kancinyane kwakukhona ingcwaba.

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi kwathi esesondele uMkristu kulesosiphambano, umthwalo wakhe waxegiswa emahlombe akhe wawa usuka emhlana wakhe waqala ukugiqika, wagiqika waze wafika emlonyeni wengcwaba, wawela kulo, angizange ngibe ngisawubona njalo.

Ngakho uMkristu wasethaba ethokoza wathi ngenhliziyo ejabulayo:

‘Yena unginike ukuphumula ngosizi lwakhe,
Wangipha ukuphila ngokufa kwakhe’.

Wema kancinyane ekhangela emangala; ngoba kwammangalisa kakhulu ukuzwa ukuthi ngokubona nje isiphambano wakhumuka umthwalo wakhe. Ngakho wakhangela, wakhangela futhi waze wakhala inyembezi zehla ezihlathini zakhe.

Kwathi esamile ekhangela ekhala, kwavela abathathu abakhazimulayo beza kuye bembingelela bethi: “Ukuthula akube kuwe!”

Owokuqala wasesithi kuye: “Zithethelelwe izono zakho!”

Owesibili wamhlubula amadabudabu akhe wamembathisa ngengubo ezintsha.

Owesithathu wambeka uphawu ebusweni, wamnika ugwalo olunanyekwe ngophawu phezu kwalo wathi kalukhangele esagijima, lokuthi aluse eSangweni laseZulwini. Basebehamba-ke.

UMkristu weqa kathathu ethokoza waya phambili ehlabelela esithi:

Ngize ngafika lapha ngithwele izono zami;
Kwakungekho lutho olwalungasusa okwami ukuhlupheka

Ngaze ngeza lapha. Hawu, kulindawo!
Lapha kuyaqala ukuthokoza kwami!
Lapha umthwalo uwe emahlombe ami!
Lapha kuqamuke intambo ebeziwubophele kimi!
Siphambano esibusisiweyo, ngcwaba elibusisiweyo!
Yebo, kodwa ubusisiwe kakhulu lowoMuntu
Owayangiswa lapho ngenxa yami!

Khona ngabona ephutsheni lami ukuthi wasehamba kanjalo waze wafika phansi, lapha abona khona amadoda amathathu eduze kancinyane kwendlela, ebanjwe yibuthongo, elamaketane ezinyaweni. Ibizo lomunye linguSiphukuphuku, omunye kunguVila, owesithathu kunguZitshele.

Wasesithi uMkristu, ewabona elele kanjalo, waya kuwo ethi mhlawumbe angawavusa. Wamemeza wathi: “Lina lifanana lalabo abalele phezu kwensika yomkhumbi, ngoba uLwandle oluFileyo lungaphansi kwenu, lomgodi ongelakucina! Vukani phela! Wozani! Vumani ngilisize, ngilikhulule amaketane enu.” Wabatshela njalo wathi: “Nxakudlula lowo ohambahamba njengesilwane esibhongayo; sibili lizabanjwa ngamazinyo akhe.”

Bamkhangela baqala ukumphendula ngalamazwi.

Wathi USiphukuphuku: “Angiboni ngozi.”

Wathi uVila: “Ake ngilale kancinyane njalo.”

Wathi uZitshele: “Ngoba yilesi lalesi isiqholo sizihlalele endaweni yaso.”

Basebelala njalo, uMkristu wahamba ngendlela yakhe.

Kodwa wadubeka ekhumbula ukuthi abantu abakuleyongozi bangadelela umusa wakhe ozekubo ukubasiza ngesihle: ebavusa, ebahlakaniphisa, ethanda ukukhulula amaketane abo. Wathi esahlutshwa yilokho, wabona abantu ababili besehla ngokuwa emthangaleni, ngasekhohlo kwendlela encinyane; baphangisa basondela kuye. Omunye ibizo lakhe lalinguGcinumthetho-nje elomunye lalinguMzenzisi. Ngakho njengokutsho kwami, basondela kuye, waqala ukukhulumisana labo ngalamazwi.

UMkristu wathi: “Makhosi, livela ngaphi? Liya ngaphi?”

Bathi: “Sazalelwa elizweni lasekuZigqajeni, siya ukuyabonga entabeni eZiyoni.”

UMkristu: “Kungani lingangenanga ngesango elisekuqaleni kwendlela? Kalazi yini lokhu okulotshiwewo okuthi, ‘Ongangeni ngesango esibayeni sezimvu, kodwa ekhwela ngenye indawo, ulisela lomphangi.’?”

Bathi abantu bakibo bathi ukuyangena ngesango kukhatshana; ngakho babejwayele ukuquma indlela beqe-ke umthangala njengoba bekwenzile.

UMkristu: “Angithi kambe kuthiwa kuyikona eNkosini yomuzi esiya kuwo, ukuphambana lentando yakhe ebonakalisiwewo kanje?”

Bamtshela ukuthi angazihluphi ngalokho ngoba ababekwenzile kungumkhuba. Bethi bangaveza ubufakazi beminyaka engedlula ezinkulungwane.

UMkristu wathi: “Kambe linto eliyenzileyo ingema uba libuzwa emthethweni?”

Bathi: “Lowomkhuba osumi okwedlula iminyaka ezinkulungwane usuza kuvunywa sibili langumgwebi ongakhethi nhlangothi!” Basebesithi futhi: “Uba singene endleleni akulamsebenzi ukuthi singene njani. Nxa singenile singenile. Wena usendleleni nje ungene ngesango, njengokubona kwethu; lathi-ke sisendleleni, esingene sathi ntshobe kuyo emthangaleni. Isimo sakho singcono kulesethu ngani?”

UMkristu: “Mina ngihamba ngomthetho weNkosi yami; lina lihamba ngokuthanda langokubona kwenu. Ngalokhu iyatsho iNkosi yendlela ukuthi lingamasela. Ngakho angikholwa ukuthi lizakubonakala libahle ekupheleni kohambo. Lizingenele ingatshongo yona; lizaphuma lize lingelamusa wayo.” Baphendula ngokufitshane kuye, bathi kuphela: “Zibonele.”

Ngasengibona ukuthi basebehamba kungulowo lalowo ehamba ngeyakhe indlela, bengasakhulumisani omunye lomunye, ngaphandle kokuthi lababantu bamtshele uMkristu besithi ngokwemithetho langezimiso kabathandabuzi kodwa bayalingana laye ngokukwenza. 'Ngakho kasiboni ukuthi wehlukene lathi ngani, ngaphandle kwangesembatho osembetheyo osinikwe ngabanye abakhelene lawe befihla inhloni yokuhambaze kwakho.'

UMkristu wathi: “Ngemithetho lezimiso aliyikusindiswa, ngoba alingenanga ngesango. Kodwa mayelana lesembatho lesi engisembetheyo ngasinikwa yiNkosi yaleyondawo engiyakuyo; ngisinikwe, njengelikutshoyo, ukufihla ubuze bami ngaso. Ngithi mina luphawu lomusa wayo kimi ngoba ngangingelalutho kuqala kuphela kwamadabudabu nje. Njalo ngiziduduza

ngizahamba, ngithi: 'Isibili nxa ngifika esangweni lomuzi iNkosi yawo izangazi ngokuhle ngoba ngembethe isembatho sayo, ngitsho isembatho eyanginika sona ngesihle mhla ingihlubula amadabudabu ami.' Njalo ngilophawu ebusweni bami elingalunanzeleliyo lina, olwabekwa lapha ngenye ingilosi yeNkosi yami, mhla umthwalo wami usiwa emahlombe ami. Ngizalitshela lokuthi ngaphiwa ugwalo olunanyekiweyo ukuze lungiduduze nxa ngilufunda ngihamba endleleni. Ngalaywa njalo ukuthi lapho ngifika eSangweni leZulwini kufuneka ngilunikele khona, lokho kutshengisa ukuthi ngeqiniso lami ngizangeniswa emva kwalo. Konke lokho ngithi, liyakuswela lina, liyakuswela ngoba lingangenanga ngesango.”

Kabamphendulanga kulokho; bakhangelana nje, bahleka. Ngasengibona behamba bonke, kodwa uMkristu ehamba phambili, engasakhulumi lamuntu, esezikhulumela yedwa nje, ngesinye isikhathi ngokububula, ngesinye isikhathi ngokuthokoza, njalo efunda kanengi encwadini ayeyinikwe ngomunye wabakhazimulayo, ethokoziswa yiyo.

7. Intaba yaseBunzimeni

Ngasengibabona besiya phambili bonke baze bafika ngaphansi kwentaba yeBunzimeni, ngaphansi kwayo kwakulomthombo wamanzi. Kuleyondawo kwakukhona njalo izindlela ezinye ezimbili, ngaphandle kwaleyo eyayiqondile iphuma esangweni; enye isiya ngakwesokhohlo, lenye isiya ngakwesokunene, ngaphansi kwentaba. Kodwa indlela encinyane yayikhwela entabeni, ibizo laleyondawo yokukhwela kuleyontaba kuseBunzimeni.

UMkristu wasesiya emthonjeni, wanatha kuwo ukuze athole amandla, waseqala ukukhwela entabeni esithi:

Lintaba lanxa inde, ngifisa ukukhwela kuyo;
Ubunzima bayo abuyikungiduba lakanye;
Ngoba ngiyabona ukuthi indlela eya ekuphileni ilapha.
Woza-ke, mana-ke nhliziyo yami! kasingadinwa, singesabi!
Kuhle, loba kunzima ukuhamba ngendlela elungileyo,
Kulokuhamba ngengeyisiyo, lanxa kulula, eya osizini.

Abanye labo ababili baya labo ngaphansi kwentaba. Kodwa sebone ukuthi intaba ithe nqo inde, njalo kukhona ezinye izindlela ezimbili zokuhamba, njalo becabanga ukuthi lezozindlela ezimbili zingahlangana emuva kwalintaba laleyo akhuphuka ngayo uMnkristu, bazimisela ukuthi bahambe ngalezozindlela. Kodwa ibizo lenye yalezozindlela lalithiwa yiNgozi; ibizo lenye lalithiwa yikuBhubheni. Kwanjalo omunye wahamba ngendlela okuthiwa yiNgozi, eyamngenisa ehlathini elikhulu. Omunye waqonda wakhuphuka ngendlela eya ekuBhubheni, eyamngenisa emangweni obanzi ogcwele izintaba ezimnyama, wakhubeka wawa, kabesavuka njalo.

Ngasengikhangela uMkristu, ukumbona ekhwela entabeni. Ngananzelela ukuthi wasuka ekugijimeni wahamba nje, njalo wasuka ekugijimeni wabuya wagaqa ngamadolo langezandla ngenxa yomqanso walindawo. Kodwa ekukhweleni, phakathi kwentaba, kwakukhona idumba elihle elakhiwa yiNkosi yentaba leyo ukuze abahambi abakhatheleyo baphumule kulo.

UMkristu esefinyelele khona, wahlala phansi ethi uyaphumula, wasekhupha ugwalo lwakhe esifubeni, wabala kulo eziduduza. Waseqala ukukhangela ijazi kumbe isembatho ayesiphiwe esemi ngasesiphambanweni. Esezithokozisile okwesikhatshana, wasewozela, waze wajunywa yibuthongo, obambandezela kuleyondawo kwaze kwaphosa kwahlwa. Kwathi ekulaleni kwakhe ugwalo lwakhe lwawa esandleni sakhe. Kodwa esalele, kweza kuye othile wamvusa esithi: “Hamba uyebunyonyweni, wena vila, ubone indlela zabo uhlakaniphe!”

Ngalokho uMkristu wahle waphaphama wavuka, waphanga endleleni yakhe, watshitsha waze wafika phezulu entabeni.

Wathi esefike phezu kwentaba, kweza abantu ababili begijima ngesiqubu behlangabezana laye. Ibizo lomunye linguSabayo, elomunye linguNgathembi.

UMkristu wathi kubo: “Makhosi, kwenze njani ligijima ngendlela engeyisiyo?”

Waphendula uSabayo wathi: “Besisiya emzini weZiyoni sasesifika kulindawo enzima, kodwa nxa siqhubeka izingozi esihlangana lazo ziyanda. Ngakho saphenduka, sesibuyela emuva.”

“Yebo-ke”, watsho uNgathembi, “ngoba khonapha eduze phambi kwethu zikhona izilwane ezimbili endleleni! Loba zilele loba zikhangele, kasazi; sesabile sathi nxa sisondele kuzo, zizasidabula masinyane.”

Wathi UMkristu: “Liyangesabisa! Kodwa ngizabalekela ngaphi ukuze ngiphephe? Nxa ngibuyela elizweni lakithi, elilungiselwe umlilo lesibabule - isibili ngizabhubhela khona! Nxa ngifinyelela emzini wasezulwini, ngiyazi sibili ukuthi ngizavikeleka khona. Kungcono ngiqhubeke. Ukubuyela emuva kuyikufa nje; ukuya phambili yikwesaba ukufa, kanti ukuphila okungapheliyo kulaphaya. Ngoba kunjalo, ngizakuya phambili!”

Ngakho uSabayo loNgathembi bobabili bagijima behla entabeni; uMkristu-ke wahamba ngendlela yakhe. Kodwa esakhumbula lokhu akuzwileyo kulabobantu, waphumputha esifubeni sakhe, edinga ugwalo lwakhe ukuze alufunde aduduzeke. Kodwa waphumputha, kalutholanga.

UMkristu wasedubeka kakhulu engazi ukuthi angenzani ngoba eswela lokho okwakukade kumthokozisa, obekuyakuba yisibonakaliso sokuthi uzakungena eMzini waseZulwini. Waseqala ukudideka kakhulu engazi ukuthi uzakwenzani, waze wakhumbula ukuthi ulele ubuthongo

kulelodumba eliphakathi kwentaba; waseguqa phansi ngamadolo wacela uNkulunkulu ukuthi amthethelele ukwenza kwakhe lokho okobuthutha, wasebuyela emuva ukuyadingisisa ugwalo lwakhe. Kuyo yonke leyondlela yokubuyela emuva ngubani ongananzelela ukudabuka kwenhliziyo kaMkristu? Ngesinye isikhathi wabubula, ngesinye wakhala; kanengi wazisola ngoba eyisithutha kangangokuthi walala ubuthongo kuleyondawo eyayakhelwe ukuze aziphumuze okwesikhatshana ekukhathaleni kwakhe. Ngakho-ke wabuyela emuva ekhangelisisa ngapha langapha kwendlela hlezi angaluthola ugwalo lwakhe olwaluyinduduzo yakhe izikhathi ezinengi ohambeni lwakhe. Wahamba njalo waze wafika edumbeni ahlala walala khona. Kodwa ukulibona kwavuselela usizi lwakhe kakhulu ngokumkhumbuza ngitsho langobubi bokulala kwakhe. Ngakho ngaleyondlela waqhubeka ezisola ngokulala kwakhe okubi esithi: “O muntu olusizi oyimi, ukuthi ngilale emini! Lokuthi ngilale phakathi kobunzima! Ukuthi ngenze okuthandwa yinyama ukuze ngisebenzise lokho kuphumula ukwenwabisa inyama yami, iNkosi yentaba eyayakhela kuphela ukuphumuza izihambi! Ungakanani ummango engiwuhambe ize! (Kwenzeka njalo kuIsrayeli – ngenxa yesono sabo babuyiselwa futhi emuva ngendlela yoLwandle oluBomvu.) Sengenziwe ngahamba lowomango ngosizi ebengifanele ngiwuhambe ngentokozo kungesi lokhukulala okubi. Ngabe sengikhatshana kangakanani ngalesi sikhathi! Sengenziwe ukuhamba kathathu kanti bengingabe ngihambe kanye nje! Hawu, khathesi ubusuku buzangithola, ngoba ilanga selizatshona. Hawu, kanti ngabe kangilalanga!”

Wasefika njalo edumbeni, wahlala phansi kancinyane, wakhala. Emva kwesikhathi, ekhangela ngosizi phansi kwesihlalo, lapho-ke walubona ugwalo lwakhe! Waluhluthuna ethuthumela ephangisa, walufaka esifubeni sakhe. Kambe ngubani ongalandisa ukuthokoza kwalumuntu eselutholile ugwalo lwakhe futhi! Ngoba lolugwalo yilona olokuqinisa ukuphila kwakhe lokuvunywa kwakhe endaweni ayifisayo. Waselubeka esifubeni sakhe, wabonga uNkulunkulu ngoba eqondise ilihlo lakhe endaweni olwaluwele khona; wathi ejabula elezinyembezi waphinda wahamba ngendlela yakhe njalo. Yeka ukugijima kwakhe kulelobanga entabeni! Kodwa engakadundubali, ilanga laselimtshonela uMkristu. Lokhu kwamenza ukuthi aphinde akhumbule ubuze bokulala kwakhe ubuthongo. Waseqala ukuzisola

njalo ngokunjalo ethi: “Hawu! Buthongo obubi! Khathesi ngenxa yabo sengizaficwa yibusuku ngihamba! Sekumele ngihambe lingekho ilanga ubumnyama busibekele indlela yenyawo zami, ngizwe umsindo wezinyamazana ezikhalayo, ngenxa yokulala kwami ubuthongo obubi!” Wasekhumbula leyondaba ayitshelwa ngoNgathembi loSabayo abathi bethuswe yikubona izilwane. Waphinda wazikhulumela yedwa uMkristu wathi: “Lezizilo phela zihamba ebusuku, zifuna ezizakudla. Nxa zingifika emnyameni, ngizazibalekela njani? Ngiphephe ukudatshulwa yizo njani?” Wasehamba ngendlela yakhe ngokunjalo. Kodwa esakhala ngosizi lwakhe olubi waqabuka ebona indlu enkulu enhle itheqekele phambi kwakhe, ibizo layo kuse-Ebuhleni; imi eceleni ngasendleleni.

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi waphangisa waya phambili ethi kumbe angazuza indlu yokulala khona. Kodwa engakadluleli khatshana wangena emkhandlweni omncinyane oseduzane lendlu yomgcini wesango. Wathi ecingisisa ngaphambili kwakhe ehamba, wabona izilwane ezimbili endleleni! Wasenakana: 'Sengibona ingozi lezo uSabayo loNgathembi ezababuyisela emuva'. (Kanti izilwane lezo zazibotshiwe ngamaketane, kodwa engawaboni amaketane). Wakhumbula laye ukubuyela emuva abalandele ngoba kakhumbulanga lutho kodwa ukufa okwakuphambi kwakhe. Kodwa umgcini wesango, obizo lakhe lalinguMlindi, ebona ukuthi uMkristu umi kungathi uzabuyela emuva, wasemmemeza esithi: “Amandla akho mancinyane kangaka yini? Ungazesabi izilwane; zibotshiwe. Zibekwe lapho ukuze zilinge ukholo lomuntu ukuthi lungakanani, lokuveza obala labo abangelakho ukukholwa. Hamba phakathi kwendlela, kawuyikwehlelwa yingozi lakanye!”

Ngasengibona ukuthi wahamba ethuthumela ngokwesaba izilwane. Kodwa eqaphela kuhle ayekutshelwe ngumgcini wesango. Wazizwa zibhonga nje kodwa azimlimazanga. Waseqakeza izandla waya phambili waze wema phambi kwesango ayemi kulo umgcini wesango.

8. Indlu enkulu yase-Ebuhleni

Wasesithi uMkristu kumgcini wesango: “Nkosi, ngekabani indlu le? Ngingalala lapha ngalobubusuku na?” Waphendula umgcini wesango wathi: “Lindlu yakhiwa yiNkosi yentaba; yayakhela ukusiza abahambi, baphumule kuyo, bathole isivikelo.” Wabuza njalo wathi: “Uvela ngaphi, uya ngaphi?” UMKristu wathi: “Ngivela emzini wekuBhubheni, ngiya eNtabeni yeZiyoni. Ngoba ilanga selitshonile, ngithanda ukuthi ngilale lapha ngalobubusuku, nxa uvuma.”

Umlindi, umgcini wesango wathi: “Ungubani ibizo lakho?”

UMkristu: “Ibizo lami khathesi nginguMkristu kodwa kuqala lalinguSwelumusa. Ngingowesizwe sakoJafethe, lowo uNkulunkulu ayakumhola ukuthi ahlale emathenteni kaShemu.”

Umlindi: “Kodwa kwenze njani ukuthi ufike sekuhlwile? Ilanga selitshonile.”

UMkristu: “Bengiyakufika kusakhanya kodwa kuyengecala lami, mina muntu olusizi ngalala ubuthongo kuleliyana idumba elimi phakathi kwentaba! Lanxa kunjalo ngangifike lapha ngaphambili kwalokhu kodwa ngithe ekulaleni kwami ngalahlekelwa lugwalo lwami; ngahamba ngaze ngafika phezulu entabeni lungekho. Lapho-ke ngathi phuthaphutha angaluthola ngasengiphenduka ngilosizi enhliziyweni yami, ngabuyela endaweni engalala ubuthongo kuyo; ngasengiluthola lapho; sengifikile lapha khathesi.”

Umlindi wathi: “Yebo, ngizabiza omunye kumantombazana akulindlu, nguye ozakuthi nxa evuma kuhle amazwi akho akungenise endlini njengomkhubo wakhonapha.”

Umlindi, umgcini wasetshaya insimbi, eyathi ukuthi izwakale kwaphuma emnyango wendlu intombazana ethuleyo enhle, ibizo layo linguHlolaqonde, yabuza yathi: “Ngibizelwani?”

Waphendula uMlindi wathi: “Lumuntu uyahamba uvela emzini wekuBhubheni, uya entabeni yeZiyoni. Kodwa ngoba ekhathele ehlwelwe yibusuku, ubuzile wathi angavunyelwa yini ukuthi alale lapha ngalobubusuku. Ngathi-ke ngizakubuza wena khona kuzakuthi nxa usukhulume laye, wenze ngokubona kwakho ngitsho ngomkhuba walapha.”

Yambuza ithi: “Uvela ngaphi, uya ngaphi?” Wayitshela.

Yabuza njalo yathi: “Wangena kanjani endleleni?” Wayitshela. Yabuza ukuthi uboneni lokuthi uhlangene lani endleleni; wayitshela. Yacina ngokubuza ibizo lakhe. Wathi: “NginguMkristu njalo ngilesifiso sokuthi ngilale lapha ngalobubusuku ngoba ngokubona kwami lindawo yakhiwe yiNkosi yentaba, yakhelwe ukusiza lokukhusela izihambi.”

Njalo yabobotheka, kanti inyembezi zazisemehlweni ayo. Yathula kancinyane yabuya yathi: “Sengizabiza abanye abakwethu ababili loba abathathu.” Yagijima yaya ngaphakathi yabiza uNonhlakanipho, loKhonzokuhle, loThando, abathi sebekhulumisene laye kancinyane bamusa endlini. Abanengi bamhlangabeza emnyango wendlu bathi: “Ngena-ke wena obusisiweyo weNkosi! Indlu le yakhiwe yiNkosi yentaba yakhelwe ukungenisa izihambi ezinjengawe.”

Wasekhothamisa ikhanda, wabalandela, wangena endlini. Esengenile wahlala phansi, bamnathisa, bavumelana ngokuthi, kuze kulungiswe ukudla abanye babo bazabe bekhuluma loMkristu, besenza lokho ukuze bachithe isikhathi kuhle. Basebekhetha oKhonzokuhle, loNonhlakanipho loThando ukuthi bazakhuluma laye. Basebeqala-ke kanje:

UKhonzakuhle wathi: “Woza-ke Mkristu omuhle, ngoba sikuthande kangaka sazesakungenisa endlini yakwethu ngalobubusuku, ake sikhulume lawe ngakho konke okwakwehlela ekuhambeni kwakho; mhlawumbe kulokho sizakuzwa okuhle.”

UMkristu: “Yebo, ngiyavuma njalo lami ngiyathokoza ngithi ulomusa.”

UKhonzakuhle: “Yikuphi okwakuzwisa kuqala ukuthi uzise empilweni yezihambi?”

UMkristu: “Ngaxotshwa elizweni lakithi engazalelwa kulo ngumsindo owesabekayo owaduma endlebeni zami, wokuthi ngizakwehlelwa yikubhubha okungelakubalekelwa, nxa ngihlezi kulindawo engikuyo.”

UKhonzakuhle: “Kodwa kungani ukuthi uvele ngalindlela usithi uphuma elizweni lakini?”

UMkristu wathi: “Kube licebo likaNkulunkulu ngoba lapho ngisesaba lokhokubhubha ngangingazi lapha engingaya khona. Kodwa ngiqhuqha ngilila, kwafika umuntu kimi obizo lakhe nguNdabezinhle, yena wangiqondisa esangweni elincane, engangingayikulithola lakanye kungayisuye; wasengimisa endleleni eqonde nta kulindlu.”

UKhonzakuhle: “Kambe kawudlulanga endlini kaChasisela?”

UMkristu: “Yebo, lapho ngabona izinto ezinjalo, ukukhumbula zona kuzakunamathela kimi ngisekhona, kukakhulu ezintathu zokuthi: uKristu wondla umsebenzi wakhe womusa enhliziyweni ngokuphikisana loSathane; lokuthi lowomuntu wayesonile waze walahla ukuthemba konke emuseni kaNkulunkulu; lephupho njalo lalowo owathi elele wacabanga ukuthi usuku lokugweba selufikile.”

UKhonzakuhle: “Hawu! Wamuzwa ekhuluma iphupho lakhe?”

UMkristu: “Yebo, ngathi liyesabeka; wathi ukulikhuluma lenza inhliziyoyami yaba buhlungu. Kuhle ngoba ngalizwa.”

UKhonzakuhle: “Kambe yikho lokho kuphela owakubonayo endlini kaChasisela?”

UMkristu: “Hatshi. Wangithatha wangisa lapha angitshengisa khona indlu yobukhosi, ngabona khona abantu ababekuyo bembethe igolide. Njalo kweza umuntu olesibindi wangena ngamandla phakathi kwamabutho ayemi emnyango ethi azamvimbela phandle, njalo kwathiwa kangene azuze ubukhosi obumiyo. Konke lokhu kwangithabisa kakhulu enhliziyweni yami. Bengingahlala endlini yalowomuntu omuhle umnyaka wonke, aluba kwakungayanga ngokuthi ngiyazi ukuthi sekufanele ukuthi ngedlulele phambili.”

UKhonz.: “Yikuphi njalo okunye owakubonayo endlileni?”

UMkristu: “Engakubonayo! Ngadlulela phambili kancinyane, ngabona omunye, ngikhumbula enhliziyweni yami, ephanyekwe esihlahleni, esopha igazi; ukumbona nje kwenza ukuthi kuwe umthwalo wami emahlombe ami (ngoba ngangisabubula phansi komthwalo osindayo); kodwa wasuziwela kimi. Kwangimangalisa lokho ngoba ngangingazanga ngikubone okunjalo. Kodwa ngisakhangele phezulu, ngoba ngangingezibambe ngokukhangela, kweza kimi abathathu abakhazimulayo. Omunye wabo wafakaza ukuthi zithethelelwe izono zami. Omunye wangambula amadabudabu ami, wanginika isembatho esihle elisibonayo. Omunye wangibeka loluphawu elilubonayo ebusweni bami, wanginika lolugwalo njalo olunanyekwe ngophawu.”

Waselukhupha–ke ugwalo esifubeni sakhe.

UKhonzakuhle wathi: “Kodwa angithi wabona okunye njalo kulalokho?”

UMkristu: “Yilezo ezinhle kuzo zonke lezi engilitshela zona. Kodwa ngake

ngabona okunye njalo. Ngabona abantu abathathu, oSiphukuphuku, loVila, loZitshela, belele ubuthongo eceleni kwendlela engangihamba ngayo; belamaketane ezinyaweni. Kodwa ngehluleka ukubavusa. Njalo ngabona oGcinumthetho loZenzisa besehla ngokuwa emthangaleni, bethi baya eZiyoni, bezenzisa nje. Kodwa balahleka njengokubatshele kwami kodwa abaze bavuma ukukholwa. Phezu kwalokhu ngezwa kunzima ukukhwela kulintaba, kunzima njalo ukudlula ngasemlonyeni wezilwane. Isibili uba kwakungesi ngomuntu omuhle lowo ongumgcini ohlala esangweni, angazi ukuthi emva kwakho ngangizabuyela emuva. Kodwa khathesi ngibonga uNkulunkulu ngoba nanku sengilapha, ngibonga kini njalo ngoba lingingenisile.”

UNonhlakanipho wasethanda ukumbuza kancinyane, wancenga esithi kabomphendula.

Wathi: “Angithi ngesinye isikhathi uke ukhumbule ngelizwe lelo owavela kulo yini?”

UMkristu wathi: “Yebo, kodwa ngilenhloni ezinkulu langokulizonda. Uba-ke kambe bengikhumbula kuhle lelolizwe engaphuma kulo ngabe sengake ngaba lethuba lokubuyela; kodwa khathesi-ke ngilangatha elingcono, elingelezulwini.”

Nonhlakanipho wathi: “Kakukho lanye yezinto owawuzithanda oselayo lakhathesi yini?”

UMkristu: “Yebo! Kodwa angikuthandi lokho lakanye, kakhulu ukukhumbula kwami kwenhliziyo ngezinto zenyama, abathokozi swa yikho bonke abakithi kanye lami. Kodwa khathesi konke lokhu kuyangidabula, alubana bengingazikhethela, bengizakhetha ukuthi ngingabi ngisazikhumbula lezozinto njalo. Nxa ngithanda ukwenza okuhle kakhulu, kanti lokubi kakhulu kukimi.”

Nonhlakanipho: “Kakwenzeki kuwe yini ngezinye izikhathi ngokungathi zinqotshiwe sibili lezozinto ezithi kwesinye isikhathi zikukhathaze?”

UMkristu: “Yebo, kodwa kakwandanga lokho, ngoba zinhle izikhathi lezo engizwa lokho ngazo.”

Nonhlakanipho: “Uyazikhumbula yini lezozinto ezikukhathazayo ngesinye isikhathi uzizwa kungathi zinqotshiwe?”

UMkristu: “Yebo. Nxa ngikhumbula lokho engakubona esiphambanweni,

kuyakwenza lokho; njalo nxa ngibona isembatho sami esihle kuyakwenza lokho; njalo lanxa ngikhangela ugwalo engiluthwele esifubeni sami, kuyakwenza lokho; lanxa imikhumbulo yami itshiseka ngalapho engiyakhona, kuyakwenza lokho.”

Nonhlakanipho: “Kodwa kuyini okwenza ukuthi unxwanele kangaka ukuya eNtabeni yeZiyoni?”

UMkristu: “Lapho-ke ngiyethemba ukuthi ngizambona ephilile lowo owayelenga efile esiphambanweni. Lapho-ke njalo ngiyathemba ukuthi ngizakhululwa kukho konke lokho okukimi lamhlanje okungikhathazayo; bathi lapho akulakufa, lapho ngizahlala lalabo engibathandayo kulabanye bonke. Ngoba nxa ngisitsho iqiniso ngithi ngiyamthanda yena ngoba ngaye ngakhululwa emthwalweni wami, njalo sengidiniwe ngesifo sami esingaphakathi. Ngiyathanda ukuthi ngifinyelele lapho engingasayikufa khona, ngibe ngomunye webandla lalabo abamemeza kokuphela besithi: Ngcwele! Ngcwele! Ngcwele!”

UThando wasesithi kuMkristu: “Ulosapho yini? Uthethe yini?”

UMkristu wathi: “Ngilomfazi labantwana abane.”

UThando: “Pho kungani ungabuyanga labo?”

UMkristu wasekhala wathi: “Hawu, ngangithanda ukukwenza ngenhliziyo yami yonke, kodwa bonke babengafuni kakhulu ukuthi ngihambe loluhambo lwami.”

UThando: “Kodwa kwakufanele ukhulume labo, uzame ukubatshengisa ingozi ezabehlela nxa besele emuva.”

UMkristu: “Yebo, ngakwenza lokho; ngabatshela njalo uNkulunkulu angitshengisa khona ngokubhujiswa komuzi wakithi. Kodwa bangenza umuntu obaklolodelayo, abangikhohlwanga.”

UThando wathi: “Kambe wakhuleka kuNkulunkulu ukuthi abusise iseluleko sakho kibo yini?”

UMkristu: “Yebo, ngathandaza ngobubele obukhulu, ngoba kumele wazi ukuthi umkami labantwana bami babe ligugu kimi.”

UThando wathi: “Pho! Wabatshela ngokudabuka kwakho lokuthi wesaba ukubhubha? Ngoba phela ukubhubha lokho kwakusobala kakhulu kuwe.”

UMkristu: “Yebo, futhifuthi, futhifuthi, futhifuthi! Babengabona njalo ukwesaba kwami ngobuso bami, langezinyembezi zami, langokuthuthumela

kwami ngisesaba isigwebo esasilenga phezu kwamakhanda ethu. Kodwa konke lokho kwakungenele ukubavumisa ukuthi babuye lami.”

UThando: “Kanti bazikhulumela kuphi, ukuthi bangabuyi lawe?”

UMkristu wathi: “Umkami wayesesaba ukulahlekelwa yilumhlaba; labantwabami babezinikele ekuthokozeni okuyize kobutsha; kunjalo-ke omunye ngokunye, lomunye ngokunye, bangitshiya ngedwa ukuthi ngihambe ngedwa ngalindlela.”

UThando: “Kambe ngempilo yakho eyize kawubulalanga konke wena okwathi ngamazwi wakuphatha uthi uzabavumisa ukuze bahambe lawe yini?”

UMkristu: “Isibili ngingebonge lokhu kwenza kwami; ngoba ngiyazi ngokwehluleka kwami okunengi. Njalo ngiyazi ukuthi umuntu ngokuhamba kwakhe angaphangisa achithe ngamazwi okuvumisa lawokubonisa abefuna ukukubophelelela kwabanye ukuze kubancede. Kodwa-ke ngingaqinisa kulokhu okokuthi ngananzelela kakhulu ukuthi alubana ngisenza okungafanele bangala ukubayizihambi ngenxa yami. Yebo-ke, langalokho bebezakuthi ngedlule ebangeni elejayelekileyo ngazibopha ngezinto abangaboni ububi kuzo. Njalo ngingathi mina lanxa kwakukhona kimi okwabathintayo, kwaba yibuthakathaka bami obukhulu ngokona kuNkulunkulu kumbe ukuphatha kubi engakhelene laye.”

UThando: “Yebo, uKayini wazonda umfowabo ngoba eyakhe imisebenzi yayimibi, eyomfowabo imihle. Aluba umkakho labantwana bakho bathunukala ngalokho, isibili bazibonakalise ngokuthi abalakovama okuhle. Uyikhulule inhliziyo yakho egazini labo.”

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi bahlala ngokunjalo kwaze kwalungiswa ukudla. Kwathi sebelungisile bahlala phansi badla. Njalo ukudla kwakwande okumnandi, lewayini elicwengekileyo, lokukhuluma kwabo ekudleni kwakumayelana leNkosi yentaba, kusitsho lokho eyayikwenzile, ngakho-ke yenza lokho eyakwenzayo lokuthi yayiyakheleni leyondlu. Ngalokho-ke abakutshoyo ngabona ukuthi yayiliqhawe elidumileyo yalwa lolamandla okufa, yambulala; kodwa layo yasila kanzima engozini, okwangenza ngiyithande kakhulu.

Ngoba, njengokutsho kwabo, njalo ngiyakholwa (watsho uMkristu), yakwenza lokho ichitha igazi elinengi. Kodwa eyiyo into eyaleta ubukhosi

bomusa kukho konke eyakwenzayo, yikuthi yakwenza konke ngenxa yokulithanda ngokupheleleyo ilizwe lakibo. Njalo kwakukhona abanye balowomuzi abathi bake bayibona bakhuluma layo emuva kokufa kwayo esiphambanweni: basebeqinisa ngokuthi bakuthatha emlonyeni wayo ukuthi izithanda kangaka izihambi eziyangekileyo, okokuthi onje angetholwe kusukela empumalanga kusiya entshonalanga.

Baphinda bayikhuluma lindaba ukuqinisa lokho ababekukhulumile, eyokuthi yazembula ubukhosi bayo ukuze yenzele abayanga lokhu, lokuthi bayizwa ikhuluma iqinisa ukuthi kayiyikuhlala yodwa eNtabeni yeZiyoni. Baphinda bathi isenze izihambi ezinengi zabangamakhosi, lanxa ngemvelo babezelwe beyiziceli ezaphuma enqunjini yomquba.

Kunjalo-ke bakhulumisana kwaze kwaba phakathi kobusuku; bathi uba beqeda ukuzibika eNkosini yabo ukuthi ibalondoloze, bayalala phansi. Umhambi bamlalisa endlini ephezulu enkulu, ifasiteli layo lalikhangele empumalanga. Ibizo laleyondlu laliyikuThula; lapho uMkristu alala khona kwazekwasa. Wasevuka wahlabelela esithi:

Ngingaphi khathesi? Yilolu uthando lonanzelelo
LukaJesu ananzelela abantu abayizihambi ngalo
Ngokunakekela okunje yini? Ngalo ngithethelelwe!
Sengihle ngahlala eduze lomnyango wezulu!

Basebevuka-ke ekuseni bonke. Ngemva kwenye ingxoxo bamtshela ukuthi angasuki baze bamtshengise okuligugu kwaleyondawo. Kuqala bamusa endlini yezingwalo lapho abamtshengisa khona izindaba ezilotshiweyo zendulo, kulezo, njenge ngikukhumbulayo ephutsheni lami, bamtshengisa usendo lokuqala lweNkosi yentaba, ukuthi uyiNdodana yoMdala weziNsuku, eyavela ngesizukulwane saphakade. Lapho-ke kwalotshwa ngokugcweleleyo kakhulu indaba zalokho akwenzayo, lamabizo alabo abangamakhulu amanengi eyabangenisa emsebenzini wayo, lokuthi wabangenisa njani kulezozindawo zokuhlala okuzakuthi ngobunengi bensuku kumbe ukubola kwemvelo zingadiliki.

Basebemfundela-ke ogwalweni ngokudumileyo abakwenzayo abanye

babantu bayo, ukuthi banqoba izizwe, benza ukulunga, bazuza izithembiso, bavimba imilomo yezilwane, bacitsha amandla omlilo, baphepha ubukhali bezinkemba, benziwa abalamandla ebuthakathakeni, baba ngamaqhawe ekulweni, baxotsha amabutho abezizwe.

Basebephinda bemfundela kwenye yezingwalo zendulo, lapha okulotshwe khona ukuthi iNkosi yabo iyavuma kangaka ukubangenisa emuseni wayo bonke, ngitsho bonke labathi ngesikhathi esidlulileyo beyisa isimo sayo lokwenza kwayo. Lapho kwakukhona lezinye njalo izindaba ezinengi zokunye okudumileyo, uMkristu akubonayo konke, okwezinto ezendulo lezakhathesi, ndawonye lemibiko leziprofetho ngobuqotho bokupheleliswa kwazo zisesabisa njalo zimangalisa izitha kodwa zingezokududuza lokuthokozisa izihambi.

Njalo lakusasa bamthatha bamusa endlini yezikhali zonke zensimbi lapho abamtshengisa khona izinhlobo zezikhali iNkosi yabo eyayizilungisele izihambi, njengomhedla, isihlangu, ingowane yensimbi, isivikelo sesifuba, umkhuleko wonke lamanyathela angagugiyiyo. Kwakukhona lapha okwaneleyo ukuhlomisa amadoda amanengi behlomele iNkosi yabo ukuyisebenzela, abangangezinkanyezi zezulu ngobunengi. Basebemtshengisa njalo izikhali, abanye babantu bayo ababenze okumangalisayo ngazo. Baveza kuye intonga kaMozisi, isando lesipikili uJayeli abulala uSisera ngakho, lezigxingi lezimpondo lezibane uGideyoni axotsha ngakho amabutho aseMidiani. Bamtshengisa njalo induku ecijileyo uShamgari abulala ngayo abantu abangamakhulu ayisithupha. Bamtshengisa njalo ithambo-lomhlathi akhalipha ngalo kakhulu uSamsoni; bamtshengisa isavutha uDavida abulala ngaso uGoliyathi waseGathi, lomhedla weNkosi yabo ezabulala ngawo umuntu wesono ngosuku ezavuka iphume ngalo ukuzaqeda izitha zayo.

Bamtshengisa njalo okunye okunengi okuhle, uMkristu athokoziswa kakhulu yikho. Bathi sebekwenzile lokho bayalala njalo.

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi lakusasa wavuka wedlulela phambili. Kodwa bamnxusa bathi kahlale labo lakusasa njalo, basebesithi uba libalele kahle bazamtshengisa IziNtaba eziNhle, abathi kuzakwengezelela intokoza kuye, ngoba basebeseduze lendawo yokuphumula, kulaleyondawo ayemi

kuyo. Wasevuma wahlala. Kwathi sekusile bamkhwelisa phezu kwendlu, bathi kakhangele eningizimu. Wenza njalo wabona likhatshana ilizwe elihle kakhulu elizintaba, elande izihlahla, elilamasimu evini lezithelo zohlobo lonke, lamaluba njalo, lilemithombo lezifudlana; kwakukuhle kakhulu ukukubona. Wasebuza ibizo lalelolizwe.

Baphendula bathi: “NguMhlaba kaEmanuweli; uvulelwe izihambi zonke njengalintaba. Lapho usufike khona usuka lapho uzabona isango loMuzi weZulwini, njengoba bezakwembulela abelusi abahlala khona.”

Wasecabanga ukwedlulela phambili, labo basebevuma. Kodwa bathi: “Kuqala–ke asiphinde siye endlini yezikhali.” Benza njalo. Kwathi sebefike khona bamhlomisa, baqala ekhanda baze bacina ezinyaweni ngezikhali ezingamvikela, hlezi mhlawumbe ahlaselwe endleleni. Wathi ukuthi ahloniyiswe ngokunjalo, waphuma lezihlobo zakhe, waya esangweni; wambuza umgcini ukuthi ubonile kusedlula isihambi lapho yini.

Waphendula umgcini wathi: “Yebo.”

UMkristu: “Umazile yini?”

Umlindi, umgcini wesango wathi: “Ngimbuzile ibizo lakhe, wangitshela wathi unguThembekile.”

UMkristu: “Ye, ngiyamazi ungumuntu wakithi, sakhelene laye, uvela kuleyondawo engazalelwa kuyo. Kambe sekunini edlule?”

Umlindi wathi: “Ngalesisikhathi usengezansi kwentaba.”

UMkristu: “Kulungile, mgcini omuhle, iNkosi ayibe lawe yengezelele kakhulu okuhle konke kwakho ngomusa ongenzele wona.”

Waseqala ukudlulela phambili. Kodwa uHlolaqonde, loNonhlakanipho, loKhonzokuhle, loThando babethanda ukumphelekezela bamehlise entabeni. Ekuhambeni kwabo bakhuluma lezongxoxo ababeke bazixoxa, baze bafika ekwehleni kwentaba leyo.

Wasesithi UMkristu: “Njengoba kwakulukhuni ukukhwela, njengengikubonayo, kuyingozi ukwehla.”

Wathi uNonhlakanipho: “Yebo kunjalo. Ngoba kulukhuni ukuthi umuntu ehlele eSihotsheni sokuZithoba, njengoba usehla lawe khateshi, kulengozi enkulu yokutshelela endleleni.”

Basebesithi: “Sizahamba lawe sikuphelekezela sikwehlisa entabeni.”

Waseqala ukwehla, kodwa enanzelela kakhulu, kube kanti watshelela kanye

loba kabili.

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi lezozihlobo ezilungileyo zifika ezansi kwentaba, ukuthi uMkristu esefike ezansi kwentaba, zamupha isinkwa, iqotshana lewayini, lesigaqa sezithelo zevini ezomileyo: wasehamba-ke uhambo lwakhe.

9. UApoliyoni

Kodwa kuleso Sihotsha soku Zithoba, uMkristu wehlela ebunzimeni. Ngoba uthe esahambe isibangana wabona umfo omubi esiza emangweni emhlangabeza, obizo lakhe nguApoliyoni (nguBhubhisa). UMKristu waseqala ukwesaba, wanakana enhlizweni yakhe ukubuyela emuva kumbe ukuya phambili. Kodwa waphinda wakhumbula, ukuthi kalasigqoko sensimbi emhlana, wasesithi-ke: 'Aluba ngimfulathela uzasizakala angihlabe kuhle ngemikhonto yakhe'. Wasezimisela ukuqhubekela phambili azivikele, ngoba wanakana: Nxa ngizasilisa umphefumulo, kumele ukuba ngiqhubekele phambili. Ngakho wahamba, uApoliyoni wamhlangabeza.

Kodwa lesosilo sasisesabeka ukusikhangela. Sasembethe amaxolo njengenhlanzi, ayikuziqhenya kwakhe, sasilempiko njengomgobho, inyawo ezifanana lezebhere; esiswini saso kwaphuma umlilo lentuthu, lomlomo waso unjengomlomo wesilwane. Sesifikile kuMkristu samkhangela ngokumeyisa saqala ukubuzana laye ngalamazwi.

UApoliyoni wathi: “Uvela ngaphi njalo uya ngaphi?”

UMkristu wathi: “Ngivela emzini wekuBhubheni oyindawo yobubi bonke njalo ngiya eMzini weZiyoni.”

UApoliyoni: “Ngalokhu ngiyabona ukuthi ungomunye wabantu bami. Ngoba lonke lelolizwe ngelami, ngiyinkosi njalo ngingumlimu walo. Kungani-ke ubalekele inkosi yakho? Kungesukuba ngithemba ukuthi uzangisebenzela bengizakutshaya ngikuwisele phansi khathesi.”

UMkristu: “Yebo-ke. Ngazalelwa elizweni lombuso wakho, kodwa ukukusebenzela kwakulukhuni, lomvuzo wakho wawungangokuthi umuntu angephile ngawo, ngoba umvuzo wokona yikufa. Ngakho-ke, sengikhulile ngenza lokho okwenziwa ngabanye abantu abaqaphelayo, ngadinga indlela yokuzilungisa.”

UApoliyoni: “Akula nkosi engavuma lula ukulahlekelwa ngabantu bayo, lami-ke angiyikuvuma. Kodwa ngenxa yokuthi usola umsebenzi wakho lomvuzo wakho, vuma ukubuyela emuva; ngithembisa ukukunika lokho ilizwe lakithi elilakho.”

UMkristu: “Kodwa sengizibophele kwenye inkosi, ngitsho eNkosini yamakhosi. Ngingakwenza njani ukubuyela emuva lawe?”

UApoliyoni: “Wenze njengokutsho kwesaga esithi, 'wakhupha okubi wafaka okubi kulalokho', kodwa lokho kwandile kulabo abathi bazinceku zayo, emva kwesikhathi ukuthi bamtshiye, babuyele kimi. Yenza njalo lawe, khona konke kuzakulungela.”

UMkristu: “Ngiyithembisile ngafunga ngathi ngizayilalela. Ngizahlelela emuva njani, ngingabulawa njengomkohlisi?”

UApoliyoni: “Wenze njalo lakimi; kodwa ngizavuma ukukuyekela, nxa usuvuma ukufulathela ubuyele emuva.”

UMkristu: “Engakuthembisa khona ngakuthembisa ngingakazi lutho. Njalo ngithi ukuthi leyoNkosi engimi ngaphansi kwesiboniso sayo khathesi, ilakho ukungikhulula, ngitsho lokungithethelela lokho engakwenzayo ngokuvumelana lawe. Ngaphandle kwalokhu, wena Apoliyoni obhubhisayo, ngikutshela iqiniso, ngiyawuthanda umsebenzi wayo, umvuzo wayo, abantu bayo, umbuso wayo, ixuku layo lelizwe layo ngcono kulokwakho. Ngakho-ke yekela ukungincenga njalo; ngingumuntu wayo mina, ngizayilandela.”

UApoliyoni: “Khumbula njalo nxa inhliziyi isibhodlile, ongahlangana lakho endleleni ohamba ngayo. Uyakwazi ukuthi izisebenzi zayo ezinengi zacina ngokubi, ngoba ziphambana lami lezindlela zami. Bangaki kuzo ababulawe ngokulihlazo? Njalo uthi ukuyisebenzela kwedlula ukusebenzela mina, kanti ayikabuyi ivela endaweni yayo ukuzakophula abayisebenzelayo ezandleni zezitha zabo. Kodwa mina sekukanganani ngibabuyisa ngamandla loba ngamacebo labo abangikhonze kuhle ngibasusa emandleni ayo lasemandleni abantu bayo loba sebebajwe yibo - lawe ngizakusindisa ngokunjalo!”

UMkristu: “Ukulibala kwayo ukubakhulula okwakhathesi kungenxa yokuthi ilinge ukuthanda kwabo ukuthi kambe bazabambelela kuyo kokuphela; njalo ukucina ngokubi lokho okutshoyo kuludumo oluhle kakhulu kibo. Ngoba abalindele ukukhululwa okwakhathesi, kodwa balindele inkazimulo yabo abazayithola mhla iNkosi yabo isiza leyayo inkazimulo, leyezingilosu zezulu.”

UApoliyoni: “Sewaba ngongathembekanga ekuyisebenzeleni kwakho! Pho, utsho ngani ukuthi uzazusa umvuzo kuyo?”

UMkristu: “Ngibe ngongathembekanga kuyo ngani, Apoliyoni?”

UApoliyoni: “Waqala waphela amandla ususukile, waphose wahitshwa

ludaka eChibini leMpelamandla. Wazama ngendlela ezimbi ukuthi ukhunyulwe umthwalo wakho, kanti ubungayilindela inkosi ukuthi ikwethule. Walala ubuthongo obungafanele, walahla okuligugu kwakho; wathi lapho usubone izilwane waphose wavuma ukubuyela emuva. Uthi nxa ukhuluma ngohambo lwakho ngalokho owakuzwayo lowakubonayo usufisa ngaphakathi kwakho udumo oluyize ngakho konke okutshoyo lokwenzayo.” UMkristu: “Konke lokho kuliqiniso, lokunye okunengi okutshiyileyo; kodwa iNkosi engiyikhonzayo lengiyihloniphayo, ilomusa njalo ilungele ukuthethelela. Njalo ububi lobo bangehlula ngiselizweni lakho; ngoba ngilapho ngabunatha, ngabubula phansi kwabo, ngazisola ngabo, ngazuza ukuthethelelwa ngabo eNkosini yami.”

Khona uApoliyoni waseqala ukuba lolaka olunzima, wathi: “Mina ngiyisitha kuleyoNkosi; ngizonda yona ngokwayo imithetho yayo labantu bayo! Ngize ngabomu ukukuvimbela!”

UMkristu: “Apoliyoni, nanzelela ozakwenza, ngoba ngisendleleni yeNkosi, ngitsho endleleni yokulunga; ngakho-ke zinanzelele!”

Khona uApoliyoni wasexamalaza wavimba indlela yonke ububanzi bayo, wathi: “Angesabi kulokho mina! Uzakufa wena khateshi! Ngoba ngifunga umhume wami omubi ngithi awuyikwedlulela phambili; khonapha ngizachitha umphefumulo wakho.”

Ngakho wasemciba esifubeni ngomtshoko otshisayo, kodwa uMkristu wayephethe isihlangu esandleni sakhe, awubamba ngaso, wasevika ingozi yalokho. Ngakho-ke uMkristu wasekhupha umkhonto wakhe, ebona ukuthi sekuyisikhathi sokuthi atshukume; loApoliyoni laye wayikhupha ngokunjalo, eyiciba njengokwehla kwesiqhotho. Ngakho lanxa uMkristu evika ngamacebo onke, wahlatshwa nguApoliyoni ekhanda lesandleni lenyaweni. Lokhu kwamenza uMkristu ukuthi ahlehlele emuva kancinyane; uApoliyoni wamlandela ngokuphosa izikhali zakhe, uMkristu wasephinda esiba lesibindi, wamelana laye ngamandla njengendoda. Lokhukulwa okunzima kwaqhubeka okwengxenywe yosuku, uMkristu waze waphose waphela amandla. Ngoba liyazi ukuthi ngenxa yamanxeba akhe uMkristu wayefanele aye esiba buthakathaka.

Khona uApoliyoni, ebona ithuba, wasesondela kuMkristu wambamba ngamandla, wathi ukubambana laye wamwisa ngokwesabekayo.

Ngakho-ke, inkemba kaMkristu yaphunyuka esandleni sakhe. Wasesithi uApoliyoni: “Sengikutholile khathesi!”

Wasembandezela waphose wambulala waze uMkristu waqala ukuzidela. Kodwa ngokuthanda kukaNkulunkulu, kwathi uApoliyoni elungela ukumtshaya okokucina, ngalokho amqedisele umuntu omuhle, uMkristu welula isandla sakhe wayithi hlasi inkemba yakhe, wathi: “Ungathokozi ngami, sitha sami! Nxa ngisiwa, ngizavuka.” Uthe esetsho njalo wamhlaba ngamandla, okwamenza wahlehlela emuva njengomuntu ohlatshwe inxeba elibi. Ekubona lokho uMkristu wamhlasela njalo esithi: “Kanti kukho konke lokhu sedlula abanqobi ngaye owasithandayo.”

Ngalokho uApoliyoni waseselula impiko zakhe, wasebaleka, uMkristu kasambonanga okwesikhathi.

Kakho loyedwa ongacabanga ububi balokhokulwa ngaphandle kokuba ekubonile wakuzwa njengami, ukubovula lokukhonya okwesabekayo akwenzayo uApoliyoni isikhathi sonke sokulwa; yena wakhuluma okwesilo; njalo kungekekaziwa ukububula lesilokozane esafuthelana enhliziyweni kaMkristu. Ngesikhathi sonke leso angizange ngibone encibilika ubuso lakanye, waze wabona ukuthi uhlabe uApoliyoni ngenkemba yakhe esika nhlangothi zombili; wasebobotheke, wakhangela phezulu; kodwa kwakuyikulwa okwesabekayo kulakho konke engake ngakubona.

Kwathi sekuphelile ukulwa uMkristu wathi: “Sengizabonga kuye ongikhuphe emlonyeni wesilwane, kongephule kuApoliyoni.” Wasesenza njalo-ke esithi:

UBelezebule omkhulu, umlawuli walesisilo
Wenza icebo lokungichitha,
Wasithuma esihlomisela ngolaka,
Silolaka lukamoya omubi, salwa lami kabuhlungu.
Kodwa uMikheyeli obusisekileyo wangisiza, njalo mina
Ngokukhalipha kwenkemba, ngamhlaba wabaleka.
Ngakho kuye kanginike ukubonga okungapheliyo
Ngibabaze ngibonge ibizo lakhe elingcwele kokuphela.

Kwasekusiza kuye isandla esiphethe amahlamvu esihlahla sokuphila; uMkristu wawathatha, wawafaka emanxebeni akhe awahlatshiweyo esilwa, aphola masinyane. Wasehlala phansi kuleyondawo ukudla isinkwa, anathe embodleleni akunikwa yizihlobo zakhe. Esethole amandla amatsha, wabuye wahamba endleleni yakhe, eqaphise inkemba yakhe, ngoba esithi: “Kangazi mhlawumbe ngizahlangana lesinye isitha endleleni. Kodwa kasahlangananga njalo loApoliyoni kulesisigodi.”

10. Isigodi seThunzi loKufa

Ekupheleni kwalesisigodi kwakukhona esinye ngaphambili okuthiwa yiSigodi seThunzi loKufa. Kwakufanele ukuthi uMkristu adabule kuso, ngoba indlela eya eMzini weZulwini yayidabula phakathi kwaso. Kodwa lesisigodi siyindawo eyinhlane kakhulu. Umprofethi uJeremiya usichaza athi: Inhlane ilizwe lamagekeke, elilemigodi, ilizwe lokoma lelethunzi lokufa; elingahanjwa muntu (ngaphandle enguMkristu) owedlula kulo njalo lingahlalwa muntu.

Lapha-ke uMkristu wahlupheka kakhulu okwedlula ukulwa kwakhe loApoliyoni njengoba lizazibonela ngokulandelayo. Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi uMkristu esefikile ekuqaleni kwethunzi lokufa wahlangana lamadoda amabili, amadodana alabo ababekhulume kubi ngalelolizwe elihle begijima bebuyela emuva, uMkristu akhuluma labo ngalamazwi:

UMkristu: “Liya ngaphi?”

Bathi: “Emuva, emuva! Sithi lawe ungenza njengathi aluba ukuphila lokuthula kuligugu kuwe.”

Wathi uMkristu: “Kungani? Kwenze njani?”

Bathi: “Kwenze njani! Besihamba ngalindlela ohamba ngayo, sihambe saze saphela ukuma isibindi; siphose sehluleka ukubuyela emuva. Ngoba alubana besike sedlula kancinyane, ngabe kasikho lapha ukukulandisela lindaba.”

UMkristu: “Kodwa lihlangane lani?”

Bathi: “Besihamba saze saphosa sangena eSigodini seThunzi loKufa: kodwa kwaba kuhle ukuthi sakhangele phambili sabona ingozi singakafinyeleli kiyo.”

Wathi uMkristu: “Kodwa liboneni?”

Bathi: “Uthi siboneni? Isigodi ngokwaso esimnyama njengomnyama; lapho-ke njalo sibone imimoya emibi yesihogo, lezinto ezimnyama ezesabekayo zomgodi. Njalo sezwa esigodini leso ukukhala lokulila kufanana labantu abehlelwe lusizi olungakhulumekiyo, bengathi ngabahlezi khona bebotshiwe enhluphekweni langensimbi. Phezu kwalesosigodi kulengela njalo amayezi anyakazelayo aqeda amandla, njalo lokufa kwelulela amaphiko akho phezu kwaso. Isibili siyesabeka ngakho konke

okwaso, kuyinxakanxaka kakhulu.”

UMkristu: “Angikaboni ngalokho elikutshoyo ukuthi indlela le ayisiyo yokuya endaweni engiyifisayo.”

Bathi: “Ayibe ngeyakho indlela, asitsho ukuthi ayibe ngeyethu.”

Basebesehlukana-ke, uMkristu wahamba ngendlela yakhe, esaqaphise inkemba yakhe, ethi mhlawumbe uzafikelwa yisitha.

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi ngakwesokunene kwakukhona udonga olutshona kakhulu lulingene laso isigodi. Lesosigodi lapho abazimpumpithe bakhokhelela khona abazimpumpithe ngezikhathi zonke, babhubhela khona bonke ngokulusizi. Njalo ngakwesokholo kulexhaphozi eliyingozi enkulu kakhulu, okungathi laphakathi kwalo ngitsho lomuntu olungileyo nxa ewela kulo, angebone isiqinti sokuthi abeke unyawo lwakhe kuso. Yileloxhaphozi uDavida inkosi awela kulo ngesinye isikhathi; wayezahitshwa kulo alubana bekungayanga ngamandla aLowo owamkhuphayo.

Lapho-ke indlela yayilukhonjwana, incinyane kakhulu. Ngakho uMkristu olungileyo wadubeka sibili ehamba ngokulukhuni; ngoba wayengathi emnyameni ephesha udonga ngapha aphose awele exhaphozini ngale; lapho njalo ezama ukuphepha ixhaphozi uba engananzeleli ubezakuwela edongeni. Ngakho-ke waseqhubeka njalo ngasengimuzwa lapha elesilokozane; ngoba ngaphandle kwengozi ezikhulunyiweyo indlela yayimnyama lapho kangangokuthi nxa ephakamisa unyawo ukulubeka phambili wayengazi ukuthi uzalubeka ngaphi, ingabe phezu kwani. Phose phakathi kwalesosigodi ngabona umlomo wesihogo esitshonayo useduze lendlela. Wasesithi uMkristu: Ngiyakwenza njani khathesi? Izikhathi ngezikhathi, amalangabi lentuthu kwakuthunqa ngamandla, lenhlansi, lemisingo eyesabekayo, (izinto ezazingelalutho lokwenza lenkemba kaMkristu njengoApoliyoni). UMkristu wasebuyisela inkemba, wakhupha esinye isikhali esithiwa ‘ukukhuleka konke’. Wasekhala ngimuzwa, wathi: “Nkosi, ngiyakuncenga khulula umphefumulo wami!”

Wenza njalo isikhathi eside; kodwa amalangabi elengela ngakuye. Wezwa njalo imisingo eyesabekayo, lamazwi ayo esiya emuva laphambili; wacabanga ukuthi kumbe ngesinye isikhathi uzakudatshudatshulwa kumbe anyathelelwe phansi njengodaka ezindleleni. Lo umbono owesabekayo

wabonwa, lalimsindo eyesabekayo yezwiwa, nguye okomango omude; wathi ukuthi afike endaweni ethile, kwezwakala imisindo yexuku lemimoya emibi limhlangabeza, wema waqala ukukhumbula azakwenza. Ngesinye isikhathi wayenhliziyi mbili ukuthi abuyele emuva; wasenakana njalo ukuthi hlezi wayesephakathi laphakathi kwesigodi.

Wakhumbula njalo ukuthi usenqobe ingozi ezinengi, lokuthi ingozi yokubuyela emuva ingaba nkulu kuleyokuya phambili. Wasezimisela ukuya phambili. Kube kanti imimoya emibi yabonakala angathi lokhu isiya isondela. Kodwa kwathi isiseduze kwakhe wakhala ememeza ngelizwi elilamandla wathi: “Ngizahamba emandleni eNkosi uNkulunkulu.” Yasihlelela emuva, kayiphindanga yasondela.

Kodwa kulento eyodwa engingathandi ukuyiyekela, yokuthi ngananzelela ukuthi uMkristu uphambene ingqondo ngangokuthi wayengesalazi ilizwi lakhe. Ngayibona linto ngokuthi esifinyelele phezu komlomo womgodi ovuthayo, omunye wabomoya ababi weza ngemva kwakhe, wamnyenyezela emtshela amazwi amanengi ayinhlamba, akhumbula ukuthi sibili avela enhlizyweni yakhe. Lokhu kwamhlupha uMkristu kulakho konke okunye ake ahlngana lakho, lokuthi anakane ukuthi usezamthuka lowo amthandayo mandulo! Uba kusiya ngaye ubengayikukwenza lokho; kodwa wayengelakho ukwehlukanisa ukuthi kumbe avimbe indlebe zakhe lokuba azi ukuthi inhlamba zivela ngaphi.

Wathi uMkristu eshambe isikhathi eside ekuhluphekeni okunjalo, kwangathi uzwa ilizwi lomuntu kungathi uhamba phambi kwakhe lisithi: 'Loba ngihamba esigodini sethunzi lokufa, angiyikwesaba okubi, ngoba wena ulami.'

Wasethokoza-ke; langalezi zizatho: Okokuqala ngoba wananzelela kulokho ukuthi kwakukhona kulesosigodi abanye abamesabayo uNkulunkulu njengaye ngokwakhe.

Okwesibili ukuthi wabona ukuthi uNkulunkulu ulabo, lanxa bekulesosigodi esimnyama lesokuhlupheka, wathi: Kungaba kutheni ukuba angabi lami, njalo lanxa ngenxa yokuvimbeleyo okukulindawo ngingekubone?

Okwesithathu, wathemba ukuthi nxa ebatholile ahambe labo endleleni okwesikhatshana. Wahamba-ke wabiza ongaphambili, kodwa kwamsinda

laye azakuphendula ngokuba wayesithi laye uyedwa. Njalo emva kwalokho kwasa, wasesithi uMkristu: “Uphendule ithunzi lokufa laba yikusa.”

Kwathi sekusile wakhangela emuva, kungesukuthi eloyisa ukubuyela emuva, kodwa ukubona ukukhanya emini lezongozi ayedlule kuzo kumnyama. Wasebona ngokusobala udonga olwalungakolunye uhlangothi lexhaphozi elalingakolunye uhlangothi, lendlela leyo ephakathi kwakho kokubili ukuthi yayincinyane kangakanani. Wasebona-ke njalo imimoya emibi lezilo ezimbi zomgodi kodwa konke kukhatshana laye (ngoba nxa sekusile kwakungesondele kuye); kodwa kwabonakaliswa kuye njengokulotshiweyo kokuthi, 'Ubonakalisa okujulileyo ebumnyameni, aveze ukukhanya ethunzini lokufa.' (UJobe 12:22).

Ngakho uMkristu wathaba kakhulu ngokukhululwa kwakhe kuzo zonke izingozi ayehambe kuzo, ehamba yedwa; lezongozi kambe, loba wayezesaba kakhulu kuqala kodwa khathesi wazibona obala, ngoba ukukhanya kosuku kwaziveza sobala kuye. Njalo ngalesisikhathi laseliphuma ilanga, kwaba ngumusa omunye lokho kuMkristu ngoba kuhle ukuba lazi ukuthi lanxa ekuqaleni kweSigodi seThunzi loKufa kwakulengozi, kube kanti ingxenye yesibili ayezangena kuyo, kwakulengozi ezidlula ezakuqala. Ngoba kusukela kuleyondawo ayemi kuyo kuze kube sekucineni kwesigodi, indlela yonke yayithiyiwe igcwele izifu, ingoda, imigenquko, lembule zazikhona lapho, kugcwele lendonga ezimbi inxa zonke, lamagodi atshonayo lamagebe ngokuba aluba bekumnyama khathesi njengokuba kwakumnyama esahamba esigodini, loba ngabe wayelemiphefumulo ezinkulungwane wayezakufa sibili angasili. Kodwa njengokutsho kwami, khathesi ilanga laseliphuma. Wasesithi: “Isibane sakhe sikhanyisa phezu kwekhanda lami, njalo ngalokhukukhanya ngihamba phakathi kobumnyama.”

Ngalokhokukhanya-ke wafika ekucineni kwesigodi. Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi ekucineni kwalesisigodi kwakulegazi, amathambo, umlotha lezidumbu zabantu ezidlavuzekileyo ngitsho lezabahambi ababehambe ngalindlela mandulo. Ngisakhumbula isisusa salokho ngabona eduzane lami ngaphambili ubhalu lapho kwakwakhe khona ekadeni

iziqhwaga ezimbili, uPopo loMhedeni, okwathi ngamandla azo lobuqholo bazo zabulala ngesihluku esikhulu labobantu abalamathambo, legazi lomlotha okukhonapha. Kodwa uMkristu wadlula kuleyondawo, kungelalutho olumhluphayo, lokhu kwangimangalisa. Kodwa ngemva kwalokho ngezwa ukuthi uMhedeni kudala wafa; esinye-ke, loba sisekhona kodwa ngeminyaka yaso langokulwa okunengi okunzima esakwenzayo sisesitsha, sesixega, lamadolo aselukhuni, ngokuthi singelakwenza okunye khathesi ngaphandle kokuhlala emnyango wobhalu simangele sisazisa izihambi ezidlulayo, siluma inzipho zaso, ngoba singaselakusondela kuzo.

Ngasengibona ukuthi uMkristu waqhubeka endleleni yakhe. Kanti ebona lowomuntu omdala ehlezi emnyango wobhalu, kwamsinda azakukutsho ikakhulu ngoba wakhuluma laye lanxa wayengelamandla okumsukela, esithi: “Alisoze lilunge kuze kutshiswe abanye abakini!”

Kodwa uMkristu wathula wema isibindi, wasesedlula kungelangozi. Wasehlabela esithi:

Hawu! mhlaba wemimangaliso! (angilakutsho okunye),
Ukuthi ngophulwe kulobubunzima
Engihlangene labo lapha! Kasibusiswe
Lesosandla esangophula kubo!
Ingozi emnyameni, imimoya emibi, isihogo, lesono,
Kwangihanqa, ngisesekulesosigodi:
Yebo-ke, imijibila, lemigodi, lezifu, lamambule, kwaphahla
Indlela yami, mina sithutha esingafanele
Kwangathi ngabe ngabanjwa ngathandelwa ngaphoswa phansi.
Kodwa selokhu ngiphila uJesu kathwale umqhele!

11. UMkristu loThembekile

Kwathi ekuhambeni kwakhe, uMkristu wasefika endaweni eyenyukayo, eyenzelwa izihambi ukuze zibe lokubona phambili. Wasehamba uMkristu phezu kwayo ekhangela phambili, wambona uThembekile, phambi kwakhe, esendleleni. Wamemeza uMkristu wathi: "Mana Sihambi! Mana sizahamba sobabili." Waphenduka, uThembekile ekuzwa lokho, wakhangela emuva. Wabuye waphinda wamemeza uMkristu wathi. "Mana, mana, ngize ngifike kuwe lapho." Wezwakala uThembekile ethi: "Hayi, ngibalekela ukufa; umphindiseli wegazi uyangilandela!"

Wamangala uMkristu ukuzwa lokho; wasesuka, wafaka wonke amandla akhe, wagijima, waze wayafika kuThembekile, watshaya wedlula kuye, kwathi owokucina waba ngowokuqala. Wasebobotheke ngokuzidla uMkristu ngoba emtshiyile umfowabo; kwathi engakhangelisisi ukunyathela kwakhe, wahle wakhubeka wawa phansi; wasesehluleka ukuvuka, kwaze kwafika uThembekile wamvusa.

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami lawomadoda womabili ehamba indlela eyodwa ngothando, ekhuluma kamnandi ngezinto zonke ezazenzakele kuwo ekuhambeni kwawo.

Kwaqala uMkristu ukukhuluma wathi: "Mfowethu, Thembekile, obongwayo lothandwayo kakhulu, ngiyajabula kakhulu ngoba ngikutholile lokuthi uNkulunkulu ezisebenzile izinhliziyi zethu sobabili, ngendlela yokuthi sihambe ngobuhlobo kulindlela enhle kangaka."

UThembekile: "Ngangithembe mhlobo othandekayo ukuhamba lawe sisuka emzini wethu, kodwa ekuphumeni kwakho kuqala, wangitshiya emuva. Yikho ngiyihambe ngedwa lindlela kuze kube lapha."

UMkristu: "Wahlala isikhathi esingakanani emzini wekuBhubheni phambi kokuthi ungilandele mina ekuhambeni uhambo lwakho?"

UThembekile: "Ngahlala ngaze ngabona ukuthi angiselakho ukuhlala khathesi, ngoba emuva kokuhamba kwakho, kwaba khona izinkulumo ezinengi zokuthi umuzi wethu lowana uzatshiswa ngomlilo ovela ezulwini kungakabi zinsuku ezinengi."

UMkristu: "Hawu! Uthini bo! Omakhelwane bakho bakhuluma izinkulumo ezinjalo yini?"

UThembekile: "Yebo kwakusemilonyeni yabantu bonke okwesikhathi."

UMkristu: "Hawu! Akubanga labanye babo abaphumayo, ngaphandle kwakho, ukuphepha kuleyongozi yini?"

UThembekile: "Loba kwakukhulunywa kakhulu ngayo leyonto kube kanti kangikhumbuli ukuthi bakukholwa ngeqiniso. Ngoba ekutshiseni kwenkulumo yabo ngaleyonto, ngabezwa abanye bekhuluma besenza inhlekisa ngawe ngohambo lwakho olulengozi, ngoba balubiza njalo uhambo lwakho. Mina lokho ngakukholwa, lamanje ngisakholwa, ukuthi umuzi wethu lowo, uyakuphelela ekutshisweni ngomlilo lesibabule okuvela ezulwini; ngakho-ke sengibalekile."

UMkristu: "Wake wezwa bekhuluma ngomakhelwana uVumakonke yini?"

UThembekile: "Yebo, Mkristu, ngezwa ukuthi wakulandela waze wafika eChibini leMpelandla, lapho, njengoba abanye abantu besitsho, wawela khona; kodwa yena wayengafuni kwaziwe ukuthi wenza njalo. Kanti ngithi kuliqiniso ngoba waze wathelwa kakhulu ludaka lwakhona."

UMkristu: "Bathini-ke kuye omakhelwane bakhe?"

UThembekile: "Selokhu wabuyela khona, uyinhlekisa kuzinhlobo zonke zabantu; abanye bamhleka usulu bamdelele; kakho ongamnika umsebenzi. Uthole ububi manje ngokuphindwe kasikhombisa abengasoze abuthole aluba wayengazange aphume kulowomuzi."

UMkristu: "Kodwa kungani ukuthi bamphathe kubi kangaka, kanti labo beyidelela leyondlela ayiyekelayo?"

UThembekile: "Bathi: Kaphanyekwe, ungumaguquka. Kabanga yilokhu abethe uyikho! Ngithi mina uNkulunkulu usuke wavusa ezakhe izitha ukuthi zimncifele, zimenze isaga sobubi, ngoba uyilahlile indlela eyiyo."

UMkristu: "Awuzange ukhulume laye ungakasuki ukuza lapha yini?"

UThembekile: "Ngahlangana laye kanye endleleni; kodwa yena waphambuka wahamba kolunye uhlangothi lwendlela, njengolenhloni ngalokho akwenzayo. Ngakho angimkhulumisanga."

UMkristu: "Isibili mina, ekusukeni kwami, lumuntu ngangilethemba ngaye; kodwa khathesi ngiyesaba ukuthi uzabhubha ekuchithweni komuzi. Ngoba sekwenzakele kuye njengokuqinisa kwesaga esithi: "Inja ibuyele emahlanzweni ayo, lengulube ehlanziweyo ibuyele ekugiqikeni odakeni."

UThembekile: "Lami ngiyesaba ukuthi kuzakwenzakala njalo kuye. Kodwa ngubani ongavimbela into ezakuba khona?"

UMkristu: "Ngakho mngane Thembekile, kasimyekele khathesi, sibe sesikhuluma ngezinto zethu, eziqondene lathi kakhulu. Akungitshela izinto

ohlangane lazo endleleni usiza; ngoba ngiyazi ukuthi uhlangene lokuthile; uba kungenjalo kuyisimangaliso esikhulu ngeqiniso!"

UThembekile: "Ngaphepha mina exhaphozini, lapho engibona ukuthi wena wawela khona; ngakhuphuka ngaze ngafika esangweni kungabanga lengozi kodwa ngahlangana lalowo obizo lakhe nguSiphingikazi, owayethanda ukungenzela okubi."

UMkristu: "Kulungile ngoba usindile emgibeni wakhe, uJosefa wahlutshwa kakhulu nguye kodwa waphepha njengawe; kodwa waphose walahlekelwa yimpilo yakhe ngakho. Kodwa wenzani kuwe?"

UThembekile: "Ngeke uqonde ngaphandle kokuthi wazi ulutho, ulolimi oluyengayo kangakanani! Wazama kakhulu ukungiphambukisa ngihambe laye, engithembisa ukwanela konke."

UMkristu: "Hatshi! Kakuthembisanga ukwanela kwesazela esihle."

UThembekile: "Uyakwazi engikutshoyo, ukwanela ngenkanuko zonke zenyama."

UMkristu: "Makabongwe uNkulunkulu ngokuthi uphephe kuye. Labo abanengwa yiNkosi, bazawela emgodini wakhe oyintolongo yakhe."

UThembekile: "Hayi-ke! Kangazi mina loba ngisindile yini ngokupheleleyo kuye."

UMkristu: "Utsho ngani phela! Ngithi, awuvumelananga leziloyiso zakhe yini?"

UThembekile: "Hatshi. Kangivumanga ukuzingcolisa; ngoba ngakhumbula umbhalo omdala engawubonayo othi: "Izinyathelo zakhe zibambeleda esihogweni." Ngakho ngacimeza amehlo ami ngoba ngingayikuvuma ukwehlulwa yikubukeka kwakhe. Manje yena wangithethisa, kodwa mina ngazihambela"

UMkristu: "Awuhlangananga lokunye ukuhlaselwa yini ekuzeni kwakho?"

UThembekile: "Ngithe nxa ngifika phansi kwentaba ethiwa eBunzimeni, ngahlangana lexhegu eligugileyo elangibuza ukuthi ngingubani, ngiya ngaphi? Ngalitshela ukuthi ngingumhambi oya eMzini weZulwini. Laselisithi ixhegu, "Ukhangeleka njengomuntu othembekileyo. Unganeliswa yini, yikuhlala lami ngomvuzo engingakunika wona?" Ngasengilibuza ibizo lalo lapho elihlala khona. Lathi ibizo lalo linguAdamu wakuqala; lokuthi lihlala emzini weNkohlakalo. Ngasengibuza ukuthi umsebenzi walo uyini? Lomvuzo elizanginika wona uyini? Langitshela ukuthi umsebenzi walo zinjabulo; lomvuzo walo yikuthi ngibe yindlalifa yalo ekucineni. Ngaphinda

ngabuza ukuthi injani indlu elihlala kuyo, lezinye izisebenzi elalilazo? Langitshela lathi, endlini yalo kakulalutho olungekho ezintweni zonke ezimnandi ezomhlaba. Lokuthi izisebenzi zalo ziyinzalo yalo. Ngaphinda ngabuza ukuthi bangaki abantwana balo? Lathi lona lilezintombi ezintathu kuphela: uNkanukoyenyama, uNkanukoyamehlo, loNokuzidlakwempilo. Labuye lathi ngingaganwa yizo zontathu, uba ngifuna. Ngabuza ukuthi singaba side kangakanani isikhathi ebelingathanda ukuthi ngisihlale lalo? Lathi lona kimi: "Ingqe lisaphila."

UMkristu: "Yebo-ke, laseliphetha ngani?"

UThembekile: "Kwathi ngoba lalingathi likhuluma kuhle ekuqaleni ngafuna ukuhamba lalo. Kodwa kwathi uba ngilikhangelela ebunzini lalo ngisakhuluma lalo, ngabona kulotshiwe khona ukuthi: 'Lahlani umuntu omdala lemisebenzi yakhe.'

UMkristu: "Kwasekusenze njani?"

UThembekile: "Kwasekungena engqondweni yami njengento etshisayo ukuthi loba belisithini kimi lingiyenga kangakanani nxa selifika lami endlini yalo, lizangithengisa ngibe yisigqili. Ngasengisithi kaliyekele ukukhuluma ngoba ngingeke ngisondele emnyango wendlu yalo. Lasuka lapho langithethisa laselisithi lona lizathuma lowo ozangilandela ozakwenza indlela yami ibabe emphefumulweni wami. Ngasengisuka ngalifulathela ukulitshiya. Kodwa ngathi ngitshibilika ukuthi ngihambe, ngalizwa lingidonsa, enyameni yami liyithi dlu, ngaze ngacabanga ukuthi lisuke lengxenye yenyama yami. Lokhu kwangenza ngakhala ngathi: Maye, mina muntu olusizi! Ngasengihamba-ke ngisenyuka intaba. Ngithe sengenyuke ingxenye yentaba, ngakhangelela emuva ngabona umuntu engilandela elesiqubu njengomoya wangifica duze lendawo elesihlalo."

UMkristu: "Kulapho kanye engahlala khona phansi ukuthi ngiphumule. Kwaze kwathi ngenxa yokwehlulwa yibuthongo, ngalahlekelwa yincwadi yami le ehlala esifubeni sami."

UThembekile: "Ake ungilalele mfowethu, ngize ngiqede ukukutshela lindaba. Uthe esefike kimi lowomuntu wakhuluma izwi lalinye wangitshaya, wangikhahlelela phansi, ngawa ngalala njengofileyo. Ngithe uba ngiqala ukuvuka futhi, ngambuza ukuthi kungani engenza kubi kanje. Wathi kungenxa yokuthi mina ngike ngafuna ukulandela uAdamu wokuqala. Esetshilo lokho wasuka wangitshaya futhi kanzima esifubeni ngawa ngomhlana; ngasengilala enyaweni zakhe ngifile njengakuqala. Kodwa

sengiphaphamile futhi ngakhalela isihawu kuye; kodwa wathi: 'Kangikwazi ukuphatha ngesihawu.' Esetsho njalo wabuya wangikhahlelela phansi. Kakuthandabuzeki wayezangiqeda uba kungezanga omunye eduze owathi kuye kaxole."

UMkristu: "Ngubani lowo owathi kaxole?"

UThembekile: "Kangizange ngimazi ekuqaleni kodwa kwathi esedlula, ngabona amaxeba ezandleni zakhe, lehangothini lwakhe; ngasengiqonda ukuthi lumuntu yiNkosi yethu. Emva kwalokho ngayenyuka intaba."

UMkristu: "Leyondoda eyakuficayo kwakunguMozisi. Kayekeli muntu njalo kakwazi ukutshengisa umusa kulabo abeqa umthetho wakhe."

UThembekile: "Ngiyakwazi kakhulu lokho ngoba wayengaqali ukuhlangana lami. Nguye phela lo owafika kimi ekhaya ngihlezi ngithokozile owathi uzatshisa indlu yami phezu kwekhanda lami uba ngisahlezi khona."

UMkristu: "Kodwa awuyibonanga indlu eyayakhiwe phezu kwaleyontaba owahlangana loMozisi eceleni kwayo yini?"

UThembekile: "Yebo, lezilwane phambi kokuba ngifike kuyo. Kwathi ngoba kusemini enkulu ngafica izilwane lazo zilele; ngadlula eceleni komgcini wesango, ngehla entabeni ngoba kusasele isikhathi eside phambi kokuthi litshone."

UMkristu: "Isibili, umgcini wesango wangitshela ngawe ukuthi ukubonile usedlula. Akwaba wangena kuleyondlu, wawuzatshengiswa izinto eziligugu ongasoze uzikhohlwe uze ufe. Kambe awuzange uhlangane lomuntu eSigodini seKuzithobeni?"

UThembekile: "Yebo, ngahlangana lothiwa nguMsoli owayefuna ukungivumisa ukuthi ngibuyele laye; isizatho sakhe ngesokuthi isigodi sasingeladumo. Wangitshela lokuthi ukudlula phakathi kwaso kuyikungazilaleli izihlobo zami ezinjengoKuziqhenya, loZikhukhumeza, loKuziyenga, loDumolwezwe lezinye abazaziyo. Wathi uyazi ukuthi lezozihlobo zami zizacunuka kakhulu uba ngizenza isiwula esingako ngokudlula kulesisigodi."

UMkristu: "Wamphendula wathini wena?"

UThembekile: "Ngamtshela ukuthi labo bonke ayekhuluma ngabo ngamabizo bangatsho ukuthi bangabakithi beqinisele ngoba isibili ngokwenyama bayizihlobo zami kodwa lapho sebonile ukuthi ngihamba uhambo lomhambi, bangilahla, njengoba lami ngibalahlile. Manje-ke kimi bafana lokungathi abazange babe ngabakithi. Ngabuye ngamtshela

maqondana lalesisigodi ukuthi kakhulumi iqiniso ngoba udumo lulandela ukuzithoba lomoya ozikhulisayo wandulela ukuwa. Ngasengisithi kungcono ukwedlula kulesosigodi ukuthola udumo olwakhulunywa ngabahlakaniphileyo kakhulu kulokukhetha lokho abekutsho yena ukuthi kufanele ukuthandwa."

UMkristu: "Awuhlangananga lenye into kulesosigodi yini?"

UThembekile: "Yebo ngahlangana loManhloni; kodwa kubo bonke abantu engihlangene labo ekuhambeni kwami ngicabanga ukuthi nguye onganikwanga ibizo elimfaneleyo. Abanye bona bebeyekela ukuphika inkani emuva kwesikhathi esithile sekukhulunywe labo, kodwa luManhloni olobuso obuqine kakhulu kazange avume ukuyekela."

UMkristu: "Wathini kuwe?"

UThembekile: "Wathini! Wasola ukukhonza uNkulunkulu uqobo. Wathi yena kuyinto embi engafanele ukuba indoda ikhathalele ukukhonza uNkulunkulu. Wathi ukuba lesazela esithambileyo kuyikungabi yindoda, ngoba ukuthi indoda ikhathalele amazwi lendlela zayo ukuze izibophelele kuzo ingahambi njengabantu abakhulu abangakhathaleli lutho, indoda leyo izakuba yinhlekisa ezikhathini lezi. Wasola njalo ukuthi balutshwana abantu abalamandla abanothileyo kumbe abahlakaniphileyo, abake bavumelana lami ngalezozinto zokukholwa; lokuthi akukho lamunye wabo owaba yikho lokho, engaphendukanga isiwula kuqala, abe ngofisa ukulahlekelwa yikho konke ngenxa yokuzuza okungaziwa langoyedwa ukuthi kuyini. Wasola futhi isimo esiphansi salabo ababengabahambi ngesikhathi sabo, ukuthi ngesingelamandla, esobumpofu; futhi wasola, ukuswela kwabo ingqondo lokungaqondi kwabo ukwazi kwelizwe kokuhlakanipha. Waqhubeka wangitshela ngokunjalo ngezinye izinto ezinengi engingelakho ukuzibala khathesi. Wathi kuyayangisa ukuthi umuntu nxa kutshunyayelwa abonakale eqala ukukhala elila, aze athi loba esuka ahambe ebubula ekhefuzela. Wathi kuyayangisa ukucela umakhelwane ukuthi akuthethelele iziphosiso ezincane osuke uzenzile kuye; lokubuyisela okuthetheyo emuntwini. Watsho lokuthi ukukholwa kuNkulunkulu kwenza ukuthi umuntu abe ngowemzini kuzikhulu zomhlaba ngenxa yemikhuba emibi emilutshwana engalunganga (lokho uManhloni akubiza ngamabizo okuhlonipha) aze ahloniphe abancane, ngenxa yabampofu abakholwa uNkulunkulu njengaye. Wathi: Kambe kakuyangisi lokhu yini?"

UMkristu: "Wathini wena kuye?"

UThembekile: "Ngathini! Ngangingazi ukuthi ngizakuthini ekuqaleni. Yebo wangiphikelela ngaze ngaba bomvu zinhloni. LoManhloni wakuvusa, waphose wangehlula sibili. Kodwa emva kwesikhathi ngabona ukuthi kanje leyonto ebukwa ngabantu yiyo ezondwa nguNkulunkulu. Ngakhumbula futhi ukuthi uManhloni ungitshela ukuthi abantu banjani kodwa kangitsheli lutho ngokuthi uNkulunkulu uyini, kumbe ngelizwi likaNkulunkulu ukuthi liyini. Ngasengikhumbula futhi ukuthi ngosuku lokulahlwa kasiyikwahlulelwa ukufa loba ukuphila ngokubona kwabayizikhulu zalelizwe, abahamba ngokwabo ukuthanda; kodwa sizakwahlulelwa ngokwazi langomthetho walowo oPhezukonke. Ngakho ngathi lokho akutshoyo uNkulunkulu kulungile, isibili kulungile lanxa kuzondwa ngabantu bonke bomhlaba. Njengalokhu-ke uNkulunkulu ethanda inkonzo yakhe, uNkulunkulu uthanda isazela esithobekileyo; ngoba labo abazenza izithutha ngenxa yombuso wezulu bahlakaniphe kakhulu; lalowo ongumyanga othanda uKristu unothile kulesikhulu sezikhulu zalumhlaba esimzondayo: Manhloni suka, uyisitha sosindiso lwami. Ngingavumelana lawe ngilwe leNkosi yami enguMbusi omkhulu? Uba ngenze njalo, ngizayikhangela njani ebusweni ekuzeni kwayo? Aluba ngingaba lenhloni ngezindlela zayo lezisebenzi zayo, ngingalindela njani isibusiso? Kodwa mpela uManhloni, wayeyisoni esilesibindi; kwaba nzima ukwahlukana laye. Yebo wayengikhathaza ngokungavumi ukungiyekela, elokhu enyenyeza endlebeni yami njalo ngenye yezinto ezingalungile ngabo abakholwa kuNkulunkulu. Ngathi kuye emuva kwesikhathi kakusizi ukuqhubekela phambili kwakho, ngalokho okwenzayo kimi, ngoba mina ukujabula kwami kuyizo lezozinto yena azeyisayo. Ngokunjalo-ke manje, ngaphumelela ukwahlukana lalindoda ehluphayo. Ngithe sengimsusile ngahlabelela ngathi:

Izilingo lawo madoda ahlangana lazo,
 Lawo alalela ubizo lwasezulwini
 Zinengi njalo, njalo zilungele umzimba,
 Njalo ziyeza, zize, zibuye zize;
 Khathezi, kumbe ngesinye isikhathi thina ngazo singa-
 Thathwa, sehlulwe silahlwe.
 O! izihambi, izihambi-ke, kazilinde,
 Ziqine, zikhaliphe njengamadoda."

UMkristu: “Ngiyajabula kakhulu mfowethu ngoba umelene lalesisoni ngesibindi esikhulu. Ngoba kubo bonke, njengokutsho kwakho ngicabanga ukuthi ulebizo elingamfanelanga, ngoba ulesibindi sokusilandela ezindleleni. Sigangile kangangoba sisilandela ezindleleni sizame ukusiyangisa phambi kwabantu bonke ukusenza sibe lenhloni ngokuhle. Kodwa uba besingelasibindi uqobo lwaso, besingasoze sikwenze lokho esakwenzayo. Kodwa kasiqhubeke silwe laso ngoba lanxa sizenza esikhulu singayenga izithutha zodwa. USolomoni uthi: 'Abahlakaniphileyo bazalidla ilifa lobukhosi, kodwa izithutha zizakuba lenhloni.'”

UThembekile: “Kungathi singamcela yena ukusisiza simelane loManhloni ukuze siqinele iqiniso emhlabeni.”

UMkristu: "Uqinisile, kodwa awuhlangananga lomunye umuntu kulesosigodi yini?"

UThembekile: “Hatshi mina; ngoba emva kwalokho ngahamba yonke indlela yami likhanya ilanga, ngaze ngaphuma kuso iSigodi seThunzi loKufa.”

UMkristu: "Wena uhambe kuhle kakhulu lapho. Ngeqiniso akubanga njalo kimi. Ngithe okwesikhathi eside sengingenile kulesosigodi ngalwa kakhulu lesilo esibi uApoliyoni. Khona-ke ngathi isibili uzangibulala nxa esengiwisele phansi, wangibandezela phansi kwakhe kwangathi uzangicobodisa. Ngoba wathi engiwisa, yaphunyuka inkemba yami esandleni sami. Wangitshela ukuthi usengitholile. Kodwa ngathandaza kuNkulunkulu laye wezwa wangikhulula kuzo zonke izinhlopheko zami. Ngithe sengisuke kulokho, ngangena kuso iSigodi seThunzi loKufa, lapho engahamba kuso ingxenye yendlela kumnyama. Lapho ngacabanga futhifuthi ukuthi ngizakufa. Kodwa emva kwesikhathi kwasa, laphuma ilanga yaze yathi indlela ebengingakayihambi ngayihamba kalula kakhulu ngingahlutshwa, ngingethuswa.”

12. UMalawula

Ngabuye ngabona ephutsheni lami ukuthi wathi uThembekile, nxa behamba, ekhangela kolunye uhlangothi, wabona indoda ethiwa nguMalawula ihamba ibangana ilinganisane labo, ngoba lapha kwakubanzi ukuthi bonke babengahamba. Wayeyindoda ende, engathi iyabukeka nxa ikhatshana, okwedlula iseduze.

Wakhuluma laye uThembekile wathi: "Sihlobo uya ngaphi? Uya elizweni lezulwini yini?"

UMalawula: "Yebo, ngiya kuleyondawo."

UThembekile: "Kuhle lokho, ngiyethemba sizahambisana."

UMawula: "Ngivuma ngokuthokoza ukuhambisana lani."

UThembekile: "Woza-ke sihambisane sichithe isikhathi sixoxa ngezinto ezilusizo kithi."

UMawula: "Ukuxoxa ngezinto ezilungileyo kuhle lanxa ngikhuluma lani loba ngikhuluma lomunye kuhle kakhulu. Ngiyathokoza ngokuthi ngihlangene lalabo abadonsekela emsebenzini omuhle ngokunjalo ngoba kuliqiniso ukuthi balutshwana abalesineke sokuchitha isikhathi ngokunjalo (besekuhambeni kwabo). Kodwa-ke bakhetha ukuxoxa ngezinto ezingasizi lutho; iyangihlupha mina linto."

UThembekile: "Leyonto ngeyokukhalelwa sibili; ngoba yiyiphi into efanele ukuphathwa lulimi lomlomo womuntu emhlabeni, njengezinto zikaNkulunkulu wezulwini?"

UMal: "Ngiyakuthanda kakhulu okumangalisayo ngoba okutshoyo kungelandulwe. Ngengezelele-ke ngithi yikuphi okulungileyo, yikuphi okusizayo, njengokuxoxa ngezinto zikaNkulunkulu? Yikuphi okulungileyo? Lokho kuyikuthi nxa umuntu ethabela izinto ezimangalisayo. Ngingalinganisa lapho: uba umuntu ethanda ukukhuluma ngezindaba loba ngokufihlakeleyo kwezinto, kumbe mhlawumbe athande ukukhuluma ngezimangalisano langezenzo ezinkulu langezibonakalisano angathola ngaphi indawo lapho izinto ezibekwe zalotshwa kamnandi khona njengeMibhalweni eNgcwele?"

UThembekile: "Kuliqiniso lokho; kodwa ukusizwa yizinto ezinjalo ekukhulumeni kwethu, yikho esifanele sikwazi."

UMawula: "Bengikhuluma lokho lami. Ngoba kuyasiza kakhulu ukukhuluma ngezinto ezinjalo, ngoba ngokwenza lokho umuntu angathola ulwazi ngezinto ezinengi njengokungabi lasizo kwezinto zalelizwe, lenzuzo ngezinto zaphezulu. Kodwa ngokukhethekileyo umuntu angafunda ngokusweleka kokuzalwa kutsha, lokungeneli kwemisebenzi yethu, lokusweleka kokulunga kukaKristu, njalo njalo. Njalo futhi ngalokhu umuntu angafunda ukuthi kuyini ukuphenduka, ukukholwa, ukuthandaza, ukubekezelela ububi lezinye izinto ezifanana lalezo. Ngalokho umuntu angafunda ukuthi zingakanani izithembiso lenduduzo zevangeli ukuze asizakale. Futhi ngalokhu umuntu angafunda ukuphikisa amazwi angasilo iqiniso afakazele iqiniso, njalo afundise abangelalwazi."

UThembekile: "Yonke leyonto oyikhulumayo iliqiniso. Ngiyajabula ukukuzwa ukhuluma njalo."

UMawula: "Kuyesabeka, ukusweleka kwalokhu yikho okubangela ukuthi babe balutshwana abakwaziyo ukusweleka kokukholwa lokusweleka komsebenzi womusa emphefumulweni wabo ukuze bathole ukuphila okuphakade kodwa bephila ngokungazi emsebenzini yomthetho kanti akulamuntu ongangen embusweni wezulu ngayo."

UThembekile: "Kodwa ungakwazi okuhle ngalezizinto: ukwazi okuvela ezulwini ngalezizinto, kuyisipho sikaNkulunkulu. Kakulamuntu ofinyelela kuzo ngokukhuthala kwakhe, langokukhuluma ngakho kuphela."

UMawula: "Ngiyakwazi konke lokho kuhle, ngoba umuntu angezuze lutho engaluphiwanga luvela ezulwini; konke kuya ngomusa, akuyi ngemisebenzi. Ngingakutshela amavesi alikhulu aseMibhalweni aqinisa ngalokhu."

UThembekile: "Yebo-ke, yikuphi esizakhuluma ngakho kube yinhloko yendaba yethu khathesi?"

UMawula: "Sizakhuluma ngalokhu okuthandayo. Mina ngizakhuluma ngezinto zezulwini kumbe ngezinto zemhlabeni; izinto zomthetho wokulunga kumbe izinto zevangeli; izinto ezingcwele kumbe izinto ezingalunganga; izinto ezedlulileyo kumbe izinto ezizayo; izinto zamanye amazwe kumbe izinto zekhaya; izinto esingelakho ukuphila ngaphandle kwazo kumbe izinto esilakho ukuphila ngaphandle kwazo; aluba konke lokho kuzakwenzelwa ukusizwa kwethu."

UThembekile waqala ukumangala, wathi tshampu waya kuMkristu ngoba wayehamba yedwa sonke lesisikhathi, wathi kuye ngelizwi elincane: "Lindoda ehamba lathi inhle njalo yisihambi esilesibindi isibili. Iqiniso

lumuntu uzakuba yisihambi esihle isibili."

UMkristu wabobotheka ngokuthokoza wathi: "Lumuntu othatheke kangaka ngaye angakhohlisa ngolimi lwakhe abantu abangamatshumi amabili abangamaziyo ngenkulumo yakhe."

UThembekile: "Uyamazi wena yini?"

UMkristu: "Ngiyamazi? Ngiyakutshela akazazi laye uqobo njengokuba ngimazi mina."

UThembekile: "Ngitshela ungubani-ke?"

UMkristu: "Ibizo lakhe nguMalawula. Uhlala emzini wakithi. Ngiyamangala ukuthi kawumazi, kuphela sengicabanga ukuthi kwenziwa yikuthi umuzi wakithi mkhulu."

UThembekile: "Uyindodana kabani? Uhlala ngaphi?"

UMkristu: "Uyindodana kaKhuluma Kuhle, owakhe endleleni yekuLandiseni. Bonke labo abamaziyo bamazi ngokuthi nguMalawula wendleleni yekuLandiseni. Loba elolimi olumnandi, uyindoda engalunganga."

UThembekile: "Kodwa kungathi ngumuntu omuhle."

UMkristu: "Yebo, kulabo abangamejwayelanga kakhulu, ngoba yena muhle ekhatshana, kodwa eduze lekhaya mubi sibili. Lokhu kungikhumbuzisa engakunanzelela emsebenzini womcombi wemifanekiso, omifanekiso yakhe ibonakala imihle ikhatshana; kodwa nxa iseduze uyibone ingemihle kangako."

UThembekile: "Kodwa ngithi uyangisomela ngamazwi akho ngoba uyabobotheka."

UMkristu: "Hatshi, kangisomi ngalokhu! Lanxa ngibobotheka, ngingeke ngihlebe umuntu ngamanga. Ngizabuye ngikutshele okunye ngalindoda. Ngumuntu wabantu bonke lo, lowenkulumo yonke. Njengoba ekhuluma lawe khathesi, uzakhuluma ngokufananayo letshwaleni. Kuthi-ke njengokunatha kwakhe kube njalo lokukhuluma kwakhe; anganatha kakhulu, ukhuluma kakhulu. Ukukhonza uNkulunkulu kakukho enhliziyweni yakhe, endlini yakhe, kumbe empilweni yakhe; konke alakho kusemlonyeni wakhe, ukukhonza kwakhe ngokomsindo kuphela."

UThembekile: "Kanti utsho njalo? Pho! Isibili ngikhohlisekile kakhulu kulumuntu."

UMkristu: "Ukhohlisekile! Yebo ukhohlisekile sibili. Khumbula isaga esithi: 'Bayakhuluma bangenzi lutho, kanti umbuso kaNkulunkulu awuyi ngelizwi, kodwa ngamandla.' Ukhuluma ngomthandazo, ngophenduko, ngokholo,

ngokuzalwa kutsha, kodwa wazi ukukhuluma ngakho kuphela. Ngake ngaya emzini wakhe, ngamqaphela ekhaya lakhe, ngamqaphela lanxa engaphandle; ngiyazi ukuthi ngikhuluma iqiniso ngaye. Endlini yakhe ukukholwa kakukho njengokumhlophe kweqanda okunganambithekiyo. Kakukho ukuthandaza, kakubonakali ukuphenduka esonweni lakancane. Yebo, uNkulunkulu izinyamazana zimkhonza ngcono kulaye. Ngenxa yakhe isibili kukhulunywa kubi ngenkonzo kaNkulunkulu kuleyondawo yonke yomuzi ahlala kuyo. Abantukazana abamaziyo bathi ngaye: 'Ngaphandle unjengoyingcwele, ekhaya unguSatane.' Abomuzi wakhe lezisebenzi zakhe zithola kunjalo sibili; ungumuntu ophangisa ukuzonda lothukayo, kalangqondo ezisebenzini zakhe kangangokuba kazisakwazi ukuthi zenze njani kumbe zithini kuye. Abantu abasebenzelana laye bathi kungcono ukusebenza lomhedeni kulokusebenza laye ngoba lomhedeni kalakho ukukhohlisa abantu njengoba uMalawula ebakhohlisa. UMalawula lo, nxa kungenzeka, angenza okwedlula lokho, abaqilibezele, abakhohlise, abacuphe abehlule. Phezu kwalokhu amadodana akhe uwafundisa ukuthi amlingisele, uba ewabona etshengisa ukwesaba okubi, (ngoba yena utsho njalo ngokubonakala kokuqala kwesazela esibuthakathaka) ubabiza ngokuthi bayiziwula leziphukuphuku, angeke abathume emsebenzini omkhulu engeke akhulume kuhle ngabo phambi kwabanye. Mina ngicabanga ukuthi ngendlela yakhe embi, ukhubekise wawisa abanengi; futhi uzawisa labanye abanengi nxa enganqatshelwanga nguNkulunkulu."

UThembekile: "Yebo, mfowethu, ngifanele ngikukholwe, kungengenxa yokuthi uthi uyamazinje, kodwa ngenxa yokuthi njengoMkristu wenza imibiko yakho ngabanye abantu. Ngoba kangicabangi ukuthi lezizinto ungazikhuluma ngenhliziyo embi. Uzikhuluma ngoba zinjalo."

UMkristu: "Yebo, aluba bengifanana lawe ngokungamazisisi, mhlawumbe lami ngabe ngicabange lokho okucabange ngaye wena kuqala. Yebo, aluba lezizindaba bezikhulunywe yilabo abayizitha zokukholwa, bengizacabanga ukuthi bayamhleba (ngoba lokho kuyenzeka ukuthi emilonyeni yababi kuphume okonakalisa izimo zabantu abalungileyo kanye lemisebenzi emihle). Kodwa mina ngokwami ngingabonisa ukuthi zonke lezizinto, yebo lezinenginengi ezimbi njengazo, lindoda iyazenza. Kwezinye indawo, balenhloni ngaye abantu abalungileyo. Labantu abalungileyo balenhloni ngaye, bangembize ngokuthi mfowethu kumbe mngane; nxa kukhulunywa ngaye phakathi kwabo bakhangelana phansi ngenxa yenhloni, nxa bemazi."

UThembekile: "Ngiyabona sibili ukuthi ukukhuluma lokwenza kuyizinto ezimbili; ngakho sengizakuqaphela ukukwehlukana lokhu."

UMkristu: "Zimbili lezizinto, njalo zehlukene njengoba umphefumulo wehlukene lomzimba. Njengoba umzimba ongelamphefumulo uyisidumbu nje, ukukhuluma komuntu okuyize kunjengesidumbu lakho. Inhliziyo yokukhonza iyikwenza. 'Ukukholwa okucwebileyo okungangcolanga phambi kukaNkulunkulu loYise yilokhu, kuyikuhambela intandane, labafelokazi osizini lwabo lokuzilondoloza ungabi lacala kokomhlaba.' Kakwazi lokhu uMalawula; ucabanga ukuthi ukuzwa lokukhuluma kwenza ukuthi umuntu abe ngumKristu olungileyo, ngalokho ekhohlisa owakhe umphefumulo. Ukulalela kunjengokuhlanyelwa kwenhlanyelo; ukukhuluma kodwa akutshengisi ukuthi enhliziyweni lenhlalweni yomuntu kulezithelo zokulunga. Kasiqinisekise lathi ngokwethu ukuthi ngosuku lwencithakalo abantu bazagwetshwa ngokwezithelo zabo. Akuyikubuzwa ngaleyomini ukuthi: "Lakholwa yini? Kodwa lalingabenzi kumbe abakhulumayo kuphela yini?" Njalo bazagwetshwa ngokufaneleyo. Ukuphela komhlaba kufananiswa lokuvuna kwethu. Njalo liyakwazi ukuthi ekuvuneni abantu abazihluphi ngalutho ngaphandle kwezithelo. Ngeqiniso ngiyazi ukuthi akulalutho oluzakwamukelwa olungayisilo lokholo, kodwa ngikhuluma lokhu ukukutshengisa ukuthi kaluyikunanzelelwa kangakanani uvumo lukaMalawula ngalolosuku."

UThembekile: "Lokhu kungikhumbuzela ukukhuluma kukaMozisi ebonisa inhlobo zenyamazana ezingangcolanga ukuthi ziyilezo ezehlukanisa amangqina njalo zetshise. Hatshi lezo ezehlukanisa amangqina kuphela; kumbe ezetshisayo kuphela. Umvundla uyetshisa kubekanti ungcilile ngoba ungehlukani amangqina. Wona ufanana kakhulu loMalawula: uyetshisa, uyadinga ulwazi, uyaletshisa ilizwi kodwa kehlukani amangqina, kehlukani lezindlela zezoni; kodwa njengomvundla ulamangqina afanana lawenja kumbe ibhere: ngalokho ungcilile."

UMkristu: "Ngikhuluma ukuthi ngalokhokukhuluma kwakho usukhulume iqiniso levangeli. Ngizakwengeza okunye futhi: kukhona abantu abakhuluma sonke isikhathi, athi uPawuli ngabo bayizinsimbi ezincencethayo, bangamathusi akhencezayo; lokhu kuyikuthi, njengoba etsho kwenye indawo, bayizinto ezihlokomayo, kodwa ezingelakho ukuphila. Izinto ezingelakho ukuphila, lokho kuyikuthi ezingelakho ukukholwa okuliqiniso, lomusa wevangeli. Ngalokho ziyizinto ezingasoze

zibekwe embusweni wezulu phakathi kwalabo abangabantwana bokuphila, lanxa inhlokomo yazo, lokukhuluma kwazo, kufanana lolimi lelizwi lengilosu."

UThembekile: "Kuqala bengingakuthandi ukuhlangana laye kodwa khathesi sekuyisifo kimi. Pho sizakwenza njani ukuze sehlukane laye?"

UMkristu: "Thatha iseluleko sami, wenze lokho engizakutshela khona, uzabona ukuthi laye uzaphangisa anengwe yikuhlangana lawe ngaphandle kokuthi uNkulunkulu ahlabe inhliziyu yakhe ayiphendule."

UThembekile: "Uthi ngenze njani?"

UMkristu: "Ngithi, yana kuye, umkhulumise ngamazwi ngendaba yamandla elizwi likaNkulunkulu; (kuthi nxa esekuvumile lokho, ngoba uzavuma sibili) uze ubuze ngokusobala ukuthi likhona yini sibili, ilizwi lelo enhliziyweni yakhe lendlini yakhe, kumbe lempilweni yakhe."

Waqhubekela phambili uThembekile wafika wathi kuMalawula: "Sekunjani khathesi?"

UMalawula: "Kusalungile kimi. Bengithi hlezi sesikhulumile kakhulu."

UThembekile: "Yebo-ke, kulungile sesizangena kukho ukukhuluma kwethu. Njengoba uthe yimi engizakubuzisa, sengibuzisa-ke: Umusa kaNkulunkulu osindisayo, nxa usenhliziyweni yomuntu, uzibonakalisa njani?"

UMawula: "Ngiyabona-ke ukuthi inkulumbo yethu kufanele ibe mayelana lamandla ezinto. Umbuzo lowo ulungile kakhulu; ngizawuphendula ngokujabula. Yizwa-ke impendulo yami ngamazwi angemade. Okokuqala, nxa usenhliziyweni yomuntu umusa kaNkulunkulu, ubanga ukuthi kube khona ukukhala okukhulu ngezono. Okwesibili . . ."

UThembekile: "Mana, siphendule into ibenye kuqala; ngithi mina ngabe uthi: Uziveza ngokudonsa inhliziyu ukuthi izonde isono."

UMawula: "Pho, ukukhala ngezono lokuzizona uthi kwehlukene ngaphi?"

UThembekile: "Kwehlukene kakhulu. Umuntu angakhala kakhulu ngesono esenza ngobuqili, kodwa engeke asizona kuphela nxa ephiwa inhliziyu nguNkulunkulu yokusinenga. Sengizwe abanengi bekhala ngezono endaweni zokutshumayela, kanti enhliziyweni, lasesimilweni bahlezi lazo lezozono. Inkosikazi kaPotifari inkosi kaJosefa, yakhala kakhulu, kwangathi ingcwele; kanti loba kwakunjalo, yayithanda ukwenza okungcolileyo laye. Abanye bayamemeza ngezono kanti bafanana lonina okhalimela umntanakhe esithi mubi, uyintombazana ehluphayo, kanti uyayanga ayisingathe ngasikhathi sinye."

UMawula: "Uzama ukungibamba ngecebo, ndoda."

UThembekile: Hatshi, kangikwenzi lokho. Ngilungisa ukuma kwezinto kuphela. Kanti eyesibili into yiyiphi, ongawutshengisa ngayo umsebenzi womusa kaNkulunkulu enhliziyweni yomuntu?"

UMawula: "Yikwazi okunengi ngezimfihlakalo zeVangeli."

UThembekile: "Ngabe uqale ngaso lesosibonakaliso; kodwa lokhu ukuthi ngesokuqala, kumbe ngesokucina, akulaqiniso. Ngoba ulwazi, yebo ulwazi olukhulu lwemfihlakalo zeVangeli lungatholwa, kube kanti umsebenzi womusa kawukho enhliziyweni. Yebo umuntu angaba lolwazi lonke, kodwa angabi yilutho, ngalokho angabi nguye umntwana kaNkulunkulu. Lapho uKristu wathi kubafundi bakhe: 'Liyazazi zonke lezizinto yini?' Bona bathi: 'Yebo.' Waphinda wathi: 'Libusisiwe nxa lizenza.' Kabekanga isibusiso ekuzazini kodwa ekuzenzeni. Ngoba kukhona ukwazi okungelazenzo, njengokwazi kwesigqili, esaziyo intando yenkosi yaso, njalo singayenzi. Umuntu angaba lolwazi olufanana lolwengilosi kanti engasuMkristu. Ngalokho isibonakaliso sakho kasilaqiniso. Isibili ukwazi yinto ethokozisa abalawulayo labaziqhenyayo kodwa kuthokozisa uNkulunkulu. Angitsho ukuthi inhliziyo ingalunga ngaphandle kolwazi, ngoba ngaphandle kwalokho inhliziyo ayilalutho. Ukwazi lokhu, kuyizinhlobo ezimbili. Kukhona ukwazi okuma ngokukhuluma okucatshangwayo kodwa. Kukhona lokwazi okuhamba lesipho sokholo lothando, okumenza umuntu enze intando kaNkulunkulu ngenhliziyo. Okokuqala ukwazi kufanele abantu abalawulayo, kodwa yena onguMkristu isibili akeneliswa engelakho ukwazi kwesibili. 'Ngipha ukuqonda, khona ngizalonda umthetho wakho; ngizawulonda isibili ngenhliziyo yonke eyami.' (IziHla. 119:34.)"

UMal: "Uphinda ufuna ukungibamba ngecebo. Linkulumo ayilalutho olusizayo lapha."

UThembekile: "Nxa uthanda ngitshela esinye isibonakaliso somsebenzi womusa, esibonakalisa ngawo nxa usenziliziyweni yomuntu."

UMal: "Hatshi mina! Ngoba ngiyabona ukuthi asiyikuvumelana kuhle."

UThembekile: "Pho uyangivumela mina ukuthi ngikutshela yini?"

UMal: "Yenza lokho okuthandayo."

UThembekile: "Umsebenzi womusa emphefumlweni uyazibonakalisa ngokwawo, kungaba kuye olawo, loba kwababukelayo. Kulowo olawo ngalindlela: uyamhlaba ngokona kwakhe, kakhulu ngokungcola kwemvelo yakhe, lesono sokungakholwa okuzakuthi ngenxa yaso alahlwe phakade uba

engatholi umusa kaNkulunkulu ngokukholwa kuye uJesu Kristu. Lokhu kubona lalokhukuqonda kwalezizinto kusebenza kuye usizi lenhloni ngenxa yesono. Uthola njalo ukuthi uJesu Kristu wambulwe enguMsindisi welizwe, lokuthi kufanele sibili avumelane laye ukuze athole impilo. Esekubonile lokhu uzizwa emlambela emkhwabitha; ngenxa yalokhukumlambela lokunye kwenziwa isithembiso. Manje ukujabula lokuthula kwakhe lokubuthanda kwakhe ubungcwele lesifiso sakhe sokumazisa uMsindisi, lokufuna kwakhe ukumkhonza kulo lelilizwe, kulingana lamandla okukholwa kwakhe kuye uMsindisi. Kodwa lanxa ngisithi kuzibonakalisa kanje kuye, akwandanga ukuthi umuntu abone ukuthi lowo ngumsebenzi womusa. Izinto ezibanga lokho kuyibubi benhliziyo yakhe lomcabango wakhe owonakaliswe yisono. Lokhu kwenza ukuthi aphosise ukwazi kwakhe lindaba; ngalokho-ke umuntu ufanele ukuthi abe lengqondo yokuqonda kuhle elungileyo, ephilileyo phambi kokuthi abe lakho ukuqonda ngeqiniso ukuthi lowo ungumsebenzi womusa kaNkulunkulu.

Kwabanye kubonakala kanje:

1) Ngokuqala ukuvuma kwakhe ukukholwa kwakhe kuKristu.

2) Ngenhlalo evumelana lalokhokuvuma kwakhe okokuthi ahlale ngobungcwele: ubungcwele benhliziyo, ubungcwele bemuli (nxa elemuli), lobungcwele ekuhambeni kwakhe phambi kwelizwe. Lokhu kumfundisa ukuzonda isono phakathi kwakhe ngasese ngenxa yalezozono; kuzamfundisa ukuxotsha izono kubantwana bakhe, lokwandisa ubungcwele elizweni, kodwa angakwenzi lokho ngomlomo wodwa njengomzenzisi lomuntu olawulayo. Uzakukwenza ngokulithobela ngothando langokukholwa amandla elizwi likaNkulunkulu. Sengiphendule, nkosi ngokufitshane ngomsebenzi womusa lokubonakala kwawo enhliziyweni; nxa kukhona ongakuphikisa kuphikise; uba kungenjalo ngivumela ngikubuze umbuzo wesibili.

UMawula: Hatshi, khatshi mina angisaphikisi; sengilalela kuphela; ubuze lowombuzo wakho wesibili.

UThembekile: "Kuyilokhu: uyakuzwa yini lokho engiqale ukukuphendula? Ukwenza lokukhuluma kwakho kuyakubonakalisa yini? Ukukhonza kwakho kumi emazwini lelimini kungemi ekwenzeni leqinisiweni yini? Ngiyakuncenga nxa uthanda ukungiphendula kulokho okwaziyo ukuthi loNkulunkulu ophezulu angakuvuma ukuthi kuliqiniso; yebo lalokho kuphela okwaziyo ukuthi isazela sakho silakho ukukuvumela ukuthi

kulungile. Ngoba kakusuye ozibongayo ovunyelwayo, kodwa ngobongwa yiNkosi. Njalo aluba umuntu esithi ngiyilokhu lalokhu, kanti ukukhuluma kwakhe labomakhelwane bakhe bathi ngamanga, kuyibubi obukhulu lobo."

Ekuqaleni uMalawula wacatshisa amehlo, kodwa wabuya wazibamba, wezwakala esephendula esithi: "Usuphatha okuzwileyo, lesazela, loNkulunkulu, uthi kakubekwe kuye afakaze okukhulunyiweyo ukuthi kuliqiniso. Inkulumo enje bengingayilindele njalo kangibanjwa ngamandla ukuyiphendula ngoba ngithi kangifanele ukwenza njalo, kuphela wena uzenza umhloli. Kanti lanxa usenza njalo ngingevume ukuthi wena ube ngumahluli wami, kodwa ake ungitshela ukuthi ukwenzelani ukungibuza imibuzo enjalo?"

UThembekile: "Ngoba mina ngibone ukuthi ulamawala okukhuluma langenxa yokuthi bengingazi ukuthi kukhona okunye kuwe ngaphandle kokucabanga kwakho nje. Phela ake ngikutshela iqiniso, ngizwile ukuthi wena uyindoda ekukholwa kwayo kusekukhulumeni kodwa loba ukuhamba kwakho kuphikisana lokukhuluma komlomo wakho. Bathi ulibala elibi phakathi kwamaKristu lokuthi ngokuhamba kwakho okubi iLizwi likaNkulunkulu alihlonitshwa. Sekwenzekile ukuthi bakhubeke abanye ngokubona ukuziphatha kwakho lezindlela zakho ezimbi, labanye basengozini yokonakaliswa ngazo. Ukukholwa kwakho kumi ndawonye ngokuthanda kwakho utshwala lokuhawukela kwakho impahla yabanye lokungcola kwakho lokuthuka kwakho lokuqamba kwakho amanga, lokujayelana kwakho labangalungile. Iqinisele ngawe linkulumo ekhuluma ngesifebe ngokuthi: 'Silihlazo kubo bonke abesifazana.' Wena lawe ulihlazo kubo bonke abakhohwayo."

UMal: "Ngoba phela uphangisa ukuvuma amazwi okuhleba, langenxa yokuthi umuntu uyamlahla ungakhangelisisanga, ngicina ngokuthi uyindoda etshetshe icunuke, elenhliziyo elenzondo okungafanele ukuthi umuntu akhulume layo. Sesisehlukana khathesi ndoda."

UMkristu: Wasesondela uMkristu wathi kunzalwane wakhe: "Ngikutshelile obekuzakwenzeka! Amazwi akho awalakho ukuvumelana lezinkanuko zakhe. Bekungcono kuye ukuthi ehlukane lawe kulokuthi alungise ukuhlala kwakhe. Kodwa uhambile njengokutsho kwami: myekele ahambe; kakho olahlekelwayo ngaphandle kwakhe. Futhi yena usisizile ngokuhamba kwakhe ngoba kasiselakho ukwahlukana laye, ngoba esahlala kuleyohlalo

njengoba ngisithi uzahlala kuyo, ubezakuba libala elibi kithi. Futhi lomphostoli uthi: "Yehlukanani labanjalo."

UThembekile: "Kodwa ngiyathokoza ukuthi sesike sakhuluma laye: mhlawumbe uzacabanga ngayo leyondaba ebesiyikhuluma. Loba kunjalo ngimphethe ngeqiniso. Kangilacala egazini lakhe, lanxa ebhubha."

UMkristu: "Wenze kuhle ukuba ukhulume laye ngeqiniso njengalokho okwenzileyo. Balutshwana abaphatha abantu ngobuqotho lezinsuku; ngenxa yalokho inkozo isuka ibe liphunga elibi inuke kubantu abanengi. Ngoba ngabayiziwula, abalawulayo, abakholo lwabo lusemlonyeni kuphela, abahamba ngokonakala bekhuluma okuyize (ngokuvunyelwa ukudlelana laMakristu eqiniso) bakhubekisa ilizwe, bone ubuKristu, badabukise abaqotho ngenhliziyo. Sengathi bonke abantu bangenza njengawe kubantu abanjalo, khona bezavumelana leqiniso, loba bafice ukuthi ukuhlangana labantu abangcwele kuyatshisa kulabangakuthwala."

Khona uThembekile wathi:

"Yeka ukuzikhukhumeza kukaMalawula kuqala!
Yeka ukukhuluma kwakhe ngesibindi lokuzitshela kwakhe!
Ukuwisela phansi bonke abaphambi kwakhe! Khonokho-nje
Esakhuluma uThembekile ngokwenza kwenhliziyo njengenyanga
Esuka ekugcwaleni isiya ekuncipheni,
Bazakuba njalo bonke, kuphela kowazi ukwenza kwenhliziyo."

Bahamba njalo bekhuluma ngezinto abazibonileyo endleleni. Lokhu kwenza ukuhamba kwabo kube mnandi, okwakuzakuba nzima ngoba khathesi basebedabula inhlane.

13. Umdlalo woMuzi-oze

Bathi sebezayidlula inhlane leyo, wakhangela emuva nje uThembekile, wabona kukhona umuntu obalandelayo, wamazizi. Wathi uThembekile kuMkristu: "We! Ngubani lowo ozayo?" Wakhangela laye uMkristu wathi: "Ngumhlobo wami omuhle uNdabezinhle." "Yebo lowami umhlobo omuhle", kwatsho uThembekile, "ngoba nguye owangitshengisa indlela eya esangweni." UNdabezinhle wasefika kubo, wababingelela wathi: "Zithandwa, ukuthula kakube kini, lakwabalisizayo."

UMkristu: "Siyajabula kakhulu, siyajabula ukukubona Ndabezinhle wami omuhle. Ukubona ubuso bakho kungikhumbuza ububele bakho ngesikhathi esidlulileyo lemisebenzi owangenzela yona, lokungakhathali ukungisiza kuze kube phakade."

UThem: "Yebo lami kangitsho kankulungwane ukuthi siyajabula. Ubukhona bakho, Ndabezinhle omuhle, buyadingeka kithi sibili, thina abahambi ababuthakathaka."

Wabuza uNdabezinhle wathi: "Kwaba njani kini bafowethu, emva kokwehlukana kwethu? Lahlangana lani? Laziphatha njani?"

Bamshela oMkristu loThembekile zonke izinto ezabehlela endleleni lokufika abafika ngakho kuleyondawo abafice kuyo, lokuthi bafika kanzima kangakanani kuleyondawo.

UNdabezinhle: "Yebo-ke, ngiyajabula, kungesikuthi ngoba lihlangene lokuhlupheka okunjalo, kodwa ukuthi lehlule lanqoba, phezu kobuthakathaka obunengi, liqhubekile endleleni kuze kube lamuhla. Yebo ngithi mina ngihlanye, lina lavuna, ngiyajabula sibili ngalokhu ngenxa yenu langenxa yami uqobo. Usuku luyeza okuzakuthi ngalo ohlanyelayo athokoze kanye lovunayo; uba likhuthazele, lizakuvuna ngesikhathi esifaneleyo, nxa lingadangali. Umqhele uphambi kwenu, njalo ngongabuniyo; gijimani ukuze liwuthole. Bakhona abanye abasuka bejahe wona lowomqhele; kuthi sebegijime ibanga elikhulu, kufike omunye abathathele; ngakho-ke bambisisani lokho elilakho ukuze kungabikho olamuka umqhele wenu, lakhona lapha lingahlangana lombhobho kaSatane. Alikaqinisi kuze kube segazini ngokulwa lesono. Hlalani licabanga ngombuso, likholwa linganyikinyeki kuzo izinto ezingabonwayo. Akuthi izinto ezinganeno kwelizwe elizayo zingangeni kini. Ngaphezu

kwezinto zonke, qaphelani izinhliziyi zenu lezinkanuko zazo ngoba inhliziyi yomuntu iyakhohlisa kulakho konke, yonakele kakhulu. Qinisani ubuso bube njengensengetshe, ngoba wonke amandla avela ezulwini lemhlabeni angawenu."

UMkristu wasembonga ngokweluleka kwakhe wacela njalo ukuthi engezelele amazwi kubo azabasiza besiya phambili; kakhulu-ke ngoba babemazi ukuthi yena ungumprofethi olakho ukubatshelela izinto ezingabehlela; lokuthi bangalwa njani lazo baze bazinqobe. LoThembekile wavumelana lesicelo sakhe.

Ngakho uNdabezihle wabuye wathi: "Madodana ami, elizwini leqiniso levangeli lizwile ukuthi ngezinhlupheko ezinengi lizangena embusweni kaNkulunkulu. Lizwile futhi kulelolizwi ukuthi emizini yonke kulihlalele ukubotshwa lokuhlupheka. Loba kunjalo, lingacabangi ukuthi lizahamba ibanga ehambeni lwenu lingehlengwanga zingozi eziyizinhlobonhlobo. Selike lalithola iqiniso lalelizwi likaNkulunkulu ngokulivelele ekuhambeni kwenu loluhambo, lizaphinda lithole okunye masinyane futhi. Liyabona lina ukuthi selisekucineni kwalinhlane; lizaphangisa lifike-ke emzini elizawubona phambi kwenu. Kulowomuzi, lizaphathwa kubi yizitha ezizafuna ukulibulala. Lazi-ke ukuthi lapho omunye wenu, mhlawumbe lina lobabili kufanele liphawule isivumelwano ngegazi ngenxa yokukholwa kwenu kodwa khuthazelani kuze kube sekufeni, khona iNkosi izalinika umqhele wempilo. Lowo yena ozabulawa kuwo lumuzi lanxa ukufa kwakhe kungasoze kube ngokwemvelo, lobuhlungu bakhe mhlawumbe bube bukhulu, kungcono kuye kulomfowabo, kungasikuthi uzaphangisa ukufika emzini ophezulu, kodwa uzaphepha ezinhluphekweni ezinengi azahlangana lazo lowo osalayo endleleni asezayihamba. Selifikile-ke kulowomuzi, libona ukuthi kwenzakala lokhu engilitshela khona, manini isibindi njengamadoda, lisikhumbule isihlobo senu, linikele imiphefumulo yenu kuNkulunkulu ekwenzeni okuhle, njengakumenzi othembekileyo."

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi lamadoda esetshiye inhlane, abona umuzi phambi kwawo emva kwesikhatshana. Lowomuzi ibizo lawo lalingu-Ze, kulowomuzi kwakumenywa umdlalo okwakuthiwa nguMdlalo we Ze; kubizwa kuthiwa nguMdlalo weZe ngoba lowomuzi okudliwa khona ulula kule ze lokuthi yonke into ethengiswa khona lokungenayo khona kuyi ze. Kufanana lenkulumo eyakhulunywa yisazi esathi: 'Konke okukhona kuli

ze.' Lumdlalo kawusiwo umsebenzi omutsha, ungumkhuba omdala. Ngizalilandisela ukuvela kwawo. Sekungaba yiminyaka ezinkulungwane ezinhlanu kwakulezihambi zihamba zisiya eMzini weZulwini, anjengalamadoda amabili aqotho; njalo uLegiyoni uMkristu loThembekile. Kwathi uBhelizebhule loApoliyoni loBandla kanye labalabo sebone ngokuhamba kwalabobahambi ukuthi indlela yabo yokuya eMzini weZulwini idabula phakathi komuzi weZe, benza icebo lokuthi bamise umdlalo lapha, umdlalo-ke okuzakuthi kuwo kuthengiswe zonke izinhlobo zezinto ezilize, kuvulwe wonke amalanga omnyaka. Ngalokho-ke kulowomdlalo kuthengwa imfuyo yonke enjengalokhu: izindlu, amasimu, imisebenzi, izindawo, udumo, izikhundla, ubuduna, amazwe, imibuso, izinkanuko, injabulo, lentokozo zenhlobo zonke njengezifebe, lokusina, abafazi, amadoda, abantwana, amakhosi, izigqili, impilo, igazi, imizimba, imiphfumulo, isiliva, igolide, amaparele, amatshe amahle lokunye okunjalo.

Kungabonwa kulumdlalo ngezikhathi zonke ukukhohlisa, ukudlelezela, imidlalo, ukusina, izithutha, indwangu, izigebengu lamatshinga ezinhlobo zonke. Lapha kungabonwa ngaphandle kwemali, ubusela, ukubulala, ukuphinga, abafunga amanga, okubi sibili okubomvu okombala wegazi.

Njengoba kukhona imidlalo emincinyane kulalo, izindlela lemigwaqo okulamabizo akho lapho okwenekwe khona okuthengiswayo; kunjalo lakulo zikhona izindawo, lezindlela, lemigwaqo, ngitsho (amazwe lemibuso) lapho okutholakala masinyane khona impahla zalumdlalo. Kutholakala lapha umgwaqo wamaNgisi, umgwaqo wamaFransi, umgwaqo wamaTaliyane, umgwaqo wamaSipeyini, umgwaqo wamaJalimane lomgwaqo wabakwaZulu, lomgwaqo wabaSuthu lapho okuthengiswa khona izinhlobonhlobo zezinto eziyize ezingelamsebenzi umdlalo wonke. Kodwa njengakweminye imidlalo impahla ethile iyedlula ezinye emdlalweni wonke; ngakho impahla lokuthengiswayo kwamaRoma kuyabatshazwa kulumdlalo; kodwa amaNgisi kanye lezinye izizwe ezithile, kazisayithandi kakhulu.

Sengitshilo ukuthi indlela eya eMzini waPhezulu, idabula phakathi kwalowomuzi lapho lumdlalo wenkanuko wenzelwa khona. Lowo ozakuya kulo uMuzi, kodwa engadabuli phakathi kwalumuzi nga ephuma kulelizwe. INkosi yamakhosi yona ngokwayo ilapha emhlabeni yadlula kulowomuzi, isiya elizweni layo, yebo kwakungemini yomdlalo. Ngithi nxa

ngicabanga kwakunguBhelizebhule iNkosi enkulu yalumdlalo owayinxusa ukuthi ithenge okuyize kwayo, yebo wayengayenza iNkosi yomdlalo, kuphela ngabe yavuma ukumkthothamela imkhonze ekudluleni kwayo kulowomuzi. Yebo ngoba iyindoda elodumo, uBhelizebhule wayithatha iNkosi, wahamba layo kuyo yonke imigwaqo eyibonisa yonke imibuso yelizwe ngesikhathi esifitshane eyincenga eyiyenga, uba kungenzeka, iNkosi ukuthi ithambe ithenge ezinye izinto zakhe eziyize. INkosi yayingazifuni impahla lezo, yasiwutshiya lumuzi, ingalahlanga lencane imali ngalezozinto eziyize. Lumdlalo-ke uyinto yakudala, owamiswa kade, futhi ungumdlalo omkhulu sibili.

Ngakho lababahambi, njengoba ngitshilo, babefanele bedlule kulumdlalo. Benza njalo-ke, kodwa kwenzeka ukuthi nxa bengena kulumdlalo, bonke ababesemdlalweni banyakazela lomuzi wonke wabalomsindo ngenxa yabo; lokho kusenziwa yizizatho ezithize.

Esokuqala yilesi: Abahambi labo babegqoke izembatho eazingafanani lezabantu ababethenga kulowomdlalo; ngalokho abantu bomdlalo babakhangela kakhulu. Abanye bathi bayizithutha; abanye bathi bayahlanya; abanye besithi nga baphuma kwelinye ilizwe.

Esesibili isizathu nansi: njengoba bamangala ngezambatho zabo, bamangala njalo langokukhuluma kwabo, ngoba balutshwana abaqedisisa into ababeyikhuluma. Ngemvelo babekhuluma ulimi lwamaKanani, kodwa abagcina umdlalo kwakungabantu balelilizwe. Ngenxa yalokho kusukela ekungeneni kwawo kuze kube sekuphumeni kwawo, abanye babenjengabezizwe kwabanye.

Esesithathu isizathu kodwa esingabathokozisanga abathengisi labo ngesokuthi lababahambi bazisola izinto zabo, bengafuni lokuzikhangela. Kwathi nxa kuthiwa kabathenge basebefaka iminwe ezindlebeni bamemeza: "Phendula amehlo ami angaboni okuyize." Njalo bakhangela phezulu befuna ukutshengisa ukuthi bona bathenga impahla zabo phezulu ezulwini. Kwathutsha omunye owabuza ngokusoma ebona ukuziphatha kwawo lawomadoda wathi: "Lifuna ukuthengani?" Wona amkhangela athi: "Into ethengwa yithi liqiniso." Ngokuba atsho lawomazwi kwaya phambili ukuwadelela kwabo, abanye bawahleka usulu, abanye bawasomela, abanye bawadelela, abanye bathi kwabanye kabawatshaye. Ukucina kwalokhu kwaba ngumsindo lokuxokozela okukhulu emdlalweni, kwaze kwadungeka

ubuhle bonke. Kwaze kwabikwa enduneni yomdlalo, eyaphangisa ukwehla. Ithe nxa ifika, yakhipha abanye babangane bayo ebathembayo yathi kabababambe labo bahambi babahlole, abonakalisa umdlalo. Babanjwa ukuze bahlolwe lababahambi. Abababambayo bababuza lapho abavela khona lalapho abaya khona lento abayifuna kulowomuzi, begqoke lezozembatho ezamangalisa bonke abantu.

Babatshela ukuthi babeyizihambi labemzini emhlabeni, lokuthi baya elizweni lakibo eliliJerusalema elisezulwini. Batsho futhi ukuthi: "Kakukho lutho thina esilwenze abantu bomuzi lakubo abathengisayo lempahla zabo, ukuthi basiphathe kubi kangaka basihluphe ekuhambeni kwethu uhambo lwethu. Ngaphandle kokuthi sikhulume into eyodwa kuphela, sathi emuntwini othile, obebuza ukuthi sifuna ukuthengani, thina sathi sithenga iqiniso."

Lalabo ababemisiwe ukuthi babahlole abakholwanga, becabanga ukuthi bazinhlanya baphambene, lokuthi mhlawumbe bangabantu ababi abafuna ukunyakazelisa umdlalo ngabomu. Ngalokho-ke babathatha babatshaya, babathela ngodaka. Emva kwalokho babavalela ezongweni lensimbi ukuze babukelwe ngabantu bonke bomdlalo, bahlala khona lapho isikhathi beyizinto zokudlala kothandayo, beganga ngabo ngenzondo langolunya, lenduna yomdlalo lowo yahleka njalo ngakho konke okwabehlelayo.

Kodwa labobantu bengabuyiseli inhlamba ngenhlamba, kodwa ngokuphambene lalokho bebuyisela amazwi amahle kwababahlambazayo lomusa ekulinyazweni, abanye balabo ababesemdlalweni belolwazi kulabanye bengenzi okubi kulabanye baqala ukubakhuza bebasola ngoba beqhubeka behlupha labobantu, basebabethukuthelela bebaphendula besithi babi njengabasezongweni, bethi kungathi bahlanganyela labo, kufanele benziwe bahlanganyele labo enhluphekweni zabo. Abanye baphendula bathi: "Ngesikubonayo lezizihambi kazitshongo lutho olubi emuntwini. Njalo banengi ababethenga kulowomdlalo ababefanele ukufakwa ezongweni ukuthi babotshwe kulalaba ababebahlupha." Bathi sebephendulene ngamazwi amanengi, izihambi zimi isikhathi eside leso zaziphatha ngokuhlakanipha langokujikama, baqala ukutshayana lokudutshuzana.

Ngakho la amadoda amabili ayangekileyo alethwa phambi kwababuzi bawo. Babekwa icala lokuthi lowomsindo owawusemdlalweni wenziwe

yibo. Basebebatshaya babakhokhela bebotshwe ngamaketane besehla besenyuka emgwaqweni womdlalo ukuze babonwe yibo bonke abantu besabe lababebakhulumela hlezi labo baphathwe ngalolohlobo. Kodwa uMkristu loThembekile babekezela ngokuhlakanipha bevuma kuhle inhlamba lenhloni besenza ngokubekezela okukhulu kwaze kwenza ukuthi abanye abasemdlalweni bame labo lanxa babebalutshwana. Lokho kwengezelela ulaka kwabanye basebeqinisa ngokuthi kawabulawe lawo amadoda amabili. Bathi akutsho lutho ukufakwa kwabo ezongweni lemaketaneni, kufanele babulawe ngalokho abakwenzileyo langokuduhisa kwabo abantu bomdlalo. Basebevavalela babophela inyawo zabo ezigodweni.

UMkristu loThembekile basebekhumbula ababekutshelwe ngumgane wabo uNdabezinhle ngalokho okwakuzabehlela. Baqiniswa endleleni yabo lekuhluphekeni kwabo ngalokho akutshoyo ukuthi kuzabehlela; basebeqinisa ngokuthi lowo ozahlupheka nguye ozazuza okuhle kulomunye. Kwaba yilowo wafisa emphefumulweni wakhe kwangathi angakuzuza lokho. Kodwa bazinikela ezandleni zalowo obusa izinto zonke, behlezi ngokwanela okukhulu esimeni ababekuso, belindele lokho okuzabehlela.

Kwase kumiswa isikhathi esifaneleyo sokuthi basiwe ekuthonisisweni, bethanda ukuthi bababulale. Bafika babekwa phambi kwezitha zabo; umahluleli ibizo lakhe lalinguNkosi Zondukulunga. Icala labo lalilinye lifanana, loba lahlukana kancane ngokunye, okwakumunyethwe yilokhu: - Ukuthi babeyizitha njalo abaphambanisi bomdlalo; ukuthi benza umsindo njalo behlukanisa umuzi, base bezizuzela ixuku labo ngolwazi lwabo oluyingozi enkulukazi badelela inkosi yabo.

UThembekile wasephendula wathi: "Ngizonde lokho okwazondwa ngomkhulu kulani lonke." Wasesithi: "Okomsindo angiwenzi, mina ngingumuntu wokuthula. Lababantu abeza kithi beza ngoba belibona iqiniso lethu langokubona ukuthi asilalo icala. Ngokuza kithi, batshiya ububi bakhetha ukulunga. Langale inkosi elikhuluma ngayo, njengoba inguBhelizebhule isitha eNkosini yami, ngiyayeyisa yona, lezithunywa zayo zonke."

Kwasekumenyenzelwa kuthiwa aluba kukhona umuntu ofuna ukuyikhulumela inkosi yakhe kabuye masinya aphe ubufakazi obumelene lesibotshwa. Kwasekungena abafakazi abathathu, okuyikuthi uMona,

uNkolelo, loMtshetshelengwana. Kwabuzwa kubo kwathiwa: "Liyasazi lesisibotshwa yini?" Kwabuzwa futhi ukuthi kukhona yini abangayikhulumela ngakho inkosi yabo, ngokukhangela icala laleyondoda.

Wasesukuma uMona wathi: "Nkosi yami kade ngayazi lindoda ngingatsho ngifunge kubantu abalapha ukuthi iyi----"

UNkosi Zondukulunga: "Mana; mfungiseni!" Basebemfungisa sibili. Wasesithi: "Nkosi yami, lindoda lanxa ibizo layo linguThembekile, ingumuntu omubi kakhulu elizweni lakithi. Ayihloniphi nkosi labantu lomthetho lomkhuba. Iyenga abantu bonke ngezimfundiso zayo zemicabango ephambene leyombuso. Ithi yona phela zimfundiso zokukholwa lezobungwele. Mina uqobo lwami ngizwile amazwi ayo nxa isithi iliZwi likaNkulunkulu lokukholwa kuye kuphambene lemikhuba yomuzi wethu weZe kungevumelane. Uyabona, nkosi yami nxa isitsho njalo, kayisoli kuphela izenzo zethu ezibukekayo, kodwa icala zonke izenzo zethu ezinhle kanye lathi."

UMahluleli: Wasesithi uMahluleli: "Kusekhona okunye ongakukhuluma yini?"

UMona: "Ngingengezelela okunye okunengi kakhulu, kodwa ngingathandi ukudinisa amakhosi ami, aluba kuswelekile ekukhulumeni kwalaba abafakazi abaseleyo ilizwi elingambulala ngizakwengezelela ukukhuluma kwami ngaye. Kwasekuthiwa kame eceleni.

Basebebiza uNkolelo bathi kuye: "Ake ukhangele isibotshwa." Basebembuza bathi: "Ungakhulumani ngaso ebizweni lenkosi?" Basebemfungisa, waqala-ke wathi:

UNkolelo: "Nkosi yami angiyazi kuhle lindoda, futhi angifuni ukuyazi, kodwa ngokukhuluma kwami layo ngelinye ilanga kulumuzi, ngiyakwazi ukuthi iyahlupha kakhulu, ngoba ngithe nxa ngikhuluma layo ngayizwa isithi okwethu ukukholwa kakusinto yalutho umuntu angethokozise uNkulunkulu ngakho. Lawe, nkosi yami, uyabona ukuthi nxa kunjalo kutsho ukuthi thina kasikhonzi ngeqiniso, sisahlezi ezonweni zethu, sizalahlwa ekucineni. Ngiyaphela lapha."

Kwasekufungiswa uMtshetshelengwana kwathiwa katsho ebizweni lenkosi akwaziyo ngesibotshwa esilecala.

UMtshetshelengwana: "Nkosi yami, lani lonke, banumzana, lumuntu kade ngamuzwa ekhuluma izinto ezingafanele ukukhulunywa ngumuntu. Wayihleka inkosi yethu uBhelizebhule, wakhuluma ngokweyisa ngezihlobo zayo, ezibizwa ngokuthi inkosi uMuntu-Omdala, lenkosi uThandolwenyama, lonkosana uThandubunengi, lenkosi uMphingi, loGovu, lazo zonke ezinye izikhulu zethu. Watsho njalo ukuthi ngabe abantu bonke bebefanana laye, kakukho leyodwa yamakhosana ethu ebizahlala kulumuzi. Yebo, lawe lo, nkosi yami, obekwe lapho ukuthi ukhulume amacala, ikuthukile lindoda ngokuthi uyisidakwa esibi kakhulu yakubiza ngamanye amabizo amabi afanana lalawo engcolise ngawo wonke amakhosana omuzi wethu."

Kwathi uMtshetshelengwana esekhulumile indaba yakhe umehluleli waseqondisa amazwi akhe kusibotshwa esithi: "Wena, mkhohlisi omubi, lomthengisi, ubuzwile lobubufakazi balamadoda aqotho ngawe yini?"

UThembekile: "Ngingakhuluma amazwana ngizivikele yini?"

UMahluleli: "Nyamazana! He nyamazana! Kawufanelanga ukuphila kodwa ukuhle ubulawe kuyonale indawo. Sizakwenzela umusa ukuze bonke abantu babone ukuthamba kwethu kuwe. Asiyizwe indaba ozayikhuluma."

UThembekile: "1) Mina ngithi ekuphenduleni kwami lezozindaba ezikhulunywe nguMona, angitshongo lutho ngaphandle kwalokhu: ukuthi loba yisimiso lobangumthetho, loba ngumkhuba, loba ngabantu kusilwa lentando kaNkulunkulu kuphikisana lobuKristu. Uba ngiphosisile ngokutsho njalo, ngikhona lapha phambi kwenu ukulungisa isiphosiso sami.

2) Kokwesibili, mayelana lamazwi kaNkolelo awaqondisa kimi, into eyakhulunywa yimi yile, ngathi ekukhonzeni uNkulunkulu kufuneka ukukholwa okuvela kuNkulunkulu; kodwa kungeke kube khona ukukholwa kungekho sambulelo esambula uthando lukaNkulunkulu, enkonzweni kaNkulunkulu engavumelani lesambulelo sikaNkulunkulu, eyenziwa ngokukholwa kobuntu, kakumsizi umuntu ukuthi athole ukuphila okuphakade.

3) Kokwesithathu, ngalokhu okukhulunywe nguMtshetshengwana, ngiphethe lokhu, akutshoyo ukuthi ngiyahlambaza, lokunye okunjalo, ngisithi inkosi yalumuzi labo bonke abayikhonzayo abatshiwo nguMtshetshengwana ngamabizo abo, bafanele ukuhlala loMoya oMubi

esihogweni kulakulumuzi lakulelilizwe. Ngakho UNkulunkulu kabe lomusa kimi.

Kwasekusithi uMahluleli wabiza amadoda agcina imithetho ayemi lapho elalela eqaphele. Wathi kuwo: "Madoda, bagcini bomthetho. Nguye lo okuvuke ngaye umsindo omkhulu onje kulumuzi. Likuzwile abakufakaze ngaye lababanumzane. Ukuphendula kwakhe lokuvuma kwakhe likuzwile. Khathesi sekukini ukumlengisa kumbe ukusindisa impilo yakhe. Kodwa ngibona kufanele ukuthi ngilichasisele ngomthetho wethu.

Kwakukhona umthetho owawumiswe ensukwini zikaFaro oMkhulu, induna yenkosi yethu, ukuthi hlezi labo abokhonza ukukhonza okuphambeneyo bayakhula, bande, bamehlule yena: ngakho wathi abantwana babo kabaphoswe emfuleni. Kwakukhona njalo omunye umthetho owawumiswe ensukwini zikaNebukadinezari oMkhulu, laye eyinduna yenkosi, wokuthi ongayikuwa ngobuso akhuleke esithombeni sakhe segolide, aphoswe phakathi kwesithando somlilo ovuthayo. Ngezinsuku zikaDariyo kwenziwa umthetho kwathiwa: yena okhuleka kuNkulunkulu, lakomunye umuntu ngaphandle kwenkosi uDariyo ezinsukwini ezingamatshumi amathathu, uzaphoswa emgodini wakhe oyintolongo yezilwane. Yebo, lesisixhwali seqile imithetho yonke, kungesikho ngomcabango nje, kodwa wenze lokho ngokukhuluma langokwenza (esingafanele ukukuvuma). Lowomthetho kaFaro wawumisa ngokuzikhumbulela nje, esithi uvimbela okungakaveli lecala kodwa khonapha icala liyabonakala. Okwesibili lokwesithathu liyabona ukuthi ulwa lokukhonza kwethu; ngokuhlubuka kwakhe akuvumayo ufanele ukufa sibili.

Aphuma lamadoda agcina imithetho, omabizo awo ayeyi la: uMpumputhe, loNgalungi loNzondo, loThandinkanuko, loZiphathakubi, loZigqaja, loZidlayo, loButha, loSomangase, loSihluku, loZondukukhanya, loNgelakulanyulwa. Bonke laba yilowo lalowo watsho ilizwi lakhe ngaye ensitha, anduba bahlangane ngalizwi linye ukuthi bazamethesa icala phambi kukamahluleli. Owokuqala phakathi kwabo, uMpumputhe, owayebaphethe, wathi: "Ngiyabona kuhle ukuthi lindoda iyisixhwali." uNgalungi wezwakala esithi: "Kasuswe emhlabeni onjalo." uNzondo wathi: "Yebo, mina ngizonda ubuso bayo." Wasesithi uThandinkanuko: "Ngingeke ngimbekezelele." "Lami!" kutsho uZiphathakubi. "Ngoba ubezasola ukwenza kwami", wezwakala uZigqaja ekhala kabi, ethukuthele ethi: "Mphanyekeni: Mphanyekeni!" Wathi uZidlayo: "Ungumuntukazana nje." Wathi uButha:

"Mina uyangicunula." "Uyisigebengu", kutsho uSomangase. Wathi uSihluku: "Kafanelanga ukulengiswa kuphela." Wezwakala uZondukukhanya esithi: "Asimsuse endleleni." UNgelakulanyulwa wathi: "Loba benginganikwa umhlaba wonke, bengingeke ngimxolele ngalokho, asimethese icala ukuthi afe masinyane."

Basebesenza njalo. Kwathi ngalesosikhathi wathathwa kuleyondawo abekuyo wasiwa kuleyondawo abephume kuyo ukuze abulawe lapho ngohlobo olwesabekayo abangalunakana.

Basebephuma laye ukuze benze njengomthetho wabo kuye, baqala ngokumtshaya ngesiswephu, bamdutshuza, bamsika ngezingqamu emzimbeni; futhi bamkhanda ngamatshe, bamhlaba ngezinkemba zabo. Ekucineni kwakho konke, bamtshisa bembophele esigodweni waze waba ngumlotha. Kwaba njalo ukucina kukaThembekile.

Ngasengibona ngemuva koquqaba lwabantu inqola eyayibotshelwe amabhiza amabili imelele uThembekile okwathi eqedelwa yizitha zakhe, wangeniswa kiyi! Khonokho wathwalwa, edabula amayezi, kulokukhala kwecilongo, indlela emfitshane eya esangweni loMuzi weZulwini.

Kodwa uMkristu wathola ikhefu, wabuyiselwa ejele, wayahlala khona isikhatshana. Kodwa yena obusayo phezu kwezinto zonke, elamandla phezu kolaka lwabo ezandleni zakhe wenza ukuthi uMkristu asinde kubo ngalesosikhathi, waqhubeka ngendlela yakhe. Kwathi ehamba wahlabela esithi:

Ho! Thembekil' uvume kuhle uvumo
ENkosini yakho; usuyakudla okuhle layo,
Lapho abangathembekanga ngentokozo yabo eyize,
Belila isililo ngobuhlungu besihogo sabo.
Hlabela uhlabela Thembekile, kaliphile ibizo lakho
Ngoba lanxa bekubulele, wena usaphila.

14. UMkristu loBekithemba

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi uMkristu kaphumanga ehamba yedwa, ngoba kwaba khona enye indoda lapho abathi nguBekithemba, (owenziwa njalo ngokubona uMkristu loThembekile emazwini lekuziphatheni kwabo lekuhluphekeni kwabo emdlalweni), owazihlanganisa laye, bangena esivumelwaneni sobuzalwane, wathi ufuna ukuhambisana laye.

Kwaba njalo-ke omunye wafela iqiniso, kwavuka omunye emlotheni wakhe, ukuhambisana loMkristu kubuhambuma bakhe. UBekithemba lo laye watshela uMkristu ukuthi: "Bakhona banengi abanye abantu emdlalweni abazaphuma ngesikhathi sabo ukusilandela."

Ngasengibona ukuthi emva kokuphuma kwabo emdlalweni, bafica umuntu owayephambi kwabo, obizo lakhe kunguFunokwakhe. Bakhuluma kuye bathi: "Uvela ngaphi? Uya ngaphi ngalindlela?" Yena waphendula wathi: "Ngiphuma emzini weNkulumo-nhle. Ngiya eMzini weZulwini." Kodwa kabatshelanga ibizo lakhe.

UMkristu wathi: "He! ENkulumo-nhle! Kukhona abantu abalungileyo abaphila khona lapho yini?"

UFunokwakhe: "Yebo, ngicabanga ukuthi bakhona."

UMkristu: "Ngingakubiza ngokuthi ungubani?"

UFunokwakhe: "Kangikwazi, lawe kawungazi. Nxa lihamba ngalindlela ngingathokoza ngihambe lani; lanxa kungenjalo kanganele."

UMkristu: "Lowomuzi weNkulumo-nhle, ngizwile ngawo; bathi njengengikukhumbulayo, yindawo elenotho enkulu."

UFunokwakhe: "Ye ngiyavuma ukuthi unjalo sibili: ngilezihlobo zami ezinengi ezinohileyo khona."

UMkristu: "Ake ungitshela zingobani izihlobo zakho kulowomuzi, uba kuvunyelwe ukuthi ngibuze?"

UFunokwakhe: "Kungathi wonke umuzi uyizo. Ngingabala ikakhulu inkosi uPhenduphenduka, lenye uMnikizikhathi, lenye uNkulumonhle. Umuzi lowo wakhiwa ngokhokho bakhe; bawunika ibizo labo. Lenye abathi yinkosi uButshelezi, lenye uKhangelaNxazombili, lenye uLobakuyini. Umfundisi walowomuzi, uNdimimbili, ngumalumami kuhlangothi lukababa. Yebo,

ngeqiniso ngithi mina manje ngingumnumzana, kodwa ubabamkhulu wayelesikepe, ekhangele emuva kodwa esiya phambili, lami ngathola ilifa lami ngaleyondlela."

UMkristu: "Uganiwe yini?"

UFunokwakhe: "Yebo. Umfazi wami ngumfazi olungileyo kakhulu ufuze unina olungileyo, uyindodakazi yenkosikazi enkulu uZenzisa. Wazalwa kusapho lobukhosi, ukhuliswe kuhle, okuyikuthi ungumfazi okwazi ukuziphatha phambi kwenkosi laphambi kwezigqili zakhe. Kuliqiniso, thina singabantu abehlukileyo enkonzweni kulabo abemithetho enzima, ngemicijo emincinyane emibili kuphela. Okokuqala, kasithandi ukulwa lokuphikisana. Okwesibili, sithanda ukuhamba leliZwi likaNkulunkulu nxa lihamba kuhle phakathi kwabantu, lanxa lithandwa ngabantu bonke."

UMkristu wasededela eceleni, ekhangela umngane wakhe uBekithemba, esithi: "Kungathi lindoda engikhuluma layo yindoda abayibiza ngokuthi nguFunokwakhe weNkulumo-nhle; uba kunguye sihlangene lesigebengu esikhulu kulazo zonke kule indawo."

Wathi uBekithemba: "Mbuze, ngicabanga ukuthi kafanele ukuba lenhloni ngebizo lakhe."

UMkristu wayafika kuye wathi: "Mnumzane, ukhuluma kuhle, sengathi ungumuntu owazi konke okulapha emhlabeni; kungathi kodwa uba ngingaphosisi, ngiyakwazi kancane. Ngicela ukwazi ukuthi awusuye uFunokwakhe weNkulumo-nhle yini?"

UFunokwakhe: "Hatshi, kayisilo ibizo lami kodwa libizo lokungisomela engaliphiwa ngabanye abangangithandiyo; kodwa ngalivuma kuhle njengabanye abalungileyo bewavuma awabo."

UMkristu: "Kodwa wena kawenzanga lutho ukuthi abantu babelesizathu sokukubiza kanjalo yini?"

UFunokwakhe: "Hatshi, okubi kukho konke engakwenzayo okubanika isisusa sokungipha lelibizo yilokhu kokuthi ngangihlala ngisiba lenhlanla; njalo yokuthi ngokwazi kwami ngeqe ngokwazi isikhathi esinjani lesinjani ngizuze-ke ngokunanzelela. Pho nxa ngihletshwa ngalezozinto sengikubala njengesibusiso. Kodwa abalomona kakukuhle ukuthi bangethese inhlamba ngalokho."

UMkristu: "Bengithi sibili uyilowo engake ngezwa ngokwenza kwakhe. Njalo ngitsho lokho engikubonayo; ngithi lelibizo likufanele kulalokhu

okuthandayo wena."

UFunokwakhe: O! utsho njalo, kangilakukhuluma lutho. Nxa lizavuma ukuthi ngihambe lani, lizabona ukuthi ngihamba kuhle lani."

UMkristu: "Nxa ufuna ukuhamba lathi, uzaphambana lodumo kodwa ngiyabona ukuthi awukufuni lokho; ufanele ukuthi uvume ilizwi likaNkulunkulu loba lingezwani lemikhubo yabantu, ufanele ukuthi ulivume loba libotshwe ngensimbi, lanxa lizondwa ngabantu bonke, lanjenganxa lithandwa lilandelwa yibo."

UFunokwakhe: "Musani ukungilaya libuse ukholo lwami ngiyekelani ngizenzele ngokukhululeka kwami."

UMkristu: "Ungahambi lathi, kodwa unguhamba nxa usenza esikwenzayo."

UFunokwakhe: "Ngingeke ngitshiye imicabango yami emidala ngoba kayilangozi njalo ilenzuzo. Uba ngingahambi lani, kangenze njengoba bengisenza lingakangifici, ngitsho ukuhamba ngedwa, ngize ngificwe ngabanye abazathokoza ukuhamba lami."

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi uMkristu loBekithemba bamtshiya, bahamba kancinyane phambi kwakhe. Kodwa omunye ekhangela emuva, wabona amadoda amathathu elandela uFunokwakhe. Athi-nje lapho efika kuye, wawabingelela ngokukhothama, lawo abingelela. Lawomadoda abizwa ngokuthi: nguBambilizwe, loThandimali, loGcinakonke, abazana kudala loFunokwakhe. Ngoba ngesikhathi besengabantwana babedlala bonke esikolo, befundiswa ngumuntu abathi nguSidlova, owayengumbalisi weThandinzuzo, idolobha lokuthengiselana, elizweni leKuhawukela, enyakatho. Lumbalisi wabafundisa ukuthi bazinohise ngokuphanga, ngobuqili, ngokukhohlisa, langokuzenza abakhonza uNkulunkulu. Lawomadoda amane ayebambe kakhulu ukwenza kowabafundisayo; yilowo lalowo engafundisa abanye yena ngokwakhe.

Kwathi sebebinglelene njengokutsho kwami, wathi uThandimali kuFunokwakhe: "Ngobani labayana abaphambi kwethu endleleni?" (Ngoba uMkristu loBekithemba babesabonakala).

UFunokwakhe: "Ngababili abavela khatshana. Bahamba okwabahambi."

UThandimali: "Hawu! Kungani bengahlalanga khona sizahamba kuhle kanye labo; ngoba bona, lathi, lawe nkosi sihamba okwabahambi sonke?"

UFunokwakhe: "Sinjalo sibili! Kodwa amadoda aphambi kwethu, azimisele

kangaka, athanda kangaka imicabango yawo ngangokuthi acabanga ukuthi wonke umuntu ufanele ukuzwana lawo ngezinto zonke; uba umuntu engezواني lawo ezintweni zonke, loba elunge kangakanani, ayehlukana laye.

UGcinakonke: "Leyonto imbi kakhulu. Sifunda ngabanye okuthiwa balunga baze badlulise. Abantu abanjalo basola abanye ngaphandle kwabo. Kodwa ake ungitshele ukuthi lehlukana njani langezinto ezingaki?"

UFunokwakhe: "Ngokuqinisa kwabo amakhanda bathi bona bazaqhubekela phambili lanxa lisina lanxa lisile, kodwa mina ngikhangele umoya lamayezi. Bathi bona bavuma ukudela zonke izinto ukuze bathole uNkulunkulu; kodwa mina ngithi ngizakwenza konke ukuthi ngilondoloze ikhanda lemfuyo yami. Bathi bazaqinisa ngabakubonayo lanxa abanye bonke besilwa labo; ngithi mina iliZwi likaNkulunkulu, nginganamathela kulo kuphela nxa lizwana lokuphila kwami lezindlela zami. Bona bayavuma ukukhonza lanxa behlupheka, behlanjzwa, kodwa mina ngiyamkhonza nxa ezihambela kuhle ehlonitshwa ngabantu."

UBambilizwe: "Yebo, wena wakithi, Funokwakhe, mina ngithi yisilima umuntu othi efanele ukugcina lokho alakho, asuke angaqapheli ukuthi kungamphunyuki; kasihlakaniphe njengezinyoka ngakho kasisebenze nxa ilanga lisatshisa. Uyabona ukuthi inyosi, nxa kumakhaza, ilala ithi nya, ize ibuye ivuke nxa sekukhudumele ngoba kuyisikhathi ethola inzuzo ngaso, izuze uluju lwayo. Ngesinye isikhathi uNkulunkulu uthumela izulu, ngesinye isikhathi athumele ilanga; uba lamadoda engikhuluma ngawo ehamba emvuleni thina kasihambe nxa litshisa. Lami ngithanda ukukholwa okume ngasekulondekeni kokulungileyo esikuphiwe nguNkulunkulu; ngoba ngubani ongasisithutha ongacabangi ukuthi uNkulunkulu osinike izinto ezimnandi zalokhukuphila, ufuna ukuthi sizigcine kuhle? UAbrahama loSolomoni, ukukholwa kwabo kwanda, kunothile. Ngithi uJobe watsho ukuthi umuntu olungileyo uzalibuthelela igolide, elilingana lothuli ubunengi balo. Kodwa umuntu oyilokho, angeke afanane lamadoda aphambi kwethu, uba mpela beyilokho okutshoyo wena."

UGcinakonke: "Mina ngibona ukuthi sesivumelene; akusafuneki ukuthi sibuye sikhulume futhi ngayo."

UThandimali: "Hayi sibili kakusafanele ukuthi kube kusakhulunywa ngaleyonto ngoba umuntu ongakholwayo iBhayibhili lokuyingqondo

(lezozinto zombili zikithi) lowo kakwazi ukukhululeka kwakhe, lokulondeka kwakhe kuhle."

UFunokwakhe: Bakithi! Phela liyabona ukuthi thina sonke sihamba lona loluhambo, kakuthi ukutshiya kwethu lezozinto ezimbi lingivumele ngilibuze lumbuzo: Asithi umuntu, umfundisi kumbe umthengisi wempahla, abe lethuba elihle phambi kwakhe lokuthola izinto ezimnandi zalokhukuphila kodwa angafinyeleli kuzo (azibone kuphela) etshisekela ngamandla ezinye izinto zokukholwa, ayengazange ahlangani lazo mandulo: angesebenzise yini lindlela ukufinyelela kuzo, aqhubeke lokhu engumuntu olungileyo?"

UThandimali: "Ngiyawubona lapho umbuzo wakho omi khona. Ngizakuthi nje nxa lababanumzane bevuma, ngikuphendule ngawo. Kangiqale ukukuphendula ngalindaba yomfundisi ngokwakhe. Kasithi umfundisi okhokileyo elenotho enlutshwana, kodwa ebona ukuthi angayithola engaphezulu kwaleyo nxa elalo ithuba lokuyithola leyonzuzo ngokufunda kakhulu; ngokutshumayela kanengi njalo ngokukhuthala, langokuthanda kwabantu, ngokuguqula kwakhe amanye amaqiniso, mina ngokwami angiboni ukuthi umuntu angeze akwenza lokho, kuphela nxa elobizo, yebo, lokunye okunengi, kubekanti abe ngumuntu olungileyo. Ngenxa yani?:

- 1) Ukuloyisa kwakhe inzuzo enkulu kusemthethweni (lokho kakulakuphikiswa) ngoba linzuzo imiswe phambi kwakhe ngokulawula koPhezukonke. Ngalokho angayizuza nxa esanelisa, engabuzi ngenxa yesazela.
- 2) Ngaphandle kwalokho, ukuloyisa kwakhe inzuzo enkulu kumenza afunde kakhulu, abe ngumtshumayeli okhuthela kakhulu, aqhubeke esiba yindoda engcono, yebo enze ngcono izinto zakhe, kuvumelane lentando kaNkulunkulu.
- 3) Mayelana-ke lokuzwana lalokho okuthandwa ngabantu bakhe ngokuyekela amanye amaqiniso ukuze abasebenzele, ezinye zezimiso zakhe, lokhu kusekela, okokuqala, ukuthi ulesimo sokuzidela; okwesibili, ukuthi uyindoda evumayo leziphatha kuhle, okwesithathu, lokhu kumenza afanele umsebenzi wobufundisi.
- 4) Ngiphetha-ke ngokuthi umfundisi otshiye indawo elenzuzo encane ngenxa yendawo elenzuzo enkulu akufanele bathi uyahawukela ngoba ngokwenza lokho uyandisa ulwazi lwakhe. Ngalokho abalwe njengalowo

olandela ubizo lwakhe, lethuba elihle lokwenza konke okuhle. Khathesi-ke owesibili umbuzo wakho, lowo okhulume ngomthengisi wempahla, asithi unjengalowo ongazuzi lutho ebantwini emsebenzini wakhe kodwa ebona ukuthi angazuza okuhle, ngoba engokhonzayo, mhlawumbe aganwe ngumfazi onothileyo kumbe lokunye; labathengi abanengi endaweni yakhe yokuthengisa, mina ngokwami kangiboni sizatho nxa lokhu kusenziwa ngokusemthethweni. Ngenxa yani?

- 1) Ukuthi ngumuntu okhonzayo kulungile, loba umuntu engaba njalo loba ngayiphi indlela.
- 2) Futhi kakusikho okungekho emthethweni ukuganwa ngumfazi onothileyo, nokuzilethela ukuthenga esitolo sami.
- 3) Ngaphandle kwalokho indoda ethola lezizinto ngoba ngokukhonza, ithola into elungileyo kwabalungileyo ngokulunga kwayo ngokwayo. Nangu-ke umfazi olungileyo, labathengi abalungileyo, lenzuzo elungileyo; konke lokhu ngokukhonza okuhle. Ngakho-ke ukuba ngokhonzayo ukuze uzuze zonke lezizinto kuyinto enhle, elosizo."

Watsho njalo-ke uThandimali ephendula uFunokwakhe: bonke laba banumzane bajabula kakhulu ukuzwa lamazwi bathi kakho umuntu ongaphikisana laye kulumbuzo. Bathi ngenxa yokuthi uMkristu loBekithemba babeyisibangana phambi kwabo, bavumelana ngokuthi bazakuthi nxa behlangana, bababuze lumbuzo. Batsho ngoba babemphikisile uFunokwakhe ngaphambili wehluleka yena ukuphikisana labo; basebebabiza, bema bona babalindela baze bafika kubo. Bathi sebesondele, baceba ukuthi akusoze kube nguFunokwakhe, kodwa kuzakuba nguBambilizwe ozabuza lowo mbuzo; batsho ngoba babecabanga ukuthi impendulo yabahambi kuye kayiyikutshisa okufanana lokwabo phakathi kukaMkristu loFunokwakhe bengakehlukani. Basebehlangu ababingelelana ngokufitshane; uBambilizwe wasewubuza umbuzo kuMkristu lomngane wakhe ethi nxa bewazi kabawuphendule.

UMkristu wathi: "Imibuzo elula kangaka ingaphendulwa langabantwana bokukholwa, ngoba sibona encwadini kaJohane ukuthi akufanele ukulandela uJesu ngenxa yezinkwa; ngalokho khathesi kwesabeka kangakanani ukumenza yena, lelizwi lakhe ibhiza lokugadwa lokuthola

inzuzo yelizwe lobumnandi bayo? Njalo kasidingi abanye ngaphandle kwabahedeni labazenzisi, lemimoya emibi, labathakathi abacabanga njalo.

- 1) Abahedeni; ngoba oHamori loShekemi bathi nxa befuna ukuthola intombi kaJakobe lezinkomo zakhe, babona ukuthi indlela yokuthola lezozinto yayiyikusokwa, bathi kwabakibo: "Uba bonke abesilisa bakithi besokwa njengabo besokiwe, amantombazana abo, lemihlambi yabo, lemfuyo yabo, lazo zonke inkomo zabo kakumelanga kube ngokwethu yini?" Babefuna intombi zabo lenkomo zabo, ukuthi bazizuze lokukhonza kube yingwegwe yokukuzuza ukuthi kube ngokwabo. Funda indaba yonke (kuGen. 34: 20-23).
- 2) Abakhohlisi abangabaFarisi labo babekuleyonkolo; babesenza imithandazo emide kanti babefuna ukuthola izindlu zabafelokazi. UNkulunkulu wababeka icala ngesiqalekiso esesabekayo.
- 3) UJudasi omubi, wayengowaleyokonzo, wayekhonzela isikhwama ukuze athole lokho okwakukuso; kodwa walahleka, walahlwa; indodana ngitsho eyokubhujiswa.
- 4) USimone laye, isanuse, wayengowaleyokonzo ngoba wayefuna ukuthi laye aphiwe uMoya oyiNgcwele ukuze azuze imali ngalokho, lesigwebo sakhe esivela emlonyeni kaPetro sasifanele.
- 5) Njalo kungephume engqondweni yami ukuthi umuntu owamukela ukukhonza ngenxa yelizwe uzakulahla futhi ukukhonza ngenxa yelizwe; ngoba njengoba uJudasi wangena enkonzweni ngokufisa ilizwe, ngokunjalo waphuma kukho, ngokunjalo wathengisa inkonzo yakhe leNkosi yakhe ngokufananayo. Ukuphendula umbuzo ngokuvuma, njengoba ngibona ukuthi likwenzile ukuthi likwamukele njengempendulo eqondileyo, lokhu konke yibuhedeni lokuzenzisa lokuvumelana loSatane. Umvuzo wenu-ke uzakuba njengokwemisebenzi yenu."

Basebesima bekhangelana kodwa bengelakho ukumphendula uMkristu. UBekithemba laye wakwamukela ukuthi kuhle ukuphendula kukaMkristu. Bathula-ke zwi bonke. UFunokwakhe lezihlobo zakhe bahamba kancane, basalela emuva ukuze uMkristu loBekithemba bedlule. Wezwakala uMkristu ekhuluma lomngane wakhe esithi: "Ubalamadoda engelakuma phambi kwelizwi lomuntu, bazakwenza njani ngelizwi likaNkulunkulu? Nxa bethula phambi kwethu, thina zitsha zebumba, bazakwenza njani nxa bethethiswa

ngamalangabi omlilo ovuthayo?"

Bahamba uMkristu loBekithemba babatshiya, bahambabaze bafika egcekeni elihle, abathi kuseKuphumuleni. Balihamba imiphefumlo ijabula kamnandi; lelo gceke lalilobubanzi obuncane, ngakho badlula kulo masinyane. Ekucineni kwegceke, kwakulentatshana eyayithiwa Mali. Laphezu kwaleyontantshana kwakukhona umgodi wesiliva okwathi abanye babo ababehambe ngaleyondlela mandulo ngenxa yokungejayelevi kwayo baphambuka ukuthi bayoyibona. Kwakusithi sebesondele kakhulu eduze lomgodi, uqhezuke umhlaba, ngoba wawuthambile, balimale labobantu. Kuthiwa abanye babebulawa, abanye belinyazwa kuyo leyondawo, baphelelwe ngamandla kuze kube sekufeni.

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi kolunye uhlangothi eduze lomgodi wesiliva eceleni kwendlela, kwakuhlezi lapho umuntu abathi nguDemasi (efana-lomnumzana) emele ukubiza abadlulayo ukuthi beze babone, owathi kuMkristu lomngane wakhe: "Wozani ngapha, ngizalitshengisa okunye."

UMkristu: "Kuyini khona lokho okuhle okungangokuthi kungasiphambukisa endleleni?"

UDemasi: "Nanku umgodi wesiliva labanye abemba kuwo inotho; uba lizabuya lizayithola inotho kalula."

Wasesithi uBekithemba: "Kasihambe siyebona."

Wathi uMkristu: "Hatshi mina, sengizwile ngalindawo. Banengi ababulawa khona. Njalo ngoba leyonotho ingumjibila kwabayidingayo, ngoba iyabaphuthisela ekuhambeni kwabo."

UMkristu wasememeza-ke kuDemasi esithi: "Angithi leyondawo iyingozi? Angithi iphuthisele abanengi ekuhambeni kwabo?"

UDemasi: "Ayilangozi enkulu nxa umuntu ezinanzelele." Wathi lapho esitsho lokho amehlo akhe akhangelaphansi.

UMkristu wasesithi kuBekithemba: "Kasingatshiyi indlela yethu. Kasihambe endleleni yethu."

UBekithemba: "Kodwa, ngitsho sibili ukuthi nxa uFunokwakhe efika lapha, uzangena khona ukubona, nxa emenyezwa njengathi."

UMkristu: "Sibili, kuzakuba njalo kuye; lami ngitsho njalo; ngoba phela lemicabango yakhe injalo. Kodwa uzafela khona lapho."

Waphinda wamemeza uDemasi wathi: "Kalifuni ukungena khona ukuthi

libone yini?"

Waphendula eqinisa uMkristu wathi: "We Demasi, uyisitha sendlela elungileyo yeNkosi yalindlela esiyihambayo thina. Wena ungumuntu osulahliwe ngomunye wabehluleli bakaNkulunkulu. Ufunelani ukusiletha lathi kulokho kulahlwa kwakho? Ngaphandle kwalokho uba siphambuka endleleni yethu, iNkosi yethu izakuzwa ngakho, ize isihlazise endaweni yokuthi sime phambi kwayo ngesibindi."

Wamemeza njalo uDemasi esithi: "Lami ngingumfowenu. Uba livuma ukungilindela kancane, ngizahamba lani."

Wabuza uMkristu wathi: "Ibizo lakho ungubani? Kayisilo ibizo engikubize ngalo yini?"

UDemasi: "Yebo libizo lami sibili nginguDemasi, indodana kaAbrahama."

UMkristu: "Ngiyakwazi. Njalo uGehazi nguyisemkhulu kayihlo, uJuda nguyihlo. Wena uhamba ngendlela yabo. Uyihlo wabulawa ngokuhlubuka kwakhe. Lawe-ke awufanele ukuphila. Qedisisa njalo wena ukuthi nxa sesifikile eNkosini sizayibikela ngokuziphatha kwakho." Ngalokho bahamba endleleni yabo.

Ngalesosikhathi uFunokwakhe lezihlobo zakhe basebebonakala. Kwathi nxa ebabiza uDemasi, basondela kuye bahamba laye. Angazi kumbe bawela emgodini wakhe oyintolongo lapho besondela ukulunguza, loba behla bayagebha isiliva loba bahitshwa ngaphansi yintuthu ephuma emgodini wakhe oyintolongo, kodwa into yona engayinanzelelayo yikuthi ababonwanga futhi kuleyondlela. Wasehlabela uMkristu wathi:

"UFunokwakhe loSiliva-Demasi bayavumelana;
Omunye ememeza, lomunye uyagijima, ukuze
Bazuze imali; ngokunjalo laba ababili
Bathatheke kulelizwe, bangaqhubekeli phambili."

Ngasengibona ukuthi ngaphetsheya kwalelogceke abahambi labo bafika endaweni ethile babona isikhumbuzo eduze lendlela. Bakhathazeka bobabili ngoba sabamangalisa ngenxa yokubunjwa kwaso. Sabonakala kwangathi yisithombe selitshe, isithombe somfazi owaphendulwa waba yisiduli. Baqonda kuleyondawo bekhangele leyonto. Basondela kodwa bengabonisisi ukuthi iyini. UBekithemba wabona kulotshiwe phezu kwekhanda

lalesosithombe selitshe ngendlela engafundekiyo. Wathi kuMkristu (yena owayefundile kuhle): "Akukhangele lokhu okulotshwe laphaya; mhlawumbe wena uzakuba lakho ukukufunda."

Wahamba uMkristu wayabona, wafika, wahlanganisa amabala, wabona ukuthi ayeyila: "Khumbula umkaLoti." Amazwi lawo wawafundela uBekithemba; emva kwalokho babona ukuthi lesosikhumbuzo siyisiduli sesawudo, aphendulwa waba yiso umfazi kaLoti ngoba wakhangele emuva ngenhliziyo ehawukelayo, mhlana ephuma eSodoma. Bethuka bamangala bebona lokhu, basebexoxa ngakho ngalindlela:

UMkristu: "Yebo, mfowethu, kube kuhle ukuthi sisibone lesisiduli sesawudo. Kufike ngesikhathi esilungileyo, emuva kokuthi uDemasi esesibizele ukuthi siye lunguza entabeni yeMali. Ngabe siye njengokuthanda kwakhe ukuthi siye laphaya, kanti lawe ubuthanda ukuthi siye (wena mfowethu), lathi besiyakwenziwa into eyokubukwa ngabantu ababezalandela thina nxa befika khona besedlula kulindawo."

UBekithemba: "Ngiyazisola ukuthi ngibe yisithutha esinje. Into engimangalisayo ngeyokuthi ngingabi njengenkosikazi kaLoti; ngoba ungaphi umahluko phakathi kwesono sakhe lesami? Yena wanyemukula, mina ngangilesiloyiso sokuyakhangele. Kawudunyiswe umusa kaNkulunkulu njalo mina ngibe lenhloni ukuthi kuke kwabakhona into enjalo enhliziyweni yami."

UMkristu: "Asinanzelele linto esiyibona lapha ukuthi isisize ngesikhathi esizayo. Lumfazi wasinda kokunye ukwahlulelwa ngoba kazange abhubhe ekuchithekeni kweSodoma kanti wabhujiswa ngokunye, okunjengalokhu esikubonayo; waphendulwa wenziwa isiduli sesawudo."

UBekithemba: "Qiniso lumfazi kithi ufanele ukuthi uyisixwayiso lesibonelo: isixwayiso sokuthi sixwaye isono sakhe. Mhlawumbe isiboniso kithi sokuthi yisigwebo bani esiyakwehlela labo abangayikunanzelela isixwayiso lesi. Ngokunjalo uKora, loDatane, loAbiramu kanye lamadoda angamakhulu amabili amatshumi amahlanu ababhubha esonweni sabo baba yisiboniso kumbe isibonelo kwabanye ukuthi bananzelele. Kodwa phezu kwalokho konke ngimangaliswa yinto eyodwa, eyokuthi kubangelwa yini ukuthi oDemasi lezihlobo zakhe bame ngesibindi, bayikhangele kangaka leyondawo abakuyo bedinga lelogugu. Kodwa yena lumfazi loba wayikhangele kanye - waphendulwa wenziwa isiduli sesawudo (kasifundi

ukuthi wake waphambuka endleleni langolunye unyawo). Ikakhulu njengokuthi ukwahlulela okwamehlelayo kwamenza waba yisibonelo endaweni eseduze labo abayibonayo, ngoba bengenze lutho ngaphandle kokuthi bambone, kuphela nxa bengaphakamisa amehlo abo.

UMkristu: "Yindaba emele imangalise. Ibonisa ukuthi inhliziyi zabo aziselakho ukulungiswa; isikhathi sabo sesidlulile. Kangazi ukuthi ngingabalinganisa lobani; mhlawumbe ngingabalinganisa lalabobaphangi abaphanga imali yabantu phambi kukamahluleli, abaphanga impahla zabantu phansi kwaso isihlahla okuphanyekwa kuso abaphangi. Kuyatshiwo ngabantu beSodoma ukuthi babe yizoni ezinkulu, ngoba babe yizoni phambi kweNkosi, lokho kusitsho ukuthi phambi kwamehlo akhe, lanxa yena wayebenzele ububele. Ngoba ilizwe leSodoma laselifanana lesiVande seEdeni sakudala. Lokho kwamenza uNkulunkulu waba lomona, okwenza uhlupho lwabo lutshise njengomlilo kaNkulunkulu ovela ezulwini. Kubonakala kuhle ukuthi abanjalo abalingisa abeSodoma, abona phambi kukaNkulunkulu, yebo, lanxa bebonile izibonelo ezazibekwe njalo phambi kwabo ukubaxwayisa ngokuphambene lalokhu, kufanele khathesi babe ngabahlanganyeli bokutshaywa lokulahlwa okwesabekayo."

UThembekile: "Isibili ukhuluma iqiniso. Kodwa ngumusa ongakanani lo wokuthi kungabanga nguwe, loba kungabanga yimi, owenziwe isiboniso phambi kwabanye abantu. Lokho kwenza ukuthi simbonge uNkulunkulu, sesabe phambi kwakhe, sihlale sikhumbula inkosikazi kaLoti."

15. INqaba yokuThandabuza

Ngasengibona ukuthi bayihamba indlela yabo baze bafika emfuleni omuhle owabizwa nguDavida inkosi ngokuthi nguMfula kaNkulunkulu. UJohane yena wawubiza wathi nguMfula waManzi okuPhila. Indlela yabo yayigudla okhunjini lomfula. UMkristu lesihlobo sakhe bahamba bethabile kakhulu; banatha amanzi omfula, aphilisa imimoya yabo ekhathelayo. Njalo enkunjinini zombili kwakukhona izihlahla eziluhlaza ezithela izithelo eziyizinhlobonhlobo. Amahlamvu ezihlahla ayengumuthi omuhle wokuvikela imikhuhlane: Bathokoziswa njalo yizithelo zalezizihlahla. Badla amahlamvu azo bevikela imikhuhlane, leminyane imikhuhlane ebehlala behamba. Ngaphetsheya komfula kwakulamadlelo amahle ngenxa yemiduze. Kwakuluhlaza umnyaka wonke. Balala khona emadlelweni, balala ubuthongo ngoba kuleyondawo babengadutshwa lutho. Bathi lapho bephaphama bakhe izithelo zezihlahla badle, banathe amanzi omfula, babuye balale ubuthongo. Benza njalo okwensukwana emini lebusuku. Basebehlabela besithi:

Khangelani imifudlana yekristali icwebezela njani;
Ukududuza izihambi endleleni ephakamileyo;
Amadlelo aluhlaza, alephunga elimnandi,
Awakhuphela okumnandi: lalowo ongathi
Yeka izithelo ezimnandi, yebo, amahlamvu athelwa yilezizihlahla,
Masinya angathengisa konke, ukuze athenge linsimu.

Kwathi sebezimisele ukuqhubekela phambili ngohambo lwabo, ngoba babengakabi sekucineni kohambo lwabo, basebesidla, banatha, basebekhuphuka.

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi bathi bengakahambi umango omude kwase kusehlukana umfula lendlela okwesikhatshana. Bakhathazeka okungekuncinyane ngalokho; kodwa babengelasibindi sokuphambuka endleleni; njalo indlela ekusukeni kwayo emfuleni yayilokhethe olunengi, leziyawo zabo zasezibuhlungu ngenxa yohambo lwabo; ngakho-ke

inhliziyi zabahambi zaphela amandla ngenxa yendlela. Ngalokho-ke besahamba bafisa indlela engcono kulaleyo. Kodwa eduzane labo, ngaphambi kwabo, ngakwesokhohlo kwendlela kwakulamadlelo lothango olulentuba ekhwelwayo kwehlele kuwo. Lelodlelo lalithiwa li“Dlelo-loKuphambukela”. Wasesithi uMkristu esihlotsheni sakhe: "Nxa lelidlelo ligudla endleleni yethu, asikhwele sehlele kulo." Wasesiya-ke entubeni ukuthi abone okukhona, wabona nansi enye indlela igudlene lendlela yabo ngale kothango. Wathi uMkristu: "Kuye ngengikuthandayo; lapha kuhambeka lula. Woza-ke, Bekithemba omuhle, asikhwele sehlele kuyo lindlela."

UBekithemba: "Kodwa uzakuthini nxa indlela isiphambukisa endleleni eqondileyo?"

UMkristu: "Wathi omunye, akufanele ukuthi kungaba yilokho. Khangela, kayigudlani yini lendlela esihamba ngayo?" Ngakho uBekithemba wavumelana lamazwi esihlobo sakhe, wamlandela beqa bobabili esikhwelweni. Bathi sebehamba kuleyondledlana, bayithola ibuthakathaka enyaweni. Bathi bekhangelaphambi kwabo babona indoda ihamba njengabo (lebizo lakhe lalinguThembize); basebememeza babuza ukuthi leyondlela iya ngaphi. Wathi yena: "Iya eSangweni leZulwini."

Wathi uMkristu: "Khangela, kangikutshelanga lokho yini? Ngalokho uyabona ukuthi siqondile." Base bemlandela uThembize ehamba phambi kwabo; kodwa khangelaphambi kwabo latshona ilanga, kwafika umnyama omkhulu. Ababesemuva babengasamboni ophambi kwabo.

Lowo-ke owahamba phambi kwabo (uThembize ngebizo), engasayiboni indlela phambi kwakhe wawela emgodini wakhe oyintolongo otshonayo, owagejwa yinkosi yaleyondawo, ukubamba ngawo izithutha ezizigqajayo, wacobozeka ekuweni kwakhe.

UMkristu-ke lesihlobo sakhe bamuzwa esiwa. Basebememeza ukuthi bezwe ukuthi kwenzenjani, kodwa kakubanga lampendulo. Bezwa ukububula kuphela. Wasesithi uBekithemba: "Singaphi khathesi?" Wathula umngane wakhe elovalo ukuthi umphambukisile endleleni. Laseliqala ukuna lokuduma lokuphazama ngokwesabekayo. Amanzi anda kakhulu. UBekithemba wasebubula ngaphakathi kwakhe esithi: "Kwangathi ngabe ngicine indlela yami!"

UMkristu: "Ngubani obengacabanga ukuthi lindlela izasidukisa?"

UBekithemba: "Mina ngayibona ngesaba lasekuqaleni; yikho ngazama ukukuvusa kancane. Ngabe ngakhuluma sobala, kodwa ngesaba ngoba umdala kulami."

UMkristu: "Mfowethu omuhle ungacunuki. Ngidabukile ukuthi ngikuphambule ngakuletha engozini esobala enje. Ngithethelela mfowethu: kangikwenzanga lokho ngenhliziyo ehlose ububi."

UBekithemba: "Ungakhathazeki mfowethu ngoba ngiyakuthethelela. Futhi ngiyathemba ukuthi lokhu kuzasenzela okuhle."

UMkristu: "Ngiyathokoza ukuthi ngihambe lomfowethu olomusa. Kodwa singemi lapha. Asibuyele emuva."

UBekithemba: "Kodwa mfowethu omuhle, akuhambe mina phambili."

UMkristu: "Hatshi, akuhambe mina phambili, khona kuzakuthi nxa kulengozi iwele mina kuqala, ngoba kungenxa yami siphambukile sobabili."

UBekithemba: "Hatshi, ungahambi phambili ngoba inhliziyo yakho ikhathazekile, ingaphinda ikudukise futhi endleleni."

Basebesizwa ngokuthokoza ilizwi elathi: "Misela inhliziyo yakho endleleni ephakemeyo, iqonde indlela leyo owahamba ngayo. Buyela emuva." Ngalesosikhathi amanzi ayesande kakhulu. Lokho kwenza ukuthi ukubuyela kwabo kube yingozi enkulu. (Ngasengisithi mina kulula ukuphambuka endleleni esikuyo kulokungena kuyo sesiphambukile.) Bakhuthazela ukubuyela emuva, kodwa kwakumnyama kakhulu, langokugcwala kwamanzi, baphose bagalula kasificamunwemunye kumbe katshumi. Babengekwenze ukufinyelela esikhwelweni ngalobobusuku ngobuciko bonke ababelabo. Ekucineni befika edunjaneni, bahlala lapho kwaze kwasa; sebekhathele balala ubuthongo.

Kodwa kwakukhona eduzane lendawo ababelele kuyo inqaba okuthiwa yiNqaba yokuThandabuza; umniniyo wayenguSiqhwaga uPhelithemba. Njalo babelele emhlabeni wakhe. Okwathi evuka ekuseni kakhulu, ehambahamba emasimini akhe wethuka ebona uMkristu loBekithemba belele ubuthongo elizweni lakhe. Wasebavusa ngelizwi elinzima, ehwabha wabuza ukuthi bavela ngaphi, njalo benzani elizweni lakhe. Bamtshela ukuthi bangabahambi njalo balahlekelwe yindlela.

Usiqhwaga uPhelithemba wathi kubo: "Lonile kimi ngalobubusuku ngokungena emasimini ami lilale khona; ngalokho elikwenzileyo, lizahamba lami."

Wabaqhuba bahamba laye ngoba wayelamandla kulabo.

Njalo babengephendule ngoba babesazi ukuthi balecala. Isiqhwaga sabaqhuba phambi kwaso sabangenisa enqabeni yaso, emgodini wakhe oyintolongo omnyama, onuka kubi enhliziyweni zalamadoda. Balala lapho kusukela ngolweSithathu ekuseni kwaze kwaba nguMgqibelo ebusuku. Bengelakudla, kumbe ithonsi lamanzi, kumbe ukukhanya, kungekho muntu owababuza ukuthi banjani. Sibili babehlezi kubi lapho; bekhatshana lezihlobo labejayelene labo. Kulindawo uMkristu waba lokuthandabuza okulusizi ngoba kwaba ngokuphangisa kwakhe okungaqondile ukuthi behlelwe lusizi olunjeya.

USiqhwaga uPhelithemba wayelomfazi. Ibizo lakhe lalinguThandabuza. Wathi eseyelala, uPhelithemba wamtshela umkakhe akwenzileyo; ukuthi ubambe abantu ababibili wababopha wabafaka emgodini wakhe oyintolongo ngokudabula emasimini akhe. Wabuza kumkakhe ukuthi kufanele abenze njani; umkakhe wabuza ukuthi bangobani, bavela ngaphi, baya ngaphi; yena wamtshela. Wasemeluleka esithi: "Uzakuthi nxa uvuka ekuseni, ubatshaye ungabi lesihawu." Kwathi evuka, wathatha induku eyesabekayo, wehlela emgodini oyintolongo, waya kubo, waqala ukubahlambaza kwangathi yizinja lanxa bengaphendulanga lutho olubi; wasebatshaya okwesabekayo baze behluleka lokuzisiza lokuphenduka bephansi. Wathi nxa eseqede ukwenza lokho, wabatshiya khona lapho, bekhalelana ngosizi lwabo belila ngobuhlungu babo. Lonke lelolanga latshona bebubula, bekhala kanzima.

Ngobusuku obulandelayo, uThandabuza ephinda ekhuluma lendoda yakhe ngabo, ezwile ukuthi basekhona, wayitshela wathi: "Ubobeluleka uthi kabazibulale." Kwathi sekusile waya kubo enyukumele uPhelithemba njengakuqala. Ebona ukuthi iyachinca imvimvinya abatshaye yona izolo, wathi kubo: "Ngoba lingayikuphuma kulindawo, kunye elingakwenza, yikuthi lizibulale, kungaba ngengqamu, intambo, kumbe itshefu. Kungani ukuthi likhethe ukuphila, khona kuhlange lobunzima obunengi kangaka?" Bamncenga bona ukuthi abayekele bahambe. Wasebakhangela ebajamele, wasuka waya kubo, wayesezimisele ukubaqeda ngabe kawiswanga yisithuthwane. Ngoba ngesinye isikhathi nxa libalele wayewiswa yisithuthwane. Okwesikhatshana wehluleka ukusebenzisa izandla zakhe. Wasephuma ebatshiya njengakuqala, esithi abake banakane ukuthi

bazakwenza njani.

Ababotshiwewo base beselulekana, bebuzana ngokuthi: "Kambe senze akutshoyo yini?" Baqala-ke ukukhuluma ngalamazwi:

UMkristu: "Mfowethu, sizakwenze njani? Lokhukuhlala esikuhlezi khathesi kulusizi. Ngokwami angazi ukuthi kuhle ukuthi sihlale ngaloluhlobo, loba ukuthi sife. Inhliziyo yami ikhetha ukukhanywa kulokuphila. Kimi ithuna lilula kulalungodi oyintolongo; kambe sizabuswa yiSiqhwaga yini?"

UBekithemba: "Isibili isimo sethu siyesabeka; lokufa kungcono kulokuhlala lapha; kodwa asikhumbule ukuthi iNkosi yelizwe esiya kulo yathi: "Ungabulali." Ithi lingabulali omunye umuntu; kukanganani-ke ukuthi silalele ilizwi lokweluleka kwakhe esithi sizibulale? Futhi obulala omunye umuntu, angabulala umzimba kuphela; kanti ozibulalayo, ubulala umzimba lomphumlo. Futhi mfowethu wena ukhuluma ngokuphumula ethuneni; kodwa ususikhohliwe yini isihogo abaya kuso ababulalayo? Ngoba kakho umbulali olokuphila okuphakade. Kasikhumbule futhi ukuthi umthetho wonke kawukho esandleni sikaSiqhwaga uPhelithemba. Ngithi labanye, ngokwazi kwami, sewake wababamba njengathi, kodwa sebaphunyuka esandleni sakhe. Ngubani owaziyo ukuthi uNkulunkulu owenza umhlaba angenze ukuthi afe uSiqhwaga uPhelithemba, kumbe kwesinye isikhathi akhohlwe ukusikhiyela phakathi, kumbe awiswe yisithuthwane phambi kwethu, kuqine imisipha yakhe? Nxa lokho kungenzeka futhi mina ngokwami ngizimisele ukuqinisa inhliziyo njengendoda; ngizame ngakho konke engilakho ukuzikhulula ezandleni zakhe; ngibe yisithutha ukungakuzami lokho ekuqaleni; kodwa mfowethu, loba kunjalo asibekezele sizwe ubunzima, siqinisele okwesikhatshana. Sizafika isikhathi sokuthi sikhululwe kuhle kodwa asingazibulali thina ngokwethu.

Ngalamazwi uBekithemba wathobisa inhliziyo yomngane wakhe ngalesosikhathi. Baqhubeka bendawonye (ebumnyameni) ngalelolanga, besosizini olunzima olukhalisayo.

Kwathi lapho sekuhlwile, uSiqhwaga waphinda waya endlini yalezozibotshwa efuna ukubona ukuthi zikulalele ukweluleka kwakhe yini. Wathi nxa efika khona, wazithola zisaphila. Kwasekusele ukuphefumula kodwa ngenxa yokuswela ukudla lamanzi, langenxa yamanxeba ayezitshaye wona. Kodwa uPhelithemba wazifika zisaphila; lokho kwamthukuthelisa

kakhulu, wazitshela wathi njengoba zingakulalelanga ukweluleka kwakhe, kuzakuba kubi kuzo ngangokuthi kwakungaba ngcono ukuthi azizalwanga. Zathuthumela kakhulu ngalokho; ngithi uMKristu wawa, waqaleka; kodwa esephapheme, baphinda bakhuluma ngokweluleka kukaSiqhwaga besithi: "Kambe kuhle ukuthi sikulalele loba hayi?"

UMkristu kwangathi angathanda ukwenza lokho; kodwa uBekithemba waphendula okwesibili wathi:

UBekithemba: "Mfowethu, awukhumbuli ukuba yindoda kwakho owawulakho kuqala? UApoliyoni wehluleka ukukucoboza, lakho konke okunye owakuzwayo, wakubona, wakuphatha esigodini sethunzi lokufa. Hawu! Inhlupheko, lovalo, lokwethuka owedlule kukho! Khathesi uyesaba kuphela? Uyabona, mina ngilapha kanye lawe, emgodini oyintolongo, mina engibuthakathaka kulawe. Lalo uSiqhwaga ungilimizile kanye lawe. Ususile emlonyeni wami ukudla lamanzi. Mina lawe silila singelakukhanya. Kodwa asizame ukubekezela. Khumbula ukuthi wenza ubudoda eMdlalweni weZe. Wawungesabi amaketane kumbe izongo, ngitsho lokufa okulegazi. Ngakho kasibekezele, senze ngokwamandla ethu, ukuze siphephe ihlazo elingafanelanga umuntu ongumKristu."

Kwathi sekuhlwile futhi uSiqhwaga wayalala kanye lomkakhe owabuza mayelana lezibotshwa ukuthi zilalele yini ukweluleka kwakhe; waphendula wathi bangamahlongandlebe, bakhethe ukuthwala ubuhlungu bonke kulokuzibulala. Wasesithi uThandabuza: "Bathathe ubase egcekeni kusasa, ubatshengise amathambo lenkakhayi zalabo owababulalayo kuqala, ubenze bakholwe ukuthi kusizaphela iviki uzabadabula babe yiziqa njengokwenza kwakho kwabanye babo mandulo."

Kwathi sekusile uSiqhwaga waphinda waya kubo, wabasa egcekeni, wabatshengisa njengokwakutshiwo ngumkakhe, wathi: "Laba babengabahambi njengani. Bangena labo emasimini ami njengani; kwathi mhla ngibabonayo, ngabadlithiza. Kuzakuthi zingakapheli insuku ezilithumi, ngenze lokho lakini futhi. Khathesi hambani libuyele emgodini wenu."

Wasehamba labo ebatshaya ibanga lonke ukuya lapho. Ngakho balala lelolanga lonke, ngoMgqibelo, besesizini njengakuqala. Kuthe sekuhlwile, uThandabuza loSiqhwaga indoda yakhe belele, baphinda bakhulumisana ngamezozibotshwa. USiqhwaga wamangala ngokwehluleka kwakhe

ukuzinqoba ngokuzitshaya, langokuzeluleka. Wasesithi umkakhe: “Ngiyesaba futhi ukuthi bahlezi bethembile ukuthi kuzafika omunye ukuzabakhupha; kumbe balecebo lokuvula umnyango. Mhlawumbe balamakhiye abethembe ukuphepha ngawo. UPhelithemba wathi: " Utsho njalo, mkami? Ngizabahlola kusasa."

Kwathi ngoMgqibelo, ebusuku, phakathi kwamabili, abahambi baqala ukuthandaza kwaze kwaba semadabukakusa.

Sekumpondozankomo uMkristu emangala kancinyane wakhuluma ngamazwi avuthayo wathi: “Hawu! Mina siwula; ngihlezi nje ngilele kulumgodi oyintolongo enukayo, endaweni yokuba ngabe ngihamba ngikhululekile. Ngilekhiye esifubeni sami, ethiwa nguSithembiso. Engiyaziyo ukuthi ingavula konke okusenqabeni yokuThandabuza." Wasesithi uBekithemba: "Kuhle lokho, mfowethu. Ikhuphe esifubeni sakho uzame.”

UMkristu waseyikhupha esifubeni sakhe, waqala ukuzama umnyango womgodi oyintolongo; wathi ephendula ikhiye, insimbi yawo yabuyela emuva, umnyango wavuleka lula, baphuma bobabili, uMkristu loBekithemba. Base besiya emnyango ongaphandle oya egumeni lenqaba: bawuvula lalowomnyango ngekhiye yabo. Base besiya emuva kwalokho esangweni elikhulu lensimbi ngoba kwakumele livulwe lalo; kulo kwakulukhuni kodwa ikhiye yakhe yavula lakulo. Basebeqhubekela phambili, isango lavuleka bethi bazakweqa baphangise; kodwa lesosivalo ekuvulekeni kwaso sabanga umsindo owazewavusa uSiqhwaga uPhelithemba, waphangisa wavuka esithi kabababambe, kodwa wakhulelwa yimisipha ngoba wakhulelwa yisithuthwane wehluleka ukubabamba. Basebehamba-ke baze bafika endleleni yeNkosi; basila ngoba basebengaphandle kokuphathwa nguPhelithemba.

Bathi sebeqile entubeni, baqala ukukhumbula abazakwenza kuleyontuba ukuze kuvimbele abalandelayo ukuthi bangaweli ezandleni zikaSiqhwaga uPhelithemba; bavumelana ukumisa insika kuleyondawo, babhala kuyo amazwi athi: “Ngale intuba kuyiwa enqabeni yokuthandabuza egcinwe yisiqhwaga uPhelithemba, odelela iNkosi yeLizwe leZulwini, efuna ukubhubhisa abahambi abangcwele.” Ngakho abalandelayo babona

okubhaliweyo, baphepha ingozi.

Sebekwenzile lokhu bahlabela ingoma ethi:

"Saphambuka endleleni, sasesifika ukuthi
kwakunjani ukunyathela ilizwe elingavunyelwayo.
Akuthi abalandelayo bananzelele,
Hlezi ukungananzeleli kubenze njengoba lathi senza,
Hlezi ngokuphambuka babe yizibotshwa zakhe,
Onqaba yakh' nguThandabuza, lobiz' lakh' nguPhelithemba."

16. INtaba eZimnandi

Bahamba-ke baze bafika ezintabeni okuthiwa ziNtaba eziMnandi. Zazingezenkosi yaleyontatshana ebesikhuluma ngayo kuqala. Bakhwela ezintabeni babona amasimu, lezilimo lezivande lemithombo yamanzi abanatha bageza badla izithelo ezivela ezivandeni ngesihle. Kodwa phezu kwalezo zintaba kwakulabelusi ababeluse izimvu zabo bemi ngasendleleni. Izihambi zaya kubo zafika zema ngendondolo zazo (njengokwenza kwezihambi ezikhatheleyo nxa zimi zikhuluma lomuntu endleleni) zabuza-ke zathi: "Ngezikabani lezizintaba ezimnandi lalezizimvu ezidla kuzo?"

Abelusi: "Lezizintaba ziyiLizwe likaEmanuweli, ziyabonakala usemzini wakhe. Lezimvu zingezakhe, futhi wazibekela ukuphila kwakhe."

UMkristu: "Yiyo yini lindlela eya eMzini weZulwini?"

Abelusi: "Yiyo; limi kuhle endleleni."

UMkristu: "Kungumango ongakanani ukuya khona?"

Abelusi: "Mude kubo bonke, kodwa kuphela kulabo abazakhuthala bayefika khona."

UMkristu: "Ilungile, kumbe ilengozi lindlela?"

Abelusi: "Ilungile kwabaqondileyo; kodwa kwabeqayo bazakhubeka kuyo."

UMkristu: "Khonapha kukhona okokuphumuza abahambi abadiniweyo labaphelamandla endleleni yini?"

Abelusi: "INKosi yalezizintaba isilaye yathi: Lingakhohlwa ukungenisa abahambayo, lokubaphatha kuhle. Ngakho okuhle kwendawo kuphambi kwenu."

Ngabona futhi ephutsheni lami ukuthi kwathi abelusi bebona ukuthi bangabahambi, bababuza imibuzo; labo baphendula njengakwezinye indawo; njengokuthi, "Livela ngaphi?" lokuthi, "Lingene njani endleleni?" njalo "Liyibekezelele njani indlela, ngoba balutshwana abasuka besiza lapha ababefinyelela kulezizintaba?" Kodwa abelusi sebezwe ukuphendula kwabo, bakholwa yilokho, babakhangela ngothando olukhulu, bathi: "Siyalemukela kuhle eziNtabeni zobuMnandi!".

Mina ngithi, amabizo alabobelusi, babengoLwazi, loMhlakaniphi, loLinda, loBuqotho. Bababamba ngezandla babasa emathenteni abo, babapha okwakukhona okuvuthiweyo; bathi futhi: "Sithanda ukuthi like lihlale lapha kancinyane, sazane lani, lengezelelwe ukuthokoza okuhle kwaleziziNtaba eziMnandi." Bavuma ukuhlala. Basebesiyalala ngalobobusuku, ngoba kwase kuhlwile.

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi kusasa abelusi bavusa uMkristu loBekithemba ukuthi bahambahambe labo ezintabeni. Baphuma-ke labo, bahambahamba isikhatshana bebuka ilizwe elihle nhlangothi zonke. Basebesithi abelusi omunye komunye: "Kasitshengise lababahambi okunye okumangalisayo." Bathi sebevumelene, babasa phezu kwentaba okuthiwa kuseKuduheni eyayinde kakhulu kuhlangothi olukhatshana, bathi kabakhangele phansi. Bakhangela phansi oMkristu loThembile, babona abantu abathile ezansi, bephahlazekile, ababewe entabeni. Wasesithi uMkristu: "Kutshoni lokhu?" Abelusi bamphendula bathi: "Kawuzwanga ngalabo abaduhiswa belalele uHumeniyo loFileto, ngoba bona babesithi ukuvuka kwabafileyo sekwedlulile?" Baphendula bathi: "Yebo, sezwa." Bakhuluma futhi abelusi bathi: "Labo elibabonayo bephahlazekile ezansi kwentaba le, yibo. Kuze kube khathesi abangcwatshwanga njengoba libona, kwenzelwa ukuxwayisa abanye ukuthi bangakhweli engqongweni, lokuthi bangasondeli eliweni lalintaba."

Ngasengibona futhi ukuthi babasa phezu kwenye intaba okuthiwa kuseKuxwayeni. Bathi kabakhangele khatshana kakhulu; bakhangela babona kungathi ngabantu abathile abahambahamba phakathi kwamathuna ayekhona lapho. Njalo bananzelela ukuthi labobantu babezimpumpithe, ngokuba kwesinye isikhathi babekhubeka emathuneni, besehluleka lokuphuma khona. Wasesithi uMkristu: "Kutshoni lokhu?"

Basebephendula abelusi bathi: "Alibonanga eduze lalezizintaba ingenelo lokungena edlelweni, ngakwesokhohlo kwalindlela? Kusukela kulelongelo kuqala indlela eqonda kuNqaba yokuThandabuza egcinwa nguSiqhwaga uPhelithemba; labayabantu-ke (ekhomba emathuneni), babehamba uhambo njengani khathesi, baze bafinyelela kulelongenelo; kodwa ngenxa yokuthi indlela eyayilungile yayilamatshe bakhetha ukuphambuka lapho, bangena edlelweni; lapho babanjwa nguSiqhwaga uPhelithemba, bafakwa eNqabeni

yokuThandabuza. Kwathi sebeginwe isikhathi eside emgodini oyintolongo, ekucineni wabakhipha amehlo wabasa phakathi kwalamathuna. Lapho wabatshiya behambahamba khona, kuze kube lamuhla, ukuze kugcwaliseke ilizwi lohlakaniphileyo elithi: 'Umuntu oduhayo endleleni yokuqonda, uzahlala enhlanganweni yabafileyo.'(Izaga 21:16). UMkristu loBekithemba besizwa lamazwi, bakhangelana bekhala izinyembezi, kodwa kababatshelanga lutho abelusi.

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi abelusi babasa kwenye indawo engaphansi, lapho okwakukhona isivalo eceleni kwentaba. Basivula isivalo bathi kabakhangele phakathi. Bakhangelana phakathi, ngakho babona ukuthi kumnyama, kugcwele intuthu. Kungathi bezwa ukuduma komlilo, lokububula kwabantu abasebuhlungwini, futhi bezwa iphunga lesibabule. Wasesithi uMkristu: "Kutshoni lokhu?"

Abelusi babatshela bathi: "Le yindlela ephambukela esihogweni; indlela abazenzisi abahamba ngayo, ngitsho abathengisa ilungelo labo lokuzalwa njengoEsawu, labathengisa iNkosi yabo beloJudasi, labathuka izindaba ezinhle zeVangeli beloAleksandro, labaqamba amanga bekhohlisa, beloAnaniya loSafira umkakhe."

UBekithemba: "Ngiyabona ukuthi laba babetshengisa ukuthi bangabahambi njengathi. Kakunjalo yini?"

Abelusi "Yebo! Babephakathi kwakho okwesikhathi eside."

UBekithemba "Babengahamha kangakanani ngohambo lwabo ngoba phela kulokhu balahlwa ngosizi olunjeyana?"

Abelusi: "Abanye basebedlulile kulezizintaba. Abanye bengakafinyeleli lapha."

Basebethi abahambi omunye komunye: "Kufuneka ukuthi sikhale kuSomandla asinike amandla."

Abelusi: "Yebo! kufanele futhi ukuthi lisebenze ngawo nxa lilawo."

Ngalesisikhathi abahambi bathanda ukuqhubekela phambili, labelusi labo futhi babethanda ukuthi bahambe; babaphelekezela yonke indlela baze bafika ekupheleni kwezintaba. Basebethi abelusi omunye komunye: "Asibatshengise abahambi lapha, isango loMuzi waseZulwini, nxa bekwazi ukukhangela ngesiboniboni sokukhangela khatshana." Abahambi bakuvuma kuhle lokho; abelusi basebebasa phezu kwentaba ende ethiwa iCwebile.

Basebebanika isiboniboni sabo ukuthi bakhangele ngaso; basebezama ukukhangela, kodwa bathi nxa bekhumbula okokucina abakutshengiswa ngabelusi, bathuthumela. Ngalokho babengaboni kuhle ngesiboniboni sokukhangela khatshana; kube kanti babona angathi kufanana lesango; njalo lokunye njalo kobukhosi baleyondawo. Basebehamba-ke behlabelela besithi:

"Ngokunjalo ngabelusi, imfihlo ziyembulwa,
Ezifihliweyo kwabanye abantu.
Woza kubelusi-ke, uba uzabona
Izinto ezijulileyo, izinto ezifihliweyo njalo lezimangalisayo."

Sebezasuka, omunye wabelusi wabanika incwadi etshengisa indlela. Omunye wathi kabaxwaye olalisa ngolimi. Owesithathu wathi kabananzelele ukuthi bangalali elizweni elithakathiweyo. Owesine wathi kabahambe kuhle, uNkulunkulu abe labo. Ngasengiphaphama ephutsheni lami.

17. KuMhlaba oVilaphisayo

Kodwa ngaphinde ngalala ubuthongo, ngaphupha ngibona labobahambi bobabili besehla ezintabeni, behamba ngomgwaqo oya eMzini weZulwini. Kodwa eduze lalungwaqo, kwakukhona ilizwe leKuziqhenyeni. Kwakukhona futhi indledlana ebhodabhodayo evela elizweni lelo, engena kulungwaqo ababehamba kuwo abahambi. Kuleyondawo bahlangana lejaha elikhutheleyo, elalivela kulelilizwe; njalo ibizo lalo lalinguKungazi. UMkristu waselibuza ukuthi livela ngaphi, liya ngaphi.

UKungazi: "Nkosi, ngazalelwa kulelilizwe elilaphaya eduze lathi ngakwesokhohlo; Ngiya eMzini weZulwini."

UMkristu: "Kodwa uthi uzangena ngani esangweni ngoba mhlawumbe uzathola ubunzima obuthile lapho?"

UKungazi: "Njengokwenziwa ngabanye abantu abalungileyo."

UMkristu: "Kodwa uzatshengisani esangweni, okungenza ukuthi uvulelwe?"

UKungazi: "Ngiyayazi intando yeNkosi yami. Ngiphile impilo elungileyo. Ngiyambhadala wonke umuntu okwakhe. Ngiyakhuleka, ngizile ukudla, ngibhadale okwetshumi, njalo ngiphe izipho; sengitshiye ilizwe lakithi, ngisiya kuleliya."

UMkristu: "Kodwa, awungenanga ngesangwana elisekuqaleni kwalindlela. Ungene ngendlela ebhodabhodayo. Ngakho mina ngiyesaba, laphezu kwakho konke ozitsho ngakho, kuzakuthi mhla kufika usuku lokuthonisiswa, ubekwe icala lokuthi ulisela, ungumphangi, endaweni yokungena ekhaya."

UKungazi: "Makhosi, lingabezizwe sibili; angilazi. Yanelani, lilandele ukukhonza kwelizwe lakini; lami ngizalandela ukukhonza kwakithi. Ngithemba ukuthi konke kuzakuba kuhle. Isangwana lelo elilitshoyo, umhlaba wonke uyazi ukuthi likhatshana kakhulu lelizwe lakithi. Kangikhumbuli ukuthi ukhona loyedwa wakithi oyaziyo indlela eya khona; kodwa bona kabalandaba, loba beyazi loba bengayazi; njengoba ubona silawo umkhondo omuhle ovelela elizweni lakithi ungenela kulindlela."

Wathi uMkristu nxa ebona ukuthi lowomuntu uhlakaniphe ngokuziqhenya, wasondela kuBekithemba, wathi kuye ngokunyenyeza: "Isiwula silethemba elingcono kulaye." Wathi futhi: "Uba oyisiwula ehamba endleleni;

ukuhlakanipha kwakhe kuyaphela; atsho kubo bonke ukuthi uyisithutha. Sisezakhulumani laye, asidlulele phambili, simtshiye akhumbule ngakuzwileyo. Emva kwalokho sibone kumbe ngesilinganiso esithize singamsiza ngokulungileyo."

Wasesithi uBekithemba:

"Akuthi uKungazi okwesikhatshana akhumbule
Ngokukhulunywileyo, njalo kangakwali
Ukweluleka okuhle ukukugona, hlezi ahlale
Enjalo lokhu engazi ngalokho okuyinzuzo enkulu,
UNKulunkulu uthi labo abangelakuqedisisa,
Loba ebezile, bona kayikubasindisa."

Wathi njalo UBekithemba: "Ngithi mina akufanele ukuthi simtshela konke kanye kanye. Asimdlule, nxa uthanda, sikhulume laye eselokulalela kuhle."

Basebeqhubeka bobabili, uKungazi wabalandela. Bathe sebehambe ibangana, bangena endledlaneni emnyama kakhulu, lapho abahlangana lendoda eyayibotshwe ngamadimoni ayisikhombisa ngentambo eziyisikhombisa. Lawomadimoni ayembuyisela emuva, kulesosivalo ababesibone eceleni kwentaba. UMkristu olungileyo waqala ukuthuthumela; lomngane wakhe uBekithemba wathuthumela. Kwathi lapho amadimoni emdonsa lowomuntu, uMkristu wakhangelela ukuthi uyamazi yini; wanakana ukuthi kungaba nguMfulatheli, owayehlala emzini weKuhlubukeni. Kodwa ubuso bakhe kabubonanga kuhle ngoba ikhanda lakhe walifihla njengesela elibanjiweyo. Kodwa uthe esedlule, watshibilika uBekithemba wamkhangela, wabona iphepha emhlane wakhe elibhalwe ukuthi: "Umfundi ongathembekanga; lomhlabu olahlileyo."

Wasesithi uMkristu kumngane wakhe: "Sengikhumbula engakutshelwa ngento eyehlala umuntu olungileyo kulezizindawo. Ibizo laleyondoda kwakunguThemba-Elincane, kodwa ingumuntu olungileyo; yayihlala emzini okuthiwa kuseBuqothweni. Into nansi: Ekuqaleni kwalindledlana kulendlela eyehla ivela eSangweni leNdlelebanzi. Leyondlela ibizwa ngokuthi yiNdlela yaBafileyo; ngenxa yokubulawa kwabanengi ngabaphangi okwenzakala kuleyondawo."

UThemba-Elincane lo ehamba uhambo njengathi, esekhathele wahlala phansi lapho, walala ubuthongo. Kwehla ngalesosikhathi kuleyondledlana, kuvela eSangweni leNdlelebanzi amasela amakhulu amathathu; oDangalinhliziyi loKathembi loMacala (izelamani ezintathu). Kwathi lamadoda ebona uThemba-Elincane lapha alele khona, aya egijima ngamandla; kodwa lowomuntu olungileyo wayesanda kuvuka ebuthongweni, esasukuma, esithi useqhubeka ngohambo lwakhe. Asesiya kuye wonke kanye kanye emsongela, athi keme. UThemba-Elincane wasehlobisa umzimba engelamandla okulwa kumbe ukubaleka. Wasesithi uDangalinhliziyi: "Khupha isikhwama sakho semali!" Kodwa ngokungaphangisi kwakhe ukuyikhipha (ngoba engathandi ukulahlekelwa yimali yakhe), uKathembi wamsukela wafaka isandla sakhe esikhwameni sakhe, wakhupha lapho umxhaka wesiliva.

Wasememeza esithi: "Amasela! Amasela!" Ngalokho, uMacala wasemtshaya ekhanda ngenduku enkulu ayeyiphethe. Ngalokhokumtshaya, wamwisa phansi, wathi daca, wopha ngokungathi uzakufa. Sonke lesosikhathi amasela ema phambi kwakhe emkhangele, kodwa kwathi besizwa kungathi bakhona abezayo ngendlela, besaba ukuthi kungaba nguMusomkhulu wemzini weKuthembokukhulu, abaleka amtshiya lowomuntu omuhle ukuthi azibonele. Emuva kwesikhatshana uThemba-Elincane waqaqabuka wavuka, wahamba endleleni yakhe. Yiyo leyo-ke indaba.

UBekithemba: "Kodwa amasela amphanga konke ayelakho yini?"

UMkristu: "Hatshi, awacinganga lapho ayefake khona amatshana akhe aligugu; asila wona. Kodwa indoda leyo elungileyo yahlupheka kakhulu ngalokhokuphangwa kwayo ngoba amasela athatha inengi lemali ayefanele ukuyisebenzisa. Into angayitholanga, njengoba ngitshilo, ngamatshana aligugu; futhi kwakulemadlana engaphandle eyasalayo, kodwa yayingelakumfikisa ekucineni kohambo lwakhe. Yebo, (nxa ngingatshelwanga kubi) bathi wahamba lowomuntu ecela ebantwini ukuze aphile (ngoba wayengalakho ukuthengisa amatshana akhe), kodwa wacela njalo wenza ayengakwenza, wahamba, njengoba sisitsho, kanengi walamba kummango wakhe oseleyo."

UBekithemba: "Kodwa isimangaliso yikuthi awayitholanga incwadi yakhe yokungena esangweni loMuzi weZulwini."

UMkristu: "Yisimangaliso sibili kodwa kawayitholanga. Lokho kwenziwa nguMlondolozu wakhe ukuthi isile leyoncwadi, ngoba yena wayengelamandla okuzilondolozu; ngoba emangaliswe yikumehlela kwabo, wayengelamandla kumbe inhlakanipho yokufihla ulutho; ngakho kwakuyikulondolozu koPhezukonke ukuthi kabakubonanga lokho okuhle."

UBekithemba: "Kodwa kwakufanele ukuthi kube yintokozo kuye ngoba amasela engatholanga ulutho oluligugu kuye."

UMkristu: "Kwakufanele kube lududuzo olukhulu kuye ngabe wawasebenzisa njengoba wayefanele. Kodwa labo abangitshela lindaba bathi kawasebenzisanga kuyo yonke indlela langenxa yokudabuka ngemali yakhe ababeyithethe. Isibili wawakhohlwa ibanga elikhulu lwengxenyehlo yohambo lwakhe; loba kunjalo kwakuthi loba nini nxa ewakhumbula aqale ukududuzeka, abesekhumbula ngokulahlekelwa kwakhe, leyominakano ibisiginya konke."

UBekithemba: "Hawu! Umuntu oyangekileyo; wahlupheka kakhulu."

UMkristu: "Uthi yikuhlupheka? Yebo wahlupheka kakhulu. Kwakungeke kube njalo lakithi yini, aluba sasiphethwe njengoba wayephethwe laye, ekuntshontshelweni lekulinyazweni, lalokho endaweni engaziwayo, okufanana laye? Kuyamangalisa ukuthi kafanga ngenhliziyo yosizi! Ngatshelwa ukuthi indlela yonke eseleyo, wahamba ekhala, ebubula, etshela bonke abamficayo kumbe abaficayo endleleni, lapho aphantwa khona, lokuthi waphangwa njani; lokuthi ngobani abakwenzayo; lokuthi walahlekelwa yini; lokuthi walinyazwa njani; lokuthi waphose wafa."

UBekithemba: "Ngimangaliswa yikuthi kazange athengise amatshana akhe aligugu, athole imali ngawo; ukuze azuze okwakungamsiza ekuhambeni kwakhe."

UMkristu: "Ukhuluma njengomuntu oyisiwula kuze kube lamuhla. Yayizawathengiselani? Yayizawathengisa kubani? Kulo lonke lelolizwe eyantshontshelwa kulo, amatshana aligugu ayo ayengasetshenziswa. Futhi yayingalufuni usizo olunjalo. Ngaphandle kwalokho, yayikwazi ukuthi yayingeke ingene eMzini weZulu ingelawo amatshana ayo aligugu. Futhi kungcono ukuhlangana lamasela azinkulungwane ezilitshumi lokubulawa yiwo kulokuxotshwa embusweni wezulu."

UBekithemba: "Kwenze njani ukuthi ube lenhliziyo elukhuni mfowethu? UEsawu wathengisa ilifa lobuzibulo bakhe ukuze athole umganyana

wokubomvu. Kanti lelolifa lobuzibulo bakhe lalilitshana lakhe eliligugu; uba yena wakwenza lokho, kungenzeka njani ukuthi uThemba-Elincane angakwenzi lokho?"

UMkristu: "UESawu wathengisa ilifa lobuzibulo bakhe sibili. Benza njalo abanengi; bazikhiphela ngaphandle kwesibusiso esilungileyo, njengokwenziwa ngulowo omubi; kodwa kufanele wenze umahluko phakathi kukaEsawu loThemba-Elincane, laphakathi kwezimpahla zabo. Ilungelo lobuzibulo bukaEsawu lalingumfuziselo; amatshana aligugu kaThemba-Elincane ayengenjalo; isisu sikaEsawu sasingukulunkulu wakhe, kodwa esikaThemba-Elincane sasingenjalo. Isifiso sikaEsawu sasisekukholiseni inyama yakhe, okukaThemba-Elincane kwakungenjalo. Njalo uEsawu wayengebone okwedlula ukugcwalisa inkanuko yakhe. Ngoba wathi: 'Sengizakufa; lelilungelo lobuzibulo lizanginceda ngani?' Kodwa uThemba-Elincane, lanxa kwakuyisabelo sakhe-nje ukuthi abe lokholo oluncinyane, kwathi ngokholo lwakhe oluncane wagcinwa kulobubutshapha; wenziwa wabona ukuqakatheka kwamatshana akhe aligugu, kulokuwathengisa, njengoEsawu ethengisa ubuzibulo bakhe. Asizange sifunde loba ngaphi ukuthi uEsawu wake waba lokholo ngitsho loluncane. Isibili akumangalisi ukuthi umuntu obuswa yinyama yodwa athengise ngobuzibulo bakhe, langomphefumulo wakhe, langakho konke kuSatane. Labo abanjalo bafanana lembongolo ethi nxa ithukuthele, ingaphendulwa: nxa beqhutshwa yinkanuko, bafuna ukuyizuza leyonto, loba kutheni. Kodwa uThemba-Elincane wayelenhliziyo engafanani lezabo. Ingqondo yakhe yayisezintweni zeZulu: Wayephila ngezinto eziphilisa umphefumulo lezivela phezulu; ngakho wayengakwenzelani olokuziphatha okunje ukuthi athengise amatshana akhe aligugu (ngabe kwakukhona owayengawathenga), ukugcwalisa ingqondo yakhe ngezinto eziyize? Umuntu angakhupha imali yakhe ukuthi agcwalise isisu sakhe ngotshani yini? Kumbe ungalincenga ijuba ukuthi lidle inyama njengewabayi yini? Lanxa abangelakukholwa bangathengisa ngakho konke abalakho, baze bacine ngokuthengisa ngabo uqobo, ukuze banelise inkanuko zabo zenyama. Kodwa abalokholo, ukholo olusindisayo, loba luluncane, bangeke bakwenze lokho. Uphosise ngalokho wena mfowethu."

Ubekithemba: 'Ngiyavuma; kube kanti ubukhali belizwi lakho buphose

bangizondisa."

UMkristu: "Kangenzanga lutho ngaphandle kokuthi ngikufanandise lenyoni ezikhutheleyo, ezizagijima yonke indawo ezindleleni ezivuthiweyo ezingaqedisisiyo; kodwa asikwedlule lokho, sinakane ngendaba esikhuluma ngayo, sizabuye sizwane."

UBekithemba: "Kodwa lokho, Mkristu, lababafo abathathu, ngileqiniso ukuthi lixuku lamagwala; ucabanga ukuthi babengabaleka njalo ngokuzwa umsindo owenziwa ngumuntu ozayo endleleni? Kungani uThemba-Elincane engabanga lesibindi? Mina ngikhumbula ukuthi ngabe wagadla kanye, wavuma kungasancedi."

UMkristu: "Abanengi sebetshilo ukuthi bangamagwala sibili, kodwa ngesikhathi sokulingwa, balutshwana abakubone kunjalo. Lo uThemba-Elincane, wayengelasibindi yena. Ngibona mfowethu, ukuthi aluba bekunguwe, ubuzakwehluleka. Kodwa khathesi ukhuluma kakhulu, ngoba bekhathshana lathi; aluba bebengabonakala kuwe njengoba bakwenza kuye, bebengakucabangisa okunye.

Kodwa ake ucabange lindaba yokuthi labobafo bangamasela asebenzela inkosi yomgodi ongelamkhawulo. Yona ilakho ukuza ngokwayo; ukubasiza nxa kudingeka; ilizwi layo linjengokubhonga kwesilwane. Lami sengake ngahlangana labo njengoThemba-Elincane; ngakufica kuyinto eyesabekayo, bafika labobafo abathathu baphelela phezu kwami. Ngathi ngiqala ukuzivikela njengoMkristu, bamemeza, yasifika inkosi yabo. Ngangizakuthi, njengokutsho kwenkulumo, nginikele impilo yami ngenxa kadenariyu; kodwa njengokuthanda kukaNkulunkulu ngangembeswe ngezikhali zokuzivikela, yebo lanxa ngangivunule kanje, ngathola kunzima ukuma njengendoda. Kakho umuntu ongatsho esikuzwayo ngaleyompi, ngaphandle kwalowo obesempini yena ngokwakhe."

UBekithemba: "Yebo, kodwa uyabona ukuthi lawomasela abaleka lapho ecabanga ukuthi uMusomkhulu uyeza."

UMkristu: "Ngeqiniso kanengi abaleka lenkosi yawo, sekuqhamuke uMusomkhulu; akumangalisi, ngoba yena uliqhawe elikhulu leNkosi. Kufanele ukuthi wehlukandise iqhawe elikhulu leNkosi loThemba-Elincane. Abantu bonke beNkosi kabayisiwo amaqhawe amakhulu. Njalo bangekwenze nxa bezanywa, ukuthi balwe ngobuciko obunje bempi. Kulungile yini ukucabanga ukuthi umntwana omncane angambulula

uGoliyathi njengoDavide? Kumbe ukuthi inyoni encane ilamandla enkomo? Abanye balamandla; abanye babuthakathaka. Abanye balokholo olukhulu; abanye baloluncinyane. Lumuntu wayengomunye wababuthakathaka ngakho-ke wehluleka."

UBekithemba: "Bengiyakuthanda ukuthi ngabe bahlangana loMusomkhulu." U Mkristu: "Aluba bekunguye, bekungeke kube lula. Ngoba kufanele ngikutshele ukuthi lanxa uMusomkhulu elamandla okulwa ngezikhali, njengoba wakwenza, njalo angakwenza kuphela nxa ebavimbezela ngenkemba, kungaba kuhle kubo, kodwa kanti nxa bemfinyelela, ngitsho uDangalinhliziyu, uKathembi kumbe omunye, kuzakuba nzima, kodwa bazamwisela phansi; njalo nxa umuntu eseweke phansi, uyakwazi, angenze njani? Loba ngubani okhangela kuhle ubuso bukaMusomkhulu, uzabona lezozibavu lamanxeba; lokho okuzafakaza lula lokho okukhulunywa yimi. Yebo ngenye imini ngezwa ukuthi wayelokuthi (njalo esilwa): "Sesiphelelwe lalithemba lempilo". Lawamadoda amakhulu lezihlobo zawo amthshaya loDavida; wabubula walila wabhonga. Yebo uHemane loHezekiya labo, lanxa babengamaqhawe ngesikhathi sabo, bacindezelwa ukuthi babanyikinye, lapho behlaselwa yilawomasela; kube kanti lanxa kwakunjalo amajazi abo atshaywa kakhulu yibo. Ngesinye isikhathi uPetro wahamba ukuzama ayengakwenza; lanxa abanye besithi ngaye ungomkhulu wabapostoli, amdumela waze wesaba intombazana encane.

Kunjalo inkosi yawo ihlala iseduze ukuthi izwe; kayikhatshana ukuthi izwe, loba nini kusiba kubi kakhulu kuwo, yona nxa kusenzeka, iyeza ukuwasiza. Kuthiwa ngayo: "Inkemba yalowo omtshayayo ayiyikuma; umkhonto, umtshoko, lebatshi lensimbi. Uthi insimbi butshani, lethusi liyisihlahla esibolileyo: umtshoko ungembalekise; amatshe esavutha anjengezibi kuye. Imitshoko injengezibi, uyakuhleka ukunyikinyeka komkhonto.' Umuntu angenze njani kulokho? Kuliqiniso ukuthi uba umuntu ebelebhiza likaJobe, abe lokuhlakanipha lesibindi sokuligada angenza izinto ezimangalisayo; 'ngoba intamo yalo igqokiswe ukuduma; kalesabi njengentethe; amandla amakhala alo ayesabeka; liyaqhwaya esigodini, lithokoza emandleni alo, njalo liphuma lihlangabeze abahlomileyo. Liyakuklolodela ukwesaba, njalo alethuki; alihleleli emuva emhedleni. Umgodla wemitshoko uyakhehlezele kulo; umkhonto okhazimulayo, lehawu. Ngokwesabeka kwalo langolaka

Iwalo liginya umhlabathi. Kalikukholwa ukukhala kwecilongo. Phakathi kwamacilongo, lithi: Aha! Aha! Liphembela impi likhatshana; umdumo wabalawuli bebutho lokumemeza.' (UJobe 39:19-25)

Kodwa kwabahamba ngenyawo njengathi, kasingakufisi ukuhlangana lesitha; kasingazigabisi angathi singedlula abanye abehlulweyo; kasingacabangi ukuthi ubudoda bethu bedlula obabanye; ngoba kwabanjalo kuba kubi kakhulu nxa bezanywa. Uyambona uPetro, esengikhulume ngaye mandulo; wayelokuziqhenya, yebo wayelakho, njengengqondo yakhe eyize yamenza wathi uzakwenza ngcono ukumela iNkosi yakhe, abedlule bonke abantu; kodwa ngubani owawa wanyathelelwa phansi yilezizigebengu njengaye?"

Uba-ke sisizwa ukuthi kukhona ukutshontsha okanjalo okwenziwa endleleni yenkosi, kufuneka ukuthi senze izinto ezimbili; okokuqala, kufuneka sihambe sihlomile, siphathe isihlangu sethu; ngoba kwakungenxa yokusweleka kwalokho, ukuthi lowo owayemquthele ngokulangazelela uApoliyoni, kazange amehlule. Ngoba sibili nxa singekho, yena kasesabi thina lakanye. Ngakho ohlakaniphileyo wathi: 'Kulakho konke hlomani isihlangu sokholo, elizakuba lamandla okucitsha ngaso yonke imitshoko etshisayo yomubi.'

Kulungile ukuthi sicele eNkosini amabutho okusiphelekezela, yebo, uzahamba lathi yena ngokwakhe. Lokhu kwamjabulisa uDavide esesigodini sethunzi lokufa. U Mozisi wakhetha ukufela lapho ayemi khona, kulokususa unyawo lwakhe engelaye uNkulunkulu wakhe. Mfowethu nxa iNkosi ihamba lathi, singazesabelani izinkulungwane ezilitshumi ezingalwa lathi? Kodwa ngaphandle kweNkosi abasizi abaziqhenyayo bazakuwa ngaphansi kwabafuleyo.

Mina ngokwami ngike ngaba sekuhluphekeni mandulo; lanxa, ngokulunga kwalowo olunge ngokupheleleyo; njengoba ubona, ngiyaphila; kube kanti kangilakho ukuzigabisa ngobudoda bami. Ngingajabula nxa ngingabuyi ngihlangane lezitha ezinje, lanxa ngisesaba ukuthi asikaphumi ezingozini. Lanxa kunjalo, ngoba isilwane lebhethu kungakangidli, ngithemba ukuthi uNkulunkulu uzasikhulula kumFilisiti ongasokanga olandelayo."

Khona wahlabelela uMkristu wathi:

Themba-Elincane, olusizana! Uphakathi kwamasela yini?
Waphangwa yini? Khumbula lokhu; lowo okholwayo,
Andise ukholo, ngalokho uzakuba ngumnqobi
Phezu kwenkulungwane ezilitshumi, asibali abathathu.

Bahamba-ke, uKungazi wasebalandela. Bahamba baze bafika lapho ababona khona enye indlela ingena endleleni yabo, ithe nta njengendlela abafanele bahambe ngayo. Lapha-ke kabazanga ukuthi bathathe yiphi kwezimbili; ngoba zombili zakhanya ziqondile phambi kwabo. Basebesima lapha ukuthi banakane. Bathi besacabanga babona umuntu olomzimba omnyama, kodwa embethe ingubo emhlophe. Weza kubo wababuza wathi: "Limeleni lapha?"

Bathi: "Siya eMzini weZulwini, kodwa asiyazi indlela kulezi ezimbili esingahamba ngayo."

Wathi: "Ngilandelani, kulapho engiya khona." Bamlandela endleleni esandukuhlangana leyabo; wababhodisa baze baphenduka bafulathela lowomuzi ababeqonde kuwo; kube kanti bamlandela. Kwathi masinyane, dukuduku wabafaka bobabili phakathi kwembule, abahilelwa kulo bobabili baze behluleka ukuthi bazakwenza njani. Ngalesosikhathi ingubo emhlophe yawa emhlana walumuntu omnyama. Basebebona ukuthi bangaphi. Balala lapho, bekhala isikhathi eside, bengelakuzikhupha.

Wasesethi uMkristu kumngane wakhe: "Angithi abelusi basitshela ukuthi sixwaye olalisa ngolimi? Njengelizwi lohlakaniphileyo, sesikuficile lamuhla: 'Olalisa umakhelwane wakhe ngolimi wenza umjibila enyaweni zakhe.'"

UBekithemba: "Basinika njalo incwadi yokusilayela indlela, ukuze siqonde kuhle; kodwa sakhohlwa ukuyifunda, kasizixwayanga izindlela zombhubhisi. UDavide wayehlakaniphile kulathi, ngoba wathi: 'Ngokwenza kwabantu, ngiyachasiselwa yilizwi lakho, ngixwaya izindlela zobhubhisayo.'"

Balala bezikhalela embuleni. Khonokho babona umuntu okhazimulayo esiza kubo ephethe isiswepu sentanjana. Wathi lapho efika endaweni ababekuyo wababuza ukuthi bavela ngaphi, lokuthi benzani lapho? Bathi bangabahambi abalusizana, abaya eZiyoni, kodwa badukiswa ngumuntu omnyama owayembethe ingubo emhlophe, owayethe kabamlandele, ngoba laye wayesiya khona.

Wasesethi ophethe isiswepu: "NguLalisangolimi lowo, yingilosi kaSatane

eziphendule yaba yingilosi yokukhanya." Wasedabula imbule wabakhupha. Wasesithi kubo: "Ngilandelani ngilitshengise indlela."
 Wasebabuyisela endleleni abase beyitshiyile ngenxa kaLalisangolimi. Wababuza wathi: "Belilele ngaphi izolo?"
 Bathi: "Besilele labelusi eNtabeni eZimnandi."
 Wabuza ukuthi abalutholanga yini ugwalo lokubatshengisa indlela kubelusi; bavuma.
 Wathi: "Pho, nxa selididekile, lilukhuphile yini lolugwalo lalubala?"
 Bathi: "Asizange silukhuphe."
 Wababuza wathi: "Liyekeleleni?" Bathi bakhohlwe.
 Wabuza futhi wathi: "Abelusi kabalitshelanga yini ukuthi lixwaye uLalisangolimi?"
 Baphendula bathi: "Yebo! kodwa besingatsho ukuthi umuntu okhuluma kuhle kangaka angaba nguye lowo."
 Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi wathi kubo kabalale phansi. Kwathi lapho sebelele phansi, wabatshaya kabuhlungu esithi ubafundisa indlela enhle abafanele ukuhamba ngayo. Wathi nxa ebatschaya: "Bonke engibathandayo ngiyabasola, ngibatshaye, ngakho khuthazelani liphenduke." Uthe nxa eqeda ukwenza lokho, wathi kabahambe endleleni, bananzelele ezinye izeluleko zabelusi. Basebembonga ngomusa wakhe omkhulu, bahamba kuhle ngendlela eqondileyo; bahlabela besithi:

“Wozani lina elihamba ngalindlela;
 Libone okuzakwehlela abahambi abedukayo!
 Babanjwe embuleni elithandelayo,
 Ngoba bakhohlwe, badelela ukweluleka okuhle.
 Kuqotho bakhutshwa, kodwa liyabona,
 Batshaywa ngesiswepu bekhutshwa.
 Lokhu kakube yikuxwayiswa kwenu.”

Emva kwesikhatshana, babona umuntu ehamba kancane endleleni, eyedwa, ebahlangabeza. Wasesithi uMkristu kumngane wakhe: "Nanguya umuntu ofulathela iZiyoni, uyasihlangabeza."
 UBekithemba: "Ngiyambona; kasizinanzelele, hlezi laye abe ngolalisa ngolimi." Waya lokhu esondela, ekucineni wafika kubo; ibizo lakhe

lalinguNgakholwa. Wababuza lapho ababesiya khona.

UMkristu: "Siya entabeni yeZiyoni."

UNgakholwa wasehleka kakhulu.

UMkristu: "Hawu! Uhlekani?"

UNgakholwa: "Ngihlekiswa yikubona iziwula zabantu eliyizo; ngokuzenzela uhambo olunzima kangaka, kube kanti kalisoze lithole lutho ngaphandle kokuhamba lokuzizwisa ubuhlungu."

UMkristu: "Hawu! Uthini ndoda, ukhumbula ukuthi kasiyikwamukelwa yini?"

UNgakholwa: "Likhuluma ngokwamukelwa? Kulelilizwe lonke, indawo efanana laleyo eliphupha ngayo, ayikho."

UMkristu: "Ikhona kodwa elizweni elizayo."

UNgakholwa: "Ngesikhathi ngisekhaya kwelakithi, ngezwa njengoba uqinisa. Sengikuzwile ngasuka ukuthi ngibone; njalo bengilokhu ngidinga lumuzi okwale iminyaka engamatshumi amabili, kodwa kangibonanga lutho lwawo okwedlula usuku engaqaalisa ngalo ukudinga."

UMkristu: "Sizwile njalo sakholwa ukuthi ikhona indawo enjalo engatholwa."

UNgakholwa: "Aluba ngingakholwanga ngisekhaya, ngabe kangizanga khatshana kangaka ukuzadinga lumuzi; kodwa ngoba ngingatholi lutho (kube kanti ngabe ngiwutholile, nxa bekulendawo enjalo, ngoba sengihambe ngedlula lina lidinga), sengibuyela emuva, ngiyedinga ukuzivuselela ngezinto engangizilahle, ngithemba lokho engibona khathesi ukuthi kakukho.

Wathi uMkristu kumngane wakhe uBekithemba: "Kuliqiniso lokhu okukhulunywe yilindoda yini?"

UBekithemba: "Nanzelela; ungomunye wabalalisangolimi. Khumbula okwasehlela ngokulalela abantu abanje. Uthini! Ayikho intaba yeZiyoni? Phezu kweziNtaba eziMnandi, asilibonanga yini isango lomuzi wezulu? Futhi, asihambi ngokukholwa yini? Asiqhubeke, hlezi sitholwe ngulowo ophatha isiswepu futhi. Ngabe nguwe ongifundise lesosifundo, engizakuphindaphinda ezindlebeni zakho ngithi: 'Ndodana yami, ungalaleli isifundiso esidukisayo emazwini okwazi.' Ngithi, mfowethu ungamlaleli, asikholwe ukuze kusindiswe umphefumlo."

UMkristu: "Mfowethu, angikubuzanga lumbuzo ngoba bengithandabuza

ngeqiniso lokholo lwethu; kodwa ukukuhlola, lokuthola kuwe izithelo zokuthembeka kwenhliziyo yakho. Ngokwale indoda, ngiyazi ukuthi iphumputhekiswe ngukulunkulu walelizwe. Asihambe thina sobabili, sisazi ukuthi silokholo lweqiniso, ngoba akulamanga eqinisweni.”
UBekithemba: “Ngiyajabula ngethemba lobukhosi bukaNkulunkulu.”
Basuka bayitshiya leyondoda; layo yahamba indlela yayo ibahleka.

Ngabona-ke ephutsheni lami ukuthi bahamba baze bafika elizweni elithile, lapho umoya wakhona wawuvama ukufikisa ubuthongo emuntwini, nxa efika khona eyisihambi. Lalapha uBekithemba waqala ukuzwa amehlo esinda, waqala ukowozela. Wasesithi kuMkristu: “Sengiqala ukowozela okokuthi sengisehluleka ukuvula amehlo ami. Asilale lapha sithathe isithongwana.”

Waphendula uMkristu wathi: "Hatshi, bo! Hlezi singalala, singavuki futhi."
UBekithemba: "Hawu, mfowethu! ubuthongo bumnandi kosebenzayo; singathokoza nxa sithola isithongwana."

UMkristu: "Kawukhumbuli ukuthi omunye wabelusi wathi sixwaye ilizwe elithakathiweyo? Watsho ngalokho ukuthi sixwaye ubuthongo. Ngakho kasingalali njengabanye labo, kodwa kasilinde, siqonde."

UBekithemba: Ngiyavuma ukuthi ngilecala. Ngabe bengingedwa lapha, bengizakuba sengozini yokufa ngokulala ubuthongo. Ngiyabona ukuthi kuliqiniso okutshiwo ngohlakaniphileyo ukuthi: 'Ababili bangcono kuloyedwa.' Kuze kube khathesi, ukuba lawe kube ngumusa kimi. Uzathola umvuzo omuhle ngomtshikatshika wakho."

Wasesithi uMkristu: "Ukuze singawozeli, kasibe lengxoxo enhle."

Waphendula UBekithemba wathi: "Ngenhliziyo yonke yami."

UMkristu: "Sizaqala ngaphi?"

UBekithemba: "Asiqale lapho uNkulunkulu aqala lathi khona. Kodwa qalisa wena."

UMkristu: "Ngizakuhlabelela lingoma—"

Nxa abangcwele bewozela, kabeze lapha,
Ukuzwa lababahambi ababili bexoxa:
Yebo, kaba bafunde kubo loba kunjani
Ngalindlela bagcin' amehl' abo' awozelay' ekhangele

Ubudlelwano babangewele, nxa busenziwa kuhle
Bubagcina bekhangele, lanxa sikhona isihogo.

UMkristu waseqala esithi: "Ngizakubuza umbuzo: wacabangani ukuze uhambe loluhambo?"

UBekithemba: "Utsho ukuthi ngaqala njani ukuthi ngenze lokho okulungele ukusiza umphefumlo wami?"

UMkristu: "Yebo, ngitsho lokho."

UBekithemba: "Ngahlala isikhathi eside ekuthokozeni ngalezozinto ezibonakala njalo zithengiswa emdlalweni wethu; izinto lezo engikholwa khathesi ukuthi ngabe, ngaqhubeka ngikuzo, zangitshonisa ekulahlweni lekubhujisweni."

UMkristu: "Zaziyizinto bani?"

UBekithemba: "Wonke amagugu lenotho yalelilizwe; njalo ngathokoza emsindweni, ekudakweni, ekunatheni, ekufungeni, ekuqambeni amanga, ekungcoleni, ekwephuleni iSabatha, langokunye okunengi okubulala umphefumulo. Kodwa ngathola ekucineni ngokuzwa langokunakana ngezinto ezaPhezulu, isibili lezo engazizwa ngawe langomfowethu othandekayo uThembekile, owabulawa ngenxa yokholo lwakhe lempilo yakhe elungileyo eMdlalweni weZe, ukuthi isiphetho salezizinto yikufa. Langenxa yalezizinto, ulaka lukaNkulunkulu lwehlela phezu kwabantwana bokungalaleli."

UMkristu: "Wahle waba lovalo ngalezozinto enhliziyweni yakho yini?"

UBekithemba: "Hatshi, ngangingathandi ukuhle ngivume ububi besono lesiqalekiso esilandela ukwenziwa kwaso. Kodwa ngazama lapho ingqondo yami iqalisa ukunyikinywa yilizwi, ukuvala amehlo ami ukuze ngingaboni ukukhanya kwalo."

UMkristu: "Kodwa wenziwa yini ukuthi wenze lokho ekuqaleni kokusebenza kukaMoya obusisekileyo kaNkulunkulu kuwe?"

UBekithemba: "Nanzi izinto ezenza lokho: Ngangingazi ukuthi ngumsebenzi kaNkulunkulu ophezu kwami. Angizange ngicabange ukuthi uNkulunkulu angasiphendula isoni, ngokuvusa kuqala uvalo lwezono zaso. Okwesibili, isono sasimnandi kimi; ngangingafuni ukusitshiya. Okwesithathu, ngangingazi ukuthi ngingenze njani ukuze ngehluwane labangane bami; ngoba ukuba khona kwabo lemisebenzi yabo, ngangikuthanda."

Okwesine, isikhathi engangicabanga ngobunzima bezono zami ngaso, sasingihlupha kakhulu, sisesabisa enhliziyweni yami, kangangokuthi ngangingafuni lokukhumbula ngaso enhliziyweni yami."

UMkristu: "Ngakho kubonakala angathi kwesinye isikhathi wawusehlukana lohlupho lwakho."

UBekithemba: "Yebo, sibili, kodwa kwakuphinde kubuye futhi emcabangweni wami, kube kubi kudlule okokuqala."

UMkristu: "Kuyini okwakubuye kwakucabangisa ngezono zakho?"

UBekithemba: "Yizinto ezinengi, ezifanana lalezi: -

- 1) Nxa ngike ngahlangana lomuntu olungileyo ezitaladeni; kumbe,
- 2) Nxa ngizwe okunye kufundwa eBhayibhili; kumbe,
- 3) Nxa ngisizwa ikhanda lami lisiba buhlungu; kumbe,
- 4) Nxa kuthiwa abanye omakhelwana bami bayagula; kumbe,
- 5) Nxa ngisizwa insimbi etshayelwa abafuleyo; kumbe,
- 6) Nxa ngicabanga ngokufa kwami; kumbe,
- 7) Nxa ngisizwa ngokufa okuzumayo kwabanye;
- 8) Kodwa ikakhulu, nxa ngizikhumbula mina ukuthi kufanele masinyane ngize ekwahlulelweni."

UMkristu: "Njalo, kwakube kube lula langesinye isikhathi ukuthi ususe icala lesono nxa sekukufikele ngenye yalezizindlela yini?"

UBekithemba: "Hatshi; hatshi mina, ngoba nxa sezibambe isazela sami, langokuthi nxa ngikhumbula ngokubuyela esonweni, (lanxa ingqondo yami iphikisana lazo), luvuke lonke uvalo lwami lungihluphe ngokuphindwe kabili."

UMkristu: "Waze wenza njani?"

UBekithemba: "Ngacabanga ukuthi ngizame ukulungisa impilo yami, hlezi, ngakhumbula ukuthi, ngileqiniso lokuthi ngizalahlwa."

UMkristu: "Wake wazama ukwenza ngcono yini?"

UBekithemba: "Yebo, ngazibalekela, kungesizono zami kuphela, kodwa lexuku elonayo, ngasengingena ekumkhonzeni uNkulunkulu, okufanana lokuthandaza, lekufundeni iBhayibhili, lekukhaleni ngezono, langokukhuluma iqiniso kubomakhelwane bami, lokunye okunjalo. Ngakwenza lokhu, lokunye okunengi engingekulandise lapha."

UMkristu: "Wasucabanga ukuthi usindisiwe yini?"

UBekithemba: "Yebo, okwesikhatshana esithile; kodwa izinhlopheko zami

zatshetsha zabuya phezu kwami, loba sengiphendukile."

UMkristu: "Kwenzeka njani lokho, ngoba ngizwile ukuthi wawusuphendukile?"

UBekithemba: "Kwenziwa yizinto ezithile, ikakhulu ezifana lalezi: 'Konke ukulunga kwethu kunjengamanikiniki angcolileyo. Ngemisebenzi yomthetho kakuyikuthethelelwa muntu. Selikwenzile konke, lithi: Kasisizi lutho'. Lezinye ezinengi ezifana lalezo.

Kusukela lapho ngaqala ukucabanga kakhulu ngalindlela: nxa konke ukulunga kwami kunjengamanikiniki angcolileyo; nxa ngemisebenzi yomthetho kungelamuntu ongathethelelwa; lanxa uba sesikwenzile konke, singabangasizi lutho; uba kunjalo, kuyibuthutha ukukhumbula ngokuya eZulwini ngomthetho. Ngabuya ngacabanga ngalindlela: uba umuntu elecala esitolo kodwa aliyekele, emva kwalokho abhadalele konke azakuthatha, kube kanti isikwelede sakhe simi encwadini singesulwanga, ngalokho umnini-sitolo angammangalela, amfake ejele, aze abhadale icala elidala."

UMkristu: "Yebo, wawuqondisa kanjani kuwe lowomfanekiso yini?"

UBekithemba: "Ngacabanga ukuthi: ngezono zami ngenza icala elikhulu encwadini kaNkulunkulu; lokuziphatha kuhle kwami, akulibhadali icala lami. Loba kukhona lokhukuphenduka kwami, kodwa ngingakhululwa njani kulokhokulahlwa esengizingenise engozini yakho ngezono zami zamandulo."

UMkristu: "Wayingenisa kuhle lindaba; kodwa ake uqhubeke."

UBekithemba: "Enye into eyangihluphayo selokhu ngaqalisa ukuzilungisa yikuthi: uba ngikhangela kuhle imisebenzi yami ngilokhe ngibona isono sisekhona, isono esitsha sizihlanganisa lokuhle kakhulu engikwenzayo. Kuze kuthi khathesi ngiphetha ngokuthi, lanxa bengithanda ukuziqakathekisa lemisebenzi yakuqala, sengenze isono esaneleyo ngosuku olulodwa, ukungisa esihogweni, lanxa impilo yami eyakuqala ibingela cala."

UMkristu: "Wasusenza njani?"

UBekithemba: "Ngenze njani? Angizange ngikwazi engingakwenza ngaze ngamtshele uThembekile; ngoba sasejayelene kakhulu. Wathi yena kimi: 'Ngaphandle kokuthi ngithole ukulunga komuntu ongazange one; okwami ukulunga, lokulunga kwelizwe lonke kungengisindise'."

UMkristu: "Wacabanga ukuthi ukhuluma iqiniso yini?"

UBekithemba: "Ngabe wayesitsho kimi ngalesosikhathi ngisaneliswe yikuzilungilungisa kwami, ngabe ngathi kuye, uyisiwula ngenxa yokukhuluma kwakhe; kodwa khathesi, njengoba ngibona ubuthakathaka bami, lesono esinamathela ezenzweni zami, ngenziwe ngavumelana laye."

UMkristu: "Kodwa ekuqaleni, wawucabanga ukuthi angatholwa umuntu onjalo, okungatshiwo ngaye ukuthi kazange enze sono yini?"

UBekithemba: "Kumele ngivume ukuthi ekuqaleni lamazwi angimangalisa. Kodwa emva kokukhuluma lokuzihlanganisa laye, ngayikholwa sibili."

UMkristu: "Njalo-ke wambuza yini ukuthi lowomuntu ungubani? Wabuza futhi ukuthi ungalungisiswa njani nguye?"

UBekithemba: "Yebo, wangitshela ukuthi lumuntu uyiNkosi uJesu Kristu ohlezi ngakwesokunene soPhezukonke. Wathi kimi: 'Kumele ulungisiswe nguye; ngitsho lokuthemba kulokho akwenzela khona ngezinsuku esenyameni, wahlupheka ephanyekwe esiphambanweni.' Futhi-ke ngabuza ukuthi kwenziwa yini ukuthi ubuqotho balumuntu bube lokulungisisa omunye phambi kukaNkulunkulu. Wasengitshela ukuthi uJesu unguNkulunkulu olamandla; lalokho akwenzayo, wafa ukufa njalo engazenzeli yena kodwa esenzela mina. Okuthi ukwenza kwakhe lokufanela kwakhe kufanele ngikuphiwe nxa ngikholwa kuye."

UMkristu: "Wasusenzani?"

UBekithemba: "Ngesaba ukukholwa, ngoba ngangicabanga ukuthi kathandi ukungisindisa."

UMkristu: "Wasesithini uThembekile kuwe?"

UThembekile: "Wathi kangiyе kuJesu ngizibonele. Ngathi mina lokho yikuziphakamisa. Wathi yena, hatshi, ngoba ngibizwe ukuthi ngize. Wasenginika ugwalo olulotshwe nguJesu ukungikhuthaza ukuthi ngize kuye ngokukhululeka. Wathi ngalologwalo: Konke okuncinyanyana okukulo kumi kuqinile okwedlula izulu lomhlaba. Ngambuza ukuthi ngizakwenzani nxa sengifikile. Wangitshela ukuthi ngincenge ngiguqe ngamadolo ngayo yonke inhliziyو lomphfumlo wami, ukuze uYise angambulele iNdodana yakhe. Ngambuza ukuthi ngizafika ngenze njani ekukhulekeni kwami kuye. Wathi: 'Hamba wena, uzamthola ehlezi esihlalweni somusa, lapho ahlezi khona iminyaka yonke, ukuze anike uthethelelo kwabeza kuye.'

Ngamtshela ukuthi angazi ukuthi ngizafika ngithini kuye. Wangitshela ukuthi ngizafika ngithi: 'Nkulunkulu, yiba lomusa kimi mina soni; ungenze

ukuthi ngimazi uJesu Kristu, ngikholwe kuye; ngoba ngiyabona ukuthi ngingolahliweyo sibili nxa ukulunga kwakhe kungazange kube khona kimi, loba nxa ngingakholwa kuye. Nkosi, ngizwile ukuthi wena unguNkulunkulu olomusa; umisile ukuthi iNdodana yakho uJesu Kristu abe nguMsindisi womhlaba; ngizwile futhi ukuthi wena, Nkosi, uyavuma ukuyinikela iNdodana yakho kusoni esilusizana njengami, (ngoba ngiyisoni sibili). Ngakho, Nkosi, akuthi ngalesisikhathi wandise umusa wakho ekusindisweni komphefumulo wami, ngenxa yeNdodana yakho uJesu Kristu, Amen'."

UMkristu: "Wenza njengalokho owakutshelwayo yini?"

UBekithemba: "Yebo, ngaphinda, ngabuya ngaphinda."

UMkristu: "UYise wayambula iNdodana yakhe kuwe yini?"

UBekithemba: "Hatshi, kakwezanga lokho ngesikhathi sokuqala, langesesibili, langesesithathu, langesesine, langesesihlanu, ngitsho langesesithupha."

UMkristu: "Wasusenza njani?"

UBekithemba: "Uthi ngenza njani? Kangazanga ukuthi ngizakwenza njani."

UMkristu: "Awuzange ucabange ukuthi kungcono ukuyekela ukuthandaza?"

UBekithemba: "Yebo, ngacabanga kakhulu ngalokho."

UMkristu: "Kwenziwa yini ukuthi ungayekeli ukuthandaza?"

UBekithemba: "Ngakholwa ukuthi lokho engangikutsheliwe kwakuliqiniso, ukuthi, ngaphandle kokulunga kwalo uKristu wonke umhlaba ungengisindise. Ngasengisithi ekucabangeni kwami, nxa ngiyekela, ngizakufa; kungaba ngcono ngifele esihlalweni somusa. Kwathi ngalesosikhathi kwafika engqondweni yami lawomazwi athi: 'lokuba siphuza, silindele, ngoba isibili sizabuya, njalo kasiyikuphuza'. Ngathandaza, kangiyekelanga, uYise waze wangitshengisa iNdodana yakhe."

UMkristu: "Yembulwa njani kuwe?"

UBekithemba: "Kangizange ngiyibone ngamehlo ami enyama, kodwa ngayibona ngamehlo engqondo yami. Lokho-ke kwenzeka kanje: ngelinye ilanga ngangidabukile kakhulu, ngidabuke okwedlula kwezinye izikhathi zonke zokuphila kwami. Lokho kwenziwa yikubona ubukhulu bobubi bezono zami. Ngasengilindele ngalesosikhathi, isihogo kuphela lokulahlwa okungapheliyo komphefumulo wami. Ngathi ngikhumbula, ngahle ngabona iNkosi uJesu ingikhangele isezulwini isithi: 'Kholwa eNkosini uJesu,

uzakusindiswa.'(Acts 16:31.)

Kodwa ngaphendula ngathi: 'Nkosi, mina ngiyisoni, isoni esikhulu kakhulu.' Waphendula wathi: 'Umusa wami ukwanele wena.' Ngasengisithi: 'Kodwa Nkosi, ukukholwa kuyini?' Ngasengibona ngaleyonkulumo ethi: 'Lowo ozayo kimi kayikulamba, lalowo okholwa kimi kayikoma.' Ngabona ukuthi ukukholwa nguye lokuza kuye kuyinto eyodwa. Ngoba lowo ozileyo, ufuna usindiso olukhona ngaye uJesu Kristu, ulufuna ngenhliziyo yakhe langokuthanda kwakhe, akholwe sibili kuye uJesu.

Amehlo ami agcwala izinyembezi; ngasengibuza njalo ngathi: 'Kodwa Nkosi, kuliqiniso, ukuthi singasindiswa samukelwe nguwe isoni esifanana lami yini?' Ngasengimuzwa esithi: 'Lowo ozayo kimi, angisayikumlahla.' Ngathi mina: 'Kodwa Nkosi ngingenze njani ukuze ngikwazi ukuza kuwe; lokuthi ukholo lwami lubekwe kuwe ngokuqondileyo?' Wasesithi: 'UKristu Jesu weza emhlabeni ukusindisa izoni; uyikucina komthetho, kube yikulunga kubo bonke abakholwayo; wafela izono zabantu; wavuka futhi ukuze bakhululwe ecaleni bona. Wasithanda, wasigeza ezonweni zethu egazini lakhe; ungummeli phakathi kukaNkulunkulu lathi. Uphila njalo, ephilela ukusinxusela.'

Ngakho konke akukhulumayo, ngaqedisisa ukuthi kufanele ngidinge ukulunga ebuntwini bakhe, ngiyilindele inhlawulelo yezono zami egazini lakhe. Ukuthi lokho akwenza ngokulalela umthetho kaYise, langokuthwala ukujezisa kwawo, wayengazenzeli yena, kodwa wenzela lowo ozakwamukela ukusindisa kwakhe, njalo abonge. Inhliziyo yami yasigcwala injabulo. Agcwala izinyembezi amehlo ami. Yaphuphuma ngothando inhliziyo yami; ebizweni, ebantwini lendleleni zikaJesu Kristu."

UMkristu: "Isibili kwakuyikuzembula kukaJesu Kristu lokho emphefumleni wakho. Kodwa ake ungitshela ngokukhethekileyo ukuthi lokho kwavusani phakathi kwakho."

UBekithemba: "Kwangenza ngibone ukuthi wonke umhlaba, loba kukhona ukulunga kuwo, usekulahlweni. Kwangenza ngibone ukuthi uNkulunkulu uYise, loba elungile angalungisisa isoni esizayo. Kwangenza ngibe lenhloni kakhulu ngobubi bami langempilo yami yakuqala, kwangisanganisa ngokubona ukungazi kwami; ngoba ngaphambi kwalokho, akuzange kufike enhliziyweni yami ukucabanga okwakungibonisa ubuhle bukaJesu Kristu.

Kwangenza ukuthi ngithande impilo engcwele, lokuthi ngifune ukusebenzela udumo lobukhosi bebizo leNkosi uJesu. Yebo, ngaze ngacabanga ukuthi ngabe emzimbeni wami kulegazi elinengi, bengingalichitha lonke ngenxa yeNkosi uJesu.”

18. UKungazi

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi uBekithemba wakhangela emuva, wabona uKungazi ababemtshiye emuva, ebalandela. Wathi kuMkristu: "Nantiya leliyana ijaha ebelilibebe, emuva!"

UMkristu: "Yebo, ngiyabona kathandi ukuhamba lathi."

UBekithemba: "Kodwa ngithi ubengayikoniwa lutho nxa ebehambe lathi."

UMkristu: "Uqinisile, kodwa ngingaqinisa ngithi katsho njalo yena."

UBekithemba: "Yebo; kodwa asimlindele." Bamlindela-ke.

Wathi uMkristu kuye: "Woza, nsizwa; ulibaleleni kangaka emuva?"

UKungazi: "Ngithanda ukuhamba ngedwa kakhulu; kulokuthi ngihambe labantu engingabhandiyo."

Wathi uMkristu kuBekithemba, esenyeyeza: "Kangitshongo yini, ukuthi kathandi ukuhlangana lathi? Woza asiqine sixoxe, siqhube isikhathi kulindawo eyinhlane."

Wasesithi, ekhangela kuKungazi: "Woza lapha; kunjani kuwe? Sekumi njani phakathi kukaNkulunkulu lenhliziyo yakho?"

UKungazi: "Ngithemba ukuthi kumi kuhle; ngoba ngihlezi ngigcwele imicabango emihle ngaphakathi engiduduzayo ngihamba."

UMkristu: "Yimicabango emihle, enjani?"

UKungazi: "Ngicabanga ngoNkulunkulu langeZulu."

UMkristu: "LoSathane uyakucabanga lokho, kanye lemiphefumulo elahliweyo."

UKungazi: "Kodwa ngicabanga ngoNkulunkulu njalo ngiyamloyisa."

UMkristu: "Bayakucabanga lokho abanengi abangeke bafike lapho. Umphefumlo wevila uyafisa kodwa awulalutho."

UKungazi: "Kodwa ngicabanga ngakho, ngitshiye zonke izinto ngenxa yakho."

UMkristu: "Lokho khona, kangikukholwa; ngoba ukutshiya zonke izinto kunzima. Yebo, kunzima ngaphezu kwalokho abakucabangayo abanengi. Kodwa wazi njani ukuthi utshiye zonke izinto ngenxa kaNkulunkulu leZulu?"

UKungazi: "Ngitshelwa yinhliziyoyami."

UMkristu: "Umuntu ohlakaniphileyo uthi: 'Lowo owethemba inhliziyoyami'."

yakhe, uyisithutha'. (Izaga 28:26.)"

UKungazi: "Lokho kukhulunywa ngenhliziyo embi; kodwa eyami ilungile."

UMkristu: "Kodwa lokho ungakutshengisa njani?"

UKungazi: "Iyangiduduza ngamathemba eZulu."

UMkristu: "Kungaba ngenxa yokukhohlisa kwayo. Ngoba inhliziyo yomuntu ingamduduza ngamathemba ezinto, angelasizatho sokuzithemba."

UKungazi: "Kodwa mina iyavumelana inhliziyo yami lokuziphatha kwami; ngakho ithemba lami liqinile."

UMkristu: "Ngubani okutshele ukuthi inhliziyo yakho lempilo yakho kuyavumelana kokubili?"

UKungazi: "Ingitshela lokho inhliziyo yami."

UMkristu: "Lokho kufanana lamasela amabili nxa ebotshiwe, kuthi nxa kubuzwa kwelinye ukuthi liyilo yini isela, lithi nxa lilandula: 'Buza kumfowethu lo, ukuthi ngilisela yini?' Uthi inhliziyo yakho ikutshela lokho? Ngaphandle kokuthi kube yilizwi likaNkulunkulu elifakaza ngalokho, abusizi lutho obunye ubufakazi."

UKungazi: "Kodwa ayisiyo inhliziyo elungileyo, elemicabango elungileyo yini? Ayisiyo impilo enhle evumelana lomlayo kaNkulunkulu yini?"

UMkristu: "Yebo, yinhliziyo elungileyo elemicabango emihle; njalo kuyimpilo enhle evumelana lemilayo kaNkulunkulu; kodwa kuyinto enhle sibili ukuba lalezizinto, njalo kungenye into ukuthi ukhumbule njalo."

UKungazi: "Ngitshela ukuthi kuyini okubala ngokuthi yimicabango emihle, lempilo evumelana lemithetho kaNkulunkulu?"

UMkristu: "Kukhona imicabango elungileyo ezinhlobonhlobo; eminye iqondene lathi, eminye loNkulunkulu, eminye loKristu, njalo eminye lezinye izinto."

UKungazi: "Imicabango elungileyo eqondene lathi, yiyiphi?"

UMkristu: "Ngevumelana leliZwi likaNkulunkulu."

UKungazi: "Imicabango yethu ivumelana leliZwi likaNkulunkulu nini?"

UMkristu: "Nxa sizibeka icala thina ngokwethu njengeliZwi likaNkulunkulu lisibeka; ukuthi ngizichasise kulokhu: iliZwi likaNkulunkulu, lithi ngomuntu, esimeni semvelo: 'kakho olungileyo, kakho owenza okuhle'. Lithi njalo: 'konke ukucabanga kwezinhliziyo yomuntu, kubi njalo njalo'. Njalo lithi: 'ukucabanga kwenhliziyo yomuntu kubi kusukela kwasebutsheni bakhe. Ngakho-ke nxa sicabanga kanjalo ngathi ngokwethu silemicabango

enjalo; ngalokho imicabango yethu mihle ngoba ivumelana leliZwi likaNkulunkulu."

UKungazi: "Kangisoze ngikholwe ukuthi inhliziyo yami imbi kangaka."

UMkristu: "Ngakho awuzange ube lamcabango olungileyo oqonde kuwe uqobo empilweni yakho. Kodwa kangiqhubeke; njengoba iliZwi likaNkulunkulu ligweba inhliziyo zethu, ngokunjalo ligweba izindlela zethu. Njalo nxa imicabango yenhliziyo zethu lendlela zethu zivumelana lokugweba kweliZwi likaNkulunkulu kukho kokubili, ngakho kulungile, ngoba kuyavumelana lakho."

UKungazi: "Khuluma kuhle okutshoyo."

UMkristu: "Angithi iliZwi likaNkulunkulu lithi izindlela zomuntu zimazombazombe kazilunganga njalo ziphambene? Lithi ngemvelo abantu baphambukile ezindleleni ezilungileyo; lokho kabakwazanga. Kuthi-ke nxa umuntu enakana ngezindlela zakhe, ngithi nxa ekhumbula ngalindlela ngokupheleleyo langokuthobeka kwenhliziyo, ngakho uba lemicabango elungileyo ngezindlela zakhe, ngoba imicabango yakhe khathesi ivumelana lokugweba kweliZwi likaNkulunkulu."

UKungazi: "Yimicabango bani elungileyo ngoNkulunkulu?"

UMkristu: "Ngitsho (njengoba ngitshilo ngathi) nxa imicabango yethu ngoNkulunkulu ivumelana lokukhuluma kweliZwi lakhe. Ilizwi elikutsho kuye kulapho sikhumbula ngobukhona bakhe lempawu zakhe njengokufundisa kweliZwi, engingeze ngakhuluma kakhulu ngazo khathesi; kodwa ukukhuluma ngaye, maqondana lathi besesicabanga kuhle ngoNkulunkulu nxa sicabanga ukuthi ukusazi kwakhe kwedlula lokho esizazi ngakho thina, lokuthi ubona isono kithi, laphe esingasiboni khona kithi; nxa sikhumbula ukuthi uyazi imicabango engaphakathi kwenhliziyo zethu lokujula konke kwayo kuhlezi kusobala emehlweni akhe njalo nxa sicabanga ngakho konke ukulunga kwethu ukuthi kuyanuka emakhaleni akhe, ngalokho angeke ahlalele ukusibona phambi kwakhe, siziqhenya ngemisebenzi yethu elungileyo."

UKungazi: "Ucabanga ukuthi ngiyisithutha esingaka, esicabanga ukuthi uNkulunkulu kaboni okwedlula mina; langokuthi ngisondela kuNkulunkulu ngemisebenzi yami elungileyo yini?"

UMkristu: "Uthini, nxa ucabanga ngalokho wena?"

UKungazi: "Mina ngicabanga ukuthi ngifanele ukukholwa kuJesu Kristu

kusenzelwa ukulungisiswa."

UMkristu: "Kwenziwa yini ukuthi ukhumbule ukuthi kufanele ukholwe kuKristu, wena ungaboni ukumswela kwakho? Njalo ungaboni izono zakho owazalwa lazo, lozenzayo: kodwa uyaziqhenya kangangokuthi awusaboni ukuthi ukulunga kukaJesu kuyafuneka ukuze ulungisiswe phambi kukaNkulunkulu. Utsho njani-ke ukuthi ukholwa kuJesu?"

UNgaziyo: "Ngiyakholwa mina, lakulokho okutshoyo wena."

UMkristu: "Ukholwa njani?"

UKungazi: "Ngiyakholwa ukuthi uKristu wafela izoni, lokuthi ngizalungisiswa phambi kukaNkulunkulu, ngikhitshwe esiqalekiseni, ngokwemukela kwakhe komusa ukulalela kwami umthetho wakhe; kumbe ngithi: uKristu wenza imisebenzi yami yezinkonzo ukuthi yamukeleke kuye uYise ngenxa yalokho akwenzayo kwaze kwamfanela; ngaleyondlela ngizalungisiswa ecaleni lami."

UMkristu: "Kangiyiphendule linkulumo yovumo lokholo lwakho:

- 1) Ukholwa ukholo lokuzicabangela; lolokholo kasiluboni eliZwini lonke likaNkulunkulu.
- 2) Ukholwa ngokholo lwamanga; ngoba kuthatha ukulungisiswa okuvela ekulungeni kukaKristu, kukwenze okwakho.
- 3) Lolukholo kalumenzi uKristu abe ngumlungisisi wakho; kodwa owemisebenzi yakho; njalo okobuntu bakho ngenxa yemisebenzi yakho; lokho kungamanga.
- 4) Ngakho lolukholo luyakhohlisa; luzakuthi lukutshiye ngaphansi kolaka ngosuku lukaNkulunkulu uSomandla. Ngoba ukholo olweqiniso olulungisisayo lubeka umphemfumulo (kwenza ukuthi umphemfumulo ngokuzwa ngokulahleka kwawo ngomthetho) ukuthi ugijimele ukucatsha ekulungeni kukaKristu; lokhokulunga kwakhe kayisiwo umsebenzi womusa owenza ukulungisiswa kokulalela kwakho kwamukeleke kuNkulunkulu; kodwa ukulalela kwakhe umthetho ekwenzeni lekusihluphekeleni kulokho okwakufuneka ezandleni zethu. Lokhokulunga, ngithi, ukukholwa kweqiniso kuyakwamukela, umphemfumulo usembeswa yikho, njalo ngakho ubonakale ungelachatha phambi kukaNkulunkulu; wemukeleke ukhululwe ecaleni lokulahlwa."

UKungazi: "Uthini! Ucabanga ukuthi singathemba lokho uKristu asenzele

khona uqobo lwakhe yedwa; ngaphandle kwethu? Lumcabango uzakhulula amatomu enkanuko yethu, usivumele siphile njengokuthanda kwethu; ngoba kulendaba bani ukuthi siphila njani, nxa silungisiswa ngokulunga kukaKristu kukho konke, nxa sikukholwa?"

UMkristu: "Uyabona ibizo lakho kuthiwa unguKungazi; ufanana lebizu lakho wena. Ngitsho lempendulo yakho ibonisa engikutshoyo. Awukwazi ukuthi ukulunga okusikhulula ecaleni kuyini; kawukwazi futhi ukuvikela umphefumulo wakho olakeni olunzima lukaNkulunkulu ngokholo lwakho. Yebo, wena awuzazi izilandelamuva zalolokholo olusindisayo ngokulunga kukaKristu; okuyikuthobela lokunqobela inhliziyu kuNkulunkulu ngoKristu; ukuthanda ibizo, iliZwi lakhe, izindlela zakhe labantu bakhe; kungafanani lalokho okucabangayo ngokungazi kwakho."

UBekithemba: "Mbuze ukuthi sewake wembulelwa uKristu kuvela ezulwini yini?"

UKungazi: "Uthini! Uhlezi nje, uyindoda yezambulelo wena? Ngiyabona mina ukuthi lokho okukhulunywa yini kungumsebenzi wengqondo ephambeneyo."

UBekithemba: "Hawu mfowethu! UKristu ufihliwe kuNkulunkulu; abantu kabamboni ngaphandle kokuthi embulwe kubo nguYise."

UKungazi: "Lokho yikukholwa kwenu kodwa ayisikho okwami. Kodwa kangithandabuzi ukuthi kunjengokwenu, loba ngingelayo leyo yonke imicabango yenu."

UMkristu "Ake ngifake ilizwi. Ungakhulumi lula ngalindaba. Ngoba lokhu ngizakuqinisa ngesibindi (njengoba enzile umngane wami): ukuthi akulamuntu ongamazi uJesu Kristu, engamembulelwanga nguNkulunkulu uYise. Yebo, langokholo umphefumulo obambeleva kuKristu, (uba luqinisekile) kufanele lusetshenzwe ngobukhulu bamandla akhe, okuthi ukusebenza kwalolokholo ngibona ukuthi wena, Kungazi olusizana, awukwazi. Vuka-ke, ulubone usizi lwakho, ubusugijimela eNkosini uJesu, kuzakuthi ngokulunga kwakhe, okuyikulunga kukaNkulunkulu, (ngoba yena uqobo unguNkulunkulu), uzakhululwa ekulahlweni."

UKungazi: "Liyaphangisa ukuhamba; ngingehambisane lani, hambani phambili. Kengisale mina isikhatshana."

Basebesithi:

Wena, Kungazi, uzahlala uyisithutha yini,
Udelela ukweluleka okuhle okuphindwe katshumi?
Kodwa nxa ulokhu ukwala, uzakwazi-ke,
Masinyazana, ububi bokwenza njalo.
Khumbula, ndoda, ulesikhathi, thoba, ungesabi;
Ukweluleka okuhle, kuthethwe kuhle, kuyasindisa; ngakho zwana.
Kodwa nxa ukudelela, wena uzakuba
Ngolahlekelweyo, Kungazi, ngiqinisile.

Wasekhuluma lesihlobo sakhe uMkristu wathi: "Woza-ke, Bekithemba omuhle; ngiyabona ukuthi wena lami kufanele sibuye sihambe sodwa." Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi batshitsha baqhubekela phambili; njalo uKungazi ebalandela etotoba emuva. Wasesithi uMkristu kumngane wakhe: "Uyangihawula lumuntu olusizana. Sibili akusoze kube kuhle kuye ekucineni."

UBekithemba: "Kuyesabeka banengi abafanana laye emzini wethu, insapho ezigcweleyo, yebo izitalada ezigcweleyo (njalo labangabahambi). Njalo nxa bebanengi endaweni zakithi, kufanele ukuthi banengi kangakanani lapho azalelwa khona?"

UMkristu: "Isibili iliZwi lithi, 'uphumputhekisile amehlo abo, hlezi babone...' Khathesi-ke sesisodwa, uthini ngabantu abanje? Kawucabangi ukuthi ngezinye izikhathi balesiqinisekiso ngezono yini, lokuthi baqala ukwesaba ukuthi isimo sabo sisengozini?"

UBekithemba: "Hatshi, lumbuzo uphendule wena, ngoba wena umdala kulami."

UMkristu: "Mina ngithi ngezinye izikhathi, (njengokukhumbula kwami) bangaba lalo; kodwa bengazi ngokwemvelo: kababoni ukuthi llesiqinisekiso sifuna ukubangenisa kokuhle kwabo; ngakho balinga ukulucindezela ngokuhlala bezikhohlisa ngokulunga kwezabo inhliziyo."

UBekithemba: "Ngithi lami ngikholwa yilokho ukuthi ukwesaba kuyasiza kakhulu kubantu abahamba uhambo."

UMkristu: "Kunjalo ngeqiniso, ngoba litsho iliZwi lithi: 'Ukumesaba uJehova kuyikuqala kokuhlakanipha.'"

UBekithemba: "Ukwesaba okulungileyo, ungakuchaza njani?"

UMkristu: "Ukwesaba okulungileyo ngeqiniso, singakwazi ngezinto

ezintathu: -

- 1) Ngokuvela kwakho, ngoba kuvela ekuqisekiswa ngezono.
- 2) Ngokuqhuba umphefumulo uze ubambebele eNkosini uJesu uthole ukusindiswa.
- 3) Ngokuvelisa kwakho emphefumleni ukumhlonipha uNkulunkulu leliZwi lakhe, lezindlela zakhe; ukukugcina ngobuthakathaka, kuze kungabikho emphefumleni okwaphula ukuthula lokudabukisa uMoya lokwenza ukuthi izitha zihleke."

UBekithemba: "Ukhuluma kuhle. Ngiyakholwa ukuthi ukhulume iqiniso. Khathesi sesiseduze yini ukwedlula elizweni elithakathiweyo?"

UMkristu: "Uthini, usukhathele yilinkulumo yethu yini?"

UBekithemba: "Hatshi, ngeqiniso. Kodwa ngibuza ngoba ngifuna ukwazi lapha esesikhona khathesi."

UMkristu: "Ummango esisazawuhamba kawudluli amamayili amabili. Kodwa kasibuyele enkulumeni yethu: abangaziyo-ke kabazi kababoni ukuthi isiqinisekiso ngesono siyabesabisa kusenzelwa ubuhle babo; ngalokho bazama ukusicindezela."

UBekithemba: "Bazama njani ukukucindezela?"

UMkristu: 1) Bacabanga ukuthi lokhokwesaba kwenziwa nguSatane (kanti kwenziwa nguNkulunkulu). Besebezama ukukuxotsha ezinhliziyweni zabo njengento embi.

2) Kanjalo bacabanga ukuthi lokhokwesaba kuzakona ukukholwa kwabo, (kanti nje kabalakho ukukholwa); ngalokho babesebesenza lukhuni izinhliziyzo zabo.

3) Bathi bona abafanelanga ukwesaba, ngakho baba lesibindi.

4) Bacabanga ukuthi lokho kwesaba kufuna ukususa ubungcwele abacabanga ukuthi balabo: ngalokho balwa lakho ngamandla abo wonke."

UBekithemba: "Lokho mina ngiyakwazi; ngoba ngaphambi kokuthi ngizazi lokho engiyikho, kwakunjalo kimi."

UMkristu: "Hawu, ake simyekele umngane wethu uKungazi, sikhulume ngomunye umbuzo ozasinceda."

UBekithemba: "Ngiyavuma ngenhliziyo yami yonke. Kodwa uzaphinda uqalise."

UMkristu: "Kulungile-ke. Eminyakeni ephose ibe litshumi edlulileyo, wawumazi yini umuntu endaweni yakini okwakuthiwa nguSikhatshana,

owayeyindoda ephambili ekukhonzeni?"

UBekithemba: "Ngiyamazi yini? Yebo, wayehlala emzini wakoSwelumusa, umuzi ongaba ngamamayila amabili usiya emzini wakoBuqotho. Indlu yakhe yayihlangene leyendoda ababesithi nguMfulatheli."

UMkristu: "Yebo-ke, wayehlala ngaphansi kophahla lunye laye. Lindoda, kukhona isikhathi eyavuseleleka kakhulu ngaso. Ngiyakholwa ukuthi ngalesosikhathi, yayizibona izono zayo; lomvuzo owawuzifanele."

UBekithemba: "Ngivumelana lakho lami; (ngoba indlu yakhe ingekhatshana leyami), wayehlala esiza kimi, ekhala inyembezi. Qiniso ngangiyizwela lindoda, ngangingalahlanga ithemba ngayo; kodwa umuntu angabona, ukuthi kakusibo bonke abathi: 'Nkosi, Nkosi' abazakusindiswa."

UMkristu: "Wangitshela kwesinye isikhathi ukuthi wayezimisele ukuhamba uhambo njengathi khathezi; kodwa masinyane wahle wejayelana lomunye uZisindise. Wasesiba ngowemzini kimi."

UBekithemba: "Sisakhuluma ngaye nje, asichwayisise ngesizatho sakhe sokuhle ahlehlele nyovane, lokwabanye abanengi."

UMkristu: "Yebo. Lokho kuzasisiza kakhulu; kodwa kungcono uqalise."

UBekithemba: "Kulungile-ke. Ngeyami ingqondo, zine izinto ezibanga lokho:

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- 1) Eyokuqala nansi: Lanxa isazela sabantu abanje sivusiwe; kanti ingqondo zabo kaziguqukanga. Ngakho nxa amandla ecala ephela, lalokho okwabadungula ukuthi bakhonze ngokuthula, ngakho ngokwemvelo yabo, babuyela endleleni zabo futhi: njengoba sibonainja egulayo ihlanza ekudlileyo; nxa lokhe umkhuhlane wayo usekhona, iyahlanza ikhuphe konke; kayikwenzi lokhu ngengqondo ekhululekileyo (nxa singathiinja ilengqondo); kodwa ngoba kuhlupha isisu sayo, kodwa nxa umkhuhlane wayo usuphelile, lesisu sayo sesingcono, isifiso sayo singehlukene lamahlanzo ayo, iyaphenduka iwakhothe wonke; ngakho-ke kuliqiniso okulotshiweyo ukuthi: 'Inja ibuyela kwawayo amahlanzo.' Ngikutsho lokhu, beloyisa iZulu, kungenxa yokwesaba lovalo lwenhlungu zesihogo; nxa kusiya ngokuthi ukwesaba kwabo inhlungu zesihogo, ngokunjalo lovalo lokulahlwa kuqande, kuphole; ngokunjalo ukuloyisa kwabo izulu losindiso lakho kuyaphola. Kuthi nxa seluphelile loluvalo, kuphele lokufuna kwabo ukuya ezulwini, babesebebuyela ezindleleni zabo futhi.

- 2) Into yesibili nansi: Balokwesaba okobugqili okubabusayo; sengikhuluma ngokwesaba abalaxho ebantwini: 'Ukwesaba abantu kungumjibila'. Ngakho lanxa bekhanya betshisekela izulu, nxa lokhu besizwa ngamalangabi esihogo; kube kanti nxa lokho kwesaba sekwedlule kancane, baqala ukunakana kabili. Kusitsho ukuthi kulungile ukuhlakanipha, hatshi ukugijimela (bengazi ukuthi bakwenzelani) engozini yokulahlekelwa yikho konke, kumbe njengokuzingenisa kuhlupho olungavikekiyo lolungelamsebenzi. Ngalokho babuyele elizweni futhi.
- 3) Into yesithathu nansi: Emehlweni abo ukukhuleka kuNkulunkulu lokulalela iliZwi lakhe kungumsebenzi odelelekayo. Ngakho nxa seluphelile uvalo lokwesaba isihogo lolaka, bayakutshiya, babuyele elizweni.
- 4) Into yesine nansi: Ukucaleka, lokunakana ngokwesabekayo kubuhlungu kubo; kabathandi ukubona usizi lwabo bengakafiki kulo; lanxa mhlawumbe ukubonakala kwakho kuqala, nxa bekuthandile lokho, kungabenza bagijimele lapho abalungileyo abagijimela khona bavikeleke. Kodwa njengokutsho kwami, njengoba bengafuni iminakano ngokucaleka langokwesabekayo, ngakho bathi sebesusile ukuvuswa kwabo ngokwesabekayo langolaka lukaNkulunkulu, benza inhliziyo zabo zibe lukhuni ngokuthokoza, babesebekhetha izindlela ezizakwenza inhliziyo zabo zibe lukhuni ngamandla.

UMkristu: "Ukhulume kuhle, mfowethu. Kubonakala ukuthi konke lokho kwenziwa ngoba kabaziphenduli izinhliziyi lezingqondo zabo. Ngakho bafanana lesikliwi esithi nxa siphambi komahluli siquhuqe, angathi siyaphenduka kanti hatshi, into ekhona, yikwesaba ukubulawa. Asizizondi izono zaso. Nxa-ke sikhululwa, sibuya sibe yisikliwi esiphangayo, esibulala abantu. Kanti aluba besiphenduke ngokweqiniso ngabe kasikwenzi lokho."

UBekithemba: "Mina khatesi sengikutshengise izizatho zokuhlehlela nyovane; ake ungitshele lawe ngokwakho."

UMkristu: "Ngiyavuma.

- 1) Balahla yonke imicabango abangaba layo ngoNkulunkulu, ngokufa, langokugweba okuzayo.
- 2) Balahla kancane kancane imfanelo zabo zangasese, ezifanana lokuthandaza nxa bebodwa, lokuzithiba, lokulinda, ukudabuka ngesono

lokunye okufanana lalokho.

- 3) Ngakho babalekela ukuhlanganyela lamaKristu aphilayo alothando.
- 4) Emuva kwalokho baphole kumfanelo ezisobala njengokulalela lokufunda iliZwi, lemhlanganweni yabesaba uNkulunkulu, lokunye okufanana lalokho.
- 5) Baqale ukubona izindawana ezingalunganga kwabanye abesaba uNkulunkulu, langalokho ngomoya kaSathane, ukuze kubonakale angathi ngabantu abakhonzayo (ngenxa yobuthakathaka obuthile ababubone kubo) bebanyeya.
- 6) Babe sebeqalisa ukuzihlanganisa labantu benyama abangaziphathiyo, abalemisebenzi engcolileyo.
- 7) Bazinikele kunkulumo zenyama ezingcolileyo; bathabe nxa bengabona izinto ezinjalo kulabo okuthiwa bathembekile ukuze bazenze ngesibindi ngokulandela bona.
- 8) Emva kwalokho baqalisa ukudlala ngezono ezincane obala.
- 9) Ngakho-ke bathi sebenziwe lukhuni, baziveze obala lokho abayikho. Bathi ngoba bezifake esizibeni sosizi, babhubhe ngokungapheliyo ekuzikhohliseni kwabo, nxa kungenzeki isimangaliso somusa kaNkulunkulu."

19. Ukuwela umfula

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi abahambi basebedlule elizweni elithakathiweyo, bangena elizweni leBhewula. Umoya wakhona wawumnandi, upholile; indlela idabula phakathi kwalo; bajabula lapho okwesikhatshana. Yebo, babesizwa ukukhala kwezinyoni; babona insuku zonke izimbali ezimilayo emhlabeni; bezwa ilizwi lejuba elizweni. Kulelolizwe ilanga likhanya ebusuku lemini. Ngakho lalingaphandle kweSigodi seThunzi Lokufa; njalo uSiqhwaga uPhelithemba engelifinyelele. Kulindawo, babengayiboni iNqaba yokuThandabuza. Lapho basebewubona lumuzi ababesiya kuwo. Lapho futhi bahlangana labanye ababakhe kuwo, ngoba kulelolizwe abakhazimulayo babehambahamba ngoba lalisemingceleni yezulu. Kulelilizwi isivumelwano phakathi kukamakoti lomyeni savuselelwa. Yebo, lapha 'Njengomyeni ethokozela umakoti, kunjalo uNkulunkulu wabo wathokoza ngabo'. Kulelolizwe babengasweli ukudla, lewayini; ngoba lapho bathola okunengi kwalokho abakuswelayo ekuhambeni kwabo konke. Basebesizwa amazwi amakhulu avela emzini esithi: 'Yitshoni kundodakazi yeZiyoni ukuthi: khangela usindiso lwakho luyeza, lomvuzo wakho ulawo.' Lapho bonke abahlala khona bababiza ngokuthi 'Ngabangcwele, abahlengiweyo beNkosi, abakhethiweyo', lokunye okunjalo.

Abahambi bathokoza ekuhambeni kwabo kulelolizwe kulasezindaweni ezikhatshana loMbuso ababesiya kuwo; bathi besondela emzini bawubona kuhle kulakuqala. Wawakhiwe ngamaparele langamatshe aligugu; lezindlela zigandelwe ngegolide. Kwathi ngobukhosi bomuzi uqobo lwawo, lokuhlaba kwemisebe yelanga phezu kwawo, kwenza uMkristu agule, ewulangazelela. LoBekithemba laye wagula njengesihlobo sakhe. Ngalokho, balala eceleni okwesikhathi, bekhala ngenxa yokuwulangazelela kwabo, besithi: "Nxa libona engimthandayo, limtshele ukuthi ngiyagula ngothando." Bathi ukuthi baqine kancane, belakho ukumelana lomkhuhlane wabo, baqhubekela phambili endleleni yabo, basondela emzini waphezulu, bahamba lapho okulamasimu lezilimo; amasango awo ayevulekele endleleni. Bathe-nje sebefike kulezozindawo babona induna yamasimu imi endleleni. Abathi kuyo abahambi: "Ngakabani lamasimu lalezizilimo

ezinhle?" Yathi yona: "NgaweNkosi; izithokozisa ngawo; ithokozisa labahambi ngawo futhi." Induna leyo yasibangenisa emasimini, yathi abajabule ngokuhle konke. Yabatshengisa izindlela zeNkosi, lezindlwana zokuphumulela, ethokoza ngokuhlala kuzo. Balibala lapho, balala ubuthongo.

Kodwa ngabona ephutsheni lami, ukuthi bakhuluma ebuthongweni babo ngalesosikhathi ngakho konke okwakwenzakele kukho konke ukuhamba kwabo. Ngathi nginakana ngalokho, wathi umgcinisivande kimi: "Unakanelani ngalokhu? Kuyimvelo yezithelo zalesisivini ukuthi zehle kamnandi kangankuthi zenza abaleleyo bakhulume."

Ngasengibona ukuthi bathi bevuka, bazimisela ukwenyukela kulowomuzi waphezulu; kodwa, njengoba sengitshilo, ukukhanya kwelanga phezu kwalowomuzi owawuligolide wonke, kwaba lenkazimulo enkulu. Lokho kwenza ukuthi behluleke ukuwukhangela ngamehlo; bawukhangela ngento yokubona eyenzelwe lokho. Ngasengibona ukuthi bathi besahamba, bahlangana labantu ababili bembethe okukhazimulayo okungathi ngokwegolide; lobuso babo bukhanya njengelanga.

Labobantu babuza abahambi ukuthi bavela ngaphi; babatshela. Bababuza futhi ukuthi bebelele ngaphi, lokuthi bahlangene lobunzima bani, ngozi bani; lokuthokoza, lokwenama okunjani endleleni; babatshela konke. Basebesithi abahlangana labo: "Sekusele ubunzima obubili elizahlangana labo andubana lingene phakathi komuzi."

UMkristu lomngane wakhe basebecela labobantu ukuthi bahambe labo. Bavuma kodwa bathi: "Lizawuthola ngokholo lwenu."

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi bahamba ndawonye baze bafika eduze lesango lezulu.

Ngabona futhi ukuthi phakathi kwabo lesango kwakulomfula, kodwa kungelabholoho lokuwela; umfula wawutshona kakhulu; bathi abahambi lapho bewubona lumfula bamangala. Bathi abakhazimulayo ababehamba labo: "Lifanele ukuchapha nxa lifuna ukufika esangweni." Baqala abahambi ukubuza bathi: "Kayikho enye indlela yokuya esangweni yini?" Basebephendula: "Yebo, ikhona kodwa akukavunywa ukuthi kuhambe muntu kuleyondlela ngaphandle kwabantu ababili, uEnoke loElija abavunyelwa ukuhamba ngayo. Kuzakuba njalo kuze kuzwakale udweba

lokucina.

Basebeqala abahambi ukuphelelwa ngamandla ezinhliziyweni zabo, lokukhangela ngakwesokhohlo langakwesokunene, ikakhulu uMkristu. Basebebuza kwabakhazimulayo bathi: "Amanzi ayalingana kuzo zonke izindawo ngokutshona yini?" Bathi bona: "Hatshi." Kodwa babengelakho ukubasiza ngalutho, ngoba bathi: "Lizawezwa loba etshona loba hatshi, njengokukholwa kwenu eNkosini yalumuzi."

Basebezilungisela ukuchapha, bathi ukuthi bangene, uMkristu waqala ukutshona; njalo ememeza umngane wakhe omuhle uBekithemba wathi: "Ngiyatshona enzikini; amagwebu angaphezu kwekhanda lami, amagagasi ahamba phezu kwami." Wasesithi uBekithemba: "Ungakhathazeki, mfowethu, ngiyalizwa iphansi, kuhle." Wasesithi uMkristu: "Hawu, mhlobo wami, izinsizi zokufa zingizingelezile. Kangiyikulibona lelolizwe eligeleza uchago lenyosi."

UMkristu wasesehlelwa yibumnyama obukhulu lovalo; waze wehluleka ukubona phambili kwakhe. Lapho futhi waphambana ikhanda wehluleka ukukhuluma kuhle ngazo zonke lezozinto ezimnandi ezithokozisayo ababehlangene lazo endleleni yokuhamba kwabo. Kanti amazwi wonke awatshoyo, ahlokozwa yikuthi ulovalo enhliziyweni esesaba ukuthi hlezi afele kulumfula, angabe esangena esangweni. Lapha futhi kwabonakala ukuthi wahlupheka kakhulu ekhumbula izono, kusukela eqala ukuba ngumhambi, lakho konke akwenzayo ngesikhathi sangaphambili. Kwabonakala futhi ukuthi wayehlutshwa yimimoya emibi, amadimoni, ngoba kokuphela wayekuzwakalisa ngamazwi.

Lapho uBekithemba wakhathazeka, ukuthi ikhanda lesihlobo sakhe ligcinwe ngaphezulu kwamanzi. Yebo, ngezinye izikhathi wayetshona uMkristu athi nya, aze abuye avele futhi esephos'ukufa.

UBekithemba wayezama njalo ukumduduza esithi: "Mfowethu, ngiyalibona isango; ngiyababona labantu abamelele ukusamukela."

Kodwa uMkristu abesephendula athi: "Nguwe, nguwe abakulindeleyo; ubulethemba kusukela ekukwazini kwami."

Laye wathi kuMkristu: "Lawe mfowethu."

Kodwa wathi yena: "Mfowethu aluba bengilungile, iNkosi ibizavuka

ingisize; kodwa ngenxa yezono zami, ingilethe kulo umjibila, yangitshiya kuwo."

Wasephendula uBekithemba wathi: "Mfowethu, usuyikhohliwe indawo eliZwini ethi, nxa kukhulunywa ngababi: 'Kakulazibopho ekufeni kwabo, amandla abo alukhuni; kabahlutshwa njengabanye abantu; kabalasizi njengabanye abantu.' Lokhu kuhlupheka lalezizinsizi odlula kuzo kulamanzi azibonakalisi ukuthi uNkulunkulu ukudelile. Zenzelwe ukukuvimvinya ukuthi uzakhumbula yini ngomusa wakhe kungakafiki lokhu, uthembele kuye ezinsizini zakho."

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi uMkristu wacabanga ngalesosikhathi. UBekithemba wengezela kuye lamazwi futhi wathi: "Mana isibindi, mfowethu, uJesu Kristu uyakuphilisa." UMkristu wasesithi ngelizwi elikhulu: "Hawu! ngiyambona futhi. Ungitshela ukuthi: 'Nxa udabula emanzini, ngizakuba lawe; imifula ingakucwilisi.'(Isaya 43:2)."

Basebezimisa isibindi bobabili; isitha sabo, emuva kwalokho, salala sathula njengelitshe, baze bachaphela ngaphetsheya. UMkristu wasefika emhlabathini afika ema phezu kwawo ngezinyawo. Emuva kwalokho, bezwa ukuthi amanzi awasatshoni phansi. Basebechapha.

Kodwa sebengaphetsheya, okhunjini lomfula, baphinda babona abakhazimulayo ababili ababebalindele. Kwathi sebephume emfuleni, babingelelwa ngabakhazimulayo besithi: "Siyimimoya yokusebenza. Sithunyelwe ukusebenzela labo abazakudla ilifa lokusindiswa." Basebehamba bonke besiya esangweni.

Kodwa qaphelani ukuthi lowoMuzi wawuphezu kwentaba ende enkulu. Kodwa abahambi bakhwela kuleyontaba kalula, basizwa yilabobantu ababili bebabambe ngezandla. Futhi babetshiye ingubo zabo zokufa emuva emfuleni; ngoba lanxa babengene lazo, baphuma bengaselazo emfuleni. E! Bakhwela lapho ngokuphangisa, loba isisekelo owakhiwe phezu kwaso luMuzi sasiphakeme kulamayezi. Bahamba ezindaweni zomkhathi, bekhuluma kamnandi, beduduzekile ngoba babechapha umfula bephephile, langokuthi bephelekezelwa ngabakhazimulayo.

Ingxoxo ababelayo labakhazimulayo yayimayelana lobukhosi bomuzi; ababatshela ukuthi ubukhosi lobuhle bawo kabukhulumeki; bathi: "Nansi intaba iZiyoni; iJerusalema lasezulwini; ibandla elingebalwe lezithunywa zezulu, lemimoya yabaqotho ephelelisiweyo." Bathi futhi: "Selisiya eParadise

kaNkulunkulu, lapho elizabona khona isihlahla sokuphila, lidle izithelo zaso ezingabuniyo. Selifike khona lizanikwa izingubo ezimhlophe, lizahamba likhulume leNkosi, ngitsho amalanga onke ephakade. Lapho kalisayikuzibona lezozinto njengoba lalizibona ezindaweni eziphansi zomhlaba: ezokuthi, ukudabuka ukugula inhlupheko lokufa; ngoba izinto zakuqala sezedlule. Selisiya kuAbrahama, loIsaka, loJakobe, lakubaprofethi; abantu uNkulunkulu abasusa eubini obuzayo, lalabo khathesi abaphumulayo emibhedeni yabo, ngulowo lalowo ehamba ebuhleni bakhe." Babuza abahambi bathi: "Sizakwenzani kuleyondawo engcwele?" Kwaphendulwa kwathiwa: "Lapho lizakuthola umvuzo wokutshikathika konke kwenu, libe lentokozo yosizi lonke lwenu, livune elikuhlanyeleyo, ngitsho lezithelo zemikhuleko yonke yenu, lenyembezi, lokuhluphekela kwenu iNkosi endleleni. Kuleyondawo lizathwala imiqhele yegolide, lithokoze ngokuzwa lokubona njalo njalo oNgcwele: ngoba lapho lizambona njengoba enjalo. Lalapho lizamkhonza njalo njalo, ngendumiso, ngelizwi elikhulu, lokubonga, elafisa ukumkhonza emhlabeni, lanxa kwakulobulukhuni obukhulu ngenxa yobuthakathaka benyama yenu. Lapho amehlo enu azathokoziswa yikubona, lendlebe zenu zisizwa ilizwi elithokozisayo likaSomandla.

Lapho lizajabula lihlangane lezihlobo zenu ezalandulela zaya khona; lalapho lizakwamukela ngitsho lobani ozakulilandela ukungena endaweni engcwele; lapho njalo lizakwambatha udumo livunuliswe izivunulo ezifanele ukuhamba leNkosi yoDumo.

Lapho isisiza ngokuzwakala kophondo emafini, kungathi iphezu kwamaphiko omoya; lizakuza layo; lalapho isihlala phezu kwesiHlalo sokuGweba lizahlala layo; yebo lalapho ijezisa bonke abenza ukubi, kungaba zingilosu kumbe abantu lizakuba lelizwi kulokhukuGweba ngoba babeyizitha zakhe lezenu. Futhi nxa ibuyela emzini, lizabuyela layo, lihambe ngomsindo wophondo, lihlale kanye laye njalo njalo."

Bathi sebesondela esangweni, ibandla lempi yezulwini leza lahlangabezana labo; elatshelwa ngababili abakhazimulayo ukuthi: "Nampa abantu abathanda iNkosi yethu besesemhlabeni, bakutshiya konke ngenxa yebizo layo elingcwele. INkosi isithumile yathi asibalethe; sibalethe lapha ngendlela yabo abayifisayo, ukuze bangene babone ubuso boMsindisi wabo

ngenjablo.”

Ibandla lezulwini latsho ngomsindo omkhulu lathi: “Babusisiwe abamenyelwe emthimbeni weWundlu.”(Isambulo 19:9).

Kwasekuphuma ngalesosikhathi ukubahlangabeza, abanye babatshayi bamacilongo eNkosi, bembethe okumhlophe lokukhazimulayo, abathi ngamazwi amahle amakhulu, benza ukuthi lezulu liwenanele umsindo wabo. Lababatshayi becilongo babamukela kuhle oMkristu loBekithemba ngokumemeza okuzinkulungwane ezilitshumi bevela emhlabeni; lalokhu bakwenza ngokumemeza langelizwi lecilongo.

Sekwenzekile lokhu babaphahla ehlangothini zonke; abanye bahamba phambili, abanye bahamba emuva labanye esandleni sokunene, abanye kwesokhohlo, (kwangathi babakhokhelela endaweni zaphezulu), betshaya amacilongo sonke isikhathi beqhubeka ngomsindo omnandi ngamaphimbo aphakemeyo kuze kuthi ukubonakala kwakho kulabo ababengakukhangela kwakungathi izulu uqobo selehle ukubahlangabeza. Bahamba ngokunjalo ndawonye, bathi besahamba, abatshayicilongo labo batsho ngelizwi lokujabula behlanganisa ukuhlabelela kwabo lokwenza ngobuso, langemizimba, behlulukisa kuMkristu lomngane wakhe ukuthi babamukela kuhle ebandleni labo, bahlangabezana labo ngokujabula okukhulu.

Labo bahambi bobabili kambe kwasekungathi basezulwini kanti babengakafinyeleli kulo, beminzwe yikubonakala kwezithunyuwa zezulu, langokuzwa amaphimbo abo amnandi. Futhi babebona uMuzi, usobala, bakhumbula ukuthi bezwa insimbi zikhala phakathi kwawo, ukubamukela kuwo. Kodwa kulakho konke lokho bakhumbula ngokutshisa kwenhliziyo langokuthokoza - ukuthi bazahlala khona kanye lebandla elinjalo, kuze kube phakade. Kambe lulimi bani, laluphi uluthi lokubhala olungachasisa injabulo yabo elodumo!

Ngalokho bafika esangweni, kwathi sebefike esangweni, babona kulotshwe phezu kwalo ngamabala egolide ukuthi: "Babusisiwe abagcina imilayo yakhe, bazakuba lelungelo esihlahleni sempilo, njalo bangene emzini ngamasango."(Isambulo 22:14).

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami ukuthi abakhazimulayo bababizela esangweni. Bakwenza lokho, kwavela abanye phezu kwesango, okutsho

uEnoki, loMozisi, loElija abatshelwa kwathiwa: "Lababahambi, bavela emzini wekuBhubheni, ngokuyithanda kwabo iNkosi yomuzi wethu." Abahambi basebebanika izincwadi zabo ababezinikwe kuqala. Lezo-ke zasiwa eNkosini. Yathi emva kokuzifunda: "Angaphi lamadoda?" Bathi kuyo: "Emi ngaphandle kwesango." Yathi iNkosi: "Akuvulwe esangweni ukuthi isizwe esiqotho esigcina iqiniso singene."

Ngasengibona ephutsheni lami labo ababili bengena esangweni; bathi bengena baguqulwa isimo, bagqokiswa izigqoko ezikhazimulayo zegolide. Bahlangatshezwa langabanye belemiqangala lemiqhele; babanika imiqangala yokudumisa ngayo lemiqhele njengesibonelo sodumo. Ngasengisizwa ephutsheni lami ukuthi izinsimbi zonke zoMuzi zaphinda zakhala ngokuthokoza, lokuthi kwathiwa kubo: "Ngenani ekujabuleni kweNkosi yenu." Ngasengisizwa abantu labo ukuthi bahlabelela ngelizwi elikhulu bathi: "Ukubongwa, lodumo, lobukhosi, lamandla akube kuye ohlala esihlalweni sobukhosi, lakulo iWundlu kuze kube phakade laphakade."

Kwathi-ke amasango esevulelwe ukuthi amadoda angene, ngakhangele phakathi emva kwawo, khangele-ke uMuzi wakhanya njengelanga, izitalada lazo zazendlelwe ngegolide; njalo kuhamba kuzo abantu abanengi bethwele imiqhele emakhanda, bephethe amalala ezandleni zabo, lemiqangala yegolide ukudumisa ngayo. Kwakukhona phakathi kwabo abanye ababelempiko, bevumelana njalo njalo, bengakhawuli, besithi: "Ingcwele, ingcwele, ingcwele iNkosi."

Basebevala amasango. Okwathi ngikubona, ngaloyisa ukuba phakathi kwabo!

Kwathi-ke ngisakhangele lezizinto zonke, ngatshibilika ukuthi ngikhangele emuva, ngabona uKungazi esiza esondela ekhunjini lomfula; kodwa waphangisa ukukhuphuka engehlelwanga yibulukhuni obabehlele amadoda amabili. Ngoba kulesosikhathi kwakukhona kuleyondawo umuntu othiwa nguThembize, umuntu wokuchaphisa abantu ngomkhumbi wakhe owamchaphisa ngesikepe sakhe. Laye, njengabanye engangibabonile, wakhwela entabeni esondela esangweni. Kodwa weza yedwa, akulamuntu owamhlangabezayo lokumkhuthaza nje. Wasesithi esefike esangweni,

wakhangela okwakulotshwe phezulu, waseqala ukuqoqoda esithi uzangeniswa masinyane.

Kodwa wabuzwa yilabobantu abalunguza phezu kwesango, bathi: "Uvela ngaphi? Ufunani?"

Waphendula wathi: "Ngadla nganatha phambi kweNkosi, njalo yatshumayela ezindleleni zakithi."

Basebebuza incwadi yakhe yokungena ukuze bayise eNkosini. Wasephumputha esifubeni sakhe, akathola lutho. Bathi bona: "Awulayo yini?" Wathula yena kaphendulanga. Basebebikela iNkosi. Kodwa yona yala ukwehla ukuzambona: kodwa yalaya ababili abakhazimulayo ababephelekezele uMkristu loBekithemba eMzini ukuthi baphume, bathathe uKungazi, bambophe izandla lezinyawo, bamlahle.

Basebempakamisa bamthwala emkhathini bamusa emnyango engawubona eceleni kwentaba bamfaka kuwo.

Ngasengibona ukuthi kwakukhona indlela eya esehogweni isuka emasangweni eZulu, lasemzini wekuBhubheni.

Ngasengiphaphama; khangela kwakuliphuphonje.

IPHELILE LINDABA YETHU - ELESIPHETHO

Ngakho mfundi, sengilitshilo iphupho lami kuwe;

Bona kumbe ungalichasisa kimi,

Kumbe lakuwe, lakumakhelwane; kodwa nanzelela

Ukuchasisa kubi; ngoba ngalokho, esikhundleni

Sokwenza kuhle, kodwa uzabe uzilimazile:

Ngokuchasisa izilandelamuva ezimbi.

Nanzelela njalo ukwedlulisa amalawulo,

Ngokubeka okungaphandle kwephupho lami;

Kumbe wenze isimo sami kumbe umfanekiso wami

Kukuhlekise, kumbe kukufake kungxabano.

Lokhu kuyekelele abafana kumbe izithutha kodwa wena

Isiji sendaba yami sibone.

Sondela kuzimbombozo ukhangele phakathi kweveyili lami

Guqula imizekeliso yami njalo ungehluleki,

Lapho nxa uzidinga, izinto ezinje ukuzithola

Ezinganceda ingqondo eqotho.
Lokho okuyimfucuza yami okuthola lapho,
Bana lesibindi ukukulahla; kube kanti gcina igolide.
Kuzathini nxa igolide lami ligoqelwe yilitshe?
Kakho olahla iaphula ngenxa yenhliziyi yalo.
Kodwa nxa ungakulahla konke njenge-ze
Kangazi, kodwa kuzangenza ngiphinde ngiphuphe.