

UDanyeli

Ukufundiswa KukaDanyeli EBhabhiloni

¹ Ngomnyaka wesithathu wokubusa kukaJehoyakhimi inkosi yakwaJuda, uNebhukhadineza inkosi yaseBhabhiloni wafika eJerusalema walihanqa. ² UThixo wanikela uJehoyakhimi inkosi yakwaJuda ezandleni zakhe, kanye lezinye impahla zethempeli likaNkulunkulu. Konke wakuthwala wakusa ethempelini likankulunkulu wakhe eBhabhiloniya wakufaka endlini yenotho kankulunkulu wakhe.

³ Kwathi-ke inkosi yasilaya u-Ashiphenazi, induna yezikhulu zesigodlo sayo ukuthi alethe abanye bama-Israyeli besikhosini lasezikhulwini, ⁴ amajaha amizimba ingelasici, amahle, atshengisa ukufundiseka ezintweni zonke, azi okunengi, aphantisayo ukuzwisisa njalo abonakala efanele ukukhonza esigodlweni senkosi. Ayemele awafundise ulimi lezincwadi zamaBhabhiloni. ⁵ Inkosi yababela ukudla okukhethiweyo okwansuku zonke kanye lewayini kuthathwa kokwakulungiselwe inkosi. Babezafundiswa okweminyaka emithathu, kuthi ngemva kwalokho baqalise ukusebenza esigodlweni.

⁶ Phakathi kwalabo babekhona ababephuma koJuda: uDanyeli, loHananiya, loMishayeli kanye lo-Azariya. ⁷ Indunankulu yabanika

amabizo amatsha: uDanyeli kwathiwa nguBhelitheshazari; uHananiya waba nguShadreki, uMishayeli waba nguMeshaki; u-Azariya waba ngu-Abhediniko.

⁸ Kodwa uDanyeli wazimisela ukuthi angazingcolisi ngokudla kwesikhosini lewayini lakhona, yikho wasecela kundunankulu imvumo yokuthi angazingcolisi kanjalo. ⁹ UNkulunkulu wayekwenzile ukuthi Indunankulu imthande njalo imhawukele uDanyeli, ¹⁰ kodwa wathi kuDanyeli, “Ngiyamesaba umhlekezi wami inkosi, onguye okumisileyo ukudla kwenu lokokunatha. Kambe akayikulibona yini selikhangeleka kubi kulamanye amajaha angontanga benu? Inkosi ingahle ingiqume ikhanda ngenxa yenu.”

¹¹ UDanyeli wasesithi enxuseni elalibekwe yindunankulu phezu kwaboDanyeli, loHananiya, loMishayeli lo-Azariya, ¹² “Ake uzilinge izinceku zakho okwensuku ezilitshumi nje: Ungasiphi lutho ngaphandle kwemibhida ukuba sidle yona lamanzi okunatha. ¹³ Lapho-ke ubusufananisa imizimba yethu laleyo eyamajaha adla ukudla kwesikhosini, ubususenza njengokubona kwakho ezincekwini zakho.” ¹⁴ Lakanye inxusa lakuvuma lokho labalinga okwensuku ezilitshumi.

¹⁵ Ekupheleni kwensuku ezilitshumi bakhangeleka bephila ngcono njalo bezimukile kulamajaha ayesidla ukudla kwesikhosini. ¹⁶ Yikho inxusa laselisusa ukudla kwabo kwekhethelelo kanye lewayini ababelinatha labapha imibhida.

¹⁷ La amajaha amane uNkulunkulu wawanika ulwazi lokuzwisisa zonke izibhalo lemfundo. Njalo uDanyeli wayezwisisa imibono lama-phupho wonke ehlukeneyo.

¹⁸ Ekupheleni kwesikhathi esasibekwe yinkosi ukuthi balethwe, indunankulu yabethula kuNebhukhadineza. ¹⁹ Inkosi yakhuluma labo yafumana engekho olingana loDanyeli, loHananiya, loMishayeli kanye lo-Azariya; ngakho bangeniswa ukusebenzela inkosi. ²⁰ Kuzozonke izindaba zokuhlakanipha lokuzwisisa inkosi eyababuza ngazo yabafumana bebedlula bonke omasalamusi lezangoma ngokuphindwe katshumi kuwo wonke umbuso wayo.

²¹ UDanyeli wahlala khona kwaze kwaba ngumnyaka wokuqala weNkosi uKhurosi.

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Iphupho LikaNebhukhadineza

¹ Ngomnyaka wesibili wokubusa kwakhe, uNebhukhadineza waphupha amaphupho; wahlupheka engqondweni, wehluleka lokulala.

² Ngakho inkosi yasibiza omasalamusi, lezangoma, labavumisi lezingcazi zezinkanyezi ukuthi bamtshele lokho ayekuphuphile. Sebengenile bema phambi kwayo inkosi, ³ yathi kubo, “Ngibe lephupho elingihluphayo yikho ngifuna ukwazi ukuthi litshoni.”

⁴ Kwasekusithi ingcazi zezinkanyezi zayiphendula inkosi zikhuluma ngesi-Aramu zathi, “Bayethe, nkosi! Phila kuze kube nininini!”

Zitshele izinceku zakho iphupho lelo, thina sizalichaza.”

⁵ Inkosi yaziphendula ingcazi zezinkanyezi yathi, “Nanku esengikumisile: Nxa lingangitsheli ukuthi iphupho lami beliyini beselilichaza, ngizakuthi liqunywaqunywe iziqa, izindlu zenu zidilizwe zibe yinqwaba. ⁶ Kodwa lingangitshela iphupho kanye lengcazelo yalo ngizalipha izipho lemivuzo lodumo olukhulu. Ngakho ngitshelani iphupho libe selingichazela lona.”

⁷ Baphinda njalo baphendula bathi, “Inkosi kayizitshele izichaka zayo iphupho lelo, thina sizalichasisa.”

⁸ Inkosi yaphendula yathi, “Ngileqiniso ukuthi liqonde ukuchitha isikhathi ngoba libona ukuthi yilokhu esengikumisile ukuthi: ⁹ Nxa lingangitsheli iphupho lelo, sinye zwi isijeziso senu. Seliyengene ukuthi lingitshela inkohliso lamanyala, licabanga ukuthi kumbe izinto zizaguquka. Manje-ke ngitshelani iphupho lelo yikho ngizakwazi ukuthi lingangichasisela lona.”

¹⁰ Ingcazi zezinkanyezi zayiphendula inkosi zathi, “Kakulamuntu emhlabeni ongakwenza lokho okufunwa yinkosi! Kayikho inkosi, loba ingenkulu kanganani kumbe ilamandla anganani, eyake yafuna into enjalo laloba kubani oyenza amasalamusi, kumbe isangoma loba ingcazi yezinkanyezi. ¹¹ Lokhu okufunwa yinkosi kunzima kakhulu. Kakho ongakwambulela inkosi ngaphandle kwabonkulunkulu, njalo kabahlali ebantwini.”

¹² Lokhu kwayizondisa inkosi yabila ngolaka yahle yathi zonke izihlakaniphi zaseBhabhiloni

kazibulawe. ¹³ Ngakho sakhutshwa isimemezelo sokuthi izazi kazibulawe, yikho kwathunywa amadoda ukuyadinga uDanyeli labakhula bakhe ukuthi babulawe.

¹⁴ Kwathi u-Ariyoki, indunankulu yamanxusa enkosi isiphumile ukuyabulala izihlakaniphi zaseBhabhiloni, uDanyeli wakhuluma laye ngokuhlakanipha langokunanzelela.

¹⁵ Wasibuza isikhulu lesi senkosi wathi, “Kungani inkosi ikhuphe isimemezelo esibuhlungu kangaka na?” U-Ariyoki waseyichaza indaba kuDanyeli. ¹⁶ Esekuzwile lokho uDanyeli waya enkosini wacela ukuba ake aphiwe isikhathi, ukuze ayichazele iphupho layo.

¹⁷ UDanyeli wabuyela endlini yakhe wayatshela abakhula bakhe oHananiya, loMishayeli lo-Azariya ngendaba leyo. ¹⁸ Wabakhuthaza ukuthi bacele umusa kuNkulunkulu wasezulwini ngale inkinga eyimfihlakalo, ukuze kuthi yena labakhula bakhe baphephe ekubulaweni kanye lazozonke izihlakaniphi zaseBhabhiloni.

¹⁹ Kwathi ebusuku inkinga leyo yambulelwa uDanyeli ngombono. UDanyeli wasemdumisa uNkulunkulu wasezulwini ²⁰ wathi:

“Kalidunyiswe ibizo likaNkulunkulu nini lanini; inhlakanipho lamandla kungokwakhe.

²¹ Uyaguqula izikhathi lezibanga; uyawabeka amakhosi aphinde awaqethule. Unika inhlakanipho kwabahlakaniphileyo lolwazi kwabaqedisisayo.

²² Uveza obala izinto ezizikileyo lezifihlakeleyo; uyakwazi okucatshe emnyameni,

lokukhanya kuhlala kuye.

²³ Ngiyakubonga njalo ngiyakudumisa,
Oh Nkulunkulu wabokhokho bami:
Ungiphile inhlakanipho lamandla,
usungazisile mina lokho esikucelileyo kuwe,
ususazisile thina iphupho lenkosi.”

UDanyeli Uchasisa Iphupho

²⁴ UDanyeli wasesiya ku-Ariyoki owayekhethwe yinkosi ukuba abulale izihlakaniphi zaseBhabhiloni, wathi kuye, “Ungazibulali izihlakaniphi zaseBhabhiloni. Ngisa enkosini, ngizayichasisela iphupho layo.”

²⁵ U-Ariyoki wahle wasa uDanyeli enkosini wathi, “Sengiyifumene indoda kwabathunjiweyo bakwaJuda engayitshela inkosi ukuthi iphupho layo litshoni.”

²⁶ Inkosi yambuza uDanyeli (njalo othiwa nguBhelitheshazari), “Kambe ungangitshela na engakubonayo ephutsheni lami uphinde ulichasisise?”

²⁷ Waphendula uDanyeli wathi, “Kasikho isihlakaniphi, noma isangoma, noma oyenza amasalamusi, noma isanuse esingayihlahlulela inkosi imfihlakalo eyidingayo, ²⁸ kodwa ukhona uNkulunkulu ezulwini owambula zonke imfihlakalo. Utshengise inkosi uNebhukhadineza okuzakwenzakala ngezinsuku ezizayo. Iphupho lakho lemibono eyafika engqondweni yakho ulele embhedeni wakho yile:

²⁹ Wathi ulele khonapho nkosi, ingqondo yakho yaphatha izinto ezisezakuza, kwathi umhlahluli wezinkinga wakubonisa okuzakwenza-kala.” ³⁰ Okwami yikuthi ngiyambulelwe imfihlakalo le, kungesukuthi yingoba ngilenhlakanipho eyeqa eyabanye abaphilayo, kodwa ukuze kuthi wena, Oh nkosi, uyazi ingcazelo njalo ukuze uzwisise okwakuphithikana engqondweni yakho.

³¹ Wathi uyakhangela, Oh nkosi, wabona kumi phambi kwakho isithombe esikhulukazi, inkalakatha yesithombe esikhazimulayo, sis-esabeka ukukhangeleka kwaso. ³² Ikhanda lesithombe lalenziwe ngegolide elicengekileyo, isifuba saso lezingalo kubunjwe ngesiliva, isisu lemilenze kubunjwe ngethusi, ³³ imibala ibunjwe ngensimbi, inyawo zaso zilengxenye yensimbi lenye ingxenye yebumba elitshisiweyo. ³⁴ Wathi ulokhu usabukele, kwaqetshulwa ilitshe, kungesingazandla zamuntu. Lasigxoba isithombe ezinyaweni zaso zensimbi lebumba lazihlifiza. ³⁵ Kwasekusithi insimbi, lebumba, lethusi, lesiliva kanye legolide kwachobozeka kwaba yizicucu kanyekanye kwaba njengomule esizeni ehlobo. Umoya waziphephula izicucu wazikhucula du. Kodwa ilitshe elagxoba isithombe laba yintaba enkulu yagcwala umhlaba wonke.

³⁶ Leli bekuyilo iphupho, manje-ke sesizalichazela inkosi. ³⁷ Wena, Oh nkosi uyinkosi yamakhosi. UNkulunkulu wasezulwini ukunikile umbuso, lamandla lobukhulu lodumo; ³⁸ uluntu lonke ulunikele ezandleni zakho kanye lezinya-

mazana zeganga lezinyoni zemoyeni. Loba zihlala ngaphi, ukwenze wena waba ngumbusi wakho konke. Ulikhanda leliyana legolide.

³⁹ Ngemva kwakho, kuzakuba khona omunye umbuso, ophansi kulowakho. Kuzalandela owesithathu owethusi ozabusa umhlaba wonke. ⁴⁰ Ekucineni kuzakuba lombuso wesine oqinileyo njengensimbi ngoba insimbi iyephula ivodloze yonke into, yikho njengoba insimbi isephula izinto zibe yizicucu, kanjalo umbuso lowo uzayichoboza yonke eminye. ⁴¹ Njengoba ubonile ukuthi inyawo lamazwane bekulengxenye yebumba elitshisiweyo lengxenye yensimbi, yikho lo uzakuba ngumbuso odabuke phakathi; loba nje uzakuba lamanye amandla ensimbi phakathi kwawo, njengalokhu uyibonile insimbi ixubene lebumba. ⁴² Njengoba amazwane abelengxenye yensimbi, lengxenye yebumba, kanjalo umbuso lo uzakuba lamandla nganxanye, nganxanye ubucuzeke. ⁴³ Njalo njengoba ubonile insimbi ixubene lebumba elitshisiweyo, kanjalo abantu bazakuba yinhlanganisela bahlale bengamanyananga, njengoba insimbi ingahlangani lebumba.

⁴⁴ “Ngalesosikhathi samakhosi lawo uNkulunkulu wasezulwini uzabeka umbuso ongasoze wabhidlizwa lanini njalo ongasoze utshiyelwe abanye abantu. Uzayibhidliza yonke leyomibuso iphele, kodwa wona uzakuma laphakade.” ⁴⁵ Le yiyo ingcazelo yombono welitshe elaqhekezwa entabeni, kungasingezandla zomuntu, ilitshe elaphahlaza insimbi, lethusi, lebumba, lesiliva kanye legolide kwaba yizicucu.

“UNkulunkulu omkhulu uyitshengisile inkosi okuzakwenzeka ngesikhathi esizayo. Iphupho liliqiniso lengcazelo iqondile.”

⁴⁶ Inkosi uNebhukhadineza wazilahla wathi mbo phambi kukaDanyeli wamkhonza wakhupha ilizwi lokuthi kenzelwe umnikelo atshiselwe impepha njalo. ⁴⁷ Inkosi yathi kuDanyeli, “Ngempela uNkulunkulu wakho nguNkulunkulu wabonkulunkulu leNkosi yamakhosi lomambuleli wezimfihlakalo, ngoba ukwazile ukwambula imfihlakalo le.”

⁴⁸ Inkosi yasibeka uDanyeli esikhundleni esiphezulu yelekelela ngeziph o ezinengi kuye. Yamenza waba ngumbusi kulolonke ilizwe laseBhabhiloni njalo waba ngumphathi wazo zonke izazi zakhona. ⁴⁹ Isicelwe nguDanyeli, yaphinde yabeka uShadreki, loMeshaki lo-Abhediniko baba ngabaphathi beziqinti zelizwe laseBhabhiloni, kodwa yena uDanyeli wasala esigodlweni.

3

Isithombe Segolide Lesithando Somlilo

¹ Inkosi uNebhukhadineza yenza isithombe segolide, saphakama izingalo ezingamatshumi ayisificamunwemunye lobubanzi obuzingalo eziyisificamunwemunye, yasimisa egcekeni laseDura elizweni laseBhabhiloni. ² Yasibiza ababusi bezigaba, labalisa, ababusi bemikhono yelizwe, labeluleki, ³ labaphathizikhwama, labehluleli, labomantshi kanye lazozonke izikhulu zezigaba ukuza emkhosini wokubusisa isithombe leso ayesimisile, bema phambi kwaso.

⁴ Umlawuli womkhosi wasememezela kakhulu wathi, “Mahlabezulu, lani zizwe zonke kanye lani bantu bezindimi zonke, nanku elilaywa ukuthi likwenze: ⁵ Lingavele lizwe ukukhala kophondo, lomfece, lomhlanga, lomhubhe, lechacho, lezindweba layo yonke imihlobo yokuhlabela ngokukhalisa iziginci libokuthi mbo phansi lisikhonze isithombe segolide esimiswe yinkosi uNebhukhadineza. ⁶ Iloba ngubani ongayi kukhothama asikhonze uzahle aphoselwe esithandweni somlilo olavuzayo.”

⁷ Yikho, bonela ukuzwa ukukhala kophondo, lomfece, lomhlanga, lomhubhe, lechacho lemihlobo yonke yeziginci, bonke abantu, lezizwe labantu bezindimi zonke bathi mbo phansi bakhonza isithombe segolide inkosi uNebhukhadineza eyayisimisile.

⁸ Ngalesisikhathi ezinye izingcazi zezinkanyezi zeza zachothoza amaJuda. ⁹ Zathi enkosini uNebhukhadineza, “Bayethe nkosi, mana njalo! ¹⁰ Ukhuphile isimemezelo, wena nkosi, wathi wonke okuzwayo ukukhala kophondo, lomfece, lomhlanga, lomhubhe, lechacho lezindweba kanye lazozonke iziginci ezikhaliswayo kathi mbo phansi akhonze isithombe segolide, ¹¹ lokuthi loba ngubani ongathi mbo phansi akhonze uzaphoselwa esithandweni somlilo olavuzayo. ¹² Kodwa bakhona abanye amaJuda obabeke ukuphatha ilizwe laseBhabhiloni, uShadreki, loMeshaki lo-Abhediniko, abangakhathali lutho ngawe, wena nkosi. Kababakhonzi onkulunkulu bakho njalo kabasikhonzi isithombe lesi osimisileyo.”

¹³ Wazonda wadlainja uNebhukhadineza, wasebiza oShadreki, loMeshaki lo-Abhediniko. Yikho amadoda la alethwa phambi kwenkosi, ¹⁴ uNebhukhadineza wathi kubo, “Kuliqiniso yini, Shadreki, loMeshaki lo-Abhediniko, ukuthi kalibakhonzi onkulunkulu bami njalo kalisikhonzi isithombe segolide engisimisileyo? ¹⁵ Manje nxa lingezwa ukukhala kophondo, lomfece, lomhlanga, lomhubhe, lechacho, lezindweba layo yonke imihlobo yezikhaliswayo, nxa selizimisele ukuthi mbo phansi lisikhonze isifanekiso engasenzayo, kulungile. Kodwa nxa lingasikhonzi lizaphoselwa ngokuphangisa esithandweni somlilo ovuthayo. Pho nguphi unkulunkulu ozalilamulela esandleni sami na?”

¹⁶ OShadreki, loMeshaki lo-Abhediniko bayiphendula inkosi bathi, “Nkosi Nebhukhadineza, kasidingi kuzilwela phambi kwakho ngale indaba. ¹⁷ Singaphoselwa esithandweni somlilo olavuzayo, uNkulunkulu esimkhonzayo ulamandla okusisindisa kuwo, njalo uzasilamulela esandleni sakho, wena nkosi. ¹⁸ Loba engasisindisi, sithanda ukuba ukwazi, wena nkosi, ukuthi sivele kasisoze sibakhonze onkulunkulu bakho kumbe sisidumise isifanekiso segolide leso osimisileyo.”

¹⁹ Lapho-ke uNebhukhadineza waphuphuma ngolaka kuShadreki, loMeshaki lo-Abhediniko, wahle waguqula indlela aye esebaphatha ngayo. Walaya ukuthi isithando somlilo sibaselwe sitshise okuphindwe kasikhombisa kulenjayelo ²⁰ waphinda walaya ukuthi abanye bamabutho angobambapheqe bempi yakhe

bababophe oShadreki, loMeshaki lo-Abhediniko babaphosele esithandweni somlilo olavuzayo. ²¹ Yikho amadoda la abotshwa elokhu eggoke amajazi awo, lamabhulugwe, amaqhiye kanye lezinye iziggoko zawo, aphoselwa esithandweni somlilo ovuthayo. ²² Umlayo wenkosi wawuthukuthele kakhulu lesithando somlilo sitshisa okokuthi amalangabi omlilo awabulala amanxusa ayefuqela oShadreki, loMeshaki lo-Abhediniko, ²³ kwathi amadoda la womathathu ayebotshwe nko awela phakathi kwesithando somlilo olavuzayo.

²⁴ Khonapho inkosi uNebhukhadineza wathi lothu ngokumangala, wabuza abacebisi bakhe wathi, “Kanti angithi abemathathu amadoda esiwabophileyo sawaphosela emlilweni na?”

Baphendula bathi, “Liqiniso lelo, Oh nkosi.”

²⁵ Wathi, “Khangelani! Ngibona amadoda amane ehambahamba phakathi komlilo, engabotshwanga njalo engalinyazwanga lutho, njalo owesine lowo ukhangeleka njengendodana yabonkulunkulu.”

²⁶ UNebhukhadineza wasesondela emlonyeni wesithando somlilo olavuzayo wamemeza wathi, “Shadreki, loMeshaki lo-Abhediniko, zinceku zikaNkulunkulu oPhezukonke, phumani! Wozani lapha!”

Ngakho oShadreki, loMeshaki lo-Abhediniko baphuma emlilweni, ²⁷ kwathi ababusi bezi-gaba, labalisa, lababusi bemikhono yelizwe labeluleki besikhosini bababunganyela. Babona ukuthi umlilo wawungabalimazanga imizimba

yabo, njalo kungahaqazekanga lalunye unwele lwamakhandla abo; izembatho zabo zingahangulekanga, njalo kunganuki mlilo kubo.

²⁸ UNebhukhadineza wasesithi, “Kadunyiswe uNkulunkulu kaShadreki, loMeshaki lo-Abhediniko, othume ingilosi yakhe wasindisa izinceku zakhe! Bathemba kuye badelela umlayo wenkosi njalo bazimisela ukunikela impilo zabo kulokuthi bakhonze loba badumise omunye uNkulunkulu ngaphandle kowabo uNkulunkulu. ²⁹ Ngakho sengimisa isimemezelo ukuthi abantu loba ngabasiphi isizwe kumbe ulimi abakhuluma okubi ngoNkulunkulu kaShadreki, loMeshaki lo-Abhediniko kabaqunywaqunywe izicucu, lezindlu zabo zenziwe izinqwaba zezibi, ngoba kakho omunye uNkulunkulu ongasindisa ngale indlela.”

³⁰ Inkosi yase ibanika izikhundla eziphezulu oShadreki, loMeshaki lo-Abhediniko elizweni laseBhabhiloni.

4

Iphupho LikaNebhukhadineza Ngesihlahla

¹ Inkosi uNebhukhadineza,
Elizweni zonke lebantwini benhlanga zonke abahlala emhlabeni wonke:

Sengathi inganda kini inhlalakahle!

² Kuyintokozo kimi ukulitshela ngezibonakaliso ezimangalisayo lezinkinga uNkulunkulu oPhezukonke angenzele zona.

³ Zinkulu kangakanani izibonakaliso zakhe,
zingakaya izimangaliso zakhe!

Umbuso wakhe ungumbuso ongelasiphelo;
 umbuso wakhe umi kusukela kulesi kusiya
 kulesiyana isizukulwane.

⁴ Mina, Nebhukhadineza, ngangisekhaya esigodlweni sami, nganelisiwe njalo ngikhomba ngophakathi. ⁵ Ngehlelwa liphupho elangitshayisa uvalo. Ngathi ngilele embhedeni wami kwafika engqondweni yami izifanekiso lezibonakaliso ezangithuthumelisayo. ⁶ Ngasengilaya ukuthi zonke izihlakaniphi zaseBhabhiloni zilethwe phambi kwami ukuthi zingihlahlulele lelophupho. ⁷ Kwathi sebefikile omasalamusi, lezangoma, lezingcazi zezinkanyezi lezanuse ngazitshela lelophupho kodwa zehluleka ukungichasisela lona. ⁸ Ekucineni uDanyeli wafika kimi ngamtshela ngephupho lelo. (Uthiwa nguBhelitheshazari, ngokuphathelene lebizu likankulunkulu wami, njalo umoya wabonkulunkulu abangcwele uphakathi kwakhe.)

⁹ Ngathi kuye, Bhelitheshazari, nduna yabomasalamusi, ngiyazi ukuthi umoya wabonkulunkulu abangcwele uphakathi kwakho, njalo kakukho okuyinkinga kuwe. Nanti iphupho lami; ngihlahlulela lona. ¹⁰ Yile imibono eyangivelelayo ngilele embhedeni wami: Ngakhangela, ngabona kumi phambi kwami isihlahla phakathi komango. Ubude baso babule. ¹¹ Isihlahla sakhula saba sikhulu saqina, isiqongo saso sakhotha umkhathi; sasibonakala lasemikhawulweni yomhlaba. ¹² Amahlamvu aso ayebukeka, izithelo zaso

zinengi kuso kukhona ukudla kwakho konke. Ngaphansi kwaso izinyamazana zeganga zafumana isiphephelo lezinyoni zemoyeni zazihlala emagatsheni aso; zonke izidalwa zisongiwa kuso.

¹³ Ezibonakalisweni ezeza ngilele embhedeni wami, ngakhangela, ngabona khonapho phambi kwami kulesithunywa, singongcwele, sisehla sisuka ezulwini. ¹⁴ Samemeza ngezizwi elikhulu sathi: Gamulelani phansi isihlahla licakaze amagatsha aso; liwaphundle amahlamvu aso lihlakaze izithelo zaso. Yekelani izinyamazana zibaleke ngaphansi kwaso kanye lezinyoni emagatsheni aso. ¹⁵ Kodwa akuthi isidindi saso kanye lempande zakhona kusale kugxumekile emhlabathini phakathi kotshani beganga, kubotshiwe ngenzimbi langethusi.

Kagxanxwe ngamazolo avela phezulu, njalo kahlale lezinyamazana phakathi kwezihlahla zeganga. ¹⁶ Inggondo yakhe kayiguqulwe isuke ebuntwini, aphiwe ingqondo yenyamazana, kuze kudlule iminyaka eyisikhombisa.

¹⁷ “‘Isinqumo lesi sibikwa yizithunywa, zona ezingcwele yizo ezimemezela lesi isigwebo, ukuze kuthi abaphilayo bazi ukuthi oPhezukonke unguThixo yemibuso yabantu njalo uyabanikela loba kukubani amfunayo futhi enze babuswe ngumuntukazana.’

¹⁸ Yilo iphupho engibe lalo mina inkosi uNebhukhadineza. Manje-ke Bhelitheshazari, ngitshela ukuthi litshoni, ngoba kasikho

isihlakaniphi embusweni wami esingangihlahlulela lona. Kodwa wena ungakwenza, ngoba umoya wabonkulunkulu abangcwele uphakathi kwakho.”

UDanyeli Uchaza Iphupho

¹⁹ Yikho uDanyeli (njalo othiwa nguBhelitheshazari) wakhathazeka kakhulu okwesikhathi esithile, imicabango yakhe yamethusa. Yikho inkosi yasisithi, “Bhelitheshazari, ungethuswa liphupho lelo kumbe yincazelo yalo.”

UBhelitheshazari waphendula wathi, Nkosi yami, sengathi ngabe iphupho lelo liqonde labo abayizitha zakho lengcazelo yalo ikhomba labo abakuzondayo! ²⁰ Isihlahla osibonileyo, esakhula saba sikhulu saqina, isiqongo saso sikhotha isibhakabhaka size sibonakale emhlabeni wonke, ²¹ silamahlamvu abukekayo lezithelo ezinengi, sisipha ukudla kukho konke, siphe isiphephelo izinyamazana zeganga, emagatsheni aso silezindawo zezidleke zezinyoni zemoyeni, ²² wena, Oh nkosi, uyilesosihlahla! Usube mkhulu waba lamandla; ubukhulu bakho sebandile sebuze buthinta isibhakabhaka, lombuso wakho usufinyelela ezindaweni ezikude ezomhlaba.

²³ “Wena, Oh nkosi, wabona isithunywa, sona esingcwele, sisehla sivela ezulwini sisithi, ‘Sigamuleleni phansi isihlahla lisicakaze, kodwa litshiye isidindi, sibotshiwe ngensimbi langethusi, siphakathi kotshani beganga, impande zaso zisale emhlabathini. Kagxanxwe ngamazolo aphezulu; kaphile

njengezinyamazana zeganga kuze kudlule iminyaka eyisikhombisa.’

²⁴ Nansi ingcazelo, Oh nkosi, njalo lesi yisimiso soPhezukonke asimisele umhlekezazi wami inkosi: ²⁵ Uzaxotshwa ebantwini uyehlala lezinyamazana zeganga: uzakudla utshani njengezinkomo, ugxanxwe ngamazolo aphezulu.

Kuzakudlula iminyaka eyisikhombisa uze uvume ukuthi oPhezukonke uyabusa phezu kwemibuso yabantu ayinika ingqe ngulowo amthandayo.

²⁶ Umlayo wokutshiya isidindi kanye lezimpande zaso utsho ukuthi umbuso wakho uzabuyiselwa kuwe nxatshana usuvuma ukuthi iZulu liyabusa. ²⁷ Ngakho-ke, Oh nkosi, kuhle ukuthi wamukele ukucebisa kwami: Yekela izono zakho wenze okulungileyo, lobubi bakho ube lomusa kwabancindezelweyo. Lapho-ke mhlawumbe ukuphumelela kwakho kungaqhubeka.”

Ukugcwaliseka Kwephupho

²⁸ Konke lokhu kwenzakala enkosini uNebhukhadineza. ²⁹ Sekudlule izinyanga ezilitshumi lambili, inkosi ihambahamba ephahleni lwesigodlo saseBhabhiloni, ³⁰ yathi, “Kakusilo yini iBhabhiloni leli engalakra laba ngumuzi wobukhosi bami na?”

³¹ Kwathi amazwi la elokhu esesemlonyeni wakhe kwehla ilizwi livela ezulwini lathi, “Nanku osukunqunyelwe, nkosi Nebhukhadineza: Amandla akho obukhosi asesusiwe kuwe. ³² Uzaxotshwa ebantwini uyehlala lezinyamazana zeganga; uzakudla

utshani njengezinkomo. Kuzadlula iminyaka eyisikhombisa uze uvume ukuthi oPhezukonke uyabusa phezu kwemibuso yabantu ayiphe ingqe ngubani ngokuthanda kwakhe.”

³³ Masinyane nje okwakutshiwo ngoNebhukhadineza kwagcwaliseka. Waxotshwa ebantwini wadla utshani njengezinkomo. Umzimba wakhe wagxanxwa ngamazolo aphezulu, inwele zakhe zakhula njengezinsiba zengqungqulu, kwathi inzipho zakhe zaba njengenkumba zenyoni.

³⁴ Ekupheleni kwalesosikhathi, mina, Nebhukhadineza, ngaphakamisela amehlo ami ezulwini, ingqondo yami yabuya. Ngasengim dumisa oPhezukonke; ngambabaza, ngambonga yena ohlezi kuze kube phakade. Ubukhosi bakhe buyibukhosi baphakade; umbuso wakhe umi kulesi lakulesiyana isizukulwane.

³⁵ Imihlobo yonke yabantu bomhlaba ibonakala ingesilutho.

Wenza njengokuthanda kwakhe ezidalweni zasezulwini lasebantwini abasemhlabeni.

Kakho ongasivimbela isandla sakhe loba athi kuye: “Kanti wenzani na?”

³⁶ Ngasonalesosikhathi ingqondo yami yabuya, udumo lwami lenkazimulo yami kwabuyiswa kimi ukusekela ubukhosi bombuso wami. Abeluleki bami lezikhulu zami bangidinga bangibuyisela esihlalweni sami sobukhosi, ngase ngisiba

mkhulu kulakuqala. ³⁷ Ngakho-ke mina, Nebhukhadineza, ngiyayidumisa njalo ngiyayibabaza, ngiyiphakamise iNkosi yezulu, ngoba konke ekwenzayo kuqondile futhi lezindlela zayo zonke zilungile. Njalo bonke abazigqajayo iyabathobisa.

5

Umbhalo Emdulini

¹ Inkosi uBhelishazari wenzela izikhulu zakhe ezizinkulungwane idili elikhulu, wanatha lazo iwayini. ² Kwathi uBhelishazari enatha iwayini lakhe walaya ukuthi kulethwe izitsha zegolide lezesiliva ezazithethwe nguyise uNebhukhadineza ethempelini eJerusalema, efuna ukuthi inkosi, lezikhulu zayo, labafazi bayo kanye labafazi bayo beceleni banathele kuzo. ³ Yikho baziletha izitsha zegolide ezazithethwe ethempelini likaNkulunkulu eJerusalema, kwasekusithi inkosi lezikhulu zayo kanye labafazi bayo beceleni banathela kuzo.

⁴ Bathi belinatha iwayini babelokhu bedumisa onkulunkulu begolide labesiliva, labethusi, labensimbi, labezigodo labamatshe.

⁵ Masinyane nje kwavela iminwe yesandla somuntu yaloba emdulini eduzane loluthi lwe-sibane esigodlweni. Inkosi yasibukela isandla siloba. ⁶ Ubuso bayo bahloba, yethuka amadolo ayo aze atshayana, imilenze yathamba yathi wohlo phansi.

⁷ Inkosi yamemeza yathi kakubizwe izan-goma lezingcazi zezinkanyezi kanye lezanuse

yasisithi kuwo la amadoda ayizihlakaniphi zaseBhabhiloni, “Loba ngubani ongabala umbhalo lo angitshela ukuthi utshoni uzagqokiswa eziyibubende agqiziswe iketane legolide entanyeni yakhe, njalo uzaphiwa isikhundla sesithathu sokuba ngumbusi kulelizwe.”

⁸ Zazingena zonke izihlakaniphi. Kodwa zehluleka ukuwubala umbhalo lokutshela inkosi ukuthi utshoni. ⁹ Ngakho inkosi uBhelishazari yathuthumela okwedlulayo, ubuso bayo bahloba. Izikhulu zayo zadideka.

¹⁰ Indlovukazi yathi isizwa amazwi enkosi lezikhulu zayo yeza yangena endlini yedili. Yathi, “Oh nkosi, mana njalo. Ungethuki! Ungaze wahloba kanjalo!” ¹¹ Kulomuntu embusweni wakho olomoya wabonkulunkulu abangcwele phakathi kwakhe. Ngesikhathi sikayihlo watshengisa ukuqonda, lokukhalipha lenhlakanipho okufana lokwabonkulunkulu. Uyihlo, inkosi uNebhukhadineza yambeka ukuba yinduna yabomasalamusi, lezangoma, lezingcazi zezinkanyezi lezanuse. ¹² Indoda le, uDanyeli, inkosi eyayimbiza ngokuthi nguBhelitheshazari, wabonakala elengqondo evukileyo, lolwazi lokuzwisisa, njalo elamandla okuhumutsha amaphupho, lokuchaza amalibho kanye lokuhlahlula izinkinga ezinzima. Mbize uDanyeli, uzakutshela ukuthi umbhalo utshoni.”

¹³ Ngakho uDanyeli walethwa phambi kwenkosi, inkosi yathi kuye, “Wena unguye uDanyeli na, omunye wabathunjwa abalethwa ngubaba inkosi bevela koJuda?” ¹⁴ Sengizwile ukuthi umoya wabonkulunkulu uphakathi

kwakho lokuthi ulokuqonda, lokukhalipha lenhlakanipho eyinqaba. ¹⁵ Izihlakaniphi lezangoma zilethwe kimi ukuthi zingibalele umbhalo lo, zingitshele ukuthi utshoni, kodwa zehlulekile ukuwuchaza. ¹⁶ Manje sengizwile ukuthi wena ulamandla okutsho ingcazelo lokuhlahlula izinkinga ezinzima. Aluba ungawubala umbhalo lo uphinde ungitshele ukuthi utshoni, uzagqokiswa eziyibubende, ugqiziswe leketane legolide entanyeni yakho, uphinde ubekwe esikhundleni sokuba ngowesithathu ebukhulwini bombuso lo.”

¹⁷ UDanyeli wasephendula inkosi wathi, “Ungazigcinela lezozipho zakho, uphe leyomivuzo yakho omunye umuntu. Loba kunjalo ngizayibalela inkosi umbhalo lowo ngiyitshele ukuthi utshoni.

¹⁸ Yebo kambe nkosi, uNkulunkulu oPhezukonke wanika uyihlo uNebhukhadineza ubukhosi lobukhulu lodumo kanye lenkazimulo.

¹⁹ Ngenxa yesikhundla esiphezulu amnika sona, bonke abantu kanye lezizwe zonke labantu bendimi zonke babemqhuqa, bemesaba. Labo inkosi eyafuna ukubabulala, yababulala; labo eyafuna ukubaxolela, yabaxolela; labo eyafuna ukubakhweza ezikhundleni yabakhweza; kwathi labo eyafuna ukubayangisa, yabayangisa.

²⁰ Kodwa kwathi lapho inhliziyayo yayo isilobuqholo, isilukhuni ngokuzigqaja yethulwa esihlalweni sayo sobukhosi yaphucwa udumo lwayo.

²¹ Yaxotshwa ebantwini yaphiwa ingqondo yenyamazana; yahlala labobabhemi

beganga, yadla utshani njengezinkomo; lomzimba wayo wagxanxwa ngamazolo omkhathi yaze yavuma ukuthi uNkulunkulu oPhezukonke nguye uThixo phezu kwemibuso yabantu, abeke phezu kwayo loba nguphi umbusi amthandayo.

²² Kodwa wena ndodana yayo, awu Bhelishazari, kawuzithobanga, lokuba ukwazi konke lokhu. ²³ Endaweni yalokho, uzimisele ukumelana loThixo wezulu. Wathi kakuthathwe izitsha zethempeli layo zilethwe kuwe, kwasekusithi wena lezikhulu zakho, labafazi bakho kanye labafazi bakho beceleni lanathela iwayini kuzo. Wadumisa onkulunkulu besiliva legolide, abethusi, lensimbi, lezigodo lamatshe, abangaboniyo, labangezwayo labangaqedisisiyo. Kodwa kawumhloniphanga uNkulunkulu ophethe ukuphila kwakho kanye lezindlela zakho zonke esandleni sakhe. ²⁴ Kungakho ethumele lesosandla esalobe lumbhalo.

²⁵ Nanku umbhalo obulotshiwe:
mene, mene, thekheli, pharisini.

²⁶ Nanku okutshiwo ngamagama la:

Mene: Nkulunkulu usezibalile insuku zokubusa kwakho, usekuqedile.

²⁷ *Thekheli:* Usulinganisiwe esikalini wafunyanwa ulula.

²⁸ *Pharisini:* Umbuso wakho usuhlukaniswe phakathi, wabelwa amaMede lamaPhezhiya.”

²⁹ Kwathi ngomlayo kaBhelishazari uDanyeli wagqokiswa eziyibubende, wagqiziswa iketane legolide entanyeni yakhe, kwamenyezelwa

ukuthi usengumbusi wesikhundla sobuthathu elizweni.

³⁰ Ngabona lobobusuku uBhelishazari, inkosi yamaBhabhiloni wabulawa, ³¹ kwathi uDariyu umuMede wabuthatha ubukhosi eleminyaka engamatshumi ayisithupha lambili.

6

UDanyeli Emgodini Wezilwane

¹ UDariyu wathanda ukubeka ababusi bezigaba abalikhulu lamatshumi amabili (120) ukuba babuse kulolonke ilizwe, ² wabeka omongameli abathathu phezu kwabo, omunye wabo enguDanyeli. Ababusi bezigaba babesethula kubo konke ukuze inkosi ingalahlekelwa lutho. ³ UDanyeli waba yisilomo, wedlula abanye omongameli lababusi bezigaba ngokwenza kwakhe, inkosi yaze yafisa ukumbeka phezu kwelizwe lonke. ⁴ Ngenxa yalokho omongameli lababusi bezigaba badinga amabhada okumangalela uDanyeli ngendlela ayeqhuba ngayo kwezombuso, kodwa behluleka. Kabafumananga kungcola kuye ngoba wayethembekile futhi engasihaga lemali njalo engayekethisi lutho. ⁵ Ekucineni amadoda la athi, “Kasisoze safu salizuza izaba lokwethesa indoda le uDanyeli icala ngaphandle kwalokho okuphathelene lomthetho kaNkulunkulu wakhe.”

⁶ Ngakho omongameli lababusi bezigaba baya enkosini belixuku bafika bathi: “Oh nkosi Dariyu, mana njalo! ⁷ Omongameli besikhosini, labalisa, lababusi bezigaba, labeluleki lababusi

bemikhono yelizwe bonke sebevumelene ukuthi inkosi kayikhuphe isimemezelo iwugcizelele umlayo othi noma ngubani okhuleka kuwuphi uNkulunkulu noma umuntu phakathi kwalezi insuku ezingamatshumi amathathu, ngaphandle kokukhuleka kuwe wena, Oh nkosi, uzaphoselwa emgodini wezilwane. ⁸ Manje, Oh nkosi, sikhuphe lesosimemezelo sibhalwe phansi ukuze singaguqulwa njengoba kunjalo ngemithetho yamaMede lamaPhezhiya engaguqulwayo.” ⁹ Ngakho inkosi uDariyu yawubhala phansi lowomthetho.

¹⁰ Kwathi uDanyeli esezwile ukuthi umthetho wawusukhutshiwe, waya ekhaya endlini yakhe ephezulu esitezi eyayilamawindi avulwe akhangela eJerusalema. Kathathu ngelanga wayezilahla phansi ngamadolo akhuleke, ebonga uNkulunkulu wakhe, njengalokho ayevele ekwenza mandulo. ¹¹ Kwasekusithi amadoda la aqhubana elixuku afica uDanyeli ekhuleka ecela usizo kuNkulunkulu. ¹² Asesiya enkosini ayakhuluma layo ngomthetho owaphuma esigodlweni, athi: “Kawukhuphanga isimemezelo yini sokuthi ngezinsuku ezilandelayo ezingamatshumi amathathu noma ngubani okhuleka komunye unkulunkulu noma umuntu ngaphandle kokukhuleka kuwe, Oh nkosi, uzaphoselwa emgodini wezilwane?”

Inkosi yaphendula yathi, “Lowomthetho umi njengemithetho yamaMede lamaPhezhiya, engeke iguqulwe.”

¹³ Asesithi enkosini, “UDanyeli, ongomunye wabathunjwa bakoJuda, kakunanzi, wena nkosi,

kanye lomthetho owawubhala phansi. Ulokhu ekhuleka kathathu ngelanga.”¹⁴ Kwathi inkosi isikuzwile lokho yakhathazeka kakhulu; yayizimisele ukukhulula uDanyeli, yenza yonke imizamo yokumsiza ilanga laze layatshona.

¹⁵ Amadoda lawo asehamba elixuku aya enkosini athi kuyo, “Khumbula, Oh nkosi, ukuthi ngomthetho wamaMede lamaPhezhiya kakulasimemezelo loba isimiso esikhutshwe yinkosi esingaguqulwa.”

¹⁶ Ngakho inkosi yasikhupha umlayo, basebemletha uDanyeli bamphosela emphandwini wezilwane. Inkosi yathi kuDanyeli, “Sengathi uNkulunkulu wakho omkhonzayo njalonjalo angakuhlenga!”

¹⁷ Kwa lethwa ilitshe lafakwa emnyango womgodi, inkosi yasilinameka ngendandatho yayo yobukhosi langezindandatho zezikhulu zayo, ukuze umumo kaDanyeli ungaguqulwa.¹⁸ Yikho inkosi yase ibuyela esigodlweni sayo yazila ukudla lokunatha ubusuku bonke. Yehluleka ukulala.

¹⁹ Kwathi emadabukakusa inkosi yavuka yaya emgodini wezilwane.²⁰ Ithe isifikile emgodini, yamemeza uDanyeli ngelizwi losizi yathi, “Danyeli, nceku kaNkulunkulu ophilayo, uNkulunkulu wakho omkhonza njalonjalo ukuphephhisile yini ezilwaneni?”

²¹ UDanyeli waphendula wathi, “Oh nkosi, mana njalo!²² UNkulunkulu wami uthume ingilosi yakhe yayivala imilomo yezilwane.

Kazingilimazanga ngoba ngifunyanwe ngingelacala phambi kwakhe. Njalo kangikaze ngenze okubi kuwe, Oh nkosi.”

²³ Inkosi yathaba yafa yakhupha umlayo wokuba uDanyeli akhutshulwe emgodini lowo. UDanyeli esekhutshiwe emgodini, kakubonakalanga nxeba kuye, ngoba wathemba kuNkulunkulu wakhe.

²⁴ Inkosi yalaya ukuthi balethwe labo ababemangalele uDanyeli ngamanga baphoselwa emgodini wezilwane kanye labafazi babo labantwababo. Bathi bengakathinti phansi emgodini izilwane zabaqaga zabafohloza wonke amathambo abo.

²⁵ Inkosi uDariyu yasilobela bonke abantu, lezizwe zonke lenhlanga zendimi zonke kulolonke ilizwe yathi:

“Sengathi impilo enhle inganda kini!

²⁶ Ngimisa isimiso sokuthi kuzozonke izindawo zombuso wami, abantu kabesabe, bakhonze uNkulunkulu kaDanyeli.

Ngoba unguNkulunkulu ophilayo,
omiyo kuze kube phakade;
umbuso wakhe kawuyikubhidlizwa,
lobukhosi bakhe kabusoze buphele.

²⁷ Uyakhulula, asindise;
wenza izibonakaliso lezimangaliso
emazulwini lasemhlabeni.

Umhlangulile uDanyeli
emandleni ezilwane.”

²⁸ Ngakho uDanyeli waphumelela ngesikhathi sokubusa kukaDariyu lesokubusa kukaKhurosi umPhezhiya.

7

Iphupho LikaDanyeli Elezilo Ezine

¹ Ngomnyaka wokuqala kaBhelishazari inkosi yaseBhabhiloni, uDanyeli waphupha iphupho, kwaphithika imibono engqondweni yakhe elele embhedeni wakhe. Wakubhala phansi okwakuqukethwe liphupho lakhe.

² UDanyeli wathi: “Embonweni wami ebusuku ngakhangela ngabona phambi kwami imimoya emine yasezulwini iqubula ulwandle olukhulu.

³ Izilo ezine ezinkulu, yilesi singafanani lezinye, zaqhamuka olwandle.

⁴ Esakuqala sasinjengesilwane, njalo silamaphiko engqungqulu. Ngabukela amaphiko aso aze akhutshwa, sasesiphakanyiswa emhlabathini sema ngezinyawo ezimbili njengomuntu, sasesiphiwa inhliziyo yomuntu.

⁵ Khonapho phambi kwami kwakujame isilo sesibili esasifana lebhele. Sasiphakanyisiwe kwelinye icele laso, njalo emlonyeni waso sasilezimbambo ezintathu emazinyweni aso. Satshelwa kwathiwa, ‘Sukuma udle inyama usuthe!’

⁶ Ngemva kwalokho ngakhangela ngabona phambi kwami esinye isilo esasikhangeleka njengengwe. Emhlané waso sasilamaphiko amane afana lawenyoni. Isilo lesi sasilamakhanda amane, saphiwa amandla okuba sibuse.”

⁷ Ngemva kwalokho, embonweni wami ebusuku ngakhangela, kwathi phambi kwami kwema isilo sesine esithuthumelisayo, sisesabeka njalo silamandla amakhulu.

Sasilamazinyo ensimbi amakhulu; safohloza esikubambileyo sakudla, okuseleyo sakugxobela phansi. Sasingafanani lazozonke izilo zakuqala, sona silempondo ezilitshumi.

⁸ Ngisalokhu ngicabanga ngempondo lezo, khonapho phambi kwami kwaba lolunye uphondo oluncinyane olwama phakathi kwazo; kwathi ezintathu zempondo zakuqala zagunyulwa phambi kwalo. Uphondo lolu lwalulamehlo anjengamehlo omuntu lomlomo owawukhuluma okokuzikhukhumeza.

⁹ “Ngisakhangele,
kwabekwa izihlalo zobukhosi,
uSimakade wahlala kwesakhe.
Izigqoko zakhe zazimhlophe njengeqhwa;
inwele zekhanda lakhe zimhlophe njengob-
oya bezimvu.

Isihlalo sakhe sasilavuka umlilo,
lamavili aso wonke evutha umlilo.

¹⁰ Kwakugeleza umfula womlilo,
uthutsha ngaphambi kwakhe.

Izinkulungwane lezinkulungwane zazimkhonza;
izinkulungwane ezilitshumi
ziphindwe ngezinkulungwane ezilitshumi
zema phambi kwakhe.

Inkundla yokwahlulela yahlala phansi,
kwasekuvulwa izincwadi.”

¹¹ Ngasengiqhubeka ngilokhu ngibukele ngenxa yamazwi okuzikhukhumeza ayekhulunywa luphondo. Ngala ngilokhu ngikhangele isilo saze sabulawa, isidumbu saso saphoselwa emlilweni ovuthayo. ¹² (Leziyana ezinye izilo zase ziphuciwe ubukhulu bazo

kodwa zavunyelwa ukuphila okwesikhathi esithile.)

¹³ Embonweni wami ebusuku ngakhangela kwabonakala khonapho phambi kwami lowo owayefana lendodana yomuntu esiza ngamayezi ezulu. Yasondela kuSimakade yasiwa phambi kwakhe.

¹⁴ Yaphiwa amandla lobukhosi lamandla okubusa; bonke abantu, lezizwe zonke labantu bendimi zonke bamkhonza. Ubukhosi bakhe yibukhosi obungapheliyo obungayikwedlula, lombuso wakhe kawusoze uchithwe.

Ingcazelo Yephupho

¹⁵ Mina Danyeli, ngakhathazeka emoyeni, lemibono eyayidlula engqondweni yami yangid-abula. ¹⁶ Ngasondela komunye walabo ababemi khonapho ngambuza okuyikho okutshiwo yikho konke lokhu.

Yikho wangitshela wangipha ingcazelo yez-into lezi, wathi: ¹⁷ “Izilo ezine ezinkulu yim-ibuso emine ezaqhamuka emhlabeni. ¹⁸ Kodwa abangcwele bakhe oPhezukonke bazawemukela umbuso ube ngowabo lanininini, yebo, okwanini lanini.”

¹⁹ Ngase ngifisa ukwazi ingcazelo eqotho eyesilo sesine, esasingafanani lezinye njalo sisesabeka kakhulu, ngamazinyo aso ensimbi lenzipho zethusi, isilo esafohloza sadla esikubambileyo sagxobagxoba okuseleyo. ²⁰ Ngafuna njalo ukwazi ngempondo ezilitshumi ekhanda laso langalolo olunye uphondo olwamilayo, okwathi ezinye ezintathu zawa phambi kwalo lolophondo olwabonakala

kakhulu kulezinye, olwalulamehlo kanye lomlomo owawukhuluma ngokukloloda. ²¹ Ngilokhu ngibukele, uphondo lolu lwalusilwa luhlasela abangcwele lubehlula, ²² kwaze kwafika uMvelinqaki wabalamulela abangcwele bakhe oPhezukonke, kwafika isikhathi bawuthatha umbuso.

²³ Wangipha ingcazelo le: Isilo sesine singumbuso wesine ozavela emhlabeni. Uzaba lomahluko kweminye yonke imibuso njalo uzawuthumba wonke umhlaba, uwugxobagxobe, uwufohloze. ²⁴ Impondo ezilitshumi ngamakhosi alitshumi azavela kuwo lo umbuso. Ngemva kwawo kuzavela enye inkosi engafani lalayana awokuqala; izanqoba amakhosi amathathu. ²⁵ Izakhuluma okubi ngoPhezukonke incindezele abangcwele bakhe izame ukuguqula izikhathi ezimisiweyo kanye lemithetho. Abangcwele bazanikelwa kuyo okwesikhathi esithile, izikhathi ezilengxenye yesikhathi.

²⁶ Kodwa umthethwandaba uzahlala phansi, amandla ayo asuswe abhidlizwe okwanini lanini. ²⁷ Lapho-ke ubukhosi, lamandla lobukhulu bemibuso leyo ngaphansi kwezulu lonke kuzaphiwa abangcwele, abantu bakhe oPhezukonke. Umbuso wakhe uzakuba ngumbuso ongapheliyo, njalo bonke ababusi bazamkhonza bamlalele.

²⁸ “Lokhu yikho ukuphela kwendaba. Mina Danyeli ngakhathazeka kakhulu ngemicabango yami, ubuso bami bahloba, kodwa indaba le yaba yimfihlo yami.”

8

Umbono KaDanyeli Owenqama Lembuzi

¹ Ngomnyaka wesithathu wokubusa kwenkosi uBhelishazari mina Danyeli ngaba lombono ohambelana lalowo owake wangifikela ngaphambili. ² Embonweni wami ngazibona ngisenqabeni yaseSusa esigabeni sase-Elamu; embonweni ngangisekhunjini lomgelomfula u-Ulayi. ³ Ngakhangela, ngabona khonapho phambi kwami kwakulenqama elempondo ezimbili imi eceleni komgelo, impondo zazizinde. Olunye lwempondo lwalulude kulolunye kodwa muva lwakhula kakhulu. ⁴ Ngayibukela inqama ihlasela isiya entshonalanga, lenyakatho leningizimu. Kwakungelanyamazana eyayingamelana layo, kungekho njalo ongalamulela emandleni ayo. Yazenzela ngokuthanda kwayo yaba yinto enkulu.

⁵ Ngilokhu ngicabanga ngalokhu, masinyane kwathutsha imbuzi entshonalanga ilophondo oluqaphileyo phakathi kwamehlo ayo, idabula phakathi komhlaba wonke ingathintanga umhlabathi. ⁶ Yasondela enqameni yempondombili engayibona imi ekhunjini lomgelomfula yayihlasela ngolaka olukhulu. ⁷ Yayidumela inqama ngodlakela, yayigqubula yavikiza impondo zombili. Inqama yayingelamandla okumelana layo; impongo le yayilahla phansi inqama yayigxobagxoba, kungekho ongayilamulela emandleni ayo. ⁸ Impongo (imbuzi) yaba lamandla amakhulu, kodwa kwathi amandla ayo

esemakhulu kangako uphondo lwayo olukhulu lwephuka, endaweni yalo kwakhula impondo ezine eziqaphileyo ezakhula zakhangelela kuwo wonke amagumbi amane omkhathi.

⁹ Kolunye uphondo lwayo kwathutsha olunye uphondo olwaqalisa luluncinyane kodwa lwakhula ngamandla kusiya eningizimu, lasempumalanga laseLizweni Elihle.

¹⁰ Lwakhula lwaze lwafinyelela izinkanyezi zezulu, lwaphosela phansi emhlabeni ezinye izinkanyezi lwazigxobagxoba.

¹¹ Lwaziphakamisa ngokuzikhukhumeza njengengomlawuli webutho LIKATHIXO, lwamisa umhlatshelelo walo wansuku zonke KUTHIXO lendawo yakhe yokukhonzela yangcoliswa.

¹² Ngenxa yomvukela, ibutho LIKATHIXO, kanye lomhlatshelelo wansuku zonke kwanikelwa kulo. Lwaphumelela kukho konke olwalukwenza, iqiniso alabe lisatsho ulutho.

¹³ Ngasengisizwa ongcwele ekhuluma, omunye ongcwele wathi kuye, “Kuzathatha isikhathi esingakanani ukuze umbono lo ugcwaliseke, umbono omayelana lomhlatshelelo wansuku zonke, lomvukela oletha incithakalo, lokukhalala indawo yokukhonzela, lezinkanyezi ezizagxotshwagxotshwa zinyawo zabantu BAKATHIXO?”

¹⁴ Wathi kimi, “Kuzathatha izikhathi zokuhlwa lezokusa ezizinkulungwane ezimbili lamakhulu amathathu (2,300); lapho-ke indawo yokukhonzela izangcweliswa kutsha.”

Ingcazelo Yombono

¹⁵ Kwathi mina Danyeli ngilokhu ngiwubukele umbono lo, ngizama ukuwuzwisisa, kwema khonapho phambi kwami othile owayefana lomuntu. ¹⁶ Ngasengisizwa ilizwi lomuntu limemeza lisuka e-Ulayi lisithi, “Gabhriyeli, tshela umuntu lo ingcazelo yombono lo.”

¹⁷ Wathi esondela engangimi khona, ngezwa ngisesaba, ngawa ngithe thwitshi. Wathi kimi, “Ndodana yomuntu, qedisisa ukuthi umbono umayelana lesikhathi sokucina.”

¹⁸ Wathi esakhuluma lami, ngalala ubuthongo obunzima ngithe mbo phansi ngobuso. Wasengithinta, wangiphakamisa, wangimisa ngezinyawo zami.

¹⁹ Wathi, “Ngizakutshela okuzakwenzakala ngemuva, ngesikhathi esimisiweyo esokucina. ²⁰ Inqama empondombili owayibonayo imele amakhosi eMede lePhezhiya. ²¹ Impongo eyisinephu yinkosi yeGrisi, lophondo olukhulu oluphakathi kwamehlo ayo yinkosi yakuqala. ²² Impondo ezine ezathatha indawo yalolo olwephukayo zimele imibuso emine ezaphuma esizweni sakhe kodwa kayiyikuba lamandla alingana lawaso.”

²³ Lapho umbuso wabo ususiya ekucineni, abahlamuki nxa sebexhwale beqisa, inkosi elolunya, eliqili kakhulu, izavela. ²⁴ Izaqina kakhulu kodwa kungasikho ngenxa yamandla ayo. Iza-kwenza umonakalo wokubhidliza okukhulu, iphumelele kukho konke ekwenzayo. Izawabhubhisa amaqhawe kanye labantu abangcwele.

²⁵ Izakwandisa inkohlakalo, izibone yona isedlula bonke abanye. Bazakuthi besithi sebezinzile, izabhubhisa abanengi ibe isihlasela iNkosi yamakhosi. Ikanti yona izabhujiswa kodwa hatshi ngezandla zomuntu.

²⁶ “Umbono owuphiweyo owezikhathi zokuhlwa lezokusa uliqiniso, kodwa ugcike umbono lo, ngoba uphathelane lesikhathi esizayo esikhatshana.”

²⁷ Mina Danyeli, ngadinwa kakhulu ngalala ngingogulayo okwensuku ezimbalwa. Ngasengivuka ngaqhubeka ngomsebenzi wami wenkosi. Ngadideka ngombono lowo; wawungaphezu kwengqondo.

9

Umkhuleko KaDanyeli

¹ Ngomnyaka wokuqala kaDariyu indodana ka-Ahasuweru (umuMede ngosendo), owenziwa umbusi phezu kombuso waseBhabhiloni

² ngomnyaka wokuqala wokubusa kwakhe, mina Danyeli ngezwa emiBhalweni, mayelana lelizwi LIKATHIXO elaphiwa uJeremiya umphrofethi, ukuthi incithakalo yeJerusalema yayizakuba khona okweminyaka engamatshumi ayisikhombisa. ³ Yikho ngaphendukela eNkosini uNkulunkulu ngamncenga ngomkhuleko langokulabhela, langokuzila, ngigqoke amasaka ngazibhuqa emlotheni.

⁴ Ngakhuleka kuTHIXO uNkulunkulu wami ngafakaza ngathi:

“Oh Nkosi, Nkulunkulu omkhulu, owesabekayo, ogcina isivumelwano sakhe sothando lalabo bonke abamthandayo, abagcina imilayo yakhe: ⁵ senzile isono njalo senza okubi. Sisuke saxhwala, sahlamuka; siyifulathele imilayo yakho kanye lemithetho yakho. ⁶ Kasizilalelanga izinceku zakho abaphrofethi abakhuluma ngebizo lakho emakhosini ethu, lamakhosana ethu lakubobaba lakubo bonke abantu belizwe.

⁷ Nkosi, ulungile, kodwa lamuhla sembeswe ngehlazo, abantu bakoJuda labantu beJerusalema lo-Israyeli wonke, abaseduze labakude, kuwo wonke amazwe lapho osihlakazele khona ngenxa yokungathembeki kwethu kuwe. ⁸ Oh THIXO, thina lamakhosi ethu, lamakhosana ethu kanye labobaba sembeswe ngehlazo ngoba senzile isono kuwe. ⁹ INkosi uNkulunkulu wethu ilesihawu njalo iyathethelela loba thina siyihlamukele; ¹⁰ kasimlalelanga uTHIXO uNkulunkulu wethu, njalo kasiyigcinanga imithetho asipha yona ngezinceku zakhe abaphrofethi. ¹¹ U-Israyeli wonke uwephule umthetho wakho wafulathela, esala ukukulalela.

Ngakho iziqalekiso lezahlulelo ezi-fungelwayo ezibhaliweyo eMthethweni kaMosi, inceku kaNkulunkulu, zithululelwe phezu kwethu, ngoba senzile isono kuwe. ¹² Usuwagcwalisile amazwi okusilahla njalo alahla ababusi bethu ngokusehlisela incithakalo enkulu. Ngaphansi kwalo lonke izulu kakukaze kwenziwe ulutho

olulingana lalokhu osekwenziwe eJerusalema. ¹³ Njengoba kulotshiwe eMthethweni kaMosi yonke le incithakalo yehlele kithi, ikanti kasicelanga umusa KATHIXO uNkulunkulu wethu ngokufulathela izono zethu sifunisise iqiniso lakho. ¹⁴ UTHIXO kathikazanga ukwehlisela incithakalo phezu kwethu, ngoba UTHIXO uNkulunkulu wethu ulungile kukho konke akwenzayo; kodwa kasimlalelanga.

¹⁵ Manje-ke, Nkosi Nkulunkulu wethu, owakhupha abantu bakho eGibhithe ngesandla esilamandla njalo owazenzela ibizo elimiyo kuze kube namhla, senzile isono, senzile okubi. ¹⁶ Nkosi, ngenxa yemisebenzi yakho yonke elungileyo, qambula ulaka lwakho lentukuthelo yakho kusuke eJerusalema, idolobho lakho, intaba yakho engcwele. Izono zethu lezinengiso zabobaba sezenze iJerusalema labantu bakho baba yinto yokuhlekisa kubo bonke abakhelene lathi.

¹⁷ Manje-ke, Nkulunkulu wethu, zwana imikhuleko lokulabhela kwenceku yakho. Ngenxa yebizo lakho, awu Nkosi, ake uhawukele indlu yakho engcwele esibhidlikile.

¹⁸ Beka indlebe yakho, Oh Nkulunkulu, uzwe; vula amehlo akho ubone incithakalo yedolobho elibizwa ngeBizo lakho. Kasilethi lezizicelo kuwe ngoba silungile, kodwa ngenxa yesihawu sakho esikhulu. ¹⁹ Nkosi, lalela! Nkosi, thethelela! Nkosi, lalela wenze! Ngenxa yebizo lakho, Oh Nkulunkulu wami, ungaphuzi, ngoba idolobho lakho labantu bakho kubizwa ngeBizo lakho.”

“Izikhombisa” Ezingamatshumi Ayisikhombisa

²⁰ Ngathi ngikhuluma njalo ngikhuleka, ngivuma isono sami, lesono sabantu bakithi abako-Israyeli, ngiletha isikhalazo sami KUTHIXO uNkulunkulu wami ngentaba yakhe engcwele, ²¹ ngilokhu ngisakhuleka, uGabhriyeli, indoda engayibonayo embonweni wokuqala, weza kimi endiza kungesikhathi somhlatshelo wakusihlwa. ²² Wangilaya wathi kimi, “Danyeli, khathesi sengilande ukukupha ukuqonda lokuzwisisa. ²³ Wonele ukuqalisa ukukhuleka impendulo yahle yaphiwa, eyiyo engizokutshela yona, ngoba uyaqakathekiswa kakhulu. Ngakho-ke, cabanga ngalo ilizwi, uwuzwisise umbono ukuthi:

²⁴ Amatshumi ayisikhombisa ‘ezikhombisa’ (amaviki) asequnyelwe abantu bakini ledolobho lenu elingcwele ukuqedisa ukona, ukukhawula isono, ukuhlawulela ububi, ukuletha ukulunga okungapheliyo, ukuphetha umbono lesiphrofethi lokugcoba indawo engcwelengcwele.

²⁵ Yazi njalo uzwisise lokhu: Kusukela ekukhutshweni kwesimemezelo sokuthi kuvuselelwe njalo kwakhiwe kutsha iJerusalema kuze kufike umbusi oGcotshiweyo kuzakuba lamaviki ‘ayizikhombisa’ eziyisikhombisa ‘lezikhombisa’ ezingamatshumi ayisithupha lambili. Lizakwaxhiwa libe lemigwaqo lomgelo, kodwa kuyizikhathi zohlupho. ²⁶ Ngemva ‘kwezikhombisa’ lezo ezingamatshumi ayisithupha lambili oGcotshiweyo uzaqunywa afe engelalutho. Abantu bombusi ozakuza bazalibhidliza idolobho lendlu

yenkonzo. Ukuphela kuzafika njengesikhukhula: Impi izaqhubeka kuze kube sekupheleni, sekumenyazelwe incithakalo. ²⁷ Uzaqinisa isivumelwano labanengi 'okwesikhombisa' esisodwa. Phakathi 'kwesikhombisa' uzamisa imihlatshelo leminikelo. Kuzakuthi eceleni lethempeli uzabeka isinengiso esibanga incithakalo, kuze kuthi ukucina okumisiweyo kuchithelwe kuye."

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Umbono KaDanyeli Owendoda

¹ Ngomnyaka wesithathu kaKhurosi inkosi yasePhezhiya, kwafika kuDanyeli (owayebizwa ngokuthi nguBhelitheshazari) isambulelo. Umbiko waso wawuqinisile umayelana lempi enkulu. Ukuzwisiseka kombiko lowo kwamehlela ngombono.

² Kulesosikhathi mina Danyeli ngalila okwamaviki amathathu. ³ Angizange ngikudle ukudla okuconsayo; inyama loba iwayini kakuzange kuzithinte izindebe zami; njalo kangizange ngisebenzise amagcobo lakanye kwaze kwaphela amaviki amathathu.

⁴ Ngosuku lwamatshumi amabili lane lwenyanga yokuqala, ngathi ngimi ekhunjini lomfula omkhulu, iThigrisi, ⁵ ngakhangelanga bona khonapho phambi kwami kumi indoda igqoke ilineni, ilebhanti legolide elihle okhalweni lwayo. ⁶ Umzimba wayo wawufana lekhrisolathi, ubuso bayo bunjengombane, amehlo ayo enjengezibane ezivuthayo, izingalo zayo lemilenze yayo kufanana

lokukhazimula kwethusi elilolongiweyo, lelizwi layo linjengomsindo wexuku labantu.

⁷ Mina Danyeli, yimi ngedwa engawubonayo umbono; amadoda ayelami kawubonanga, kodwa afikelwa yikwesaba okukhulu aze abaleka ayacatsha. ⁸ Ngakho ngasala ngedwa, ngiqhuzule amehlo ami kulo umbono omkhulu; ngaphela amandla, ubuso bami bahloba okokufa njalo sengiphelelwe. ⁹ Ngasengimuzwa ekhuluma, kwathi ngilokhu ngimlalele, ngehlelwa likhoza lobuthongo ngithe mbo phansi ngobuso.

¹⁰ Isandla sangithinta ngezwa sengiqhaq hazela ezandleni lemadolweni. ¹¹ Wathi, “Danyeli, uyaqakathekiswa kakhulu, nanzelela amazwi esengizawakhuluma kuwe, usukume, ngoba manje ngithunywe kuwe.” Wathi esitsho lokhu kimi ngasukuma ngiqhaq hazela.

¹² Waseqhubeka wathi, “Ungesabi, Danyeli. Kulokhu kwasukela mhla ubeka ingqondo yakho ukuzuza ukuzwisisa lokuzithoba phambi kukaNkulunkulu wakho, amazwi akho ezwakala, yikho ngilapha ngenxa yalokho.

¹³ Kodwa inkosi yombuso wasePhezhiya yangivimbela okwensuku ezingamatshumi amabili lanye. Kwasekusithi uMikhayeli, omunye wamakhosana amakhulu, weza ezongisiza, ngoba ngangivalelwe khonale yinkosi yasePhezhiya. ¹⁴ Manje ngilande ukuzakuchasisela lokho okuzakwenzakala ebantwini bakini esikhathini esizayo, ngoba umbono umayelana lesikhathi esizafika.”

¹⁵ Uthe esitsho lokhu kimi ngakhothamisela ubuso bami phansi ngehluleka ukukhuluma. ¹⁶ Kwasekusithi othile owayefana lomuntu wathinta izindebe zami, ngasengivula umlomo wami ngakhuluma. Ngathi kulowo owayemi phambi kwami, “Sengigajelwa yikudabuka kwenhliziyo ngenxa yombono, nkosi yami, njalo sengiphelelwe yikho konke. ¹⁷ Mina inceku yakho, ngingakhuluma kanjani lawe na, nkosi yami? Amandla ami kawasekho njalo sekusala ukuthi ngiphefumule.”

¹⁸ Waphinda njalo othile owayefana lomuntu wangithinta wangipha amandla. ¹⁹ Wathi, “Ungesabi, Oh muntu oqakathekiswaayo kakhulu. Ukuthula! Qina manje; qina.”

Wathi ekhuluma lami ngaqina ngathi, “Khuluma, nkosi yami, njengoba usungiphile amandla.”

²⁰ Ngakho wasesithi, “Uyakwazi nje ukuthi kungani ngize kuwe na? Masinyane ngizabuya ukuzakulwa lenkosi yasePhezhiya, kuthi ngingahamba, kuzakuza inkosi yaseGrisi; ²¹ kodwa ngizaqala ngikutshele okulotshiweyo eNcwadini yeQiniso. (Kakho ongelekelelayo ukumelana labo ngaphandle kukaMikhayeli inkosana yakho.

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¹ Kwathi ngomnyaka wokuqala kaDariyu umuMede, ngazimisela ukuba ngime laye ngimsekele njalo ngimvikele.)”

Amakhosi Eningizimu Lenyakatho

² “Manje-ke ngikutshela iqiniso: Kuzavela amanye amakhosi amathathu ePhezhiya, kulandele eyesine, ezanatha kakhulu okudlula amanye. Izakuthi ingazuza amandla ngenxa yenotho yayo izakhuthaza bonke abanye ukuxabana lombuso waseGrisi. ³ Besekuvela inkosi enkulu ezabusa ngamandla amakhulu, yenze njengokuthanda kwayo. ⁴ Isivelile, umbuso wayo uzachitheka uhlakazekele kuyo yonke yomine imimoya yezulu. Kawuzukuya ezizukulwaneni zayo, njalo kawusayikuba lamandla owawulawo ngoba umbuso wakhe uzaqutshunwa uphiwe abanye.

⁵ Inkosi yaseNingizimu izakuba lamandla, kodwa omunye wabalawuli bayo bebutho uzakuba lamandla kulayo abesebusa kowakhe umbuso elamandla amakhulu. ⁶ Ngemva kweminyaka ethile, bazasekelana njengabangane. Indodakazi yenkosi yaseNingizimu izakuya enkosini yaseNyakatho iyekwenza ubudlelwano, kodwa amandla ayo indodakazi kawayikuma, lenkosi leyo kanye lamandla ayo kakuba khona okwesikhathi eside. Ngalezonsuku indodakazi izadelwa, yona kanye lomndlunkulu wayo, loyise kanye lalowo owayeyisekela.

⁷ Kuzavela omunye owosendo lwayo ozathatha isikhundla sayo. Uzahlasela amabutho empi enkosi yaseNyakatho angene enqabeni yayo; uzakulwa lawo awehlule. ⁸ Uzathumba njalo onkulunkulu babo, lezithombe zabo zensimbi kanye lezitsha zabo eziligugu ezesiliva legolide azithwalele eGibhithe. Okweminyaka

ethile uzake akhohlwe ngenkosi yaseNyakatho. ⁹ Kuzakuthi inkosi yaseNyakatho ihlasele umbuso wenkosi yaseNingizimu kodwa iphinde ihlehlele muva elizweni layo. ¹⁰ Amadodana ayo azalungisela impi aphake iviyo elikhulu lamabutho azathululeka njengesikhukhula sikazamcolo impi ize iyengena enqabeni yayo eyaseNingizimu.

¹¹ Lapho-ke inkosi yaseNingizimu izaphuma ngokuthukuthela iyekulwa lenkosi yaseNyakatho, yona ezaphaka iviyo elikhulu lempi, kodwa izakwehlulwa. ¹² Kuzakuthi nxa amabutho esethunjiwe, inkosi yaseNingizimu izazikhukhumeza, ibisibulala izinkulungwane ezinengi, kodwa kayiyikhulala inqoba. ¹³ Ngoba inkosi yaseNyakatho izabutha elinye ibutho elikhulu kulelakuqala; kuthi ngemva kweminyaka embalwa izahlasela ngebutho elikhulukazi lihlome liphelele.

¹⁴ Kulezozikhathi banengi abazavukela inkosi yaseNingizimu. Izidlwangudlwangu phakathi kwabantu bakini zizahlamuka ukuze kugcwaliseke umbono, kodwa kaziyikuphumelela. ¹⁵ Inkosi yaseNyakatho izafika yakhe amadundulu okuvimbezela, ithumbe idolobho elivikelwe ngenqaba. Amabutho aseNingizimu azakwehluleka ukuzivikela; kanye lamaqhawe awo odumo kazukuba lamandla okuma. ¹⁶ Umhlaseli uzazenzela intando yakhe, kakho loyedwa ozakuba lamandla okumelana laye. Izazibeka iqine eLizweni Elihle ibe lamandla okulichithiza. ¹⁷ Izazimisela ukuza ngenkani yombuso wayo wonke

yenze isivumelwano sokuvelana lenkosi yaseNingizimu. Izamendisela indodakazi yayo ukuze iwuchithe umbuso, kodwa amacebo ayo lawo kawayikuphumelela, kawayikuyisiza.

¹⁸ Abeseguqukela ngasemazweni asemakhunjini olwandle awathumbe amanengi akhona, kodwa umlawuli wempi omunye uzamquma umsila amnqobe. ¹⁹ Ngemva kwalokhu izabuyela ezingabeni zelizwe layo kodwa izakhubeka iwe, ingaphindi ibonakale futhi.

²⁰ Ozathatha ubukhosi ngemva kwayo uzathuma umthelisi ukuze buqhubeke ubukhazikhazi basesikhosini. Kodwa kungeminyaka mingaki izaqethulwa, kungasikho ngodlakela kumbe empini.

²¹ Izalandelwa ngumuntu odelelekileyo ongelakho ukuhlonipheka kobukhosi. Uzawuhlasela umbuso ngesikhathi abantu bawo besithi sebezinzile, awuthumbe ngokuxabanisa abanye.

²² Kuzakuthi impi eyesabekayo ikhukhulwe phambi kwakhe; yona lenkosi yesivumelwano kuzabhujiswa.

²³ Ngemva kokwenza isivumelwano layo uzakwenza inkohliso abesezuza ubukhosi encediswa lihlekana labantu.

²⁴ Kuzakuthi lezozigodi ezilenotho enengi sezisithi zizinzile uzazihlasela aphumelele okungazange kwenziwe nguyise loba ngokhokho bakhe. Uzakwaba impango lenotho kubalandeli bakhe. Uzakwakha amacebo okubhidliza izingaba kodwa okwesikhatshana nje.

²⁵ Uzaphaka impi enkulu ukuze avuselele amandla akhe aqunge isibindi sokusukela inkosi

yaseNingizimu. Inkosi yaseNingizimu izadumelana laye ngempi enkulu elamandla, kodwa kayizukuma ngenxa yamacebo azakwenziwa awokuyiqethula. ²⁶ Labo abadla esiphahleni senkosi bazazama ukuyibulala; impi yakhe izakhukhulwa, kufe abanengi empini. ²⁷ Amakhosi la amabili alenhliziyi ezigaya izibozi azahlala tafula linye aqambelane amanga, kodwa kungancedi lutho ngoba isiphetho sizajinge sifike ngesikhathi esimisiweyo. ²⁸ Inkosi yaseNyakatho izabuyela elizweni layo ikhithika ngenotho, kodwa inhliziyi yayo izabe ilokozela isivumelwano esingcwele. Kukhona ezakwenza ngaso andubana ibuyele elizweni layo.

²⁹ Ngesikhathi esimisiweyo izahlasela eNingizimu njalo, kodwa ngalesosikhathi impumela yakhona kayizukufana leyakuqala. ³⁰ Imikhumbi evela emakhunjini olwandle lwasentshonalanga izamelana layo ihle iphele amandla. Izabuyela emuva iyebhodlisela ulaka lwayo phezu kwesivumelwano esingcwele. Izaphinda isekele labo abadela isivumelwano esingcwele.

³¹ Amabutho ayo ahlomileyo azasuka angcolise inqaba yethempeli, acinise umhlatshelo wan-suku zonke. Yikho-ke abesemisa lawomanyala azaletsa incithakalo. ³² Ngobuqili bayo izabaxhwalisa labo asebesephulile isivumelwano, kodwa labobantu abamaziyo uNkulunkulu wabo bazajamelana layo yehluleke.

³³ Labo abahlakaniphileyo bazafundisa abanengi, lokuba nje okwesikhathi esithile beza-

kuwa ngenkemba, kumbe batshiswe, kumbe bathunjwe loba baphangwe. ³⁴ Ekumeni kwabo bazazuza uncedo oluncinyane, kuthi abanengi abangazimiselanga bazihlanganise lezitha. ³⁵ Abanye babahlakaniphileyo bazakhubeka, ukuze bacoliswe, bahlanjululwe njalo benziwe bahlanzeke kuze kufike isikhathi sokucina, ngoba sijinge sizafika ngesikhathi leso esimisiweyo.”

Inkosi Eziphakamisayo

³⁶ “Inkosi izakwenza njengokuthanda kwayo. Izaziphakamisa njalo izikhukhumeze ngaphezu kwabonkulunkulu bonke ikhihlize izibozi ngoNkulunkulu wabonkulunkulu. Izaphumelela kuze kugcwaliseke isikhathi sentukuthelo, ngoba lokho okumisiweyo kusamele kwenzekwe. ³⁷ Kayizukubananza onkulunkulu baboyise, kumbe lowo olangathwa ngabesifazane, njalo kayiyikunanza lawuphi unkulunkulu, kodwa izaziphakamisa ngaphezulu kwabo bonke. ³⁸ Esikhundleni sabo izakhonza unkulunkulu wezingqaba, unkulunkulu owayengaziwa ngoyise izamkhonza ngegolide langesiliva langamatshe aligugu lezipho ezidulayo. ³⁹ Izahlasela izingqaba eziqine okudlulayo incediswa ngunkulunkulu wezizweni njalo ibahloniphe kakhulu labo abayivumayo. Izababeka ukuba ngababusi babantu abanengi njalo umhlaba izawaba ngokuphiwa intengo.

⁴⁰ Ngesikhathi sokucina inkosi yaseNingizimu izadumelana layo empini, lenkosi yaseNyakatho izatheleka layo ngezingqola zempi, lebutho,

lamabhiza kanye langemikhumbi eminengi. Izahlasela amazwe amanengi iwakhukhule njengozamcolo. ⁴¹ Izahlasela njalo iLizwe Elihle. Azakuwa amazwe amanengi, kodwa i-Edomi leMowabi labakhokheli bako-Amoni bazaphepha esandleni sayo. ⁴² Izaqhelisa amandla ayo phezu kwamazwe amanengi; iGibhithe kayiyikuphunyuka. ⁴³ Izahluthuna inotho legolide lesiliva layo yonke inotho yaseGibhithe, amaLibhiya lamaKhushi ayikhonze. ⁴⁴ Kodwa imibiko evela empumalanga lasenyakatho izayethusa ibisiphuma ngolaka olukhulu ukuyabulala lokutshabalalisa abanengi. ⁴⁵ Izamisa amathente ayo obukhosi phakathi kolwandle lentaba engcwele enhle. Kodwa kuzafika okwayo ukuphela, engasekho ongayisiza.”

12

Ukuphela Kwesikhathi

¹ “Ngalesosikhathi uMikhayeli, umbusi omkhulu olinda abantu bakini, uzavela. Kuzakuba khona isikhathi sokuhlukumezeka okungazange kube khona kulokhu kwadabuka izizwe kuze kube yiso. Kodwa kulesosikhathi abantu bakini bonke labo abalamabizo azafunyanwa elotshiwe encwadini bazahlengwa. ² Izixuku lezixuku zabaleleyo othulini lomhlaba bazavuka; abanye baye ekuphileni okungapheliyo, abanye baye ehlazweni lokunengeka okungapheliyo. ³ Labo abahlakaniphileyo bazakhazimula njengokubenyezela kwamazulu, lalabo

abaholela abanengi ekulungeni, bazakhazimula njengezinkanyezi okwanini lanini. ⁴ Kodwa wena Danyeli, vala ungcine amazwi omgoqwancwadi kuze kube yisikhathi sokucina. Abanengi bazakuya lapha lale ukwandisa ulwazi.”

⁵ Kwathi mina, Danyeli, ngakhangela, ngabona khonapho phambi kwami kumi abanye ababili, omunye ngakuleli ikhumbi lomfula lomunye ngakuleliyana ikhumbi. ⁶ Omunye wabo wathi emuntwini owayegqoke ilineni owayengaphezulu kwamanzi omfula, “Kuzakuba yisikhathi esingakanani zingakenzakali izinto lezi eziyisimanga na?”

⁷ Indoda eyayigqoke ilineni, eyayiphezulu kwamanzi omfula yaphakamisela isandla sayo sokunene lesandla sayo sokhohlo ezulwini, ngayizwa ifunga ngaye ohleziyo laphakade, isithi, “Kuzakuba ngokwesikhathi, izikhathi lengxenye yesikhathi. Lapho amandla abantu abangcwele eseze afohlozwa, zonke lezi izinto zizapheleliswa.”

⁸ Ngezwa, kodwa kangizwisisanga. Yikho ngabuza ngathi, “Nkosi yami, pho sizaba yini isiphetho sakho konke lokhu na?”

⁹ Waphendula wathi, “Zihambele, Danyeli, ngoba amazwi asevaliwe ananyekwa kuze kube sekucineni kwesikhathi. ¹⁰ Abanengi bazahlanjululwa, bangabi latshatha njalo bacoliswe, kodwa abagangileyo bazaqhubeka begangile. Kakho kwababi ozazwisisa, kodwa labo abahlakaniphileyo bazazwisisa.”

¹¹ Kusukela ngesikhathi kusaliswa umhlatshelo wansuku zonke, sekumiswe amanyala abanga incithakalo, kuzakuba lensuku eziyinkulungwane lamakhulu amabili lamatshumi ayisificamunwemunye (1,290). ¹² Ubusisiwe lowo okulindelayo njalo akufice ukucina kwensuku eziyinkulungwane lamakhulu amathathu amathathu amathathu lanhlanu (1,335).

¹³ “Kodwa wena, zihambe nje kuze kube sekucineni. Uzaphumula, besekusithi ekucineni kwensuku uzavuka ukuba wamukele elakho ilifa olabelweyo.”

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