



# Zinkulu kum!



**NguSipho R. Kekezwa**



Ngomso yimini yokuqala kaLuvo yokuya esikolweni.

“Mama undithengele iimpahla zesikolo?” uyabuza ngolangazelelo.



“Wakugqiba ukutya, ungajonga iimpahla zakho zesikolo,” utsho umama ekhomba imfumba esongelwe kwitafle ekufuphi nabo.

ULuvo uphanga ukutya engaqwalaselanga nokuba kuneminqathe angayithandiyo. Waphanga oko kutya engaboni nokuba kuneminqathe awayengathandi ukuyitya.



Uphakama esitulweni ngamendu akugqiba ukutya, uphutha-phutha kwimfumba yeempahla.

“Ziphi ezam iimpahla?” ubuza eziphakamisa nganye nganye. Zonke iimpahla zesikolo zikhangeleka zinkulu kakhulu kuye kwaye zingekho ntsha.

“Linganisa sikubone,” uqhubeka atsho umama wakhe encumile.



Uthe akuphuma kwelo gumbi ebelinganisela kulo, waphela yintsini umkhuluwa wakhe uZolile akumbona. Utata wakhe wancuma emva kwelo phepha alifundayo.



“Zinkulu kum!” ilizwi laliphantsi, liquka iinyembezi.  
“Sukuzikhathaza, Vovo wam ndizakuzilungisa wena.  
Ngomso uzakuba mhle,”

Ebengazi ukuba uthetha ukuthini umama wakhe,  
kuba ezo mpahla azinxibileyo ebengakwazi  
nokuhamba kuzo.



ULuvo ugqibe ekubeni akazukuya esikolweni.

Waya kumandlalo wakhe intliziyo yakhe ibuhlungu enombono owohlukileyo kunalowo ebenawo wemini yakhe yokuqala esikolweni. Uthe esacinga njalo wabiwa bubuthongo, walala.





“Jongani le inxibe izihlangu zikatata wayo,” yatsho enye inkwenkwe esikolweni isalatha kuLuvo.

“Jongani nehemphe yakhe ingathi yilokhwe,” kungenelela eyesibini.

“Ungumabhluhkwana!” kungenelela eyesithathu. Bonke abantwana besikolo bajonga kuye ngexesha ezama ukubamba ezo nyembezi ngeenkophe.





Uzama ukubaleka ezimela loo ntswahla yabantwana besikolo abanentlonti. Uthe esazama ukubaleka, suka izihlangu zapoqa zamwisa suke esinye sabhabha saya emoyeni. “Ndiyekeni, ndiyekeni...!” utshilo uLuvo ekhwaza. Kwaba kukuphela kwamazwi ayekwazi ukuphuma avakale kweso singqala wayenaso kukulila.





“Luvo! Luvo, phakama!” Uva ngathi kuthetha lilizwi likanina wakhe.

Uvula amehlo ethe gabhu iinyembezi. “Luvo, vuka kusile!” Ngenene yabe ingunina.







Uphakame kuloo mandlalo wakhe walaqaza...  
Akakho sesikolweni...

Wakhululeka akuba engekho sesikolweni.

Wayenganxibanga...

Wakhumbula ibhlukhwe kaZolile!

Wakhumbula ihempe ende!

Wakhumbula nezihlangu!



“Ndi...ndinentloko,” utsho ezigquma kwakhona.

“Vuka kaloku sana lwam,” wacenga ngothando unina. Uyazi ukuba yintoni ehlupha untoondo wakhe.

“Khangela nazi iimpahla zakho zesikolo.” Uguquka akrobise intloko nje angaphakami kuloo mandlalo.

Iimpahla zesikolo ezibonakala zingamlingana zibekwe kwisitulo ecaleni komandlalo.





Akasafuni nokuncediswa anxibe uLuvo njengesiqhelo.

Ukugqiba kwakhe ukunxiba, ujonge phantsi iinyembezi zisehla. Uthi akuphakamisa amehlo, abone unina ephethe ibhokisi. Uncumo olukobo buso lwalungaphezu kweenyembezi azibambileyo waziphosa kunina kwangelo xesha linye.

“Undithengele izihlangu, mama?”

“Ewe, Vovo,” uphendule unina.

Hayi ke wankonya kanobomi unina. “Enkosi, mama.”



Konke kulungile kuLuvo ngosuku lwakhe lokuqala esikolweni. Wonwabile.

