

U TANDIVE

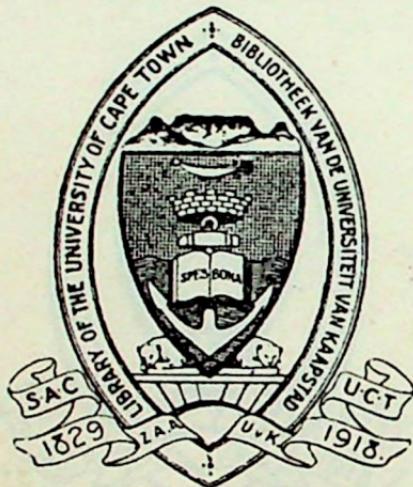
WAKWA GCALEKA

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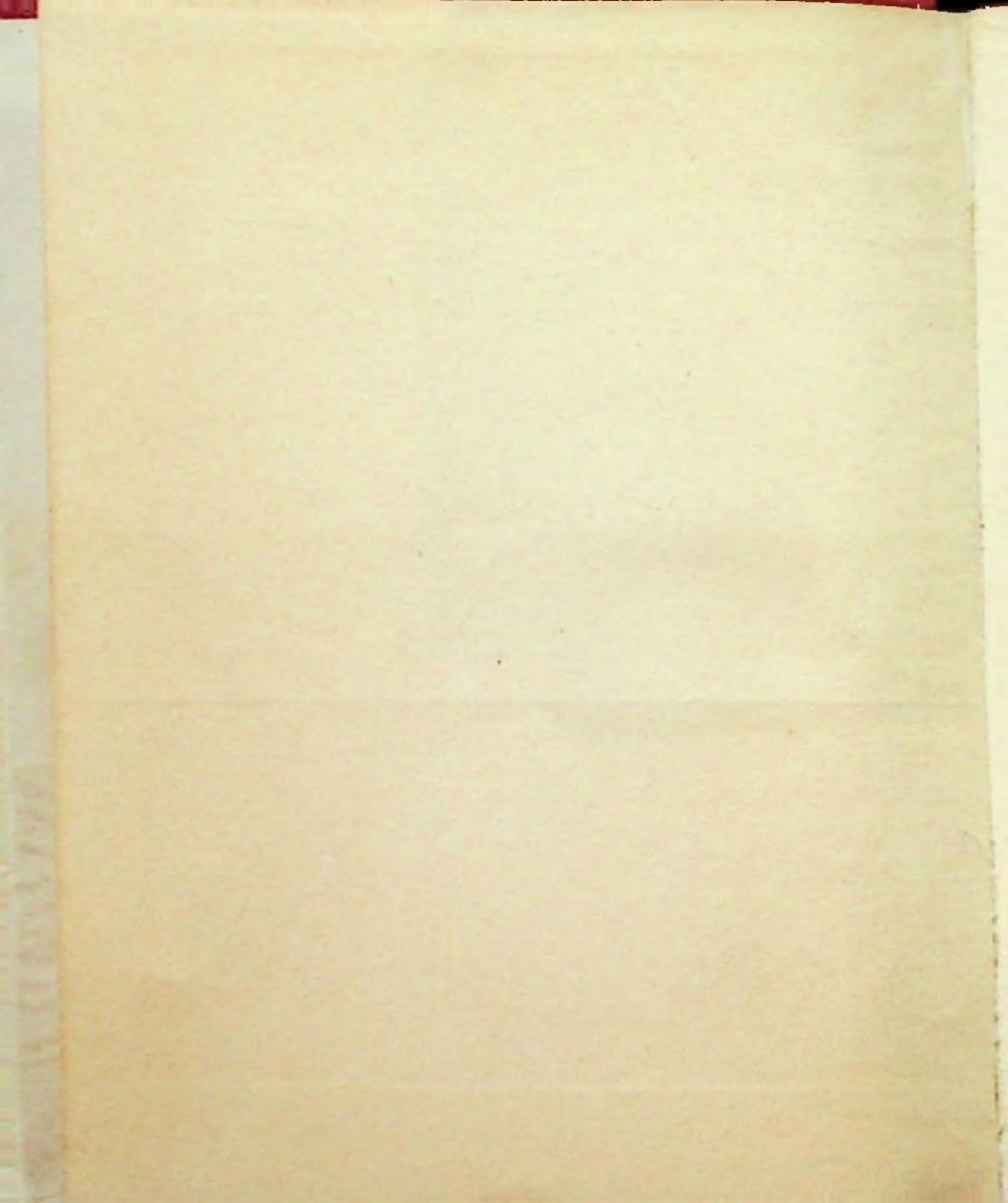
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# U Tandiwe wakwa Gcaleka

IBHALWE NGU

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## ISAHLUKO I.

## UMZI WAKWA TSHUNGU.

NDITE xa ndihleli pantsi kouiti ndikangela ngapa nangapa, ndibuka ubuhle belizwe kuba bekuse-kungeneni kwelilobo, ingca iluhilaza, amasebe emitit etwele amagqabi, intyantyambo zitiwe faka faka apa napaya engceeni, inyibiba zite qwele kufutshane nomlambo lo kutiwa li Qwaninga, kweqata lamazwi ati :— ‘Qondani ugenyibiba ukulhuma kwazo ; azibulaleki azisonti nokusonta ; nditi kuni u Solomon kubo bonke ubunewunewu bake waye ngavatanga nanje nganye yazo ezi.’ Ndibe nokuwaqonda ngokucacileyo, kuba okwenene ubuhle benyibiba ndawonye nevumba layo eliminandi zingumangaliso kuumtu ocingayo ; ikula pakati kodaka inganonelelwe mntu ; kodwa ukuqaqamiba kwayo kutsala iliso lomntu eingamia kuyo. Ndite ndisaqwalasele kobubuhle bupambi kwami ndapazanyiswa lilizwi lomfo libiza, ‘ Ben !

Ben ! nqandani impahla leyo ingene.' Ndipakanise amchilo am ndabona umzi omi pezu kwenduli ozakiwo zizi nqugwala ezintatu. Lo wawungumzi wakwa Tshungu into yakwa Radebe, umfo onenfuyo eyaneleyo, umlimi, indoda ipela. Usapo lwake ngabantwana abane, amakwenkwe amabini, nentombazana ezimbini.

Ngalomhla sihlangana nayo lentsapo, kwaku yenye yalomibla izolileyo, xa ilanga liyakutshona, inkomo ne bokwe, negusha zirozile ukuya ebuhlanti nasezi bayeni zazo. Ndite ndisakangele ndabona kusiti tapu, ezantsi komizi intwazana ekangeleke ngokungati ubudala ilishumi elinatatu leminyaka, itwele i-emele yamanzi : igama layo ngu Tandiwe. Yintombazana enkulu yalonzi eyalekela u Walter amazibulo alomzi. Efikile ekaya u Tandiwe uququzele wapotula elungise-lela isidlo sangokuhlwa. Unina u Madlamini ebesisikutalikazi esikulu, intokazi ekunoneleleyo ukufundisa abantwana bayo umsebenzi ; itanda nkuwucokisa umzi wayo. Ibongo lake lilelokuba intombi yake u Tandiwe iyaku lotyolwa ngeshumi lenkomwo mhla yenda. U Tandiwe wayahlukile ngalonto kubazali bake, yena waye zimisele uku-

funda ade apumiclele unyaka wesitatu. U Seliwe intwazana ezamva ko Tandiwe, no Ben obengomucikane babencedisa uyise ukungenisa inkomo negusha ebullanti, njengoko ibisc yiugumsebenzi wabo ; kuba unyana omkulu ebeselese sinaleni. Begqibile bangene endlwini kwabutwa ngaseziko kuncokolwa indaba zeinini edlulayo. Njengesiqelo kute kwaku gqitywa ukutyiwa abantwana batabata iucwadi zabo zesikolo benza izifundo. Bate xa bepakati kwazo wavakala u Seliwe esiti :—

‘ Andikolwa ukuba ndoze ndizazi ezi sum, andikatali, andisoze ndiyе esinaleni, akuncedi nto ukuzikataza ngazo ; ukubhala nokulesa ndiyakwazi ezona zinto zibalulckileyo.’

Ubeyintwazana endwebileyo u Seliwe, etanda ukwenza into ebonwa nguye, ebeckunqena ukufunda, posu enesipiwo sentloko etambileyo, ebesiya ngokunyanzelwa esikolweni.

‘ Ukuba uzakungxola Seliwe kungalunga uye kulala, uyapazamisa.’

‘ A, suka wena Tandiwe uyawazakushumayela ; umntu akanako nokupesumla pambi kwako.’

‘ Hai Seliwe,’ utshilo uyise, ‘ sukuba pazamisa abanye, hamba ulale ukuba akusuni kufunda.’

Akapindanga atete u Seliwe kuba u-yise ebe-  
ngumuntu ozwi lingumteto, ebekwazi ukulaula  
umzi wake; kodwa ebengati xa afikayo ekaya  
abantwana barwaqele ngokungati kufika isilo,  
koko bebe mbungezelela njengomzali.

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‘Ababantwana abakavuki betu? vuka! vuka  
Seliwe sekusemini, uzakubuye uti intsimbi iya-  
beta kanti anika waki amanzi.’

‘Hai toro mha ndizakuvuka.’

‘Hai toroni? vuka uhanibe.’

‘Ute evuka waye u Tandiwe seleye wawaka  
amanzi. Ebuyile bangquishile, balungiselela  
ukuya esikolweni.’

‘Inewadi zam zipi Tandiwe?’

‘Kaugela paya pezu kwetyesi,’

‘Aziko. Bendizibeki pi?’

‘Soloko walahlekana nenejadi zako nje unani?  
Xa ubuya esikolweni awuyicingi into yokuba uza  
kubuye uye ngomso, usuke uzilahile nokuba  
kupina.’

‘Azikuveliswa kukundingxolisa; bendizishiye  
pezu kwetafile.’

‘Akuzitati kaloku apo ubuzishiye kona; upen-

dule ecapuka ngoku u Tandiwe ; 'kauleza sakufika isikolo sesingene.'

'Andiziboni inewadi zam ; audinako ukuhamba ngapandle kwazo.'

Kute bukuqu wonke umuntu ukufuna inewadi zika Seliwe. Zide zafuuyanwa ziwe ugapaya kwetyesi. Basike esikolweni sekulituba singenile.

'Kuteni nifika mva nje ?' ibuzile ititshala. Kutete u Tandiwe.

'Besingazifumani inewadi zika Seliwe.'

'Ubulinde u Seliwe wena ?'

'Ewe titshala.'

'Ndizakunohlwaya nobabini ukuze u Seliwe akwazi ukugeciua impahla yake, wena Tandiwe umshiye xa engayi fumaniyo.'

Zibe ninzi kodwa imini u Seliwe angazazanga inewadi zake apo zikoua, waza no Taudiwe ngo-sizi wamlinda umntakwabo wanukela isohlwayo kunye naye.

'Kwakudla uswazi lodwa namhlanje utitshala enxibe labhiatyi nje. Akuti tu etsho ngalabhatyana yake inuhlope, enenqawe emlonyeni, engau-xibanga kolari ndiye ndazi ukuba namhla ufudumele ;' utshilo u Seliwe ebona ititshala isiza

esikolweni ngokungxama. Singenile isikolo bahila baqonda nabantwana ukuba namihlanje utitshala akayikuteta kabini engasiki esiqwini. Ucele ukuzola, kwati cwaka, ngapandle kwentwana eyalibala kusebezela ummelwane wayo. Usuke esihlalweni sake u titshala wayibamba lentwana ngentamo wayintlala ngentloko eludongeni. Endaweni yokuzisa ukuzola lento, ibange intsini. Ute u titshala :— ‘Umntana obuye wateta nokuba yinkwenkwe uyakusinda lendlu yedwa.’ Intloni zokusinda kwenkwenkwe kwallala ukuzola okufunekayo; bebesazi ukuba eyitetile nje lento u titshala uyakuyenza.

Yayi ngolwesi Hlanu evezini, imini yemviwo; ziqtywe kwada kwafika ixesha lokupuma kwesokuqala isikolo. Sipumile ivakele isiti enye intwazana. ‘Wasifumana ke u Mpukwana ngemibuzo. Lo Mpukwana ibiligama letitshala ebibizwa ngalo ngabantwana.

‘Belunjani kuwe uviwo Tandiwe?’ ibuzile lentwazaza.

‘Hai belunzima.’

‘Fanusitsho wena ngahle ube uzakubapezulu; mna andikotuka nokuba ndibambe umsi!a.’

Ebengemntana ongqondo ikaulezayo u Tandiwe kodwa, ibinzulu, ekwazi ukuyicinga imibuzo ; ngapandle koko ebewenza ngenyameko umsebenzi wake. Imviwo zibonise inqubo engentle njengemihla.

‘Kuteni esisikolo senu sipuma kade nje ? Hlanga selisiya kutshiona kodwa kuschlotyen'i.

‘Kaloku mha,’ upendule u Tandiwe, ‘besiviwa, sabuya sasinda, kungolwesi Hlanu namhlanje.’

‘Bendiba niyakuvasa namhlanje impahla yenu ize ngomso nivuke niyekuteza ; andazi ke xa isikolo sipume ebusuku nje.’

Sekuzakuya u Tandiwe yedwa emanzini ngoku ; nanku u Ben selesiza nemphahla ; liamba Seliwe uye kuncedisa u Ben no Yihlo.’ Itsho intokazi yaqukeza nayo apa endlwini. Elikaya ibi lelinye lalomakaya azama ukuhlala ubomi obuhle, apo igama lika Tixo belihlonelwe linikelwa imbeko yalo ; ite ke ngoko intlalo yabo yaba yeo konwaba.

## ISAHLUKO II.

## UMHLA WE SABATA.

USUKU ngalunye lufika nezalo izinto emzini emntwini ngawnye, ziyadlula intsuku, ivedi, inyanga, nobazo ubumhandi nezinye izinto ezingavisi konwaba. Sezidlule ivedi ezininzi ngoku lomzi wakwa Tshungu siwusumanisa useko.

Uvuke kwakusasa u Mr. Tshungu, wabopa amaliashe, wemka esiya kuh!angabeza u Walter unyana wake obesiza eziholideyini. Bonke abanye bate xishini emisebenzini ukulungiselela ingomso, imini ye Sabata. Ubusuku busike nemvula enkulu, imvula ychlobo; ine yalicima itemba lenkonzo zangomso, kuba kwelilizwe azingeni inkonzo xa imvula isina kakulu, ngenxa yokuba imizi imgama nendlu yecawa; yona ifana nendlu eyakiwe entlango apo kungeko inizi, namiti imelene nayo 'isikova sobugxwayiba.' Iminiye Sabata ifikile; ilanga liwane ukuvela pakati kwamasu. Ivakele intsimbi kwangexeshia.

‘Yenzani msinya bantwana intsimbi seyibeta ; andisayikuba nako ukuhamba mna kumanzi kakulu.’

‘Ewe mha sesiza kuggiba’ wapendula u Tandiwe.

‘Masikauleze toro Tandiwe, ndisuna ukubona u Nanziwe xa angenayo nabayeni bake, ebete bayakubako kulecawa.’

‘Ha ! Seliwe muntanam, uyela ukuya kubona ezonto ecaweni ?’

‘Hai mha andiyeli ezonto, kodwa andinakunceda ukunga kangeli izimanga ezenziwa ngabantu.’

‘Uteta nina Seliwe ?’

‘Kanene wawungeko ngalacawa u Annie waye ngenisa abake abayeni waposwa, ke mha. Wayenxibe ilokwe ebomvu, nesifuba esiluhlaza, waza wabopa iribini clubhelu esinqeni, iqiya wayitwala uhlobo ; Yo ! andilibali, wati nokusika wafika inkonzo seyipakati. Cinga ke mha umntu ukungena kuse kuhleliwe, uabanina wayengenakuba angayiqondi lonto.’

‘Hambani bantwana bam ; uzuyeke ukuqalaz oko Seliwe ecaweni ube ukangela izinto ezingen-

amisebenzi, azikukungenenisela nto ezozinto. Ha ! ukuti uholelinje etyalikeni ubc walusene nabantu ukangela ukuba unantsi unxibe uhlobo olutile, hai, hai sukuyenza lonto mntanaim.'

Wahamba ke u Seliwe kunye no Tandiwe, uyise no Walter babe seba ndulele, u Ben esele esalusa inkomo, kuba cebti aye ngenye icawa angayi ngenye. Ite noko imini ibingentle babauinzi abantu; inkonzo yaba yemnandi nezukileyo. Umshumayeli uzitsalele ingqondo zabantu kumazwi ati:—'Funani u Yehova xa angafusyanwayo; bizani kuyc xa akufupi.'

Utete ngobueiko obubodwa, nempembelelo yo moyo engaqelekileyo; ucaze imfuneko yokuyifuna i Nkosi u Msindisi ngokungati ilahilekile, waqokela ngelokuti kuko ixesha angasayi kufumaniseka, angasayi kuba kufutshane, angasayi kuva naxa abizwayo. Lamazwi angene nzulu entliziyweni ka Tandiwe, upume kule nkonzo eziunisele ukuyifuna i Nkosi ibe ngu Msmdisi wake. U Seliwe naye upume eyingxwelera nakuba ingqondo yake ibipazanyiswe kukungena kwaba yeni baka Nanziwe, kwabako amazwi ayicanayo intliziyoye yake. Kute xa kupuuuywayo

etyalikeni u Tandiwe weva etiwa nqaku ngengalo. Ujikile wakangela, wabona u Lizzie omnye wanmantombazana abehamba nawo ; ubulisile, hai wabulisa nomnye.

‘Hamba siye esidlweni sabayeni baka Nanziwe.’

‘Hai wetu Lizzie andiyi namhlajne.’

‘Ngokuba kuteni ? nawe mhla wazuza isoka woze utande ukuba abanye beze esidlweni sako.’

‘Intliziyo yam ayiko emasokeni ngoku Lizzie ; okanye ndisazimisele ukuya esinaleni, andikacingi ngokufilishwa.’

‘Mawo, ndoke ndibone bonke benda nalombongo esinala.’

Kaloku lisiko kwa Gcaleka ukuba imtonbi ize ecaweni nabayeni bayo, ngecawe etile emisiweyo, iti yakupuma icawa kwensiwi umdliva wesidlo kulontombi. Kwesisisidlo kulindeleke ukuba ezinye intombi zize, nabafana ngokunjalo. Bate bakwahlukana u Tandiwe we ngqo ukusinga ekaya ; wahamba nabanye u Lizzie ukuya kwesosidlo. Kuzele ulutsha kulomzi, into ongapantsa ukuqiniseka ukuba sekulityelwe ukuba le yimini ye Sabata. Kwabo babeko sibalula u Seliwe umntakwabo Tandiwe. U Seliwe wayeyi

ntwazana etanda ukuhamba neqela elidadlana kunaye kungoko simfumanisa ekule ngxushung-xushu. Enyanisweni eyona nto ebeze kuyenza, ebezoku dungudelisa intshumayelo. Usike ekaya ilanga selitshonile ute akubuzwa ngunina isizatu sokuba angabuyi no Tandiwe wati:—“Audina kupika nabantu abanomvandedwa, bendisaye kuzonwabisa, bendiye kulo Nanziwe.”

‘Ungabo hamba wedwa Seliwe; xa u Tandiwe engayi endaweni goduka nawe. Andiyazi nalento ebangela ukuba abayeni benzelwe izidlo ngecawa; oko tina sasizintombi ibinga vunyelwa lento iqutywayo ngoku. Zezi zinto ezibangela ukuba ilizwi lika Tixo liliambe nzima kangaka pakati kolutsha; uti ehlelinje umuntu abecinga ukuti, kwakupuma icawa ndiyakuya ebayeunini baka nantsi; kubonakala ukuba, kuyelwa abayeni eca-weni, imini le ye Nkosi ayazelwento. Anditandi ukuba abam abantwana bahambe kwezi nibuto.’

Imihla ngemihla u Tandiwe uzinikele ngoku nyameka okukulu endleleni ayinyulileyo wada wazuza ukupumla kuyo. Umane ukulesa u ‘Geinashe’ no ‘Hambo lomhanibi.’ Isimilo sika Geinashe sampewbelela kwindlela ezilungileyo.

Ngoku lesa ngamadabi kam Kristu no Apoliyon—  
uloyiso lukam Kristu—ubunzima ahawba pakati  
kwabo kumnika amandla okulwa awake amadabi.

## ISAHLUKO III.

## IMINI EZIMNYAMA.

PANTSİ kwelanga akuko ndawo ingake igutuyungelwe liliſu elimnyama. Ngamhla wumbi ſifumanisa isibakabaka sitiwe lwale ngamasu amnyama, bati abo bangapantsi kwawo bahanibe ezint-sunguzini. Sifumana kunjalo kwizindlu ngezindlu, kwintliziyo ngentliziyo imihla ngemihla. Kuko amaxesha umntu angenako ukonwaba apa emhlabenı nokuba selekunqwenela ; xa ilisu elimnyama lipezu komzi wendoda ukonwaba akunakubako kuyo. Amatunzi obumnyama, amafu angqungqwa oti wakuwabona kube nje ngokungati ilanga alisayi kuze livele, ubujavujavu bezinto zelizwe buyaziwa. Ngubanina ongazange abe pantsi kwalo ntłalo ?

Siwufumanisa namhlanje upantsi kwelolisu lomzi wakwa Tshungu, ilisu elimnyama elinganiki kuzola kwentliziyo, lipezu kwawo. Umlozi obufudula uvakala matshona xa kungeniswa impahla awusavakali. Ku zolile, ukuzola okusitukutezi ;

kubi ububi obunxungupalisa umixelo ; u Ben ulele pantsi yicesina, iyamfudusa kweli. Unina uheli kufupi nomandla!o ; uyise uyanzula pandle ulinga ukututuzela intliziyo yake. Amalinga okusindisa ubomi bomntwana uwazamile onke, kumhlope kuye ngoku ukuba lonyana wake ; oyena ebemtanda noko engomncinei, uza kuhile ahlukane naye. Upate kukangela pezulu ngoku ugati angazuza intutuzelo kwinkwenkwezi, wapata kuqwalasela emhlabeni akwanceda nto.

‘Mama’ uvakele etshotoza u Ben, ‘Mama biza utata no sisi ndizokubulisa ndizakuhamba ngoku.’

Ute akuweva lamazwi unina yabuhlungu intliziyo yake, usukile wazilazila ngokungati ngokwenjenjalo akasayi kubashiya.

‘Mha kauleza ixesha selisondele.’

Ujike wamkangela, wabona okwenene ukuba kamisinya uzakunduluka u Ben ; inkaugeleko yobuso bake yayise iyeyomntu oselebona izinto zelizwe elizayo. Uye waba biza kwa oko. Bate bakungena kulondlwana abelele kuyo u Ben, wabaxelcla ukuba yena uyakwelozwe bebehllala besfundiswa ngalo ngunina. Ubashiye ngokuzoli-leyo.

Hai elilizwe, ilizwe lokwahlukana. Ngubanina ongazange abuve ubuhlungu bentliziyo akwahlukana nalowo amitandayo; amshiye kwelilizwe elilolo, esbugxwayibeni; noko sinalo itemba lokubuye sidibane ukwahlukana komzuzwana kuvisa ubuhlungu nakuyipina intliziyo.

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‘Kwenziwanina kulamzi?’ ivakele isitsho enye intokazi kwenye zidlula ngendlela kusupi nomzi wakwa Tshungu, ‘ukuba baninzi kwabantu; kukanoni betu? inga ngumtshato? Pofu ngati azinni imbiza ngolohlobo.

‘Hai, mna mintu welilizwe ndiyabona ukuba asinguwomtshato, ngumngewabo, kaloku kweli siyaxela sipeke ngomhla womngewabo, sitye siblute.’

‘Wenzanina wetu! kwenzelwani? Ababantu babhujelweyo babuye benze isidlo?

‘A! Mintakabawo awungezi fezi ezizinto. Lento seysisuke yalisiko, kwaku fudula kusenzelwa abembi ikomityana zekofu; ngoku wonke umuntu oza emngewaben ulindele ukutya. Into embi kukuba kubonakala ngokungati eyona uto

ipambili kukutya uvelwano aluko lwapela kudala; uyakuti umutu ebelila pezu kwedlaka uvekwa yena selehlekela pezulu epete ilungu lenyama. Lisiko elibi eli bangene kulo abantu bakuti.'

'Kutiwa kwenzelwani wetu ?'

'Abati bayapeleka, kaloku kuyatshatwa konwatiwe ezulwini, nabo ke mabonwabe.'

Bahamba ababantu besenjenjalo ukuteta bada baya kufika apo bbesinga kona. Yndlula lemini njengezinye yalityalwa luninzi ; kodwa ku Seliwe ayifanaunga nezinye inini; kuye ibe yenyeye yemini eziungasayi kulibaleka lula, kwacaca kuye ukuba akasayi kuze apinde ambone umuntakwabo ngapandle kokuba asabele ubizo, ayifune i Nkosi ibe ngu Msindisi wake. Aka banga sadenda ulahile yonke into ebikade idungudelisa intliziyoyake wazinikela e Nkosini ngoknipeleleyo.

Isabata nge sabata uye etyalikeni ezimisele ukwamkela into empesumulweni wake ; ate namaculo anje ngo :—

'Hai inyweba abanayo,  
Abangeweles bapezulu,  
Abemiyo pambi kwayo  
Iterone yekomukulu !'

Amenze ukuba abenominqweno wokuba naye aze  
afunyaniswe ekwesosihlwele sabangewelete.

Hai into imnandi ukuzuza ukupumla pantsi  
kominqamlezo; kusuke kube ngati umntu uyaku-  
papa ukuya ezulwini, kanti usamelwe kukulwa  
amadabi, nezilingo, nenkatazo.

## ISAHLUKO IV.

## U TANDIWE E SINALENI.

KUKO abantu abati ebuntwaneni benze amabongo okuba xa besikelele kuminyaka etile ebudalen'i bay'a kwenza izinto ezitile nezitile. Baninzi abantu abaqutywa zintliziyo ezinamabongo abanezinto namhlange. Kulungile ngoko ukwenza ibongo, nganana ibongo lomuntu lingalelihle lisezeke ; kodwa ke makangati ununtu akuhlangana nezikubekiso aliyeke lise ; malibe yinto enkulu ibongo lake kuye oyiswe yinto elingile, namagora ayoyiswa afe, kodwa afele edabini. U Tandiwe ngomnye waho bantu batanda ukwenza amabongo ; elake lalile lokufunda. Asiyontwana leyo, kuba, intwazana zalomlambo akulele kuwo u Tandiwe bezingakatali kukufunda. U Tandiwe yena wabaxalisa abazali bake bada banitumela esinaleni nakuba bebe ngakunonelele nganto ukusundisa intombazana.

Ide yafika imini yokumika kwake ekaya ; ibe

yimini emnandi kuye nakuba kube kubana ukwahlukana nabantu bakowabo. Upelckwe ngu Walter ukuya kukwela kuloliwe e Geuwa, u Walter waya esikolweni sake kuba ebesele fundisa ku maandla wase Tsomo.

Iziwenguwengu zoku bungezelelana kwama sinala amadala akuhlangana e Blaney zimenze walibala u Tandiwe apo akona; ibe yinto ebukekayo kuye ukubona betandana kangaka. Apa e Blaney ngalemini kwaku hlangene amasinala aya e Diken i nase Nxukwebe. Ute esemi ngokun-gati usidenge weva ecukunyiswa egxeni, ute akukangela wabona intwazana emfutshane encipileyo, ite kuye:—‘Kuteni ufane weina nje? uyapi?’

‘Ndiya e——’

‘Uhamba nabau? lipi ikaya? Uyilande lelisene lemibuzo wati engekawupenduli owokuqala wabona ngomintu seyete kwitshi eyekuteta nenye intombazana. U Tandiwe upaule ukuba lentwazana, indwebile, noko ngati inobubele. Uve seyimbiza isiti:—‘Yiza ngapa nyukamara. Yini ukufane nne ngati ulahlekile? Ungubani igamia lako? Andikange ndikubuze.’

‘Ndingu Tandiwe Tshungu.’

Yiza ngapa ke mna ndingu Jane Siddali. Hamba siye ku Mary Lovane, liqabane lam; akaiuntu undwebileyo noteta futi njengau. Ngulowa, une paya kulamantombazana, inde unhllope.’

Bahambe kunye bada bayakufika esipelweni sohambo lwabo. Anatiletile okulungisa impahla nezinye izinto ahle apela kwangenwa kwimisebenzi yemihla ngeemihla. Ubulobo pakati kuka Tandiwe no Jane no Mary baya bukula ngokukula, b bekolisa ukuhaimba bobatatu.

‘Sinentlanganiso eyayilwa kulonyaka upeli-leyo, ngu Miss Benson, watsho u Jane ku Tandiwe kusasa ngenye icawa, siyibiza ngokuti yi ‘White Cross League,’ izakubako namihlanje.’

‘Yeyantoni? nditeta ukuba kwensiwa nina kuyo?’

Kuzanywa ukufundiswa amantombazana indlela yokuzipata. Apa kaloku singumxube, abanye betu abazange basumiane luqequesho lululo emakaya; abanye baziyekelela ngabom; nge W.C.L. sizama ukuneeda lonto kodwa ke akunyanzelwa mntu, bonke bangena ngokuquitywa

zizazela zabo. Ngezinye imini u Miss Benson uye asilesele kulanewadi ka Mary Wood-Allen' eti 'What a young girl ought to know,' nakwezinye ezalomnombo. Noko ayikomeleli icasiwe kakulu ngamantombazana. 'Bangayicasa bonke,' utshilo u Mary, 'hai u Lily Qoba. Mhla yamiswa, u Miss Benson wabiza onke amantombazana wacaza injongo yalentlanganiso, akuggiba wati; 'Bonke abatanda ukuba ngamalungu mabapakamise izandla. Andikolwa ukuba baba lishumi abazipakamisayo. Wabayeka bapumia abanga-funiyo ukuziimanya. Yalurozo ukupunia beko-kelwe ngu Lily Qoba no Lily Ludiza; zati, intokazi xa zipumayo, asikazimiseli ukuba Goody-goody. Kuti xa iyintlanganiso evulelwe bonke abatanda ukuza, kwaba bangengawo malungu, kuzale ababhotoli; basifumane kona; kuba muandiukoko, ngezinye icawa kuye kwensiwe isiyalo bati abatandayo babuze imibuzo.'

'Ndingatanda ukuba lilungu; ekaya sibanento ebunjalo koko ayinagama, ibizwa ngokuba ngumtandazo womanyano Iwentombi.'

Kwaba luvuyo ku Mary no Jane ukuzi fumana izimvo zika Tandiwe zihamba nezabo, Okunene

u Tandiwe waba lilungu le W.C.I. ube lelinye lamalungu anempembelelo enkulu wada wanikwa igamia ngababhotolikazi naba tshutshisikazi, lokuba yi 'Bishop,' u Jane no Mary ngama 'Dikoni' ake.

Kute xa kulungiselelwa inkonzo kusasa ngenye icawa wavakala u Lily Qoba esiti :— 'Namhilanje ngenxa yobumanzi ndingaxola eyetu inkonzo ingena apa e dining hall, neka "Bishop" intshumayelo ndingayi nyamezel'a.' Ute akutsho yah-leka inxalenye yamantombazana ; ite lonto yamenza waqubela pambili, ute :— 'Nendawo angashumayela ngayo ndiyayazi. Uyayazi wena Gama ? utsho ebekisa ku Lily Ludiza iqabane lake, bebebizana ngolohlobo ngoku fana kwaina gama.

'Hai Gama andiyazi, itini ?'

Uzukangele kwinewadi yompostile u Yakobi—isahluko sokuqala—ivesi yokugqibela—aiaziwi okugqibela kulovesi, andikuxclela ukuba anti-nina ; mane qa Gama, kodwa u "Bishop" angateta litshione ilanga ngalomazwi.'

'Kwe gquzu ukuhlekwa ngamantombazana.'

'Oh Lily, this is Sunday morning, don't make so much noise !' Kuviwe ngo Miss Benson sele-

sitsho emnyango; kwalenje akumka wati u Lily:—  
 ‘O, ndasa ngu Sebeko; soloko acweewa nje yena  
 yintoni ngati yikati? mhu yi Pope kanene.’

Kwamana ukupoxwa njalo ngamalungu e W.C.L., wona awayeka ukwenza umsebenzi wawo. Kwenye yentlanganiso ze W.C.L. kwagqitywa kwelokuba kwenziwe i konsati, ngamalungu, ukuhlangabeza indleko zencwadi ebezileswa lelo-gela. Ifikile lomoni baba baminzi ababoueli.

‘Ayavuma ama W.C.L. akueingi njalo? koko amaculo abo abizela kule W.C.L. yabo.’

‘Ewe Gama ayavuma; iyavuma i “Bishop” Andazi ukuba yena yedwa wayeteuina ukuze abenezipiwo ezingaka; nomintu augaqabuka sele-ququkile epulapula ukuvuma kwake.’

‘Ungaguqulwa kukuvuma oku Gama?’

‘Okuka Bishop,’ kungaguqula nawupina umhedeni; kodwa waka wamva evuma u “Where is my boy to-night?” usuke atsho libe litsha.’

‘Hamba singene sekubanda ngoku udiziva ndigodola sendiya kustadisha ngokuhlwa.’

Baqokelele inewadi zabo bangena endlwini. Kute kanti okukugodola kudelekileyo kuza kum-

lalisa pantsi u Lily; ugule kakulu, kwanzima kuye; ainaqabane ake abetela kude.

‘Jane! ndike ndaya kumbona u Lily, uyasa kanye; usizi kukuba akanantu wokumnceda; nevasi yake ihleli ayinainvasi.’

‘Kanene wena Tandiwe ungababantu banenceba ngahle sewudliwa yiyo ufuna ukumvasela?’

‘Ewe ndicinga ukumnceda; kulusizi noko ukuti xa umntu afayo angakatalelwa. Utini wena Mary?’

‘Ukuba uyakupika nezintsizi zingaka zalowih-laba uyakufa; uboke uhambe nje ube ugati akuziboni. Usoloko wanceda lamantombazana ude uzuzeni.’

‘Hai ke bendinga cingi nganzuzo, andilindele kufumana nto.’

‘Ababanga nakunjika u Tandiwe kumncama-nego wake. Uye wazivasa impahla zika Lily wa-kangela nezinto ngezinto azisunayo. Ute qo waniana ukumnceda. Kude kwafuneka ebhalele abazali baka Lily, noko ebengabazi, ngokubona ukufa kumbandezela u Lily; ubacebise ukuba batumele imali yokunusa egqireni. Benze nje ugesicelo sika Tandiwe bambulela ngokubazisa.

Kute ngenye imini u Tandiwe esahleli no Lily apo ebegulela kona kwangena u Jane epete ileta.  
 ‘Nantsi ileta yako Tandiwe ngati ivela ekaya.’

‘Enkosi ! sisandla sika Seliwe umsakwetu,’  
 utsho wayivula walesa :—

‘Dear Tandiwe :— Sikulindele ngemihlali ukufika kwako. Ndiyakolwa ukuba utata ukuxclele kwileta yake yokugqibela ukuba umtshato ka buti umiselwe ukuze uqutywe ngeholide le. Seleg-qibile ukulobola ; nam ndiza ku kapa. Enye into u Mama uvumile ukuba nam ndize apo esinaleni ngo July zakuvulwa izikolo ; ndite piti nam ngoku kukuza. Ndibulisele kubahlobo bako mna :— “Seliwe Tshungu.”’

‘Jane ! ndiyavuya umsakwetu uyakuba lapa ngo July.’

‘Siyakuvuya sonke ukumazi ;’ utshilo u Jane, kukona uyakuke uyeke ukuba nenceba ngabantu abanjengo Lily lo ugeine uminta kwenu.

Ubuye wapakama u Lily emandlalweni wahamba hamba pakati kwabapilileyo.

Imini yokuvalwa kwezikolo ifikile, kuya pitizela ukulungisa impahla ; amaqabane ayahlukana. Akwe le kunye onke amasinala kuloliwe ; alilu-

kana ngokutabata indlela ngendlela. Ibenye indlela ka Tandiwe no Lily bahlukana kwa Nda-bakazi. U Lily usike ehlangatyezwe ngubuti wake ngamahashe. Wehlile kuloliwe wayinike-zelwa ngu Tandiwe impahla yake.

'Kuko intombazana obuhamba nayo nam-hlanje?'

'Ewe, yilantombazana yayindongo, ngu Tandiwe Tshungu. Ngu buti lo Tandiwe.'

U Tandiwe wolule isandla, wati u Alfred esamkela:—'Ndiyavuya ukuqubisana nawe nkosa-zana, uneedo olwenzele u Lily alukufumane luli-baleke emziini wakowetu; nantsi isheleni zuzite-ngele iqiya.'

Uhle wabuye wahamba uloliwe; u Tandiwe wafika e Geuwa ehlangatyezwe ngu mnakwabo.

## ISAHLUKO V.

## ABEVANGA BUBI.

‘UYAVUYA wena Lily usahamiba esinaleni, zimini ezimuandi ezi noko ungaba akuziqondi. Hlelinje lo Tandiwe niti yi “Bishop” usemncinci kangaka?’

‘Kanti apo ashumayele kono ungamaugaliswa. Siquba njani isikolo sako?’

‘Syaquia ngalo ndlela, inani labantwana liyanda kodwa ndibazuza ngokulwa amadabi; ndohle ndicele umuncedisikazi.’

‘Ndiya kucela londawo ndakupuma esikolweni.’

‘Iyakukuposa, ndingatanda ndinaye emva kwe kwata ezimbini kuba umhloli selekusupi.’

Bamana ukuteta njalo bada bayakufika ekaya. Umzi wakowabo ubungomiiye wemizi eyazekayo kwa Noniaheya. Uyise noko ebengesiso isityebi wanonelela ukuba fundisa abantwana bake.

Zivuliwe izikolo, ubuyele einsebenzini wake u Alfred ezimisele ukuwaka ngoku ngapezulu.

‘Noko letitshala andikolwa mua yiyo,’ itshilo enye intokazi kwenye bedlula kufupi nesikolo.

'Itenina ngoku? andibi siquba kakuhle isikolo?'

'Anditeti lonto mna.'

'Uteta yipi? kautsho ndive.'

'Nditeta le yokuba ndingenako ukuntuma u Ida aye kundikelcla amanzi kusasa pambi koku-  
ba isikolo singene, usuke abhebhete umntana ati  
uyakufika sesingene isikolo.'

'Okukokwam audikalazinto; yona into yoku-  
zuza ititshala enokukolisa umzi wonke inqabile.'

Inteto ezipambanayo zabantu ngabantu aziinji-  
kanga u Alfred kwindlela ebisipete ngayo isikolo;  
ukuza kakubi kwabantwana esikolweni bebanjwe  
zizizatu ezingabonakaliyo, ukufika niva kwabo,  
nezinye izinto eziduba inquibo entle yesikolo wa-  
zilwa wada wazoyisa. Sivalwe isikolo sebeliqela  
abangami-kalazeliyo.

Ukusika ekaya, ugoku-kodwa kwindoda ebi-  
kade ibetwa zimbumbulu zamazwi kupumza um-  
xelo, nomuzimba uba nokonwaba. Kube njalo ku  
Alfred akufika kowabo, ube nokonwaba ugenxa  
yovelwano aluzuzileyo ebikade elunxanele. Kute  
ngabusuku butile behleli no yise wati uyise

kuye :—' Ndicinga ukuba ngowuzeka ngoku nyana wam ; uyazi nawe ezizinto zitata ixesha.'

' Andazi ke bawo, bendingeka cingi ngalonto ndaye ndinge kayiboni neutombi endingayitatayo.'

' Besesiyyitetile lendawo no nyoko savumelana ukuba utate lantwazana yakwa Tisani, u Lizzie yintwazana ekuteleyo.'

Umzi wakwa Tisani ubumelene nalo waka Qoba ; babe hilalisene kakuhle njengabamelwane. Ngobo busuku u Alfred akalalainga butongo buhlayo ; into yokutshata ununtu ebengamkatalele ibenzima kuye ; kodwa ngenxa yokululamelu u yise uvuke kusasa ezmisele ukwenza njengomnq-weno ka yise. Ukwenza ibali clide lisutshanc, wavunywa u Alfred kwa Tisani kwatiwa makarole isibhozo senkomuo. Isihlanu sazo usirole kamsinya emva koko. Ayihlalanga kakuhle ku Lily into yokuba u Lizzie ka Tisani aflishwe ngubuti wake ; amandla okuyicita lonto akabanga nawo. ' Andazi ukuba kutenina intliziyo yam ayihambi nalento, andilungisi ukungamtandi u Lizzie uuobubele.' Akaxevelanga mntu noko.

Ubuyele emisebenzini wake u Alfred namhlanje intlizyo ingelula. Ukutshata nomntu ngenxa yabanye abantu asinto ilula ukutwalwa. Uhambe ngokwendoda waquba umsebenzi wake. Efikile umhloli imviwo zibonakalise inqubo entle laye nenani labantwana landile; ngesosizatu waba nokuvuma ukuba kubeko umncedisikazi. Ucace nakubazali umsebenzi wake bati nabeberora zapelela emoyeni iziroro zabo. Uzive onwabile u Alfred akubona isikolo sake siqube kakuhle, nakuba umxelo wake ungabanga nakupumla ngenxa yezinto ezilunge nesiqu sake.

Usika namhlanje endlwini yake kuko ileta yake ebhalwe ngu yise; wotukile akubona ibhalwe ngu yise ngokwake. ‘Ubawo asimntu ubhala futi, cbesandu kundibhalela, makube kuko into ebalulekileyo.’ Uyitatile wayivula ngoloyiko olukulu walesa:—

‘Nyana wam:—Ndinosizi ukuti inkomo zako zibuyisiwe, lantwazana ibaleke uomnye umfana bay a bazitshatisa e Dayiman. Ndingavuya ungazikatazi ugalonto.

Owako Uyihlo,

R. Qoba.

Ute akuggiba ukuyilesa weva ngokungati  
kususwe umtwalo onzima enuagxeni, intliziyo  
yake yalula, akabi nakunceda ukuteta ngoku-  
pumelelisa—Ndikululekile ! Ndikululekile !

## ISAHUKO VI.

## IZINTO NGEZINTO E SINALENI.

'KUFUNEKA nindulukile kuleveki izayo andibi Tandiwe ?'

'Ewe tata, kufuneka sisesikolweni ngolwesine ; ixesha lihambe ndingaliqondanga ngenxa yokulgiselela umtshato ka Walter.'

'Kufuneka nilungise ke zesisuke apa ngomvulo.'

Lixapetshu nanihla ukuqoshela impahla ; no Seliwe ube sisikutali, ude wenza nemisebenzi ebebhexeshwa kuyo ; imihlali yokuya esiualeni imenze kwalula ukusuka suka. Uvuke kwa-kusasa ngosuku lokunduluka we nza ikofu. Esisenzo sokuvuka kuka Seliwe simmangalisile unina ute ; 'kanti ungasikupa ngokuvuka kusasa Seliwe ?'

'Ndifuna ukuze nindikumbule.'

'Mawo ! ucinga ngokuti umuntu okutala xa amkayo unokukumbuleka.'

'Uyakundikumbula ke kona mha ; sekunga

singade sihambe sendinxamile, noko kubi kuba uzakuba wedwa apa ekaya.'

'Ubofunda Seliwe; ungamkatazi u Tandiwe, nigeinane bantwana bam.'

Lifikile ixesha lokunduluka bapelekwe ngu yise waba beka e Geuwa. Kwabesesuka badibene namanye amasinalakazi, amanye amana ukungenela kwezinye izitishi. Bate xa betshintshayo e Amabele beva izwi libiza Tandiwe! Tandiwe! ute akukangela wati : 'Tyini ngu Jane!' Babulisana ngovuyo olukulu.

'Kuteni ulapa nje? Uvelapi?

'Ndivela kwa Komani, bendipeleke udade bo bawo ukatazwa kungapili. Ndiyavuya ukudibana nawe. Ngubani lo uhamba naye?

'Ngumsakwetu igama ngu Seliwe.'

'O, ngulowa wawusixeleta ngaye?'

'Ewe. U Mary uke wakubhalela?'

'Hai andikolwa ukuba uyazi apo ndikona soloko sahlukana ukuvalwa kwezikolo ndingumuntu oyakumbhalela ndakufika ekaya; kodwa andizange ndibe nako; ndahlala intsuku ezimbawla ndenyuka ndaya kwa Komani. Yanjani iholide?'

'Ibe miandi kok——.'

Kowu Tandiwe! yini wetu ungasabhalii nje? Fana ndisitsho yayiya kufika loleta sendimkile ekaya. Ehe! ndayifumana inkatazo ndaqubisana namasinala ase—, ati kum; 'Kanene nina nine-qela ekutiwa yi White Cross?' hai ndavuma, bafuua ukwazi amagama e 'Bishop' nama Dikoni; ndaqonda ukuba bayakuba bandibope umiinwe ize ndixe. Kwakuko no buti ka Mary kweloqela, ngati ulungile, kodwa ngombi umbotoli.' Banane ukuteta njalo bada bakuufika esipelweui sohambo apo badibene no Mary nento eninzi yamasinalakazi nama sinala.

Ibete kwakusasa intsimbi yokuvuka. 'Seyiyintsimbi, iyakundoyisa mna ledyokwe,' utsho wabuya walalau-Seliwe; Kute kuba imeteto ibingekaqini akaniakwa kodwa waziswa ngu Miss Benson ukuba abovuka yakubeta intsimbi. Zibe ninzi iimini amana ukulala angayi estadi ngokukodwa ngemini ezibandayo. Ebessiti xa u Miss Benson ezoku kangela amantombazana akotaimayo azimele pantsi kwe bedi abc uyasinda njalo.

'Iyaku bambi into yokutumela ingxelo embi ekaya kufuneka ustadirishie Seliwe.'

'Andizikatalele ezomviwo,' utshilo ukupendula. Ute akuba yedwa waqonda ukuba u Tandiwe unyanisile, kusuneka estadishile. IVEKI YONKE epelileyo akakange ayivule inewadi ngapandle kwasesi kolweni paya pambi kwetitshala. Ucinge iqinga angati ngalo abe noku stadisha izifundo ezingasemva enga pazanyiswa mntu; ude wali-zuza. 'Ukususela ngomso ndiyakuzenza ofayo,' utshilo ngentliziyo. Kusile ngolwesibini akavukanga u Seliwe ukale 'ngentloko.' Uye wazibika kumpatikazi ote wanuika imvume yokulala ade azive enokupakama. Ate akunka onke amantombazana warola inewadi zake abezifihlile ngapantsi komatrasi. Ustadishe ngenyameko enkuliu; ebessiti akuva izingqi zika Miss Benson azitikata ngapantsi komatrasi inewadi azenze umntu okwesika badakazi. Uqube lonto u Seliwe int-suku ezimbini wati akuqonda ukuba kukonto aya-ziyo wavuka njengopila eblesia. Bamangalisa bonke zakudlula imiviwo ukulifumana igama lake lipezulu eluhlwin. Akayitetanga mntwini lento kupela wayixeleta u Tandiwe sekukudala bese-kaya.

Zidlule inyanga izinto zihaiuba kakuhle, kodwa,

kute ngaveki itile amasinalakazi akalazela ukungalungi kokutya kwawo. Ngosuku lwasine, xa bengena edinaleni, ute u Mary ku Jane: 'Okunje ukutya andizange ndikubone.'

'Kunani?'

'Kangela kubol——.'

Kute engaggibanga ukuteta yavakala enye intwazana isiti, ngezwi elipakamileyo: 'Otyileyo namhlanje yihagu.' Bengenile bonke kwabako intushululu enkulu pakati kwayo yonke i dining hall. Ungenile u Miss Benson, wacela intsikelelo, wabuya wapuma ukuya kweyake idinala.

'Usane waxamila umoya wake ngokueela intsikelelo akuko mntu uzakutya; andikolwa ukuba ne 'Bishop;' iyakukutya noko imbeke kangaka u Miss Benson ;' itshilo enye intwazana.

'Hai ke noko Lizzie, "upendule u Lily Qoba," yiyeke i "Bishop" ayiko apa kanimyeke umintaka Tshungu apumle.' U Lily lo ebemhlonele u Tandiwe nakuba ebesabhotola ; impembelelo ka Tandiwe kuye ngexesha wayegula ngalo yadala umoya wokumbeka.

Kwakuhlaliwa pantsi kungenwe engxoxweni.

Ute omnye. 'Sekulituba sipiwa ukutya okunga lunganga, ngesivana sonke sikuyeke.'

'Unyanisile Gama,' utshilo u Lily, 'nenja ayingeze yakutya oku.'

Kwavunyelwana. Ungene kwesosituba u Tandiwe evela kulungiselela abafayo ukutya kwabo.

'Kuteni Mary nisuke na Ngondimangele nje ?'

'Sixakene nako mntaka bawo, kukangele nawe.'

Ekukangele u Tandiwe naye kumoyisile. Evile u Mpatikazi ngompeki, ukuba idinala ayityiwanga, umiyalele ukuze angapeki kumbi baya kunikwa kwa oko ngokuhlw. Okunene banikwa kwakona.

'Ndikuxolele nokugoduka,' utshilo obepambili kulenkatazo, 'kunokutya unungqu sho obolileyo :' batsho nabauye. Kube nzima ukugcina amantonubazana rgokuzolileyo estadi ngobo busuku ; akunceda nganto ukuwa tetisa ; akala ngokuti : 'Silambile asinako ukustadishia.' Site saku-puma istadi wangena u Miss Benson ukuza kuquba umtandazo wangokuhlwa. Ulicule yedwa iculo elo ebelixelile ; kute akusika kulamazwi ati, 'Hear us, Lord, for those who suffer. Ease their

pain, and give them sleep' wati u Lily Qoba, ngosebezo olupakamileyo; 'Ewe bawo, mve, utotise okukulumba kwetu, silale kakuhile.' Abo bawevayo lamazwi ka Lily ababanga nakuzibamba bagigiteka. Egqibile ukutandaza u Miss Benson ubatetisile ngesisenzo wabaxeleta ukuti abatandazi kuye. Zixakaniseke zonke ititshalakazi zazama ukufuma inkokeli yale ngxusbungxushu. Abe moyo mnye amantombazana awanxela oqalileyo. Kute kuseko esisipitipiti kwafikwa kusasa e dining hall kuko umfanekiso, owenziwego ngesandla, ka Miss Benson kubhalwe ngesi Ngesi ezantsi kwawo lamazwi; 'ufanele ukufuya ihagu.' Akadendanga, akuwubona u Miss Benson, ugqibe kwelokuba ngu Tandiwe owenzileyo: isandla salowo wawenzayo sayelela kwesika Tandiwe ngokubalulekileyo; waqiniseka ukuba inkokeli yalenkatazo ngumenzi walomfanekiso u Tandiwe. Umbizele kwindlu yake wabuza eyonanto ateta yona ngalomfanekiso nokuba akayiyona inkokeli yesisi pitipiti. 'Andazani nalomsfanekiso, andiyiyo nenkokeli yalento;' kwaba kupela kwamazwi ka Tandiwe. Utete kabukali, u Miss Benson, naye, wagqiba ngelo-

kuti 'ndidanile, bendinga lindele into enje kuwe, ungomnye wamantombazana ebendiwatembile; okanye bendicinga ukuba into ezinje ubungalinga ukuzipelisa kuno kuzipembelela. Inkokeli ayizange ivele, yadamba le ngxushuungxushu ngoku kutshwa kokutya okulunglelo. Wabuya waluguqula uluwo lwake, u Miss Benson ngokubona impembelelo entle ka Tandiwe kwinto ezininzi pakati kwamantombazana.

'Kanene, Mary, kulecawe izayo intlanganiso ivulekile nakwa bangengawo malungu?' ubuzile u Tandiwe.

'Ewe, kunjalonje badla ngokuza kakulu ngeyokugqibela ngokukodwa abezela ukubhotola.'

'Okunene yazala indlu yaba yintlangauiso eshushu; babaninzi abazinikela ukuba babe ngamalungu. Kwiqela elangenayo ngobobusuku kwakuko no Lily Qoba. Kwaba luvuyo kumalungu e W.C.I.. ukungena kwake, kuba ebenempembelelo enkulu kwiqela ebelyicasile.

Imviwo zetitshala ziqale ngolwesibini lweveki yokugqibela isikolo sizokuvalwa. Ngomvulo waloveki, u Tandiwe uzuze ilet avela ekaya eti: 'Buya nemipahla yako yonke akusayi kubuyela

kunyaka ozayo.' Kube kubi kakulu kuye, kuba ebekutanda ukufunda, kodwa ngokutobela abazali wenza njengoko batshoyo.

'Andibuyi kunyaka ozayo Jane, niyavuya nina, abazali benu bayaliqonda ixabiso lemifundo.'

'Kowu! ndilusizi, kuya kuba kubi apa ne W.C.L. iyakulahlekelwa. Uyakwenzani ekaya?'

'Ndizakutitsha, paya kwa Gcaleka ndinokufumana isikolo nokuba ndinepepa lonyaka wokuqala kupela.'

Kube kubi ukwahlukana kwamaqabane abebukana encedana kangaka. Ifikile imini yokuvawla kwezikolo bandulukile kunye bahlukana e Qonce, kuba ikaya lika Mary no Jane lisemapa ndleni alo. U Lily ubuye waliamba no Tandiwe no Seliwe. Bate xa bese 'Mabele kwangena, kule kariji bakwele kuyo, umfo ositomo sifanele-kileyo; ute akuti cakata waposa amehlo ake kwa-bo bebengapakati wati: 'Sekukugoduka oku Lily? Nivale nini?'

'Sivale ngolwesine. Uvela pi wena?'

'Ndivela e Kimberley, bendiyé kona ngemimimbi U Alfred usatitsha kwesasikolo?'

'Ewe.'

' Makabe uquba kakuhle, uhleli, sisikolo esinenkatazo eso. Ngobani aba uhamiba nabo ? '

' Ngama ntombazana akwa Tshungu.'

' Lipi ikaya makosazana ? '

' Lise Qwaninga. Wena ungubani ? '

' Ndingu Charles Situngu. Niyakwehla e Gcuwa ? '

' Ewe.'

' Sindlela nye ke, olwam uhambo lupela e Gcuwa.'

Bancokole njalo kuba umfo lo ebelincoko elikulu; bahlukana no Lily kwa Ndabakazi. Bakufika e Gcuwa, xa baza kwahlukana ute u Charles, ebhekisa ku Tandiwe; 'Ndingatanda ukuva ngehambo yenu nakusika ekaya.'

## ISAHLUKO VII.

## UKUFUNWA NGAMA SOKA.

'IMPENDULO yala leta ndandicela isikolo kumfundisi wase N—— ifikile, usuna nititate isikolo sase T——.'

'Ndiyavuya uzuze esosikolo, uyakuba kusupi nekaya' umpendule njalo uyise, 'okanye nen-dawo yokuhilala ungayizuza kwa Sago, u Makesa ngumuntu olungileyo.'

Einva kweveki undulukiie u Tandiwe epelekwa ngu yise. Bate xa bekude kusupi nalendawo babesinga kuyo lasibekela ngoku kauleza ; noko baqubele panibili bona bezimisele ukuya kulala apo bebesiya kona ; kodwa imvula ayivumanga, ngexeshana elincinane itsho umhlaba wamtyibilizi, ngesosizatu behlile bawarola amahasie. Bate besahamba njalo kwati qapu pambi kwabo umfo ote akusondela wamazi u Tandiwe, yati kanti ngu Charles Situngu. Ubenzele ububele obukulu ngokuba cela ukuba mabapambuke

kunye naye bayekulala kwa malume wake apo  
ebesiya kona. Kuse kuzolile ngemini elandelayo  
banduluka kwakusasa baya basika emini ema-  
qanda esipelweni sohambo lwabo. Ubamkele  
ngobubele obukulu u Makesa. Ulele u Tandiwe  
ngobobusuku exalabile ecinga ngomisebenzi  
omkulu abeza kungena kuwo. Kuye, ubutitshala  
bekungeyiyi kupela, indlela yokusumanisa impilo  
yake, 'koko ebekukangele nje ngenye yendlela  
yokusebenzela u Mdali wake; uzimisele ke  
ngoko ukungabi kupela yititshalakazi yencawa-  
di koko abe ngumineedi nomhlobo waba fundi  
bake. Ngemini elandelayo uye esikolweni, ute  
xa asondelayo wahlangatyezwa yititshala, umfo  
otencotu, omehlo makulu oti wakum kangela  
kuti pindela. Emjongile, u Tandiwe, kuye kuge  
ngati uhlangana nomntu owaka wambona. Wo-  
tule umnqwazi lomfo wamuika isandla esiti:

'Anditi ungu Miss Tshuugu ozakuncedisa  
kwesisikolo ?'

'Ewe ndinguye.'

'Mna ndingu Alfred Qoba ititshala yesisikolo.'

'O! Bendinga sakwazi, posu ndite ndakukuba-  
bona kwanga ndibona umntu endimaziyo.'

‘Ufanele, soloko wandigqibela kwa Ndabakazi okuya ndandihlangabeze udade wetu.’

Sangena ke isikolo njengemihla, zaqutya wa izifundo. U Tandiwe uzive esana nomntu opupayo, akaziqonda kwangati asinguye lo namhlanje ongene pantsi kobunzima bokuqequesha abantwana. Upumelele ukubagcina ngokuzola ngapandle kwentwana ezimbini ebezitanda ukudlala. Uve enye ikala isiti:—‘Mistress u John undigalela ngamanzi emqolo.’ Ute esapulapule weva omnye esiti: ‘u Willie uyandintsweba;’ njenge titshalakazi engekabi namava wakohlwa yeyona ndlela yokubohlwaya. Sipume isikolo ecinga ukuti, ‘andikolwa ukuba ndiyakupumelela neza utwana, kodwa ndiyakulinga ukuzoyisa.’

‘Injani ititshalakazi yenu?’ babuza abantwana kwabanye.

‘Ilungile koko uyabonakala ukuba uyafika kulento, soloko esite nxi emisebenzini, akasiniki tuba.’

‘Uhlala pi?’

‘Uhlala kwa anti Makesa.’

‘He! Selemihle nje uyakupelela paya, ititshalakazi ehlala paya ipelela kona.’

‘Akamihle ke kona kodwa uyatandeka.’

Zidlule iveki wada wawuqela, wawutanda, umsebenzi wake u Tandiwe. Ute ngenye imini xa avcla esikolweni wasika umnikazimzi ekwixishini lokulungisa indlu ebisecaleni. Ubuze wat : ‘Kuteni uzikupanje ezompahla apo ?’

‘Ndilungiselela unyana wam, ndibona selesiti gaxa; ndimele kukumlungiselela ngokwam aka-kabi nankosikazi.’

‘Uvela pi ?’

‘Erautini emsebenzini ; wayemke nejoyini ; andisenamandla okwenza ezizinto udingavuya chle watshata.’

Kwakuhlwa bahlala kwada kwaba sebusuku beteta ngezinto ngezinto. Akupuma u Tandiwe u ute Makesa ku Simon unyana wake :—‘Nantsi ke intombi endifuna uytshatile, ngumntana olungileyo okuteleyo ; usebenza ngokomntu qeqeshiweyo ; sihlelisene kakuhle kakulu.’

Yintoni enokwenziwa ngunyana xa umina esuna intombi engutile ? kukutobela ilizwi lomzali ezake izimvo azilahle, kuba kaloku uzekela umzi wakowabo nokuba umntu akamtandi xa abazali bemfuna kwencle. Ungene kulomse-

benzi unzima u Simon woku bonakalisa ngoku ngati ummonelele umuntu kunge njalo. Ngoku ngazitembi ukuteta naye ubuso ngo buso utate ipepa wabhala.

Ufike kuko leleta pezu kwe tasile yake u Tandiwe ngenye imini, nenyce ebipuma eposini. Uqale walesa le angayazanga apo ivela kona ; eyigqibile ukuyilesa uyipose pantsi esiti :—‘ Ucinga ngokuti ndite piti kukwenda ? ’ ubuye wayitata walesa :—‘ Umha ukusumana uluncedo kuye emusebenzini.’ ‘ Yo eyonanto ipambili ngumusebenzi ;’ uquibile walesa : ‘ Seuzimisela ukuhlala nati impela, umha selekulile, ukutsho ndifuna sitshate sobabini.’ ‘ Lento ukutshata akayazi ; kubonakala ukuba yena uzakutshata ngenxa yomsebenzi wakowabo, akuggiba ahamibe aye e Rautini, asale ke umfazi enkitsa nkitsana nalemisebenzi yakowabo into engati sicaka, ikoboka lomzi ; andizimisele kutshata umuntu obeka umsebenzi pambili, hai mntaka bawo Simon Sago uyakundincama.’

Eyivulile enye ileta ebivela ku Charles Situngu ebese kulituba engabhalu, ubenosizi ukulesa kuyo ngokugula kwake ngenxa yengozi ewhleleyo.

Univele ngoku kodwa akulesa kwindawo ebem-bongoza kuyo, emcela ukuba abe ngumncedisi-kazi wake kwiniimango yelilizwe. 'Nanku umntu oteta into evakalayo,' utshilo ngentliziyo, 'akabeki msebenzi wake pambili, waye engakulisi nabutyebi bake, undisuna kuba enditanda. Kodwa kuya kulunga ukutshata umntu endin-gamtandiyo? Intliziyo yami ayindalatisi yena, ndiyakutini? Ndiyakutini?'

○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Kwelinye icala sibona u Charles elele pantsi ekayeni lake ezamazamana nengcinga zentliziyo yake, eziloluhlobo:—'Oko kwati kwabhubha u Mha akuko mntu ukatalele ukundilungiselela; ewe odade wetu bako bayandinceda ngangoko banako; kodwa kuyavakala ukuba kuko isituba somntu ekusuneka sivaliwe. Imihla ngemihla; xa ndifika ekaya ukuvela emsebenzini, akuko unonelele ukwazi imbangi yokulibala kwam; nokuba ndifika ngalipiua ixesha, akuko ntliziyo ingonwabiyo ngoku-ngabiko kwam. Ngezinye imini ndifika intliziyo ibuhlungu kukungalungi komsebenzi kungabiko mntu uteta nam, audiuke itemba lokuti zisakubuye zivele imini ezintle

uqubeke kakuhle umisebenzi. Ngoku ndilele apa, ndiludwayi, akuko unovelwano lokundi-lungi-selela ngolohlobo kupela olunokwenziwa yintliziyo yomfazi kwindoda yake. Kodwa ndizimisele, ungumncedi wam Mlauli wento zonke, ukuguqula ubulolo bam. O ! Tandiwe, Tandiwe inyanga zidlule ndilinde impendulo eya kundon-wabisa ; akwaba intliziyo yako ibinokucengeka ; akwaba ubunokubona ubunzulu botando Iwami. Ndivile ukuba isikolo sako siyakubako kum-vumo wase Mgewe ; noko ilashe ndisaloyika ndizimisele ukukwela ndiye ukuze nditete nawe ubuso ngo buso. Zanga ingeango zentliziyo yako zingavuleka.'

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

'Ndifumene ileta evela ku Lily, ubulisile kuwe titshalakazi uti ngokumka kwako esinaleni ulah-lekelwe ngumhlolo omikulu ;' utsho u Alfred emondele ukumkangela. Uyintwazana elidlon-godlongo ebeke andixelete nge 'Bishop' nama Dikoni. Uyabazi abobantu ? utsho ehleka.

Unite rwaqu u Tandiwe wapendula ngeliti :—  
'Abantu ababepoxwa ngalonagama ndiyabazi.'

'Andibi wawuyi 'Bishop ?'

'Akunani nokuba ndandiyintonina ;' utsho wesuka u Tandiwe wanishiya u Alfred kulondawo.

'Yinkani lantwazana' utshilo ngentliziyo, 'akuyi kuba lula ukuyifumana.' Enyanisweni wayenutanda u Taudiwe eyibuka nendlela azipete ngayo.

Ngemini elandelayo usike u Alfred, esikolweni edangele.

'Ndifumene ileta endivisa ububi kakulu titshalakazi.'

'Ivela ekaya ?'

'Hai ndibhalelwé ngumihlobo ose Gcuwa ; uti iqabane lam, ebelingasa bhali, u Charles Situngu ulele pantsi akwaziwa nokuba wopumelela ; uwe nehashe.'

'U Charles Situngu wase Gcuwa ?'

'Ewe. Uyamazi ?'

'Ndiyamazi, usandu kundibhalela ; selebhetele kakulu.

Lento yokubhalelana kuka Charles no Tandiwe ihleli kakubi entliziyweni ka Alfred ; kuba u Charles engumiso ofanelekileyo nosityebi, ucinge ngokuti nayipina intombazana inganyula u Charles kunaye.

Kute esiya kuka amanzi u Tandiwe ngenye imini waqubisana no Simon ote kuye :— ‘Impendulo yako titshalakazi andikayamkeli, ndingavuya uluguqule uluwo lwako ; kudala uhleli nati sesikuqelile, singavuya usewuhlala nati impela.’

‘Andizimisele ukuhlala nani impela ; funa mntu wumbi ungazilibazisi ngam.’

‘Hai titshalakazi, sukuunxama ngoku pendula, kawuye kucinka ubuye undinikele impendulo ngelinje ixesha.’

‘Yileyo impendulo yami akusayi kuzuza yimbi.’ Bakwahlukana, u Simon uye waxelela unina ingqibo ka Tandiwe ; wagqiba ngokuti :— ‘Ndimmacamile mna ngoku.’ Imxakanise kakulu u Makesa lento yokwaliwa ko nyana wake. Akusika u Tandiwe evela emlanjeni, uyibekke endaweni yayo i-emele, wati xa apemba umlilo u Makesa wati :— ‘Yeka, ndiqelile ukuzisebenzela.’ Utsho wazitata ezo ntsasa ebepeimba ngazo. Invise ububi, u Tandiwe lento nezinye izinto ezelilayo emva koko ; akabanga sonwaba kulomzi wakwa Sago.



‘Yimini entle le kumale besinayo izolo.’ La abe ngamazwi okuqala ka Alfred, akuhlangana no Tandiwe kusasa ngenye imini.

‘Ewe intle,’ upendule ngokungati akataundi kuteta u Tandiwe.

‘Kutena, Nkosazana, akupilanga?’

‘Ndipilile; utsho kuba nditeni?’

‘Yini nditi nditeta nawe undidanise ngati akufuni kuteta nam?’

‘Uxolo ukuba ndibonakalise umoya onjalo.’

Okwenyaniso wayengafuni kuteta u Tandiwe, intliziyoyake yayidubekile ngenxa yentlalo yake kwa Sago. Singenile isikolo abantwana bapaule ukuba utitshalakazi uyenye into, ukatazwe nayintwana encinci, kube lula namuhlanje uku-bohlwaya.

‘Ida asinguwe lowo unepensile erwelayo?’

‘Hai titshalakazi.’

‘Ngubani ke? Nguwe Emily?’

‘Asindim titshalakazi.’

Beqondile abantwana ukuba utitshalakazi aka-yitandi lento bonke, babhiale ngohlobo lokuba ipensile zenze ingxolo, ngapandle ko John no

Willie ababesebe zintwana ezinibekileyo u Tandiwe. 'Yekani ukubhala' utshilo u Tandiwe ecapuka. Kute kwesosituba isilate senye intwana sawa, 'Vintoni wena usoloko wabaliqa-talalana nje? Usiwiselani i-silate?' Endaweni yokuba bazole abantwana bahleke bonke bakubona u Samuel efana neqatalala kanye, utete ngamandla nabo u Tandiwe babuya bazola baquba imisebenzi yabo. Uye kwitafile ebinencwadi zake u Tandiwe watsala idrawer ezakurola i Chalk. Kute tu iselet, wotuka wabaleka; bahleka kakulu abantwana. Lengxolo yenze ukuba u Alfred ezekuyinqum-amisa ngokwake.

'Ngubani ofake elisele apa?' ubuzile u Alfred.

'Lifakwe ngu Maqanda titshala, itshilo enye intwana.'

'Bendilinikwe ngu Majoyini evela nalo pandle, watimandilifake apo,' utshilo u Maqanda elinga ukuzihlangula. 'Litate Maqanda ulilahle pandle,' utshilo u Alfred, 'nize kum nobabini ndinohl-waye.'

'Kodwa uyakubanako ukuya e Konsatini ngolwesi Hlanu? kufuneka sise Mgce simenyiwe nesikolo; kunjalo nje sizakuqala kwesisikolo

saniva ukulungiselela,' ubuzile u Alfred saku-puma isikolo sokuqala.

'Ndiyakuya noko ndingazi nokuba lonto ayik-undifaka enkatazweni.'

'Enkatazweni yani, ingumisebenzi wesikolo nje?'

'Andizi kuteta ezonto, kusemhlabeni apa. Utikupina wena?'

'Tandiwe, ndingumhlolo wako, ndixelete inkatazo yako mhlaubi ndingaba nako ukukanceda.'

Cinga, Mlesi, ukuba wena ubunga-la ukupo-koza intlungu zentliziyo yako kumntu on-gumhlolo kuwe; usebunzimeni pakati kwabantu basemzinui, ubunga la uvelwano?

Asimntu wonke okwaziyo ukuzigcina izimivo ezibuhlangu angazixeli kwabo bazibiza ngokuti banga bahlobo naye; uvelwano, oluvela entliziy-weni enyanisileyo luwenza lula umtwalo onziuna kulowo usukuba ewutwele. Ulwe idabi elikulu nentliziyo yake, u Tandiwe etandabuza nokokuba kungalunga ukuinazisa, u Alfred ngobunzima abutweleyo. Amadabi entlalo yake uwalwe yedwa akacela luncedo mutwini. Asingabo bonke abateta ngamazwi amyoli nanaandipekayo

abanga bahlobo bomntu. Ute ukumpendula u Alfred :—‘Mhlaumbi akungeze kulunge ndikuxelele.’

‘Mhla uziva ukululekile ukuteta woze undixelete.’

Ifikile imini yomvumo wase Mgewe; baba baninzi abantu abavela kwindawo ngendawo. Kute xa kucitakalwayo kusasa u Charles weza kuteta no Tandiwe: ‘Hleinje isikolo senusivuma kaungaka?’

‘Ulapa nawe Mr. Situngu? Awuyaleki, ukuba ibindimi ngendiloyika ihashe.’

‘Ndiyaqala namu ukukwela oko ndenza kalayo, bendinga funi kuposwa yile konsati.’

‘Uwutanda kangako umvumo kanti?’

‘Ewe ndiyawutanda noko eyonanto inditsali-leyo kukuza kubona wena. Impendulo yako indivisa ububi kaubuye ucinge kwakona, uncede ungandidauisi.’

## ISAHLUKO VIII.

## UMZI WAKWA TSHUNGU KWAKONA.

IMINI embi elanga ligutyungelwe ngamasu yayi-sondela esipelwени; amasu emvula agubungele isibakabaka enza ngokungati sekulilwile, umoya obandayo ovutela ngamandla unyanzele abantu aba semisebenzini yokuvuna, nokwalusa ukuba bangcacele emakaya. Inqotolise ingqeles umhambi obataza ngenyawo, wati noko ebetanda ukuya kulala emzini wake wapanibukela kwimizi ekufutshane. Akabanga naku yibamba imikala okwele ehasheni naye ulalise kwimizi ekusupi. Bate xa o Tandiwe no nina besika bevela kuvuna bakaulelwa ngu Seliwe.

‘Kuko amanzi ashushu kodwa Seliwe? Sigodole kakulu iyabanda leminī.’

‘Ewe mha nekosu seyiko.’

‘Ulile wayenza. Kuteni namhlanje?’

‘Kuko abantu basemzini; bendize kunixeleta lonto. Bendibenzele ikofsu yaza yasala.’

‘Ngabantu bapi?’

'Omnye ngowakwa Nomaheya omnye ngati ikaya lise Xalanga.'

'Akubazina, Seliwe?'

'Hai andibazi, kodwa omnye ngubuti ka Lily Qoba lo usfundisa no Tandiwe, bapambuke ngenxa yengqelete bebezimisele ukuya kulala e Geuwa, sendilibelete ukuba bate bavuka pina, sebenentsuku bemkayo ekaya. Igama lownye andiliqondi bebebuzwa ngutata; andazi nokuba ngu Nyama pulwa—Nyamayepela—Nyamayipeli libunjalo kodwa.'

'Kou Seliwe! Akukomntu ulelogama zinto zokusa nje kwako ezo.'

'Asazi ke Taudiwe xa uwazi onke lamagama akoyo emhlaben'i apa, mna audingeze ndimpikise noti kuko no Mr. Neukutu oko ndaka ndaziswa naku Miss Mfene.'

'Andingepiki nobuciko bako elinje ngeli ulixelayo nawe akuzange waliva;' utsho wangen'a u Tandiwe endlwini.

'Ronani titshala; uyahamba kule ngqelete?'

'Ewe ngenxa yokunyanzeleka ndipeleka umzalwana u Nyamayipeli.'

Akabanga nakuzibamba u Seliwe ukungahleki,

ute ngokubona lonto u Tandiwe wakauleza ngo-kuba ikaya apo likona.

‘Sekungati kudala zavalwa izikolo.’

‘Akunjalo kumi ndibanelexala ndakucinga ngo-kubuyela esikolweni; ukuba ndinokuzuza enye indawo yokuhlala, andibuyeli kwa Sago.’

‘Akuzange ude undixelete lankatazo wawuteta ngayo.’

Bapazanyiswe kungena kuka Seliwe ebabizela kwisidlo sokuhlwa, kwaba kupela kwaloncoko. Kute kwakugqitywa umtandazo kwangenwa etasileni; bakusondela bangene kwingxoxo yezi<sup>nto</sup> ngezinto.

‘ina mzalwana Nyamayipeli’ kutsho um-nimuzi, ‘nina kwelacala lenu nisenza imali ngoboya; tina apa kunzima isifo samakalane sisicinezele.’

‘Azihambi kanene apa inkomo?’

‘Hai, lento inkomo ayinamsebenzi, kuko umfo obenekulu, isininzi sazo (zizezolobolo) ndigqibele enesihlanu kupela, andazi ukuba kuza kulotyolwa nganina.’

‘Kupendule u Alfred ngeliti banikeni ugapandle kokulobola.’

'Hai mntana wam sukutsho njalo, ivakele isitsho inkosikazi yomzi; andingeze ndive kamnandi ukutshatisa umntanam, ize ndingazuzi nento le ngaye.'

Ute u Nyamayipeli. 'Lobolisani ngamahashie ne mali.'

'Liyavakala elo,' upendule u Alfred, 'koko abantu bangagabadelu ukubiza amauani abawafunayo, nenkomio ezi bebebiza ishuuni neshuuni elivayo kauti umuntu uzakubuye abize amashumi aiuabini egusha.'

'Kaloku mntanam' utshilo u Madlamini, 'sukuba efuna ukuxolisa intliziyo yake.'

'Andazi ke mha, kodwa ngati okukubiza kaugaka kubiye kubange intlalo enzima kumsazi lowo ulotyo-lweyo.'

Belungiselelwe indawo yokulala abahambi bazuze ukupuula obekufunwa yimizimba egodo-leyo. Kuse umoya udambile noko imini ibibanda. Bahambe msinya emva kwesidlo sakusasa. Bate bakuti qelete wati u Seliwe; 'ungabozu upike Tandiwe akuko nto ingelo gama; elam igama andilixeleli mntu wonke end ihlangana naye, ndibiza into yokugala efika ezingqondweni.

Ndaka ndahlangana nabantu e Mabele babuza igama lam; ndati ndingu Sekiwe Solontsi, babuza ukuba ndizalana naba Solontsi base Toleni na? Landiya ndasana ndati hai makube kufana amaganua, ndaudingazi ukuba kuko igama elinjalo.'

Imini zeholide zipele ziyolile kubantwana nabalali, labuye lafika ixesha lokwahlukana babuyela emisebenzini yabo abantwana. Babashiya abazali bonwabile kuba usapo lupete imisebenzi emihle eya kunceda izi zukulwana ngezizukulwana zama Africa.

## ISAHLUKO IX.

## UKWENDA KUKA TANDIWE.

AKABANGA sabuyela kwa Sago u Tandiwe zaku-vulwa izikolo, ufune ndawo yimbi yokuhlala ete nakuba inobunzima izinto azafana. Nguwupina, kwi titshalakazi zangoku nezamzuzu ongazange acande ebunzimeni? Wuimbì ubulawa ngomsebenzi, wumbi akapiwa kutya kukuko ngexesha, wumbi woti esitya ukutya okuhle angabonakali njalo; kuba etwele aīnazwi abuhlungu oti xa uwewa epuma emlonyeni woinfazi umangaliseke uba ucinga nina ngaba bake abantwana. Bohlala behleli naye pina? Wahlala u Tandiwe kweli kaya lake litsha waquba umsebenzi lowo awuzeleyo, umsebenzi wesikolo.

‘Kuteni u titshalakazi akashlali kwa anti Makesa?’ ibuzile enye intwazana kwenye besiya esikolweni.

‘Uququmbile, kutshisile kuye; umka buti

waye yititshalakazi uhlale ndibalisela ukuba intlalo yetitshalakazi ikolisa ukuba rabaxa.'

Utetani? ezinye i titshalakazi azizange zimke paya kwa anti Makesa.

'Yo ndivile mna, ndiyakuhlebela ke; ebefunwa ngu nyana ka anti lowo, wamala; akubanga sahlaliswa naka kuhle.'

Zidlule inyanga onwabile u Tandiwe, umsebenzi wesikolo uqubeku kakuhle. Ute u Alfred kuye ngenye imini xa babeteta ngezinto ngezinto: 'Kungati wonwabile namhlanje, mhlayimbi unga ndixeleta isizatu sokuba umke kwa Sago.'

'Ewe ndonwabile, kodwa ke lonto ayiteti ukuba ndinga suke ndimpore.'

Kauyeke ukufeketa ukutshwe yini ?'

'Zizinto ngezinto.'

'Oh, zizinto ngezinto. Uyazi ndimangalisiwe kukuva ukuba u Charles utshatile, ndandiba uyakutshata wena.'

'Wawubangelwa yintoni ukuba ucinge lonto ?'

'Ndeva kusitiwa uzakutshata wena.'

'Wakolwa, kuba uxelelwa ngababantu bazi ngemicimbi yam ngapezu kokuba ndiyazi mna.'

'Ndandibona nam ngati niugabahlobo abakulu.'

‘Hai sasinge ngabo.’

‘Kodwa eyona nto yakukupa kwa Sago yintoni,  
ngati u Makesa ulungile nje?’

‘Balungile bonke, nide nifike kwindawo eninge  
nakuvana.’

‘Naxabana?’

‘Akuko mazwi saka sapendulana ngawo.’

‘Posu Yintoni?’

‘Kou! uyancekelela kambe.’

Ude wamxelela esona sizatu sambangela ukuba  
afuduke kwa Sago.

Emva kwe nyanga ezimbini u Tandiwe uzuze  
ileta evela ku Alfred ibhalwe ngolilobo olucuku-  
mise intliziyo yake. Kube mhlope kuye ugoku  
ukuba uyamtanda u Alfred, asibobuhlobo budlu-  
layo, navelwano lwexeshana, bubunzulu botando  
olwendeleyo. Akapendulanga noko, kudlule  
intsuku engenakugqiba eyonanto angayitetayo.

‘Uzakupuma nonyaka nje u Lily esikolweni,  
asazi ukuba uya kusizuza pina isikolo.’ Ngale  
nteto u Alfred wayevula indlela yokuteta no  
Tandiwe.

‘Ndingavuya ndike ndimbone u Lily seleyi  
titshialakazi.’

Beina cwaka ixesha elide kwakukuzola okuvalayu ukuba kuko into ekufuneka itetiwe koko u Alfred ebekohlwe kükuba angatinina ukuyiteta. Ude wati, 'Tandiwe, kudala ndilindele impendulo uya kuudigcina ndilindile ixesha elingaka nanina ?'

'Andazi'; kwati cwaka kwakona.

'Nditembe Tandiwe, ndiya kukugecina kakuhle kuba ndiyakutanda, ndincede undinike impendulo.'

Andazi ke, mlesi, ukuba kwati kunjalo kwanjanina, kodwa kuvakele, emva kwexesha, ukuba u-Tandiwe Tshungu utshate no Alfred Qoba emveni kokumlobola ngeshumi leukomo.

Emva kweminyaka emibinisifumana u Tandiwe elesa leleta evela ku Jane umhlobo wake :—

Dear Tandiwe :—

Kowu wetu, kudala ndiuga sabhali, ndibangelwe kukugula kuka Mary indodakazi yam. Isishiye yonwabile, ngomhla we 8 ka June ngoknhlwa, lontokazi. Utete futi ngawe ne W.C.L. kwintsuku zokuggqibela.

Wetu imini zase sinaleni azisoze zilibaleke kum. Nditeta futi ngawe kwindoda yam. Abanye

bati xa umntu atshatileyo akuko konwaba kuye, kupela zinkatazo nobunzima, mna ndifumana kunge njalo, ndonwabile. Ewe inkatazo zona ziko kodwa sizama ukutwalisana. Abanye bayalibala ukuba umnikazimzi kufuneka ezame ukungafane axakaniswe nazintwana ezincinane, kufuneka esoloko ebangumntu ozama ukuhlala ngokomwaba, abenolwazi lwendlela ekufuneka eyipete ngayo indoda yake, ayinikele imbheko eyifaneleyo nje ngomlauli wonizi; ngamaxeshentsizi naxa umsebenzi ungahambi kakuhle abonise uvelwano. Kulungile ukwenda xa utshata nomntu onguye. Ngubani owayesazi ukuba u Lily Qoba ela dlongodlongo loze libe yindodakazi yako. Bulisa kubo bonke.

Owako umhlobo :—Jane Lovane.

Kube luvuyo ku Tandiwe ukuzuza leleta, ibenoncedo ngezifundo azifumene kuyo. Uhlale pantsi wasele pendula kwa oko.

Mhlobo wam :—

O Jane ukuvuya endivuye ngako ndakuzuza ileta yako andigeze ndakubalisa. Kube buhlungu kum ukuva ngokubhubha kuka Mary; kodwa kunditutuzele ukwazi ukuba yena seleye ekupum-





