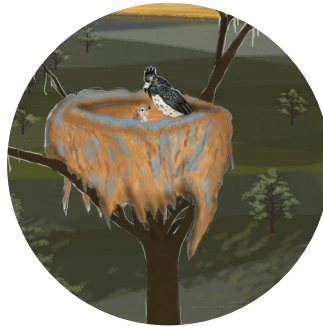




Sitjalo leselaphako



Phinah Ncube



Nsingo abelusoti loluhlakaniphile, anetinsiba letindze.

Abetsandza kuphaphela ngasemfuleni nasensimini yemabele afune kudla.





Umfana waNsingo abegula.

“Umfana wami uyagula, yini lengingayenta?” Nsingo uyacabanga.



“Ngitawuhamba naye siye kuMavuso.
Ungumakadzebona wadokotela. Bangitjele kutsi
uyatati tifo letinyenti,” Nsingo uyacabanga.





Dokotela wahlola lintjwele.

“Tjiyo, tjiyo,” liyakhala.

“Lesifo siyesabeka,” kusho Mavuso.

“Kumele ngenteni?” kubuta Nsingo.



“Umfana wakho utawelapheka! Udzinga kutfola timphandze tedrimiya. Idrimiya itfolakala ensimini yemabele,” kusho dokotela.





Nsingo waphapha waya ensimini.

Asaphapha atungeleta insimu, wabona lokutsite
lokufana nedrimiya.

Wahlala, wabona kutsi akusiso lesitjalo.

Waphaphela phambili.



Dziya, intsetse, yahlala etjeni.

“Ufunani?” kubuta intsetse.

“Umfana wami uyagula. Bangitjele kutsi ngifune idrimiya, ungangitjengisa?” kucela Nsingo.

Dziya wavuma.





“Umfana wami utawuphola! Ngiwutfolile umutsi walesifo,” kusho Nsingo.



Wacala wadvonsa sitjalo.

Sitjalo samane satjeka, sangasephuki.

Indzawo beyomile.



Bekumatima kudvomula idrimiya.

“Ake ngikutjengise,” kusho Dziya.

Nsingo wavuma. Nsingo naDziya basitana bagubha.





Nsingo wadvomula idrimiya ngetinzipho takhe leticinile.

Saca! Wawa abambelele sitjalo sedrimiya.

Dziya wahleka.



Masingane, Nsingo waphakama.

Waphapha wabuyela ekhaya. Angasanaki nekutsi tinzipho takhe tinetinsila.





Dziya wasala amangele.

“Nsingo akabongi,” kusho Dziya.

Wase uyaphapha.



Nsingo wafika kudokotela Mavuso.

Wapheka idrimiya.

Wayibeka yaphola.

Wanatsisa umfana wakhe.





Umfana wanatsa umutsi.

Tahamba tinsuku, waphola.

Wasukuma ecansini lekugula.

Wacala kuphapha atungeleta, ngekutjekula.



“Angikakhumbuli kubonga Dziya,” kusho Nsingo.
Letinsoti taphapha totimbili tabuyela ensimini.
Tatfola Dziya tambonga.

