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Ukuziphindiselela kweNgede

Zulu folktale
Wiehan de Jager
Phumy Zikode

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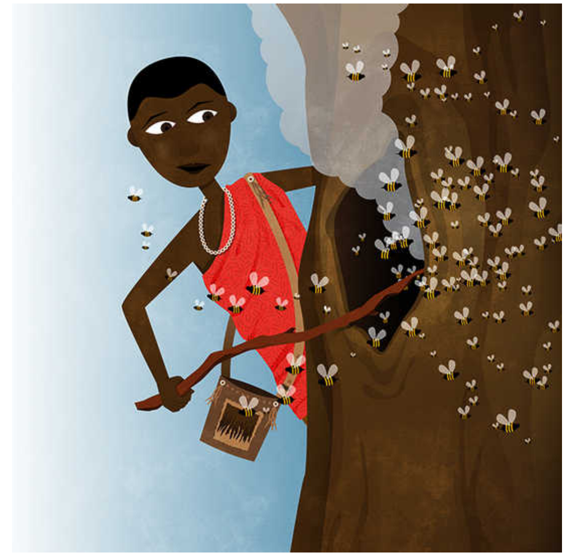
isiZulu zu

Lena yindaba yeNgede, nomfanyana owayehala uSibusiso. Ngelinye ilanga uSibusiso wayeyozingela wezwa uNgede. Umlomo kaSibusiso waqala waconsa amathe esecabanga uju. Wama wazama ukulalelisisa, wayifuna waze wayibona inyoni ihlezi emagatsheni esihlahla phezulu. “Chitik-chitik-chitik,” Kusho inyoni encane idiniwe, indizela esihlahleni esilandelayo, nesilandelayo. “Chitik, chitik, chitik,” Iqhubeka nomsindo, ihamba ima ukuqinisekisa ukuthi uyayilandela uSibusiso.

Emva kwesikhathi eside, bafika esihlahleni esikhulu somkhiwane. Ingede yagxumagxuma emagatsheni. Yagcina seyisegatsheni elilodwa yabheka uSibusiso sengathi ithi, “Nakhoke! Ulindeni?” USibusiso wayengaziboni izinyosi esihlahleni kodwa wayeyithemba iNgede.

USibusiso wabeka phansi umcibisholo wakhe wokuzingela ngaphansi kwesihlahla, wacoshela izinkunyana bese wabasa umlilo omncane. Ngesikhathi umlilo usuvutha kahle, wathatha ukhuni olomile walufaka enhliziyweni yomlilo. Lolukhuni lwalaziwa ngokuba nentuthu eningi uma luvutha. Wagibela esihlahleni, ebambe ngamazinyo isidunu esingashisi salolukhuni

Abantwana nabazukulu bakaSibusiso uma bezwa indaba yeNgede, bayihlonipha kakhulu. Njalo uma beyotapa izinyosi bayaqinisekisa ukuthi bashiya ikhekheba lekhethelo kwiNgede!



Ngokushesha wezwa umsindo wezinyosi zibubula. Zazingena ziphuma embobeni yesihlahla, esidlekeni sazo phela. Ngesikhathi uSibusiso efika esidlekeni sezinyosi washutheka ukhuni oluthunyayo embotsheni. Zaphuma ngokushesha, zidiniwe futhi zididekile. Zandiza zabaleka ngoba zingazwani nentuthu, kodwa ngaphambi kokuba zibaleke zaqale zamzwisa ubuhlungu uSibusiso ngokumtinyela!

Zathi sezibalekile, uSibusiso washutheka izandla esidlekeni. Wakhipha izandla sesigcwele ikhekheba, eliconsa uju olunamafutha, nenhlava emhlophe. Ngokucophelela wafaka ikhekheba esikhwameni ayesiphethe bese wasigaxa ehlombe, waqala wehla esihlahleni.

Ngaphambi kokuba iNgwe imudle uSibusiso, wehlika ngokushesha esihlahleni. Kulokho kushesha kwakhe wageja igatsha lesihlahla, wabhamazeka phansi, wakuquka iqakala. Waxhugeza ngakho konke okusemandleni. Ngenhlanhla yakhe, iNgwe yayisaphethwe ubuthongo ukuthi ingamusukela. Ingede kwabe sokungu kuziphindiselela kwayo. Kanti noSibusiso wafunda isifundo.

USibusiso wanwebela, ezibuza ukuthi kungani pho engawuzwa lomsindo ojwayelekile wokububula kwezinyosi. “Mhlawumbe isidleke sisekujuleni kwalesisihlahla,” ezicabangela. Wadlulela kwelinye igatsha. Esikhundleni sokuthola isidleke wazithela ebusweni bengwe! Ingwe yathukuthela kabi ukuthi iphazanyiswe ebuthongweni bayo. Yavula amehlo, nomlomo yaveza amazinyo amakhulu acijile.

Ngokulangazelela, iNgede yabuka yonke into eyayenziwa uSibusiso. Yayilindele ukuba uSibusiso ayishiyele ikhekheba ukubonga usizo lwayo. Ngokukhulu ukushesha iNgede yasuka yahlala igatsha negatsha, iya ngokusondelela phansi. Ekugcineni uSibusiso wafinyelela phansi. iNgede yahlala phansi etsheni eduze komfana elindele ukuthi ayibonge.

USibusiso wacisha umlilo,wacosha umcibisholo wakhe wahamba waya ekhaya eziba inyoni. INgede yamumemeza ngokudinwa, “VIC-torr! VIC-torrr!” UGingile wama wagqolozela inyoni encane,wahleka kakhulu. “Uyalufuna uju, uyalufuna mngani wami? Ha! Imina engenze wonke umsebenzi, ngaze ngathola nokutinyeleka. Kungani kumele ngikuphe uju lwami olumnandi kangaka?” Wasuka wahamba. INgede yathukuthela! “Ayikho enye into engingayenza! Kodwa ngizoziphindiselela.”

Ngelinye ilanga sekuphele amasonto ambalwa, uSibusiso waphinda wezwa umsindo weNgede. Wakhumbula loluya luju olwalumnandi, walangazelela ukuyilandela inyoni futhi. Emva kokuba iNgede imholile uSibusiso kwaze kwaba sekupheleni kwehlathi, iNgede yama yaphumula esihlahleni sameva. “Ahh,” kucabanga uSibusiso. “Kufanele ukuba isidleke sikuso lesi sihlahla.” Ngokushesha wakha umlilo omncane waqala wanwebela, isikhuni esesibambe ngamazinyo. iNgede yama yabukela.