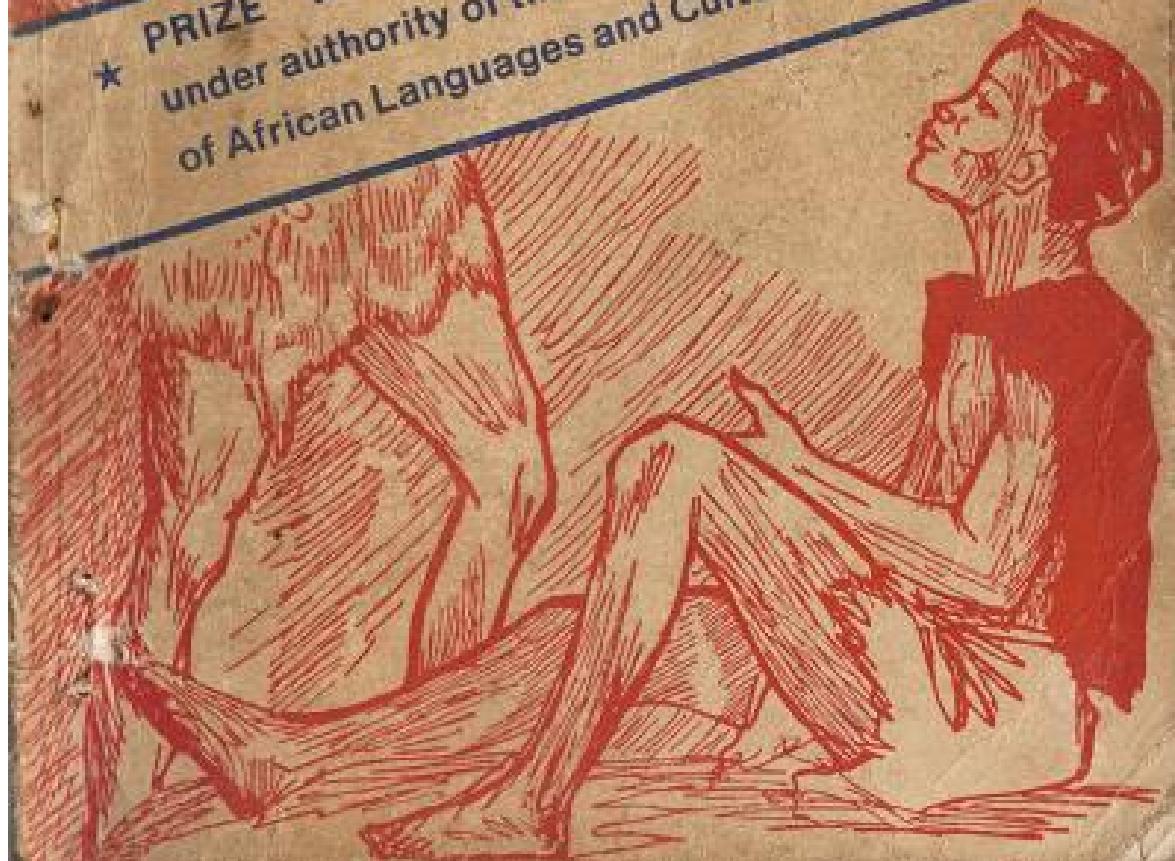


NTHONDO

s.j.nthala



* PRIZE WINNING BIOGRAPHY
under authority of the International Institute
of African Languages and Cultures in 1933.



NTHONDO

(Original of “Man of Africa”)

WOLEMBA NDI

SAMUEL JOSIA NTHALA

All Rights Reserved

Originally published by
the NKHOMA SYNOD
of the Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian
P.O. NKHOMA, MALAWI.

this reprint by
Christian Literature Association in Malawi

P.O. Box 503
Blantyre, Malawi.

*Prize-winning Biography under authority
of the International Institute of African
Languages and Cultures in the year 1933*

Originally printed by
PETRO VAN WY K PRESS
P.O. NKHOMA, MALAWI.

this reprint by
Montfort Press, Limbe, Malawi.

MAWU OYAMBA

Bukuli ndimbiri yopeka, koma ngakhale ndiyopeka mwina njonena zoona chifukwa zonse zimene ndalemba ambiri a inu mudazimvapo monga momwe ndidazimvera ine.

Polemba bukuli ndayesa kutola makhalidwe ndi malankhulidwe a anthu ndi kulinganiza nkhaniyi kuti ikhale bwino. Ndiponso ndayesetsa kukumbukira zonse zimene ndidazimvapo kale.

Ndithokoza a J. L. Pretorius amene adandipatsa zambiri zochitira ntchitoyi, nandilimbikitsa kuti nditsirize bukuli ngakhale padali zina zofoketsa. Ndiyenso adandithandiza zina ndi zina kuti bukuli lisindikizidwe.

Ndithokozanso otsatirawa: Dr. W.H. Murray amene adandilangiza Chichewa kuti chikhale chovomerezeka.

Bambo T. Cullen Young a ku Mangalande amene adasanduliza bukuli m'Chingerezi kuti nawo azungu adziwé za ife. Sindiiwalanso eni ntchito ya Religious Tract Society chifukwa chosindikiza buku langa m'Chingerezi ku Mangalande.

A Bungwe la *The International Institute of Africa Languages and Cultures* ndiwo amene adayesa kundifulumiza mwakuchita mpikisano.

Potsiriza ndiyamika Mulungu amene adandipatsa zonse, nzeru ndi zina zimene tisôwa.

Samuel Josia Nthala

N KHOMA,
MALAWI,
APRIL, 1936.

Zam'katimu

Mutu

Tsambo

Mutu I		
Kubabwa Kwake	...	1
Mutu II		
Atate Ake	...	3
Mutu III		
Ubwana Wake	...	21
Mutu IV		
Maulendo Ake	...	42
Mutu V		
Ukulu Wake	...	72
Mutu VI		
Ufumu Wake	...	95

MUTU I

Kubadwa Kwake

Udali usiku wozizira kwambiri pomwe kudabadwa kamwana kabwino dzina lake Nthondo. Amake adakondwera kwambiri popeza Nthondo adali mwana wamwamuna malinga nkuti ana ena omwe adali nawo adali aakazi okhaokha. Pamenepe akazi ena adamuyamikiranso kuti: “Mulungu wadziwa kusowa kwako pokupatsa mwana wamwamuna chifukwa adzakutengera mabulangeti akakhala ndi moyo.”

M'mudzimo akazi onse adapita kukaona mwanayo ndi kumkhumbira nati, “Akoma mwana katsitsi kake, timaso take, timanja take, kankhope kake.” Inde, akazi adakondwera kwambiri ndi kusirira.

“Atate ake a mwanayo sanabwere kornwe adapita kuja kodi?”

“Iyayi.”

“Kodi asirikali adapita nawo kuti?”

“Kaya.”

“Ha! Kumene ali iwo angoti mwina kumudzi kukadali bwino, osadziwa zimene taziona ifezi.”

“Inde, zoonadi popeza kumbuyo kulibc maso sadziwadi za zimenezi.”

“Kodi phala anatumwetsa mwanayu?”

“Iyayi, chifukwa kulibe madzi.”

“Pitani mukatunge; munthu wodwala amafuna madzi.”

“Inde, chabwino.”

Anthus onse adakondwera naye mwanayo chifukwa adali wokongola kwambiri.

M'mawa alongo ake a mayiyo adaitana abale awo nakambirana motere:

“Ine ndimafuna kudziwa ngati mudakanena kwawo kwa mwamuna uja za matenda a mkazi wakeyu?”

“Iyayi, ine sindidatumizeko mawu.”

“Chifukwa chiyani?”

“Ndimaganiza kuti inu mudatumizako mawu.”

“Iyayi, ine sindidatumize mawu. Nkoyenera kukanena popeza mwini wake palibe mwini wake palibe. Akadakhalapo akadakanena kale.”

“Chabwino, ndimutuma mnyamata. Kanthu kayenera kuonera limodzi poti chakudza sichiimba ng’oma.”

“Tsalani.”

“Eya, pitani.”

Tsono nmyamatayo atatumidwa adafika kumeneko nthawîi yamadzulo anthu atatha tsopano apa kudya nsima. Anthuwo adamufunsa mnyamatayo motere:

“Kodi kumudzi mwakusiya bwanji?”

“Iyayi, kuli bwino pang’ono, koma kunyumbakwa aja adachoka panôwa kuli mwana wamwamuna.”

“Kodi! Nanga makeyo ali bwanji?”

“Ali bwino, koma amunawo palibe pamudzipo, chifukwa adaŵatenga asirikali.”

“Adapita nawo kuti?”

“Kaya?”

“Chabwino.”

“Tsalani bwino.”

“Eya.”

Tsono mayiyo adauza mwana wake wamkazi kuti, “Uje! Sinja ufa tikaone matenda. Sudziwa kuti kunyumba kwa alongo ako kuli mwana wamwamuna!”

“Kodi!”

Mwanayo mphale vuulu, tsuketsukeni, phu! Munsi tengu, Thi! Thi! Thi! Mpaka adatsiriza napita tsiku lomwelo. Atafika adalôwa m’nyumba napeza makeyo aliko bwino. Adatenga mwanayo m’manja mwawo nati, “Ha! Mwana wokomadi. Mchombowu adatenga yani?”

“He! Hede! ii!” Namakamba m’nyumbamo.

“Kodi atate ake palibe?”

“Inde, adaŵatenga asirikali.”

Tsono onsewo adakhalako kumatendawo kanthawîi.

MUTU II

Atate Ake

Nthaŵi imene amabadwa mwanayo nkuti atate ake atagwidwa ndi asirikali ndi kupita nawo kuboma. Pamene adafika kapitawo adaŵauza kuti, “Inu ndi enaŵa mutseke ulalo uwo popeza boma lachita chisoni ndi anthu a m'dziko lino. Akamapita kofuna chimanga kumaiko ena akusauka pamtsinje umenewu. Mwezi wathawu a Mwalapa adamka ndi madzi mumtsinje womwewu. Pachifukwa chimenechi, tiyeni pitani.”

Onse adati, “Eya!” Tsiku limenelo atatha kugwira ntchito adapita kwa kapitawoyo kuti akawapatse nyumba yagonamo.

Kapitawo adati, “Ha! Opusa inu, mufuna kuti nyumba ndikakumangireni ndine? Chokani! Kamangeni uko.”

“Pepani, akapitawo; kwada tikamaliza msanga bwanji?”

“Kaya, musafunse ine, mungotopa ndi mawu.”

Tsiku limenelo atate ake a Nthondo adadandaula kwambiri nati, “Ha! Tsoka ndidalisiya kumudzi, ena angodya gaga mwafulu, koma ine kumasauka chonchi. Ha! Chabwino.”

Udzu udali wouma nthawi imeneyo ndipo onse adati, “Tiyeni tingomanga kmsasa ngakhale koipa; nanga tingalimbire kumanga kabwino ngati kuno nkwarthu.”

Onse adati, “Eya.” Ndipo adamanga kamsasako msangamsanga, natolera nkhuni ndi kuloŵamo. Tsiku limenelo sadakambe nkhani kamba ka kulema. M'mawa kutacha atate ake a Nthondo adafotokozerza anzawo maloto!

“Ine nditagona ndinalota nditalembherera chulu ndipo titatsiriza kupanga litala, zinatulukamo inswa zochuluka. Ndinauza mwana wanga wamkazi kuti amake abwere ndi mtsuko wodzatengeramo inswazo, koma ngakhale anafika

kudzatenga inswazo sitinathe kuzimaliza. Kenaka ndangomva dzidzidzi! Ha! Kani ndibodza. Ndiye pamenepa ndikuti malotowa ngotani kumasulira kwake?”

Wina adati, “Maloto amenewa ngabwino, musaone mmene tasaukira leromu, tingasauke atitayabe. Munthu asamakhala ndi maganizo masiku onse chifukwa adzaonda.”

Kutacha m'mawa kapitawo adabwera nati, “Tulukani, tiyeni kuntchito.”

Onse adakonzeka natuluka kubwalo ndi kutsatira kapitawo uja. Adayambanso kugwira ntchitoyo. Atamaliza adaitanidwa onse ndi kapitawoyo nalipidwa aliyense makobidi asanu.

Ha! Ukondwera ati. Onsewo adati, “Tiyeni tigone poti kwada; tisachoke ayi.” Onse adavomerezana. Kumsasaku sadagone kwambiri kamba ka nkhanji. M'mawa kutacha onse adamwazikana kuthawa njala chifukwa adali kungokazinga osalaawa nsima. T sono adalaŵirana ndi kuti, “Mnzathu, pita bwino tidzaonana Mulungu akatisunga.”

Panjira atate a Nthondo adamva njala nati mumtima mwawo, “Kapitawo wandipatsa makobidi asanu, ha! Ntani?” Tsono adapatula limodzi nagula nsima, ndipo anayi otsalawo adagula nkuku kuti akatsukire m'kamwa. Adapita nadya nsimayo monga kapolo, mwinanso amaopa kuti angakafike ndi mdima woopsa.

Atafika pamudzi woyandikana ndi wawo adamva mawu akuti, “Ehe!... Inu!.. Taimani!... Moni!”

“Eya.”

“Mudapita kuti?”

“Adandigwira msirikali pamodzi ndi ena a m'midzi ina ndipo tidakagwira ntchito yokonza ulalo.”

“Monga simudamve kuti kunyumba kwanu kuli mwana wamwamuna?”

“Ngakhale mpang'ono ponse sindinamve. Nliti limenelo?”

“Dzana.”

“Kodi! Tsalani bwino ndipita kumeneko.”

“Eya, pitani bwino, mwina tipezana māwa.”

Tateyo adayenda mofulumira ndi kukafika kumudzi dzuŵa lisanalôwe. Pamene po anthu ena adamlonjera tateyo. M’nyumba Iowu! Bwino lake adamva mawu akuti,

“Zikomo.” Poyang’ana adaona apongozi ake nati kwa iye,

“Moni!”

“Zikomo.”

“Eya, tsiku lija mudachoka inu kuno kudabadwa kamwana kakamuna usiku. Kamwana kokongola kwambiri. Kamwana kotukwanitsa.”

“Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!” Adaseka atate ake a Nthondo. “Kodi! Chabwino kwambiri. Inde, kumbuyo kulibe maso, munthu sangadziŵe kuti kumene ndichokeraku kuli bwanji mwina kwachitika zina. Ati ngwamwamuna?”

“Eya.”

“Ha! Wabadwa masiku ansautso, nanga kugwidwaku nkwbawino?”

“Nkwabwino bwanji kusaukako?”

“Ha! Chabwino tidzaona.”

“Kodi mudatha bwinobwino ntchito yanu?”

“Eya, koma ine maloto adandivuta kwambiri ndipo anzanga adandimasulira kuti adali abwino chifukwa ndidalota maloto a chulu, ndikutapa inswa zambiri.”

“Ha! Sizomwe zakubadwa kwa mwanayu?”

“Indedi, zoona.”

“Zikomo kuti mwabwera chifukwa kuti m’phala la mwana mulibe kachikunje ka mankhwala; tere inu muzi mka mupempha. Ndipo tsalani.”

“Eya.”

Tsono kutada adadya nsima nagona mwachikondwerero chachikulu.

Kutacha m’mâwa atate a Nthondo adatuluka kukaona kamwanako. Motero mkazi wawo adanena kuti, “Usiku mwanayu analira kwambiri; choncho pitani kapempheni matumbo a simba.”

“Kodi! Chabwino, ndipo uzani mwana andipatse madzi kuti ndisambe msangamsanga ndizipita kukadali m’mâwa.

Ndiganiza a Dziko ali nawo matumbowo chifukwa adapha simba nthawi yamalimweyi.”

Adaimirira pomwepo napita kunyumba. Kumeneko adati kwa mwanayo, “Fulumira iwe; ndingakapeze atapita . kumowa.”

Mwanayo adapereka madzi kwa atate ake, nasamba msangamsanga ndi kupita kumeneko mofulumira. Atafika adafunsa za a Dziko ndipo adawapeza pabwalo. Adaawai.tana ndi kuwapempha matumbowo.

Atafotokoza zonse zimene adabwerera, a Dziko adaseka nati, “A! Mnzanga, sudziwa mankhwala ena kodi amene alowa m’malo mwa matumbo a simba?”

“Eya.”

“A! Sindiwe ndoda, suja uli nawo ana aakazi koma sunakulebe?”

“Eya.”

“Kuno matumbo a simba adatha, koma kaphe khoswe ndipo matumbo akewo ndiwo mankhwala.”

“Zikomo.”

“Linda pang’ono, udye nafe nsima.”

“Chabwino.”

Atadya nsimayo, adalaŵira napita kwavo. Atafika kwavo, adabwereka khasu nakumba makoswe m’nyumba mwake. Atatero adapereka kwa mkazi wake kuti aziponya m’phala la mwanayo namamdyetsa masiku onse.

Bwino lake m’maŵa wina, apongozi a tateyo adabwera m’nyumba m’mene mudali iye nayamba kufotokoza zimene adadzera.

“Lero anthu amene anali m’chikuta atuluka.”

“Alipo angati?”

“Alipo anayi.”

“Chabwino, ndamva.”

Tsono apongoziwo adaimirira napita kunyumba. Pamene po atate ake a Nthondo adayamba kulingirira za dipo loyenera kupereka kwa anamwinowo. Kotero adatuma ana kukapempha nkhuku kwa abwenzi awo. Adalindira mpaka madzulo.

Pamene dzuwa litafunda m'mawa, akazi adatuluka m'chikutamo nabwereka lumo, nameta tsitsi lonse loyamba la mwanayo.

Wina adati, "Kodi palibe bwazi?"

"Ulipo."

"Patseni ndipote tizingwe kuti timveke mwanayu."

Pamenepo atalandira bwazi winayo adayamba kupota tizingwe namanga mwanayo topanda mkanda nati, "Anzanga, pitani. Zikomo. Chuma ndibwera nacho madzulo ano, koma mwanayu mumsamale." Adamwazikana onsewo.

Atate ake a Nthondo atamva mawuwa kwa apongozi awo aja, adatenga mpeni waukulu ndi nkhwangwa napita kukatema misanjo ya kama. Atadzatula adapitanso kukafuna lusi ndi tsekera. Atatsiriza adabwera nazo zonse pabwalo paja nayamba kuluka tchika.

Wina adati, "Muchita nalo chiyani tchikali?"

"Paja kunyumba kuli mwana ndipo akazi atulukako lero."

"Kodi! Ndinaiwala. Nanga iwe umagona kuti?"

"Kanyumba ako!"

"Bwanji kuluma m'menemo?"

"Leka mnzanga, muli nsikidzi muja."

Atatsiriza kuluka tchikalo adalinganiza bwino zonse kuti mkazi wakeyo azikagonapo ndi mwanayo. Madzulo, ana amene adatumidwawo adabwera nazo nkhukuzo, nazipereka kwa atate a Nthondo. Tsuno iwo adazipereka kwa apongozi awo kuti akazigawire anamwino. Atatha kuwagawira adabwerera kunyumba kwawo.

Atatuluka naye mwanayo m'chikuta adayamba kuvutana chifukwa cha kutcha dzina. Ena adati, "Titche ndife," ena adati, "Iyayi, koma ife." Pamenepo padali kukangana kwambiri, koma poweruzana bwino adati, "Chabwino, mutche ndinu akuchimuna."

Motero iwo adavomera namutcha mwanayo Nthondo, ndilo dzina la atate ake aakulu. Zitatha za dzinalo adamwazikana.

Litameranso tsitsi la mwanayo akazi adapangana kuti amuundire liwombo. Onse adavomerezana nafuna mankhwala ndi kuwatentha; adammeta ndi kutenga mankhwalawo nasakaniza pamodzi ndi mafuta nachitira liwombo la mwanayo ndi kumudulira mduliro.

M'mâwa kutacha mkazi adayamba kukamba ndi atate ake a Nthondo nati, "Kodi inu, simudziâwa mankhwala oika m'phala kapena mungoganiza za matumbo a khoswe okhâwa?"

"Kodi pofunsa chotere uyesa kuti ine sindikumbukira?"

"Iyayi, ndikungokukumbutsani popeza nthâwi yapitapo."

"Ayi, ine ndikukumbuka."

Tsono mwamunayo adapita nakakumba mizu ya timitengo tina naRereka kwa mkazi wake kuti aike m'phala la mwanayo. Iwo adakhala motero masikuwo.

Itafika nthâwi yakuti Nthondo wasanduka mwana wonyamulidwa ndi munthu aliyense amayi ake adatenga bwazi napota chingwe, natungirako mkanda. Pambuyo pake adaduladula tizingwe tomwe adatimanga m'miyendo, m'manja ndi m'chiuno mwa mwanayo ndi kumveka mkanda mmalo mwa zingwezo. Tsopano adakondwera popeza adali mwana wamphamu.

Apongozi aja adamtenga Nthondo nati, "Ha! Mphamvu ati!" Anansi ake onse a mkaziyo adakondwera koposa chifukwa cha mwanayo.

M'mâwa poothera dzuâwa m'khonde atate ake a Nthondo adafunsa mkazi waho pamene amatsira m'nyumba nati,

"M'khondemo!"

"Wuuu!"

"Kodi mwanayu tipita naye liti kwa anzake a dzina?"

"Indedi, chifukwa masiku ano akungoonera kunjira kuti, iwoâwa mwanayu abwera naye liti?"

"Nanga iwe bwanji osakonola lero kuti tipite naye mâwa?"

"Nanga nkuku mwafuna kodi?"

"Iyayi, konola, ngakhale zidatha ndi chideru, nkuku

ndifunafuna kwina, kapena ndingotenga imene ndidatenga kuntchito kuja.”

“Chabwino, ingotengani yomwe ija.”

Mkaziyo atatha kutsira adatenga Nthondo namsungitsa atate ake. Adaloŵa m'nhokwe nafuna tsokwe. Atatonola, adayamba kukonola. Atatsiriza adafulula phala lagaga napatsako atate ake a Nthondo. M'mâwa adanyamuka ulendo atatenga nkhuku ija ndi lipande m'chitete nakafika nalo kwa anzake a dzina a Nthondo.

Atafika naye Nthondo anthu adakondwera kwambiri. Adamutenga ndi kumbereka. Kenaka adauza mwana wina kuti apitikitse chitambala. Atachigwira adachipha nachiphikira alendowo.

Adagonako masiku angapo kumeneko, ndipo atapuma adati, “Lero tipita kwathu.”

Powayankha adaŵauza kuti, “Lindani, tikupatseni ufa kuti mukadye.”

Tsono adaŵasinjira naŵapatsa pamodzi ndi nkhuku nati, “Nkhukuyi, ine ndapatsa mwanayo kuti mukamuŵetere, osakamudyera ayi.”

Onse adavomera nalaŵirana nawo mosangalala. Atafika kumudzi adaonananso ndi anthu omwe adaŵasiya. Nthondo adanenepa koposa.

“M'mâwa wina atate a Nthondo adati kwa mkazi wawo, “Kodi mwanayu aleredwa ndi yani?”

Mkaziyo adati, “Mwanayu sindifuna aleredwe ndi munthu Wina chifukwa atamgwetsa sangathe kunena kuti mwanayu anagwa. Kaya kapena amlere ndimwana wathu wamkaziyu.”

“Eya, mwanayu amleredi ndimlongo wakeyu.”

“Nanga mbereko tiitenga kuti?”

“Ha! Mbereko ingathe kusôwa kodi? Nanga mbuzi yoyerayi?”

“Ha! Yoyerayi ine sindifuna.”

“Chifukwa nchiyani?”

“Ha! Monga nyama?”

“Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Undiseketsa, iwe. Chabwino,

ndikupha mbuzi yakudayi!”

“Chabwino.”

M'mâwa adapha mbuziyo nasenda mberekoyo naifufuta nkuikometsa ndi mikanda ndi zingwe Zina nazitcha dzina la makometserôwa, Kanyaza (ndiko kukhumbiza ena amene alibe mwana). Motero adaipatsa mwana waho wamkulu wamkazi mberekoyo kuti aziberekera Nthondo. Mwana waho adakondwera kwambiri kulera mlongo wake wakhandayo. Kawirikawiri amamka nayenda naye ali kumbuyo. Akamva njala amamfululira Phala nammwetsa. Akalira amamka naye kwa amake kuti akamuyamwitse. Nthondo akalira amamuimbira nyimbo zija za alezi zakuti:

Lu! Lu! Lu! Lu! Lu! Lu!

Mwana alira, alira amake,

Wamka kumadzi. Lu! Lu! Lu! Mlezi

*wa rnwana ndikamtanda; Make
ndikamthiko.*

*Tate wake komba m'nhali, Lu! Lu! Lu!
ndi Birimankhwe liza mkonono, mwana agone.*

Pomuimbira nyimbo zimenezi Nthondo amaleka kulira namamvera nyimbozo.

Atakulirapo Nthondo adayamba kukwawa. Tsiku lina amake a Nthondo adapita kumunda ndi mwana waho yemwe adatenga Nthondo kumbuyo.

Pobwera mwana wamkaziyo adasenza Nthondo paphewa ndipo ataona amayi ake adayamba kumkalipira, “Bwanji usenza mwana wanga paphewa, kapena ufunu kuti mwanayu ayambe kumera mano am'mwamba? Sudziŵa kuti mwana osayenda akamutengera paphewa amayambira mano m'mwamba?”

Mwanayo adayamba kulira koma adaleka msanga atafika kumudzi. Patapita masiku mleziyo adayamba kuyendetsa mwanayo. Mwina Nthondo amalira chifukwa chokana kuphunzira kuyenda. Koma mbale wake amamukakamiza, namaimba kuti, “Da! Da! Kaliyenda!” Motero Nthondo adakhoza kuyenda bwinobwino.

Nthaŵi yamasika Nthondo adayamba kudwala. Adamuyesera mankhwala a litsipa koma matenda adali momwemo osaleka.

Tsono atate ake adamka kwa mkulu wina, nayamba kupempha mankhwala, “Patseni mankhwala chifukwa mwana wanga akudwala.”

“Wamkulu?”

“Iyayi, wakhanda.”

“Kodi iwe sudziŵa kuti nyengo ino ana amasauka ndi mauka?”

“Kudziŵa ndimadziŵa pang'ono.”

“Iwe sindiwe wamkulu ndipo sudziŵa mankhwala a mauka?”

“Inde.”

“Kodi m'manja mwa mwanayo mwalawamo, muzuna?”

“Iyayi, chifukwa sindimadziŵa.”

“Munthu ukamakula uyenera kumadziŵa zitsamba popeza mwina matenda otero angabwere muli kutali ndi anansi. UCAPEZA mwana afunda chifuwa chokhachokha ndi mauka amenewo. Chabwino, pita kwanu ukakumbe bwazi, chivumulo, chipekaukazi ndi masoang'ombe. UKASAKANIZE ndi maluŵa ndipo uzikamsambitsa potuluka dzuŵa utampenyetsa komweko, polowanso chimodzimodzi, padzala. Wamva kodi?”

“Eya, ndamva.”

“Chabwino, pita kayese.”

Choncho atate a Nthondo adapita kwawo nakakumba mankhwalawo ndi kuŵathira m'mbiya atamanga chikunje. Masiku onse amamusambitsa Nthondoyo mpaka adayumba kunenepa pang'onopang'ono popeza matendawo adosokonezeke ndi uturnbidža ndipo adamuthera mphamvu kwambiri. Bwino lake adapempha ena mankhwala a utumbidwa, adaphika mizuyo pamodzi ndi nkhuku. Itapsa nkhukuyo adamupatsa Nthondo kuti adye minofu yokhaokha, mafupa naŵatentha, nathirako mchere kuti achite khundabwi, namamuthirira m'ndiwo.

Atayesa masiku ambiri Nthondo adayamba kukhala bwino. Adanenepa ndi kumayenda bwino lomwe.

Makolo ake a Nthondo ndiwo a mtundu wa Anyanja umene utchedwa mtundu wa Amalawî amene adali m'mphepete mwa Nyanja ya Malawî chakuzambwe kwake. Adakhala kumeneko panthaŵi yakale mmene anthu adayamba kulowa m'dziko muno. Koma adachoka namka kukakhala kudziko la mapiri kutsata chimanga. Kumenko ndiko kumene Nthondo adabadwira.

Atsibweni ake a Nthondo adali mfumu yaikulu. Anthu pofika pakhomu pawo amaopa chifukwa cha kuopsa kwawo. Mwina munthu akachita zosayenera pamaso pawo, kapena kuoneka ngati wamunyoza amamgwira ndi kumumenya makofu kapena kumupha. Anthu achabe samacheza parnaso pa mfumu kapena kunyumba kwake. Anthu aakuluakulu ndi nduna ndiwo adali abwenzi a mfumu. Tsono Nthondo adali mphwake wa mfumu yoopsa chotere. Mfumuyo idakondwera koposa ndi Nthondo popeza mphwake adali yemweyo ngakhale adali mwana. Kaŵirikaŵiri amamuitanitsa mwanayo namandalitsa chifukwa choganiza kuti ndiye adzakhale mfumu m'malo mwake.

Tsono chifukwa adali mwana, mfumu idati, “Akadzakula ndidzamusunga ndine mwana ameneyu.” Momwemo Nthondo adali mwana wokondedwa ndi anthu ambiri.

Masiku amenewo kudalibe nsalu monga zimene tiziona makonozi. Anthu aamuna amavala chikumba cha mbuzi choseddedwa bwino chofika m'miyendo. Amachifufuta bwino chikumbacho kuti chikhale chofewâ, chosacheka m'miyendo. Dzina lake amati nguwo. Akazi amatafuna bwazi kuti ukhale ngati thonje. Mwina akafuna kuti ukwane msanga amafulula mowa nagulana ndi chingwe chopotapota kufikira mathevule ambiri. Akatero tsono amaomba nacho nsalu dzina lake dewere. Atate ake a Nthondo ndiwo adali eni ake a luso loombera deŵerelo. Aluso sadali ochuluka kalelo. Masiku onse atate ake a Nthondo samaona nthaŵi yapadera. Amangoti wina pangireni dewere; winanso pangireni dewere. Motero kuti

nkhuku zidadzaza m'nyumba mwawo, koma zidatha ndi chideru panthaŵi imene adabadwa Nthondo. Nthawî imene adaŵagwira msirikali uja adachita kuwatenga pamene amapanga dewaterelo.

Adalephera kukana kuti, “Tayeni!... tayeni!”

“Unama iwe tiye!”

Akumka nawo, anzawo opanda luso adali atathawâ kale. Mwana wawo adawafunsa tsiku lina kuti, “Atate, nchiyani mupangachi?”

“Dêwere.”

“Kuti muchite nalo chiyani?”

“Kodi sunaone chimene avala amayi wakochi?”

“Kodi! Atere?”

“Eya.”

“Ködi ife tizidzapanga deŵere tikadzakula?”

“Iyayi, anzathu mwabadwa masiku ena.”

Tsiku limenelo Nthondo adafunsa mafunso ambiri akuubwana, koma atate ake adamuyankha bwino, osamukalipira.

Pamtundu wawo wa atate ake a Nthondo adalipo anayi. Tsiku lina adalandira chimanga chofiira kuwauza za tchire. Tsono kutacha mmodzi wa iwo adati, “Ine mawa ndipita kukaona tchire limene atiuzali.” Kutacha iyeyu adapita kukaona tchirelo. Adayamba kutentha tchirelo. Pamene lidayamba kutha adamva kufuula, “Nchiyani?”

“Nyalubwe!”

Atamva mbale wa atate ake a Nthondo adati, “Ha! Kunama lero!” Motero adayamba kuthamanga napezako anthu ena olimba mtima ali nda nda nda! Pamenepo iye adalimba mtima nayamba kubaya nyalubweyo. Nyalubwe akuti, “Wanama iwe.” Ndipo adayamba kumupitikitsa munthuyo namukwera; ndiye amayi! Tsikuli akadafa, koma adamuthyola phewa lake. Mbiri idamveka m'mudzi ndipo atate ake a Nthondo adamva kuti mbale wawo wajiya ndi nyalubwe, choncho adathamangirako napeza nyalubwe ataphedwa kale.

Tsono adati, “Ha! Chisoni! Tiyeni tipange machira.”

Motero adapanga machirawo napita kwa mwini tchirelo. Atafika adaonetsa wolumidwayo nati, “Mudatiitanira chilombo.” Pamene po eni ake a tchire adapereka mkanda kuvomera mlanduwo ndipo atate ake a Nthondo adalandira mkandawo nayamba kupita kwavo ndi munthu wolumidwayo. Pofika kumudzi adatenga mvukuto nayamba kuvukutira m’mawala a mbaleyo. Atayesayesa masiku ambiri mbale wawoyo adachira ndipo onse aja adakondwera koposa.

M’maŵa atate ake a Nthondo ndi abale awo ena adapita kwa eni tchire nayamba kuŵaimba mlandu chifukwa cha mbale wawo amene adalumidwayo. Tsono eni tchirewo adapereka mbuzi zinayi kulipira balalo. Chomwecho adalandira chumacho napita kwavo. M’maŵa mwina atate a Nthondo adanyamula Nthondo napita naye pabwalo pamene padali abale awo enawo.

Adayamba kuyankhula kuti, “Lero ndifuna kudziŵa mmene mudajiwira inu, mudatani?”

“Anzanga amene ndidali nawo adandisiya ine pamene nyalubwe adayamba kundipitikitsa,” adatero mbale wa atate a Nthondo.

Atakambiranakambirana adayamba kuweruzana ndi kuti, “Abale anga, lero ndifuna kukulangizani. Musamamvere ena amene sadziŵika, amene angofuna kuputira anzawo zoopsa panthawî yopitikitsa zoopsa monga mikango ndi nyalubwe, koma ngati tili pamodzimodzi okhulupirirana mitima apo ndipo.”

Onsewo adavomerezana kuti, “Zoonadi.”

Khomo la atate ake a Nthondo lidali lachikoka choposa. Anthu okamba nawo sadaŵasôwa chifukwa chokhala kubwalo kwavo kopangira madewere aja. Mwina ena amamwazikana, koma iwo iyayi. Munthu amene waungu lumwa amangopita komweko kukacheza nawo zina ndi zina. Masiku ambiri Nthondo amakhala ndi atate ake kubwaloko, mwina amakhala ndi atsibweni ake, mfumuyo. Chokoma china cha atate ake a Nthondo ndicho chakuti ngakhale achuluke chotani anthu, koma onsewo amakhuta.

Chomwecho anthu ambiri poona zimene amachita atate a Nthondo amabwera nazo mphatso zawo monga nkhuku, mbuzi ndi nkhsosa. Kotero atate ake a Nthondo adaleméra.

Atate ndi atsibweni ake a Nthondo adakondana kwambiri. Choncho atate ake a Nthondo samafunsa poswa mphanje chifukwa pokwatira mlongo wake wa mfumu, ltdakwatira dziko.

M'mâwa mwina mkamwini wa munthu wina adaletsa atate ake a Nthondo nati, "Musalime apa chifukwa ndilimapo ndine." Chomwecho atate ake a Nthondo adavomera namulekera ndi kumuza kuti, "Kalime, pansi salimbirana." Machitidwe onseŵa Nthondo amapenya.

M'mâwa atate a Nthondo adayamba kudwala litsipa laching'lang'ala. Adayesayesa mankhwala amitundu ya, nbiri, koma matendawo osatha ayi. Ena adabwera nacho chimbalu cha mtengo wong'aluka ndi mphezi. Ena adatenga zitsa za m'njira kufuna kuti kapena akhale bwino. Ha! Iyayi kungosauka.

Chomwecho amake a Nthondo adadzifunsa kuti, "Kodi ine nditani?" Pomwepo adapita kwa alongo awo ena (ang'ono a rnfumu ija popeza ndiwo adali nkhswe ya kuchikazi) ndipo adati, "Ine ndada nkhaŵa chifukwa cha matenda a amuna angawa, kodi sibwino kuti Inukauze nkhswe zakuchimuna zoti tikaombeze kuti akafa amunaŵa akwawo angatizenge mlandu?"

Mlongo wawo wa amake a Nthondo adati, "Inde, nzoonadi kuti tipiteko mâwa kwawo kwa mwamunayo kuti tikaombeze. Ine sindikana, koma mufune mkanda, tipitc ndithu. Ndikadafuna ndine koma ndidamva amake a Buthu dzulo kuti mkanda wawo udasôwa, kapena adaba khoswe.

"Chabwino, ndibwera nawo mâwa," adatero amake a Nthondo.

M'mâwa kutacha onsewo adapita kwa nkhswe zaku chimuna. Atafikako adalonjerana nawo bwino ndi kuŵafunsa chomwe adadzera. Nkhoswe yakuchikazi idafotokoza kuti onse apite kukaombeza maula. Zitamva nkhswe akuchimuna zidavomereza zonsezo ndipo zidapita.

Atatha eni ake a pamudzipo adati, “Baimani pang'ono tikokere fodya. Chinanso ndicho kuti tikauzezo ena.” Atatero adapita kunyumba kukaŵafotokozerwa anthu ena ndipo iwonso adavomereza kuti apite akaombeze.

Tsono onse adanyamuka napita kwa munthu amene amaombeza. Atafikako mwini maula adaŵafunsa kuti, “Mwatsata chiyani?”

Mmodzi wa iwo adati, “Kwathu kuli matenda ndipo tifuna tidziŵe chifukwa chake.”

Pomwepo mwini ulayo atamva adavomera. Adalôwa m'nyumba natenga ula wake, nawaitanira m'nyumbamo nayamba kugogoda ula wakewo nanena, “Talota mtengo, Nchiyani? Galu wakwera patsindwi?” Anthu osayankha. “Nkhuku yakwera patsanja?” Anthu chete osayankhabe. “Chidani kodi?” Ndipo onse akuchikazi adaomba m'manja. Mwini adaleka maula kuombeza nati, “Fotokozani kuli zotani kwanu?”

Mkaziyo adati, “Inde, masiku awa ine ndi alongo anga amene ali kumudziku tidavutana tsiku lina chifukwa cha nkhuku imene imakagona m'nyumba mwanga. Pamene nkhukuyo idasôwa iwoŵa amaganiza kuti ndidadya ndine ndipo pamenepo tidalankhuzana kwambiri. Chifukwa chimenecho chidalimo mumtima mwanga.”

Pamenepo mwini maula adati, “Inde, mawu onse amveka. Chabwino, pitani kumudzi mukakhwisule, mzimu wa agogo ukagone.” Onse adavomera naperekwa mkanda kwa mwini maulayo namulaŵira.

Atafika kumudzi kwawo adayamba kulongosola kwa otsalawo za mawu amene adanena woombezayo. Adaitana mlongo wakeyo popeza iyeyo ndiye amene ula udamugwira. Atamfotokozerwa adayamba kudandaula natuluka chokwiya m'nyumbamo. Atafika kunyumba kwake adakayamba kulira. Nthâwi yomwe amalirayo, atsibweni ake adapita ku milimo ya nyumba yawo. Atafika adamva kulirako ndipo pofunsa adamva kuti akulira chifukwa ula udamugwera. Choncho atamva adamka komweko nayamba kumukalipira kuti, “Iwe ndiwe mfiti.”

Madzulo adamuitana amene udamugwera ulayo namuuza kuti akathire madzi (kukhwisula) pamtengo. Chomwecho adawaitana onse a banja limenelo naŵafotokozena kuti, “Tinapita kumaula ndife ndipo ulawo wagwira uyu. Mwini ulayo watiuza kuti tithire madzi.” Atatha kufotokoza wina adavumata madzi ndi kulavulira pomwepo, patsinde la mtengo. Adauzanzo amene adagwidwa ndi ulayo kuti avumatenso madzi ndi kulavulira pomwepo. Atatero adayamba kupembedza mizimu ya agogo motere:

“Pepani ife tabwera pano ana anu amene tikhala kubwalo kwa dzuŵa kuno ndipo inu ndinu amene mukhala kumvula.”

Anthu onse adati, “Pepa!”

“Ife kâwirikâwiri timalakwa, mwina kudana, mwina kuphana, choncho inu musakwiye chifukwa cha zimene tichita ife ndikufuna kutipherapo ena chifukwa mudziŵa kuti ife ndife ana anu ndithu.”

“Pepa!”

“Taonani tabwera chifukwa cha mwana wanu uyu, chifukwa chakuti adadana ndi mlongo wake, ndipo tidziŵa kuti tidalakwa mutikhululukire, kanthu tibwera nako mâwa.”

“Pepa!”

“Amene akudwalayo tadziŵa kuti ndinu mudakwiya. Kodi mukatikwiyira inu nokha okhala kumvula ife tidzatani?... Tikhululukireni.”

“Pepa!”

M'mâwa adapita mawere, ndi kusinja uta naphika nsima, ndiwo yake idali nyama ya nkuku ndi mbuzi. Madzulo adapita nayo nsimayo ndi kunena kuti, “Tabwera ndi nsima imeneyi kuti mudye.”

Kutacha adapita pamtengo naona nyerere zambiri zikudya nsimayo ndi nyama ija nadziŵa kuti, “Ha! Zikomo. watidyerako gogo.” Tsono adatenga makombo ake natsiriza kudya.

Tsiku linzakelo matenda a atate ake a Nthondo adakula kwambiri mpaka adakomoka, ndipo mkazi wawo adatunga

madzi ndi kuŵathira m'thupi lonse. Atâwathira .madziwo adatsitsimuka ndi kufunsa kuti, “Kodi Nthondo ali muno?”

“Eya,” adayankha mayi wake.

Apo atate ake adati, “Nthondo, ine ndikufa. Mwanawе, leka magwiragwira chifukwa amapha manja; mapenyapenya amapha maso.”

Nthondo adamva chisoni choposa. Adadziŵa kuti atate ake adamukonda kwambiri, koma anali kufa, Ha'. Zachisoni. PamenePO atatewo adavutika natsirizika. Zitatero adatenga madzi ndi kuŵatsuka ndi kuitana ena a pamudzipo nayamba kubuma. Ha! Chisoni m'mudzi monsemo pokumbukira ntchito zaho ndi luntha lija. Atabuma adayamba kukanena kwina kumene kudali anansi awo. Atafika anansi a wakufayo adaliralira naleka. PamenePO adaitana atsibweni ake a Nthondo nayamba kukamba milandu. Adaŵakumbutsa za maula aja kuti adagwira iwo.

Akuchikazi adavomera nati, “Inde, ife ndife olakwa.” Tsono adapereka mkanda kuti malirowo akaikidwe ndipo za milandu adzalipira pambuyo. Atavomerezana wina adatuluka m'nyumbamo nakauza anyamata kuti akabwereke makasu kuti azikakumba manda. Anyamata onse m'mudzimo adasonkhana ndi kuyamba kupita kumandako.

Popita kumanda mtsogoleri adatenga mwala naponya komweko nati, “Tikubwera uko.” Osakhalitsa anyamatawo adafika kumandako nayamba kukumba mudzi. Pokumba adaona kuti mwala waukulu udayala m'katimo koti mpakana adafuna kuleka kuti ayambe pena, koma mkulu wina adaŵadzudzula ndi kuti, “Nanga mukaleka dzenje limeneli lidzakhala la yani?” Simudziŵa kuti azimu amapha wina. Ha! Opusa inu.”

Atamva izi anyamatawo adaptirizabe kukumba mandawo. Mmene amuna amakumba manda akazi amasinja ufa nayamba kuphika nsima ya adzukulu. Ndipo amachita chingondo, ndiko kuti amatenga ufa nasokoneza ndi madzi ndi kuyamba kudzoza ena ufawo. Akazi ena amathaŵa pomwe ena amathamangitsa othaŵawo kuti onse adzozedwe.

Mudali phokoso lalikulu m'mudzimo. Atatha kuphika nsimayo adakapereka kwa adzukuluwo kumandako ndipo onsewo adayamba kudya. Pomwe amuna amadya akazi adayamba kututa miyala ndi kukaika kumandako. tsono atamaliza zonse wina adapita kumka nakaŵadziŵitsa kuti amaliza kukumba ndi kuti akudzanyamula mfumuyo (malirowo).

Tsono mnyamatayo adauza anzake kumandako kuti akanyamule malirowo. Mnyamata wina yemwe adapempha kuti amugaŵire mitanda iŵiri ya nsima adayamba kuti, "Uje nsima iyi," koma anzake onse sadavomere; nangoitaya kudzinjako. Tsono onsewo adaimirira kukanyamula malirowo. Atalôwa adanyamula malirowo. Ena adatenga uta wawo pomwe ena adatenga kaligo ndi chuma chawo china kuti apite nacho eni ake.

Atafika kumandako adatsitsira m'dzenjemo malirowo. Ena adatenga mkalo (dothi la kumanda) naika m'manja mwa Nthondo naponya momwemo kuti aiŵale; ndipo ena adaponyanso lawo dothilo. Atatero adathyolathyola chuma chonsecho ndi kuponya m'dzenjemo nayamba kufotsera. Atatsiriza zonsezo adamwazikana ndi kubwerera kunyumba ya munthu womukayo (siŵa). Makasu adabwera nawo ogulula. Kumudziko adasolola zinyatsi ndi kuyamba kuŵaula makasuwo kuchotsa azimu. Onsewo adaima pakhomopo ndipo eni malirowo adaŵauza kuti azigona mumtanda.

Madzulo kutada anyamata onsewo adayamba kugona pamtanda ndipo padalibe mmodzi wosowéka. Akadapezekwa akadamukalipira kuti, "Watidula." Pamtandapo anyamatawo adayamba kukamba nkhani. Mwinanso amascka mnyamata amene adataya nsima kudzinja kuja. Amamunena kuti, "Menyerekoo adataya nsima kudzinja."

M'mâwa kutacha akuluakulu adayamba kukamba milandu ya maula ija. Mnyamata yemwe udamugwira ulayo adalipa mbuzi naiika kuti ikhale mbuzi yakumitu yodyedwa ndi ana okhaokha. Tsiku lotsatiralo adameta malirowo. Amake a Nthondo adavala zingwe kumutu kwawo kutsimikiza

chisoni. Tsono adatenganso mbuzi ina naipatsa amene adafotsera malirowo. Zitateronso onse adatuluka pamtanda patsiku lomwelo. Kuyambira pomwepo mwanayo, Nthondo, amakhala ndi amake mwachisoni, koma adakondana kwambiri ndi kusangalatsana. Udapita mwezi umodzi ndi watheka akazi akadalira malirowo osasamba, kapena kudzola mafuta, koma amangokhala otuŵa.

Zitachitika izi adaviika chimera ndipo chitafuka adapangana kuti afulule mowa kuti amete malirowo. Kenaka adauza ena kuti akalalikire kumidzi ina za mowawo. Tsiku limene adaphika mowalo adayamba kulira gule usiku okhaokha. Mayi wosiyidwayo adayamba kupereka nsupo kwa gule wawoyo. Adavina masiku atatu ndipo tsiku lachinayi adasonkhana anthu kudzamwa mowa. Atatha kumwa ena adatenga lumo ndi kumumeta mayi wake wa Nthondo pamodzi ndi ena a pamtundu wawo. Atatha kumetako anansi a atate ake a Nthondo adaitana akulu a pamudzipo ndipo adayamba kukamba nawo milandu ya mkazi wosiyidwayo.

Adati, “Ife tikupita lero ndipo mkaziyu akwatiwe, azisamba, koma tifuna chipinda tchika.”

Onsewo adavomera napereka mbuzi yakuti mkaziyo adafetsa mwamuna. Adafunsa zakuti wina alowe m'nyumbamo, koma amake a Nthondo adakana nanena cuti, “Ine ndine nkhalamba sindingakwatiwenso.”

MUTU III

Ubwana Wake

Masiku amaenewo iwo awiri sadakhale mokondwa chifukwa umphawi udawadzera koposa. Kale adalinso amphaŵi, koma malinga nkuti atate ake a Nthondo adalipo amapita kwa abwenzi nabwera nacho chimene amachifuncho. Atate ake a Nthondo adali owo lowa manja chifukwa cha ufulu wawo uja. koma itafika nthâwi ya umasiye Nthondo ndi mayi ake amasôwa ngakhale nkhuku zomwe osanga ngati adali ndi nkhuku zambiri. Nthâwi zina amasôwa chimanga choti akonole kuti angathe kusinja ndi kuphika nsima. Kaŵirikâwiri amagona ndi njala, koma mwina Nthondo yekha amaitanidwa kwa atsibweni ake nakhuta iye yekha. Mwina amamugawîra kumanja kuti akapatse mayi wake. Mwinanso amasôwa munthu woti angawamangire nyumba yawo, kapena kuŵakonzera tsindwi la nyumba yawo likathyoka, koma ena amawthandiza pang'ono. Pomwepo amake a Nthondo amalingilira za amuna awo, makhalidwe awo, mayankhulidwe awo, kusasôwa kwawo, luso lawo, anthu okamba nawo, kukondana ndi zina zotero. Chifukwa cha ichi amake a Nthondo adayamba kuonda ndipo adalibe thupi osakhalanso ngati kale amaphata pakhomu pa nyumba pang'ono.

Nayenso Nthondo amachita chisoni choposa poona kuti amake samasangalala. Mwina amakana nsima amkewo akampatsa. Akamfunsa chimene amakanira nsima iye amangoti kuhkosi kwake kwada. Amake samadziwa kuti Nthondo amakana nsima chifukwa cha chisoni. Chikondano chawo chidali choposa; amene waona chakudya amatengerako mnzake.

Nthondo adayamba kukulapo ndipo masiku ena adayamba kukaseŵera ndi anzake ena. Nthâwi zambiri

amakonda kukasewera kumchenga pamodzi ndi anzake. Kaŵirikaŵiri amakaphunzira kuimba ng'oma. Mwina Nthondo amakasewera maseŵera ena mpaka adakula nakhala mwana wochenjerapo. Tsiku Iina pokumana ndi mnzake wamkulupo adayamba kukambirana motere:

“Kodi Nthondo umagona kuti?”

“Ndimagona kwa amayi.”

“Munthu wamkulu, bwanji umagona m'kuka?”

“Palibe kanthu.”

“Usamagona m'kuka ungadzasanduke chitsiru.”

“Inde, mnzanga wandiuba nzeru zabwino. Ndibwera madzulo ano, koma poyamba ndikalaŵire kwa amayi.”

Kutada Nthondo adalinga kunyumba kwa amayi ake kukalaŵira kuti afuna azikagona kumphala. Poyamba adayamba wadya ndipo atatsiriza adati, “Amayi, ine ndikayamba kugona kumphala lero.”

Amake adati, “Nanga muno utulukiranji?”

“Iyayi, sindifuna ine chifukwa anzanga angamandiseke kuti ndine munthu wogona m'kuka.”

Chomwecho amake adamlola nati, “Chabwino, pita kagone koma sudzagonanso muno.”

Nthondo adakondwera kwambiri napita kumphala ndi chimwemwe. Pofika pakhommo adaodira kuti, “Zikomo!” Ndipo anzake adamuyankha kuti aloŵe.

Anzakewo adamfunsa kuti, “Lero mwabwera m'mphala muno?”

“Eya.”

“Mwachoka kumalo kosaluma?”

“Eya.”

“Mwatsata mphutsi?”

“Ha! Palibe kanthu, nanga enawâ amapirira bwanji?”
Chomwecho Nthondo adamlola kugona nawo m'mphala.

Masiku ambiri anzake a Nthondo amaweta mbuzi ndi nkhosa, koma iye amangokhala. Madzulo ena cheza chili ngwe anzake akuchokera kubusa, amaimba nyimbo yotere:

*Opanira mphika ali chete,
Ife tangosauka,
Opanira mphika ali chete.*

Pomwepo Nthondo adakhumbira koposa ndipo adäti mumtimi mwake, “Ngakhale ine ndilibe mbuzi kapena nkhosa ndizikabusa za atsibweni anga,” kunena mfumu ija. M’mawā kutacha Nthondo adapita kwa atsibweni ake ndipo adaŵauza kuti, “Masulani mbuzi, lero ndikaziŵeta ndine.”

Atsibweni ake adavomera popeza panyengo imeneyo nkuti chimanga chikadali nsoka, choyamba kumera tsopano. Chifukwa chake anthu amamanga ziŵeto zaho paudzu. Nthaŵi itakwana Nthondo adamasula mbuzi za atsibweni ake napita nazo kubusa mokondwera.

Pofika kubusako anzake onse adakondwera nati, “Ha! Lero tachuluka, tizingoti, uje kabwezepo.” Tsiku limenelo anzake adachita zambiri zomkopa mtima wake. Madzulo kutada onse adayamba kusonkhanitsa mbuzi ndi nkhosa kuti azipita kumudzi. Onsewo adapita kwavo akuimba nyimbo. Atafika kumudzi Nthondoyo adalow̄etsa mbuzizo; atatha adapita kwa amake kukafunsa gaga. Pamene amake adampatsa gaga adafunsayo adanyamula napita naye kumphala. Kumeneko onse adadya gagayo pamodzi mokondwera. Ana enanso adatenga nsima zaho nadyeranso limodzi.

Anawo amakhala ndi mtsogoleri wawo. Mtsogoleriyo amangotuma aliyense monga momwe wafunira. Chinthu chilichonse mtsogoleri amangolamulira osaopa wina. Ntchito yake idali kuyang'anira chabe. Mtsogoleri amasankhika pakati pawo chifukwa cha kumenyana. Amene amaposa ena kubusaku ndiye amatchedwa mtsogoleri.

Masiku ena pakasôwa ntchito amangoti, “Uje ndi uje menyanani.” Akatero enawo amangornenyana popanda chifukwa. Tsiku lina adalamulira kuti wina amenyane ndi Nthondo. Tsongo chifukwa padalibe wina womletsa winayo

adayamba kumenyana. Adamenyana makofu ndi mnzakeyo kufikira adayamba kufwirisana pamchenga.

Pamenepo mtsogoleriyo adalamuliranso kuti, “Landitsani.” Chomwecho ana ena adaimirira nalanditsa ndewuyo

Tsiku lina Nthondo adamfunsa mayi wake kuti, “Iwe, bwanji watuŵa kwambiri lero?”

Nthondo adayankha kuti, “Timasêwera.” Limenelo lidali bodza chifukwa amabisa kuti akanena kuti amamenyana mayi wake adzayamba kukalipira anzake aja, ndipo anzakewo adzamuyesa woipa. Motero Nthondo adayamba kuphunzira zoipa chifukwa chomaseŵera ndi ana osasamalaza eni ake.

Chaka china kudali njala yaikulu chifukwa kudachita chilala choopsa koteru kuti chimanga chidapserera. Pamenepo anthu ena adayamba kuchita madimba namabzalamo chimanga, minkhaka ndi mawungu.

Mwamwayi zinthu zam'madimbamo zidalola bwino. Anthu amene sadalime nawo adasôwa pogwira. Amake a Nthondo adasôwanso pogwira koma chifukwa adali mlongo wake wa mfumu sadavutike kupeza chimanga. Zakudimba zokha ndizo zimâwutapo kupeza. Anthu ena okha amene adalibe ôwathandiza amapita kukasuma chimanga. Koma anthu amene adalima madimba sadavutike pamene zinthu zam'madimba zidayamba kucha.

Tsiku lina Nthondo adamva anzake akumudzutsa namuuza kuti apite akabe misinde kumadimba. Pofuna kukondweretsa anzakewo Nthondo adavomera ndipo onse adapita kudimba kwa eniko.

Nthondo amakhalira kumbuyo kuti eni ake akamgwira adzakane kuti samaba nawo. Anzakewo adathyolathyola misindeyo nakabisa patchire ndi kuyamba kudya. Ina adákadyera m'mphala nachotsa zipsipsi (zisankhwani) zake kukataya kutali. Nthondo sadadye nawo anzake aja, koma adangoŵaperekeza chifukwa cha chikondi.

M'mphala mwawomo mudali mtundo wobooka. Kawîrikâwiri kukada usiku Nthondo amangoona kuti wina watulutsamo chithadzi chankhuku. Nangoonanso wina

tuluku pakhomo kukasosola. Pobwera nayamba kuiotcha nkhukuyo, ndipo mafuta kuti biriwiri, kafungo kati gu! Alatha kuotcha amayamba kugawana ndi kudya, koma Nthondo samadya nawo chifukwa amaopa kuti angalumale popeza nthawiyi kudali chambu chambiri. M'mawa wina Nthondo atasuzumira mumtondo adaonamo chithadzi china chamawangamawanga. Chidali chakupha kale ndipo adachibisa dala kuti adye nthawi yausiku anthu atagona. Kutada wina adatulutsa nkhukuyo nakaisosola ndi kuiotcha kenaka naidya usikuwo.

Tsiku lina amake a Nthondo adayamba kudandaula kuti, "Ha! Kalanga ine! Thadzi langa lili kuti?" Pamenepe Nthondo adadziwa kuti nkhuku imene amafunsa amayi akeyo ndiyomwe adadya anzake aja chifukwa mayi wake adanena kuti nkhukuyo idali yamawangamawanga. Komabe Nthondo sadaulule, adabisa.

Pambuyo pake Nthondo adayamba kukhumbira zimene anzake amadya m'mphalamo mpaka nayenso adayamba kuba ndiwo mazira ndi zina za m'nyumba mwa amake. Mwina amauza alongo ake kuti "Musakanene kwa amayi akabwera." Tsiku lina atakwera patsanja kuti akabe nyemba, mphika udapulumuka ndi kusweka. Atabwera amayi ake adadzapeza mphika wawo utasweka wonse. Pomwepo adamuitana Nthondo nayamba kumfunsa za amene adaswa mphikawo, koma iye adakanitsa. Ngakhale adakanitsa amayiwo adayamba kumkalipira chifukwa iwo adatsimikiza mtima kuti mphikawp adaswa ndi Nthondoyo

Zitatero Nthondo adachoka napita kumphala. Tsopano Nthondo adayamba kuwada alongo ake chifukwa chodziwa kuti amamuneneza akaba. Anthu enanso adadabwa naye Nthondo chifukwa cha kusnt a kwake, adakonda kukhala kutchire osaonekaoneka pamudzi. Nthondo adapitirira ndi khalidwe lake lakuba, kunyenga ndi bodza. Madzulo a tsiku lina lake adaona alendo ena akupita pamudzi pawopo. Alendowo adafunsa njira yolinga pamudzi pena. Atawauza za njirayo Nthondo adawalaŵira

anzake nawauza kuti akaponya mwala pammodzi wa alendowo. Anzakewo adamuuza kuti apitedi. Iye atatola mwala adathamangira njira ina yachidule ndi kubisala patchire. Adadikira mpaka alendowo atayamba kuitirira pang'ono. Kenaka Nthondo adauponya mwala uja ndi kumlasa mmodzi wa alendowo, iye nkuthawira kumudzi msangamsanga nafotokozenza anzake mokondwera kuti, "Ndamlasa wina, wangoti, 'Mayo!' Ndipo onse aima." Anzakewo adakondwera kwambiri pomva zomwe mnzawoyo adachita.

Zitatero alendowo adabwerera nafikanso m'mudzimo ndipo adafunsira nyumba ya amfumu nafotokoza kuti wina waalasa m'mudzimo. Atsibweni ake a Nthondo adaŵafunsa ngati angamloze yemwe adaŵalasayo kuti amlipitse, koma poti sadamdziŵe sadathe kumloza ndipo adangochita manyazi napita njira yakwawo.

Nthondo adakula ndi mwano kwambiri. Tsiku lina wina adamfunsa kuti, "Unali kuti, Nthondo?"

Iyeyo mwamwano adangoti, "Undifunsira chiyani?"

Mnzakeyo adati, "Ayi, ndangofunsa."

Apo Nthondo adapsa mtima nayamba kumenyana naye. Ena pomuweruza koma iye adakalipa ndi kuti, "Ine sindifuna kuti wina andiweruze." Nthondo adaipa naiŵala chikondi chomwe adali nacho pa amake nthawi yoyamba ija.

Nthondo samakhala pamudzi nthawi zambiri chifukwa cha ntchito zake zoipa. Mwina amaopa akuluakulu chifukwa amati akakhala pabwalo amawatumatuma motero Nthondo amakonda kukhala m'thengo kuthawa zimenezo kapena kungoyendayenda ndi anzake ena. Mwina amakafula njuchi kařena mwinanso amakapha mbewa. Masiku ambiri amangoti deruderu. Nthawi zina akakumana ndi ana a m'midzi ina kunsanga kapena kwina amawapitikitsa. Mwina Nthondo amamenyedwa chifukwa cha makhalidwe ake oipa. Nthawi zambiri samadya chakudya kwa amayi ake, amangodya kwina.

Kawirikawiri amake a Nthondo amasauka kwambiri ndi

ntchito. Nthâwi ina nyumba yawo idapsa popeza kukhonde kwa nyumbayo kudali kosatentha; ndipo moto umene adabutsa ana ena udatentha nyumbayi pamodzi ndi zonse zomwe zidali m'katimo. Tsiku limeneli adabwera anthu ambiri kudzazimitsa motowo. Koma angakhale kudadza anthu ochuluka sadathe kuchotsa kanthu kalikonse chifukwa moto wake udali woopsa.

Amake a Nthondo adadandaulira mwana waho koposa nati “Mwana wanga, lero tapasuka koma palibe chomwe tingachite. Tsono ngakhale kuti ndiwe wochepa ndikupempha kuti undimangire nyumba.”

Nthondo adangovomera nati, “Eya ndimanga.” Ngakhale adavomera masiku amangopita Nthondo wosamanga nyumbayo.

Ataona choncho amayi ake adapita kumudzi kumene kudali bwenzi waho kukapempha chimera chofuna kudzafululira mowâ.

Atafika kwa bwenzi wawoyo adati, “Bwenzi wanga, chimene ndabwerera kuno ndicho nyumba yanga idapsa ndi moto womwe adatentha ana ena. Kotero chuma chonse chidatha kuonongeka, osatsala ndi kanthu kamodzi komwe. Ndidayesa kuza mwana wanga Nthondo kuti andimangire nyumba, koma ha! Mwina akadali wachibwana ndiye sadalole. Choncho ndipatseko chimera pang'ono kuti ndikachite monyengerera anthu.”

Bwenzi wawoyo adaŵayankha kuti, “Ha! Kodi ndizo zidachitika kwanu? Mwana amene adayatsa motowo bwanji sudamzenge mlandu?”

Amake a Nthondo adati, “Ha! Sindingamuzenge mlandu chifukwa tili pamodzimodzi. Munthu ukakhala wobala uzilingirira za m'tsogolo.”

“Chabwino, chimeracho chilipo pang'ono, mutenge, likadakhala dzana mukadatenga chambiri, koma kudaabwera wina ndiye adatha chimerachi.” Chomwecho amake a Nthondo adakondwera pakumva kuti chimeracho chilipo. Mwini wakeyo adalowa m'nyumba natenga chimera chimene chidali m'mbiya nayamba kupeta pabwalo

popeza kafumbwfumbwe adachiononga kwambiri. Atatsiriza adachitenga nachipereka kwa bwenzi waho uja.

Amake a Nthondo atalandira chimeracho adalaŵirana nawo napita kwaho. M'mâwa adayamba kukonola chimanga chimene adapempha kwa alongo awo. M'mâwa wina adasinja mphaley nayamba kutunga madzi ofululira mowawo. Atatero adafulula mowawo m'mâwa mwake nauphika. Kenaka adasweretsa. Litapita tsiku limodzi adathiramo chimera chachiwisi. Tsiku linzakelo m'mâwa adashambula ndipo madzulo adayamba kukuntha. Chomwecho anthu apamudzipo adamva zakuti kwa amayi a Nthondo kwashambulidwa mowa. Onse adasonkhana komweko madzulo kukamwa mowawo ukadali wamoto. Atatsiriza kumwa mowawo wina adafunsa mayi wake wa Nthondo kuti alongosole kuti mowawo udali wachiyani. Mayi wake wa Nthondo adaŵafotokozerwa kuti udali wa ntchito ya nyumba. Choncho winayo atamva adapita kukaWafotokozerwa anzake onse za ntchito ya mowawo.

Onse adakondwera namwazikira kunyumba kwaho. M'mâwa kutacha adasonkhananso kuntchito ya nyumbayo kukamwera kalaŵe. Tsono ntchito idayambika, ena kukatema nsichi, ena kukamweta udzu, ena kukasenda lusi, ena kukafuna phaso lake nayamba kugulana ndi zipanda za mowa. Koma zidali zachisoni pakumva kuti, “Mowa watha tsopano.”

“Ha! Tichita chiyani?”

Anthu ena adati, “Ife tikuchoka, nanga tidzamwera chiyani?” Anthu ena onse adateronso namwazikana osamanga nyumbayo.

Pamenepo amayi ake a Nthondo adali ndi chisoni chifukwa cha kusôwa mało ndi kuchepa kwa mowa. Wina adadza kwa Nthondo nati, “Ha! Bwanji amayi ako akusauka chifukwa cha nyumba iwe ulipo? Bwanji iwe osaitsiriza, udzakula liti? Suona anzako amene amathandiza amayi awo? Ha! Ndiwe chitsiru. Kodi iwe sudziwa kuti pamene udabadwa amakôwa adasauka nawe kukufunira mankhwala; ndipo uzingokhala kodi?”

Nthondo adati, “Ine sindifuna kuti munthu wina andinenere zopusa. Ndikhoza kummenya. Ine sindikudya zakudya zanu kuti inu munganene kuti, ‘Ndiyenera kumunena popeza akudya zanga.’ Inetu ndikumva litsipa chifukwa chake sindinali kufuna kugwira ntchito.”

“Monga ndakuchimwira pamene ndati ndikuweruze? Chabwino, ndakuleka.” Choncho Nthondo adachoka napita kukasewera ndi anzake nati, “Cha! Zachabe zimenezi.”

Munthuyo adamva chisoni ndi mayiwo ndipo adalonjeza kuti adzaŵamangira nyumbayo. Adaitsirizadi bwinobwino osavuta.

Kumene adakasewera Nthondoko adamvako nkhani kwa anzake kuti ati pamudzi pa a Msinda padapita anthu oyera otchedwa Azungu. Pamenepo Nthondo adadabwa kwambiri pakumva dzinalo. Adati, “Azunguwo adachokera kuti, nanga adapita kuti?”

Winayo adati, “Ha! Inenso sindidziŵa, koma ndidangomva atate anga akuti adakamwa nawo mōwa kumeneko. Ati pamsana adangoona Azunguwo akufika. Pomwepo onsewo adayamba kutaya zipanda ndi kuthawâ, Pamene adamwa nawo mōwa woyambawo adabwerera kumudzi kwathuku.”

Tsono Nthondo adati, “Madzulo ano tikafunse bwino kwa atate ako kuti tikamve mwatsatanetsatane.” Onsewo adaseŵera kwambiri ndipo adapita kwavo. Kutada madzulo adadya nsima ndipo adayamba kukamba nkhani zina.

Pamenepo popeza adachulukapo anzake ena, Nthondo adati, “Tiyeni kujaku.” Onsewo adapita kwa atatewo nayamba kuŵafunsa, “Ati munaona anthu otchedwa Azungu?”

Atate a mnzakeyo adati, “Ha! Iwe, ukuti sudaŵaone Azungu? Nanga kale atate ako akadali moyo sadakagwira ntchito kwa Azungu? Kazikhala pamudzi, mwanawe chifukwa zinthu zizikupita ukamakonda kuyendayenda. Ife Azungu tidaŵaona kale, koma timaŵathawâ chifukwa ndinkhondo.”

Tsono Nthondo adadabwa kwambiri nafuna kudziwa Azungu. Atakambahamba adalaŵirana nakagona kumphala. Tsiku lina Nthondo adapita kuminda yina pamene amafuna mbewa. Atafika uko adaona zipwete zimene adabzala munthu wina. Tsono Nthondo adabako. Mwini mundawo adamuona nayamba kumpitikitsa, koma Nthondo adangolumphira patchire nathaŵa. Chomwecho mwiniyo adakalalikira kumudzi kuti Nthondo amaba m'munda mwake koma wathaŵa. M'maŵa mwina Nthondo adabanso nkhunda ndipo eni ake adampitikitsa namugwira.

Adamfunsa, “Dzina lako ndiwe yani?”

“Dzina langa ndine Nthondo.”

“Ndiwe mwana wayani?”

“Atate anga adamwalira, koma ndiaja amaomba madeŵere ambiri masiku apitawo.”

“Ha! Kodi! Nanga bwanji watibera nkhunda zathu?”

“Chifukwa cha nkhuli.”

“Pamenepo iwe unaganiza zokaba nkhunda zangazi? Ha! Lero uli ndi tsoka, mwanawe. Anzanga, bwerani timmenye.” Choncho wina adayamba kummenya makofu Nthondo: Atammenya adapangana kuti apite naye kwavo. Adatenga nkhundazo ndi kuzisosola nthenga zake nalongalonga m'tsitsi la Nthondo napita akumuyimbira nyimbo mpaka adafika naye pabwalo pamene anthu aakulu amakazinga. Akuluwo ataona Nthondo wamangidwa adachita manyazi kwambiri nati mumtima mwawo, “Ha! Mwana wosamvera uyu.”

Tsono atafika naye Nthondo eni nkhundawo adati, “Mbala yathu iyi, yaba nkhunda izi. Tiuzeni ngati inu mukumudziwa kapena ayi,” akulu amene adali pabwalopo adavomera kuti akumudziwa.

Kenaka adati, “Taimani tiitane atsibweni ake.” Atafika atsibweni akewo adawaonetsa Nthondoyo nawauza kuti adawabera nkhunda zawo.

Atamva atsibweni akewo adati, “Chabwino, pitani mudzabwere mawa.”

Eni nkhundawo atapita atsibweni ake a Nthondo adamuitana nayamba kumfunsa, “Chifukwa chiyani umaba?”

“Iyayi, sindidabe, koma ndimangopita kwina tsono ndidadzera pafupi ndi chikukumba cha nkhundacho napeza mwini wake akuti, ‘Waba iwe,’ napha nkhunda zina ndi kusosola nthenga zake nandiveka ine. Osati kuti ine ndinaba.”

“Kodi! Chabwino, tiona mawa.”

M'mawa mwake eni nkhundawo adabwera nayamba kukamba mlandu. Adati, “Lero tabwera kukuuzani zomwe tidanena dzulo zakuti Nthondo adatibera nkhunda zathu. Pamene po iyeyu adafuna kuthawa koma tidamugwira. Ngati tikumunamizira angathe kukana. Pomfunsa Nthondo sadayankhe chilichonse. Chomwecho atsibweni akewo adavomera kuti mlanduwo wa wagwera ndipo kuti eni nkhundawo awauze malipiro ake.

Tsono eni ake a nkhundawo adati apereke mbuzi zisanu. AtaWalipa mbuzizo adamwazikana. Chomwecho atsibweni a Nthondo adauza mnyamata wina wamphamvu kuti amugwire Nthondo.

Atamugwira adayamba kumfunsa kuti, “Iwe, suja umanena kuti sudabe, nanga lero bwanji sumalankhula? Mwana ochitisa manyazi, iwe.” Pomwepo adayamba kummenya, atatsiriza adamtaya.

Tsiku lina Nthondo adakabanso misinde usiku, koma adabwerako bwinobwino. Adatero masiku ambiri. Mwini wake mundawo ataona zinthu zake zikutha usiku, adauza onse a pamudzipo kuti, “Anzanga, m'munda mwanga anthu akuba, ndipo tsopano ndikadikirira amene ndidzampeze ndidzamlasa.” Mawuwo anthu onse pamudzipo adamva.

Amayi ake a Nthondo adapita kumphala komwe amagona mwana waho kukamulangiza makhalidwe abwino. Adamulangiza za chimanga ndi misinde zomwe zidali

kubedwa nati, "Mwana wanga, sindifuna kuti ukhale munthu wakuba paja lero wamva kuti amene adzaba m'munda wa uje adzalasidwa. Ndipo iwe chenjera."

Nthondo atamva adayamba kuzaza kuti, "Kapena mudandiona ine ndikuba kumeneko pomandinenera mawu

"Iyayi, ndikungonena, ndiponso popeza iwe ndiwe mbala udayamba kale kuba. Ndikuti ngati uli iwe, chonde, usapitekonso angakakulase."

Tsiku lomwelo Nthondo adauza mnzake nati, "Ha! Mwaiwe, tiye tikabe."

Mnzakeyo adati, "Ine sindifuna ndingakalasidwe."

"Ha! Wamva mawu amene aja, ha! Kungonyenga kuja, sangalase munthu," adatero Nthondo.

"Ayi, sindifuna," adakanabe mnzakeyo.

Nthondo adati, "Iyayi, tiye usaope, uli ndi ine." Chomwecho mnzakeyo adavomera nayamba kuditira limodzi.

Atafika kumundako, Nthondo ddathyola misinde yambiri namanga mtolo. Adamuuza mnzakeyo kuti anyamule, Pamene Nthondo adayamba kuthyola mondokwa (dowē) nawutenga paphewa lake. Akupita kumudzi sadayende nthawi yaitali adangomva mnzakeyo kuti, "Amayi! Ndikufa."

"Nchiyani?" adafunsa Nthondo akuthawa."

"Wandibaya! Zulen!.... zuleni!.... wolasidwayo akuthawanso. Pamene Nthondo amathaawanso osacheuka, amangoti, "Tiye kuno ndikuzule... tiye kuno:ndikuzule." Nthondo sadaime kuti amzule mnzakeyo mpaka adangozula yekha ndiye magazi faa! Napitirira kuthawa. Atangoyenda pang'ono adagwa ndi kufa pomwepo. Choncho Nthondo adafika kumudzi nauza anthu aakulu kuti mnzake walasidwa ndi auje kumunda kwawo Anthu onse adamva chisoni napita kukanyamula malirowo. Kenaka adayamba kummenya Nthondo ndi kumufunsa za machitidwe ake, koma iye adakana kuti sadadziwe mafedwe ake. Atamfunsa adaulula kuti adakaba kumunda kwa eni..

Atamva mawuwo adapita kwa eni mundawo naŵauza kuti, “Mwalasa munthu.”

Eni mundawo adakana kuti, “Ine sindinalase munthu, koma ndalasa nguluŵe chifukwa akadakhala munthu akadamva kulalikira kwanga kuja.” Atatero onsewo adangomwazikana opanda mawu nakaika maliro awo.

M'mâwa atsibweni a Nthondo adamuitana namuuza kuti, akadule mtengo kuti aseme mpini. Nthondo adavomera kuti, “Chabwino, ndikadula ndikakazinga chimanga.” Koma Nthondo adachoka kupita kokasewera ndi anzake.

Tsiku linzakelo m'mâwa atsibweni akewo adamuitananso namfunsa kuti, “Mpini ndidakutuma uja udaika kuti?”

Nthondo adati, “Dzulo lija ndidachedwa chifukwa auje adandituma kuti ndiŵasosolere nkhuksu.”

Pomwepo atsibweni akewo adatenga mtengo nayamba kumpitikitsa kuti ammenye. Iwo amanena kuti, “Ndiwe mwana woipa, ukana zomwe ndikutuma ine osakhala ngati udaonongetsa mbuzi zanga zisanu chifukwa cha kuba kwako. Lero usabwera kuno. Choka! Mwana woipa iwe.” Nthondo adathâwa kwambiri.

Pamenepo adaganiza zoti athâwire kwa mnzake wa dzina. Choncho Nthondo adathâwira kumeneko. Atafika adakondwera ndipo anthu adayamba kumpatsa moni. Adamfunsa kuti, “Kwanu mwakusiya bwino?”

Nthondo adayankha kuti, “Eya. Chifukwa chibadwire ine ndimangomva za kuno, koma osakuona, ndipo lero ndalingirira kuti ndidzakuoneni.”

“Kodi! Chabwino.” Nthâwi yomweyo adaimirira nauza mwana kuti aphike nsima adye Nthondoyo ngakhale padalibe ndiwo kuti angosipa. Atatero adaiza Nthondo kuti, “Kalôwe m'nyumba umo ndimo uzigona.” Nthondo adaimirira nakalowâ m'nyumbamo. Osakhalitsa adalandira chakudya nachidya.

M'mâwa mwina Nthondo atauka anyamata ena adabwera kudzakamba nayc nkhanî. Kenaka anzakewo adati. “Ife tikaonera gule wandanganya.”

Nthondo adati, “Ndikadakhala kuti sindine mlendo ndikadapita nanu.”

Anzake adamuyankha kuti, “Palibe kanthu..... mlendo sayenda kodi? Tiye limodzi malinga ukalasire kwa mnzako wa dzina.” Choncho Nthondo adapita kukalaŵilira ndipo adamuloleza kuti apite kukaonera guleyo, koma adamuuza kuti ayambe wadya mawungu. Choncho adadikira nadya mawunguwo. Tsono adapita kuguleko nayamba kuonera. Adaona kuti kuvina kwake kudali kwabwino, ndipo Nthondo ndi anzakewo adayamba kuvina nawo. Atavina adayamba kubwerera kwawo. Akupita amacheza kuti guleyo adali wabwino chifukwa chomagundana ndi anamwali.

Wina adati, “Ine ndinagundana ndi wina wokongoletsa, kaya ndimwana wayani amene uja? Ameneyo ndidzamfunsira mbeta.” Adacheza kwambiri mpaka adafika kumudzi. Atafika Nthondo adaŵasimbira dzina la guleyo, ndi kutinso akadakhalapo wina akadapita nawonso. Nthondo adagonako masiku ochuluka kumeneko nazolowerana ndi anzake ambiri.

Tsiku lina adakumana ndi munthu wina amene adatenga thumba la nyemba, kufuna kugulitsa nkhuku m'mudzi mwina. Pocheza naye munthuyo adamuuza kuti amayi ake amadwala kwawo. Atamva izo Nthondo adavomera kuti adzapita kukauona. Ngakhale sadapiteko, koma amalingirirabe za matenda amayi ake masiku onse. Tsiku lina mnzake wa dzina adamvanso za matendawo namuuzzanso, koma Nthondo adati, “Matendawo ndidaŵasiya akudwalabe.” Choncho Nthondo adangokhala.

M'mawa mwina Nthondo adalaŵirira kusasula nyumba kuti azipha makoswe chifukwa kawirikawiri amadya mapazi a anthu. Ali pamenepo Nthondo adaona munthu wakwawo akubwera.

Nthondo adatsika kukalonjerana naye, adati, “Moni!”

Munthuyo adati, “Eya.”

“Nkwabwino?” adafunsa Nthondo.

Winayo adati, “Iyayi, nkoipa. Mayi wanu adamwalira dzana ilo.”

Ha! Chisoni. Nthondo adaimirira nakauza mnzake wa dzina za chisonicho. Choncho onse adanyamuka pamodzi ndi thengalo napita. Pofika Nthondo adayamba kulira ndipo onse adayambanso kulira nafika kumudziko. Adakakhala panyumba yasiŵayo akulira kwambiri. Kenaka adaleka kulira.

Atsibweni ake a Nthondo adafika pomwepo nati, “Mwamva zakuno?”

Nthondo adayankha nati, “Eya.”

Adawafunsanso enawo chimodzimodzi. Tsono atsibweni ake a Nthondo adati, “Inde, thenga ndidatumiza ndine kukaitana iwe. Zamatenda zonse udziŵa, koma iwe sudafune kubwera kudzaŵaona amayi ako; ha! Mwana wouma mtima iwe. Uje sudakumane naye nakusimbira zonse? Ha! Amayi ako tidaika dzana ilo; adzukulu adatuluka pamtanda. Dzulo adaviika chimera chofululira mowa wammeto, Nthondo adaimiriranso naliranso, naleka. Ena ambiri adabwera kudzampepesa Nthondo atakhala chete.

Nthondo adakhala mwachisoni masiku ambiri. Tsiku lina Nthondo atamva njala adapita kwa atsibweni ake kukapempha chimanga, koma iwo adampitikitsa iyeyo, nati, “Chimangacho ndingathe kupatsa iwe mfitiwe? Choka! Mwana wanji wouma mtima? Kapena uyesa kuti udzatola mayi wako! Mwana wopanda manyazi.” Pomwepo Nthondo adathâwa nakapempha kwa ena chimangacho. Kuyambira apo kwa atsibweni ake amapitako kamodzikamodzi. Nsimba amampatsa koma osati masiku onse.

Tsiku lina atsibweni ake a Nthondo adaitana anthu a pamudzipo ndipo onse atasonkhana iwo adati, “Ndakuitanani ndine. Ndakuitanani nonse kuti ndikuuzeni zoti tsopano tifuna kutsiriza maliro aja. Uzani akazi kuti mawa atsuke mphale ya mowa.” Onsewo adavomera naitana achinansi awo kudzaŵathandiza ntchitoyo. Kutacha adatsuka mphale ya mowavo nafulula. Tsiku linzakelo adaphikitsa natsotsa masiku awiri. M’mawa winawo adaponda, ndipo patapita tsiku limodzi adashambula ndi

kukuntha. Choncho patsiku lakumwa moŵawo adasonkhana anthu ambirimbiri kudzaonerera kumetako.

Atsibweni aka a Nthondo adatenga lumo ndi madzi nameta tsitsi lawo. Nthondonso adameta, naliralira, ndi kumaliza. Tsono Nthondo adapita pomwe padali anthu ambiri amene amamwa mowa. Pamene po iye adayamba kumwa nawo. Kenaka nkhanzi zidayambika.

Wina adati, “Ine dzana ndidapita kutsidyako ndipo mwana wina amene adapita ku Harare, wangobwera ndipo watheratu mphamvu anthu, ali myaa kusalala. Zovalazi, ha! Kapena nkunga kuti enafe tikusauka ndi nguwo! Zakudya zakezo ati zotchonetsa munthu. Anzanga, ife ndife, bwani tidzapiteko?” Onsewo adakhumbira kwambiri nakambakamba. Nthondo atamva zimenezo adangokhala du! Koma mumtima mwake adati, “Ha! Ndikadakhala ine sindikadabwereranso chifukwa atsibweni anga adaha nane; alongo anga onse ngachabe chifukwa adapita ndi amuna awo kwawo. Nditarapita kudziko la nyama yosasowako sindingakabwerereko, nanjinso mayi ndilibe.” Akuluwo adakamba kwambiri ndi kumwazikana kumaliroko.

Tsiku lomwelo Nthondo atafika kumphala adayamba kufotokozeru anzake zimene adazimvazo nati, “Ha! Anzanga, akuti kutsidyaku kudabwera mnyamata wina kuchokera ku Harare ndipo akuti adabwera ndi chuma chochuluka. Nanga ife tisaukirangi ngati tilibe miyendo? Tizingopsa mbala osaona chofunda, mutani, anzanga?” Anzakewo adasirira kwambiri ndipo wina adati mawa apite kutsidyako kukafunsa bwino onse navomerezana. Tsono atadya adagona. Usiku onse Nthondo amadzidzimukadzidzimuka namati kukadacha msanga.

M’mawa kutacha kuti mbe! Nthondo adautsa anzake nati, “Anzanga, ukani, valani tisambe kuti tizipita kutsidya kuja.” Choncho onsewo adafulumira kusamba ndipo adati, “Tiyeni tsopano.”

Adanyamuka nayamba kupila kutsidyako nkhanzi ili pakamwa yonena za kulemera. Tsono atafika kumudziko

adafunsa nyumba ya mnyamata amene adabwera kuchokera ku Harareyo. Atafika adapeza mkazi wake yekha, ndipo adati, “Kapena taŵapeza eni ake a nyumba aamuna?”

Mkaziyo adayankha, “Inde, koma apita kumudziku, muwayembekezere pang'ono abwera.” Choncho Nthondo ndi anzakewo adadikira pang'ono. Posakhalitsa adabwera mnyamatayo, chitsumba chili ndwi! Kafungo ka sopo kali tikitiki! Kunenepa ati! Kuvalira nanga! Tsono atafika adaŵapatsa moni onsewo.

Adati, “Kodi kwanu nkuti?”

Nthondo adayankha nati, “Ife tachokera m'mudzi uja ndipo tidamva za inu kuti mudachokera ku Harare. Nafenso tikufuna kupidako koma tikusowa njira, ndiye chifukwa chake tabwera kuti inu mutilongosolere.”

Mnyamatayo adati, “Tiyeni tilôwe m'nyumba.” Atalôwa m'nyumbamo adaona chuma chambiri. Mumtima mwa Nthondo adati, “Kukadakhala kufupi ndi kwathu ndikadadzaba chumachi.”

Pamenepo mnyamatayo adati, “Ku Harare nkwbawino koma munthu amafikako mopirira. Palibe kanthu kena iyayi, koma kungotenga kamba ochuluka popita mpaka kukafika. Ukafika uchita kudziŵa kuti walemera. Ntchito kndi chuma zonse ziliko. Tangoonani sopo iyi, kansalu kakang'onoka ndilo thawulo, iyi mmipeni kumeneko akuti mesa. Choncho inu mukafuna kupidako musadandaule chifukwa pano pali a Mdima nawonso akufuna kupita komweko mwezi wamawa. Tsono inu mudzabwere kudzapangana nawo kapena mukangowatumira mthenga.” Choncho Nthondo ndi anzakewo adavomera namthokoza mnyamatayo.

Pamene padakhala Nthondo padali mbota ndipo Nthondoyo adaipindira kumodzi ndi nguwo naiba. Adalaŵira nati, “Tsalani bwino.”

Mnyamatayo adayankha kuti, “Ha! Musasauke nkulaŵira ngati kuti mwadya kanthu malinga nkuti masiku ano ndiwo zavuta kwambiri. Chabwino, kazipitani mugwa.”

Nthondo adati, “Pano mpathu tidzadya nawobe.”

“Pano mpathu nkulinga utakhuta. Chabwino, pitani.”

Nthondo ndi anzakewo adavomera nati, “Tidzabwera monga tanena.”

Panjira Nthondo adati, “Nanga simwachiona chuma?” Anzakewo adavomereza. Kenaka Nthondo adawaonetsa anzakewo mbota imene adabayu nati, “Ndamlanga.”

Anzakewo adakhumbira nanena kuti, “Ife tinapusa bwenzi titaba yathu.” Atafika kumudzi, adatenga mbotayo naipotapota tizingwe totcherera mbalame popeza adalibe nayo ntchito. Choncho masiku ambiri amapha mbalame zambiri namadyera nsima.

M'mawa tsiku lina Nthondo ndi anzake aja adapita nayenda kuminda. Kumeneko adayamba kukamba nkhani.

Wina adati, “Ine nditapita ku Harare ndibwerako ndi moyo, poti kuno nkoipa ndithu, ndikadamati ndikasambasamba ndi kutulukira pamowa pamenepo ana aakazi kumangondikhumbira kuti, “Ha! Akoma mwamuna; achikhala wako nkumati wamanga.”

Nthondo adati, “Ha! Indedi, nanga mudzanena liti anzanga kuti azisinja akazi? Tisamangoti tidzati, tidzati; zengerezutu adalinda kwawukwawu.”

Onsewo adavomerezana napangana kuti adzapita kumudzi kukafotozo za nkhaniyo. Atafika kumudziko adauza achinansi kuti awasinjire ufa. Nthondo adapita kwa atsibweni ake kukapempha ufa, koma adamumana.

Tsono adati kwa anzakewo, “Ine nditani popeza ndilibe ufa, atsibweni anga andimana?”

Anzakewo adamlimbitsa mtima nati, “Usade nkhawa uzipya nafe ufa wathu.” Choncho Nthondo adakondwera kwambiri. M'mawa, akazi adasinja ufa ndi kuyanika kuti ufote, kenaka nauyembekeza kuti uume. Tsiku lomwelo Nthondo adayendayenda kufuna mbalame kuti akapeza chisa chimene muli ana kapena mazira atchere kamsampha kuti akaikole.

Motero pamene adapita pena nthawi yamasana adaona ufa umene adayanika mkazi wina wa m'mudzimo. “Ha!

Mwawî lero,” ali nyang’anyang’anyang’ a kupita kunyumba kwa atsibweni ake kukaba thumba lachikopa cha mbuzi nabwera msangamsanga nathiramo ufawo. Adalôwa patchire sokasoka, nathawa. Adapita pena pomwe padali phanga la nengo kukabisa thumba lakelo napita kumudzi.

Madzulo adamva mawu a amfumu akuti, “Ndani wandibera ufa wanga? Kodi ufunu kuti ana anga afe.... ukhale ndi moyo ndiwe mfuluwe? Dzandiikire. Mudatani anthu apano? Ufa wanga ukapanda kuoneka ndithu ndikatenga sing’anga. Siufiti umenewu? Imvani! Patseni ufa wanga.” Tsiku limenelo kudada osamva kanthu kena.

M’mawa Nthondo adaulula kwa anzake a m’mphalawo kuti, “Dzulo lija mudamva kukalipa kuja auje aja chifukwa cha ufa, ndine amene ndidabayo monga mudziŵa anzanga ndine mwana wamasiye ndilibe wondisinjira ufa. Ndikadachitanji ufa nditaupeza?”

Pamenepo wina adati, “Kodi iwe nkudandaula? Monga iwe ufunu kutaya, sikudya monga momwe amati akadyere iye? Khala osavutika. Nanga udauika kuti?”

Nthondo adati, “Dzulo ndidakaubisa kuphangla la nengo chifukwa ndidasowa kouika, nanga anzanga mukuyesa kuti ndikauike kuti?”

Pakuyesa mwina ndi mwina wina adakumbukira kuti pokamuona munthu wa ku Harare uja, adalonjezana naye kuti, “Popeza mukutî a Mdima apita ku Harare, tidzatumiza mthenga kuwadziŵitsa kuti ife tasinja.” Atakambakamba nkhaniyi onsewo adauza Nthondo kuti thumbalo akaike komkuja. M’mâwa Nthondo adachoka mozemba nakatenga thumbalo napita kutsidya kuja. Tsono atafika kwa mnyamata uja adati, “Tsiku lijali tidapangana kuti ife tikakonzeka tidzatuma mthenga kukudziŵitsani kuti ife tidasinja. Lero ine ndine mthenga, ufawu tisungireni, koma mundiuze nthawî yoti tikabwere.”

Mnyamatayo adati, “Pitani, a Mdima adakonzeka kale. Pobwera inu mudzangopita. Tiyenî ndikuperekezeni, ikani apa thumbali.” Akupita mnyamatayo adati, “Tsiku lijali, paja padakhala inupa simudaonepo mbota?”

Nthondo adati, "Ha! Iyayi, ndikadaiona ndikadakupa tsani. Kodi ine ndikadachita nayo chiyani poti ndimavala nguwo?"

Pamenepo mnyamatayo adati, "Palibe kanthu ndimangofunsa. Pitani." Nthondo adayenda nakafika kwawo. Atafika adawafotokozena anzake zonse ndipo onse adakondwera.

Mmene anawo amapangana za ulendo umenewo ana onse adalaŵira bwinobwino kwa makolo awo, koma Nthondo sadalaŵire. Choncho patsiku lochokalo Nthondo sadalandire kanthu kwa atsibweni ake, koma anzake onse adalandira nkhuku, ena mbuzi. Makolo awo adabwera ndi kulaŵirana nawo anawo. Nthondo adali ndi chisoni chokhachokha chifukwa chodana ndi atsibweni ake aja. Komabe onse chikondwerero adali nacho namapita akukamba nkhani.

Wina adati, "Koma tikakafika ku Harare ndi kubwereranso kwathu kuno ndi moyo, tidzathyola. Monga muja tidaonera mkazi wa mnyamata ujayu, kukadakhala kuno mawanja akadapasuka chifukwa akazi akadamangoti, 'Ife tikufuna amuna ochokera ku Harare atsitsi lamdzeka!' Ndipo onse adaseka chikhakhali akupita..

Atayenda adafika kumudzi kumene kudali mnyamata uja panthaŵi yamadzulo. Mnyamatayo adati, "Ndiko kufika kumeneku?"

Nthondo adati, "Eya."

"Chabwino, mwakomera kufika chifukwa a Mdima aja amandifunsa dzulo cuti, 'Anyamata aulendo aja afika liti?' Ndipo mwachita bwino kufika. Taimani ndiwaitane."

A Mdima adapereka moni kwa Nthondo ndi anzakewo, "Masiku awa ndimangomva cuti pamabwera anyamata amene afuna kupita nawo ku Harare. Dzanali ndidamvanso cuti mnyamata wina adabwera ndi ufa. Lero taonana.... Ha! Chokoma nanga. Koma mawa lokha tiswera chifukwa akazi anga amati ndisachoke Osawakonzena tsindwi la nkhokweli ndipo ndinakapempha lusi lero cuti mawa ndikonzere tsindwilo. Nanga mutani?"

Wina adati, “Chabwino, palibe kanthu, mawa konzani tsindwilo, ulendowu tanyamuka kale, tipitabe mkuja.” Onse adavomerezana nagona.

M'mawa kutacha a Mdima aja adayamba kukonza tsindwi lawolo. Anyamata ena adati, “Tiyeni tikakonze nawo tsindwi lija.”

Nthondo adati, “Ine sindikakonza nawo chifukwa ntchofu yandivuta kwambiri.” Anyamata enawo adapita kukaŵathandiza.

A Mdima adati, “A! Alendo ingokhalani, ntchitoyi ndimaliza ndekha.”

Koma anyamatawo adati, “Iyayi, tichita nanu. Alendo sagwira ntchito kodi?” Onsewo adagwira ntchitoyo natsiriza. Ataitsiriza adalowa m'nyumba kukadya chakudya nakagona. M'mawa kutacha onsewo adayamba kukonzeka. A Mdima adathira ufa m'thumba. Atatha, adalaŵira nanyamuka ulendowo.

MUTU IV

Maulendo Ake

Adanyamuka ulendo wawo uja ndipo anthu ambiri adaŵaperekeza. Tsono atayenda adagona pena, tsiku linalo adagonanso pena kufikira m'mawa wina adafika pa Dzalanyama. Atayenda masiku anayi mnyamata wina adayamba kumva litsipa. Nthondo adauza anzake kuti, "Tiyeni tikafune kangaluche kuti timkonzere mankhwala mnzathuyu." Tsono adakafuna kangalucheyo natentha ndi kusakaniza ndi tsobola. Atatero adamutemera wodwalayo. M'mâwa wodwalayo sadapezebe bwino. Adayesayesa koma sadachire koteri kuti onsewo sadadziŵe chochita. Adangokhala pomwepo masiku ambiri namangophika mpakana ufa umene adatenga udayamba kutha.

A Mdima ataona choncho adati, "Ana inu! Onani ufa wathuwu ukutha. Kodi ukathera pano tidzadya chiyani m'njiramu? Chifukwa cha ichi ndikuti pitani pamudzi uwo mukafune chimanga."

Anyamatawo adavomera, koma Nthondo adakana nati "Pepani anzanga, ine dzanjali likuŵaŵa. Nanga munsi wosinjira ndikaugwira bwanji chifukwa ndadziŵa kale kuti eni ake a chimangawo akatipatsa ntchito yosinja kapena yolima?"

Wina adati, "Ulesi umenewu, Nthondo, usamayankhula motero. Tikuti tikati Nthondo tiyeni, tichite chakuti iwe numakana chifukwa ninji? Ndiwe wopusa iwe. Nchifukwa chake atsibweni ako aja safuna kukupenya." Ndipo mopsa mtima adati, "Ine sindifuna munthu wina kunditcha wopusa. Ndingathe kumumenya munthu woteroyo, iye ngochenjera bwanji?" Anyamata ena adamuyankha nati, "Uli ndi yani iwe? Titakupha angakanene ndani?"

Choncho onsewo adamuukira nayamba kumumenya. Nthondo adalira kwambiri mpaka a Mdima adabwera namulanditsa Nthondo nati, “Musamalimbana, lekani pitani kafuneni chimangacho.”

Onse adaleka kummenya Nthondoyo napita kukafuna chimangacho. Tsongo atafika kumudziko adapempha ntchito yoti aŵalipire chimanga. Mwamayi adaŵapatsa ntchito yomanga khola la mbuzi. Atatsiriza adaŵalipira chimanga chodzala matumba aŵiri. Atadza nacho, Nthondo, wodwalayo adachira m'maŵa mwake. Tsiku linzakelo adanyamuka ulendo wawo uja. Adayenda masiku ambiri. Tsiku lina ufa wawo udathanso ndipo pamenepo anyamatato adayamba kudandaula kuti atayika. Anyamatato adasauka kwambiri namapita akudya masawu. Onse adayamba kuonda ndi njala. Pamene amaoloka Zambezi nkuti ali mafupa okhaokha. Adavutika pooloka Zambeziyo. Masiku ena amaswera kukafuna zakudya osayenda ulendo.

Tsiku lina madzulo anyamatato adagona pafupi ndi mudzi wina. Usiku Nthondo adaŵasiya anzake ali m'tulo napita kumudziko. Nthondo adaona nkhokwe imene mudali mapira nayamba kuing'amba kuti abeko mapirawo. Mwini nkhokweyo adamva ndipo adauka natsekula pang'ono. Adayenda monyang'ama ndi kumgwira nafuula, “Munthu uno! Munthu unoye!” Anthu onse atamva adatuluka msangamsanga kukamenya Nthondo. Nthondo adamenyedwa kwambiri.

Nthondo adayesetsa kuti, “Lekeni musandiphe,” koma adampanda nkumzunza kwambiri. Anzake a Nthondo aja atamva kufuulako, adafuna pakati pawo nepeza Nthondo palibe. Choncho mnyamata wina adapita kumudziko mobisala ndipo adaona kuti Nthondo wagwidwa. Mnyamatayo atabwerera kwa anzake adati, “Anzanga, Nthondo amgwira ndipo tiyeni tithawé, phukusi la moyo sakusungira ndi mnzako, sitidziŵa zimene wachita. Mwina angaulule kuti, ‘Anzanga ali apa’.” Choncho onsewo adanyamuka ndi kupita usiku womwewo.

M'mawa Nthondo adammasula pamzati pamene adamumanga kuti angathawé. Tsono adayamba kumfunsa kuti, "Bwanji umaba?"

"Ndabera njala," adayankha Nthondo.

Mwiniyo adati, "Bwanji iwe osapempha?"

"Ndinada m'maso ndi njala," Nthondo adayankhanso.

"Chabwino, ugwire ntchito chaka chimodzi," mwini adamlamula Nthondoyo.

"Eya," Nthondo adavomera.

Nthondo adakhala bwino namagwira ntchito kufikira anthu adamukhulupirira koti sakadatha kuthawanso chifukwa adakhala ngati munthu wokhulupirika. Tsiku lina Nthondo adathaŵa usiku ataba chimanga choti azipita nadya. Adathamanga kwambiri koti mwina amagwa chifukwa cha mantha. Atafika kunjira adapezako aulendo ena.

Nthondo adati, "Ndasauka ine, loleni tipitire limodzi ku Harare chifukwa anzanga adandisiya pomwe ndimadwala." Ndipo anthuwo adamuloleza napitira limodzi. Atayenda masiku ambiri anyamatawo ndi Nthondo adafika ku Harare.

Tsiku limenelo mwamwayi adakumana nawo anzake aja. Adawapeza akugwira ntchito yosesa pa mzungu wina. Mmene anyamatawo adamuona wina adati, "Mnzanga, ndani uja? Si Nthondo uja?"

Mnzake adati, "Ndi Nthondo amene uja." Pamene adadziŵa kuti ndi Nthondo adaleka ntchito nakampatsa moni kunjirako, "Ha! Ulipo Nthondo?"

Nthondo adati, "Eya."

"Ha! Tifotokozere zimene zidachitika patsiku lija," adatero anzakewo.

Nthondo adalongosola kuti, "Tsiku lija ndidamva njala ndipo ndidafuna kukaba mapira osadziŵa kuti eni ake ali maso. Ndiye adandigwira nandizunza masiku ambiri.

"Pambuyo pake adandiuzza kuti ndigwire ntchito chaka chimodzi, koma ndidathawa. Kuno ndafika ndi anthu amene ali apawo."

Anzakewo adamuuza kuti, “Tsiku limene lija tidamva kufuula. Pamenepo titaona pakati pathu tidapeza kuti padalibe iwe. Tsono tidatuma wina kukakuona ndipo tidadziwa kuti ndiwe. Pamenepo ndipo pamene tidayambira kuthawâ chifukwa tidati, “Kodi akatigwira tonsefe akanena ndani kumudzi? Ndiye poti udathawâ tikuti zikomo.”

Ndipo Nthondo adati, “Nanga ine ndipite kuti koti ndikafunse ntchito?” Anzakewo adamulozera pa nyumba ina kuti akafunse ntchitoyo.

Nthondo adati, “Ndikuchita mantha kukafunsa ntchito kumeneko, koma wina apite kukandifunsira.” Choncho wina adachokapo napita naye. Atafunsa ntchitoyo adamlemba yoŵeta nkhuku. Nthondo amazipatsa nkhukuzo madzi, chakudya ndi kusonkhanitsa mazira. Nthondo adagwira ntchito yake bwino namalipidwa ndalamu khumi; ndipo adatenga ndalamu zina nagula chofunda, ndipo zina naika.

Tsiku lina Nthondo adaba nkhuku imodzi naipha. Tsono Nthondo adauza mzunguyo kuti nkhuku imodzi yasowâ ndipo mzungu adati, “Palibe kanthu.” Nthondo adalipidwapo miyezi ina. lina adauza anzake kuti, “Ine ndadwala ndiye sindipita kuntchito.” Anzakewo atachoka, Nthondo adanyamuka napita kumunda wa mzungu uja nathyola mawungu atatu. Mwadzidzidzi, mlonda adamugwira napita naye kwa mzungu wake. Zitatero mzunguyo adalemba kalata ku Boma kuti adzamgwire.

Posakhalitsa adabwera msirikali wachizungu atakwera kavalu nammanga maunyolo kumanja ndi kumiyendo. Atatero adamumangirira Nthondo kumimba kwa kavalu nathamangitsa kolimba mpaka adafika naye kugadi namutsekera..

M'mawa mwake adabwera mzungu wake nati, “Mnyamata ameneyu alangidwe chifukwa adaba mawungu.”

Atamva mzungu wa kugadiko adamuuza Nthondo kuti, “Udzakhala m'gadi sabata zitatu.” Nthondo adagwira

ntchito kugadiko yokumba mayenje, yodula nkhuni, yokoka galeta ndi ntchito zina.

Tsiku lina usiku Nthondo adalota kuti adalowâ m'dziko lamdima, maso ake osaona bwino. Mnyamata wina amene kale adalasidwa kumunda uja adayamba kumuthamangitsa, koma osaonetsetsa, amangoona mano ake kuti adasanduka aatali. Nthondo adayesetsa kuthâwa, koma mnzakeyo sadamleke Nthondo adadzidzimuka ndi mantha ambiri.

Nthondo adavutikanso chifukwa chakudya chidali nsima yosakaniza ndi mchere koti masiku ena Nthondo amasanza kwambiri.

Nthaŵi yogona kugadi itatha mzungu wa komweko adamuitana Nthondo namuuza kuti, “Ndikumenya zikoti zinayi kuti uzipita,” Atatero adayamba kumumenya ndipo atatha adamuuza kuti, “Chabwino, tsopano Pita kwanu.” Nthondo adatuluka m'gadimo napita kunyumba kumene amagona anzakewo. Atafika adawafotokozerza anzake zonsezo.

Anzakewo adati, “Ha! Chisoni cha ana aamuna.”

M'mâwa mwake Nthondo atakambakamba ndi anzake aja adanyamuka kupita kuntchito yake. Pamene amati atsekulire nkhuku adaona wina watsekulira kale. Nthondo adati kwa mzungu wakeyo, “Lero ndifuna kuyambanso ntchito yanga.” Pamenepo mzunguyyo adaitana agalu ake nayamba kumupitikitsa Nthondo. Tsono Nthondo adaphunthwa nagwa ndipo galu wina adamluma pamsolo. Zitatero mzunguyyo adafika namlanditsa kwa agalu akewo, koma atamlanditsa adayamba kummenya makofu. Tsono atachoka mzunguyyo Nthondo adanyamuka napita kunyumba nakayamba kulira.

Anzake atafika adawafotokozerza zonsezo ndipo adati, “Koma ine ndidziŵa kuti mnyamata wina adandinenera kwa mzungu wanga kuti asandilandreño chifukwa masiku onse ngakhale ndimagwira ntchito samandiona ndi maso abwino. Chilipochilipo paja galu wamkota sakandira padzenje lopanda kanthu.” Choncho Nthondo adadana nd anzake enawo. Anzakewo adamudandaulira kwambiri,

koma mumtima amangoti, “Ha! indedi, wakulangira zoona, wamkwitsa kubaku.”

Wina adati, “Palibe kanthu ntchito nzambiri. Ingotenga chimanga icho ukakazinge kuti uzikafuna ntchito m'maso mutayera.”

Nthondo adati, “Ha! Kodi zimene ndaona inezo ... ha! Sinjala ino! Ndisamati ndaziona monga zikupita muja, koma kuti ndazigwira. Tatiyeni tikakazinge chimangachi.” Anyamatawo adapita kukakazinga. Atatha adalaŵra Nthondoyo nati, “Mukaona kuli zi mudziŵe kuti ndagwiridwanso chifukwa ndine munthu watsoka.”

Madzulowo Nthondo adanyamuka kukafuna ntchito mitengo ili biriŵiri, changululu chili mbu. Azungu adayamba kukonza m'minda mwawo kuti azibzalamo chimanga. Nthondo adamka komweko kukafuna ntchito. Adapita pakhomu pa mzungu wina.

Mzunguyo adati, “Iwe ndiwe yani?

“Ndine Nthondo, bwana.”

“Ukufuna chiyani?”

“Ndikufuna ntchito.”

“Kale umagwira kuti ntchito?”

“Sindinagwirepo ine ntchito koma ndikuchokera kumudzi.”

“Chabwino, tiye kuno.”

Nthondo adayenda pambuyo pa mzungu wakeyo motsetsera. Adamuuza Nthondoyo kuti akhale mtsogoleri wa ngolo imene. imakoka ndowe yokathira m'munda. Nthondo adagwira ntchitoyo chaka chimodzi. Pamenepo adapeza naalama nagula zovala ndi mabulangeti. Adasunga zonse bwinobwino. Paja adati masiku athera kuchitseko. Tsiku lina m'mawa pamene munthu wofulumiza ng'ombe amazimanya, chikoti chidaphuluza ndi kumenya khutu la Nthondo. Pomwepo Nthondo adataya chingwe cha ng'ombe ndi kududukira mnzakeyo namuluma chala. Pamenepo adayamba kulimbana. Nthondo adagwa koma adaukirira. Kenaka mnzakeyo adagwa pansi ndipo Nthondo adamponda pamtima amvekere, “Mayo!”

Mnzakeyo adakomokera pomwepo. Nthondo adafuna kuthâwa, koma anthu ena adamgwira napita naye kwa mzungu wa kugadi.

M'mâwa adaweruza mlandu wa Nthondo. Mzunguyo adati, "Nthondo, tikulanga miyezi isanu ndi umodzi yokha chifukwa mnzakoyo sadafe, adangokomoka, koma akadafa iwenso ukadaphedwa."

Usiku wina kugadiko Nthondo adalotanso. Adalota kuti iye adapita kuuzimba pamodzi ndi anthu ena, ndipo mikango iŵiri idayamba kumupitikitsa, nimugwira ndi kumudya. Atauka iye Nthondo adayamba kulingirira kuti mwina padali wina amene adamchitira mankhwala kuti azichimwa chifukwa anzake amangokhala mumtendere pamene iye amangovutika.

Tsiku lina adalotanso munthu wina amene adavala nsalu zoyerâ. Adali ndi ndodo yowâla ndipo amamloza ndi ndodo yakeyo ndi kuti, "Ndidzakulanga ukapanda kusiya zoipa zakozi." Pamene adadzidzimuka Nthondo adayamba kusisima chifukwa cha maloto ameneŵa.

Tsiku lina m'mâwa mzungu adalamula kuti amtsekulire Nthondo azipita kwawo. Nthondo adatuluka nafika kwa mzungu wake. Atafika mzungu wake adamlandira bwino, koma adampatsa ntchito yina. Madzulo adapita kunyumba kumene amagona. Adaona kumene adaikiza ndalamâ zake ndi chuma chake ndipo adapeza zonse zilipo. Tsiku lina Nthondo sadapite kuntchito; adanama kuti amadwala Nthondo atatenga ndalamâ khumi ndi zisanu, adapita kwa ndoda yina nati, "Ine ndavutika kwambiri ndi maloto ndipo ndikudziŵa mfiti zikunditambira. Choncho ndifuna kuti mundipatseko mankhwala a thupi kuti mfiti zisamafika pakhomo panga."

Ndodayo idati, "Chabwino, ndamva, koma ndingokutemera chifukwa mankhwala sindinatenthe. Ndimasowâsowâ muzu wa nsakadzinje, koma tsopano ndi naupeza. Ngati ukufuna liphondo patse ndalamâ khumi. Ine ndidziŵa zonse. Nditalowâ m'nyumba ya mzungu nkutenga chuma sangandione ayi mpakana kungotuluka chifukwa nchidima.

Nanga utani? Kapena ukufuna patse ndichite tsopano lomwe lino.”

Nthondo adati, “Ine ndifuna onsewo. Ndatenga ndalamaka humi ndi zisanu; mundipatse onsewo.”

Ndodayo idatenga mankhwalawo ndi kukonza nipereka kwa Nthondo pamodzi ndi mchira wa fisi kuti azikabera. Choncho atafika kunyumba kwake adabisitsa kuti anzake angakazione.

M'mawa adapita kuntchito yake. Tsiku lina Nthondo adamva litsipa laching'ala. Adayesa kutemera mankhwala a thupi, koma matenda adakula kwambiri. Atamuona mzungu wakeyo adalemba kalata kumudziwitsa mzungu wakuchipatala kuti mnyamata wake akudwala. Mzungu wakuchipatalayo adatumiza anyamata pamodzi ndi machira. Nthondo sadadziwe kanthu, koma adangoona machira akulowa m'nyumba nkumamunyamula pamachirapo.

Nthondo adafunsa, “Mumka nane kuti?”

“Kuchipatala.”

“Ha! Toto ine, ndife chabwino.”

“Ha! Kupusa! Tiyen'i naye.”

Atamtenga Nthondo adapita naye kuchipatala. Atafika naye sing'anga adatenga mankhwala owa wa nampatsa Nthondo kuti amwe. M'mawa wina adampatsanso namwa katatu. Tsiku linalo mzungu adauza anyamata ake kuti, “Nthondo mummwetse ndinu mankhwala.”

Pamene mnyamata wina adafika kuti ammwetse mankhwala Nthondo adati, “Ha! Pepani musandimwetse lero. Mankhwala wa awa wa; kuona nkumodzi.” Mnyamatayo adammenya Nthondo khofu namkakamiza kumwa. Kenaka Nthondo adayamba kuchira mpaka adatuluka m'chipatala ndi kupita kwa mzungu wake. Tsono Nthondo adayambanso kugwira ntchito molimbika napeza chuma.

Bwino lake Nthondo adayamba kulingirira ndi kuti, “Ine ndisagonetse m'dziko lino. Kuno ndingangoferako chifukwa ndavutika kwambiri. Ndichoke.” Tsiku lomwelo Nthondo adapita kukalawira kwa mzungu wake.

Mzunguyo atamva mawu ake adati, “Usapite kwanu. Ukachitanji?”

“Ndipita kwathu chifukwa kudachitika maliro.”

“Ndani adafa?”

“Mbale wanga.”

“Chabwino, pita, koma ndifuna kuti ukabwerenso?”

“Chabwino, bwana,” Tsono Nthondo adachoka nakonzakonza katundu wake yense.

Atatha adapita kukafunafuna opita nawo, koma anzake amene adachoka nawo kwavo adamukanira nati, “Ife tidzachoka bwino; iwe tsogola tikakupeza.” Mwamwayi Nthondo adakumana ndi anthu ena akufupi ndi kwavo osati anansi ake ayi, koma ena adera. Atawapeza adaŵauza kuti iye wasauka ndipo amafuna kupita nawo. Anthuwo adavomera namuuza kuti atenge chuma chake azipita. Tsono Nthondo adapita kukatenga chumacho nabwera nacho nayambapo ulendo wawo. Pamudzi wina adagula ufa wambiri anyamatawo.

Ngakhale kudali mazizi adayendabe anyamatawo. Ulendowo udali odyererera zokoma, nkhuku, mbuzi ndi nkhumba zamalonda zosasowa.

Tsiku lina adagona pena ndipo Nthondo adati, “Anzanga, tiyeni tikagule chakudya kumudziku.”

Koma onsewo adakhala chete. Choncho Nthondo adati, “Chabwino, ndikagula ndine, poti kako nkomwe kali m'kamwa.” Nthondo adatenga ndalamala zake nakagula zakudya zambiri, zina nabako ndi kubwera nazo kwa anzakewo. Anzake aja adasekera koposa nayamba kudya. M'mawa wina Nthondo adachita chimodzimodzi nabwereranso ndi zakudya zambiri nati, “Tafika ife a Mataya osasamala ndalamala. Mukaigwiritsa ndalamayo idzaswa kodi? Ndalamala nza azungu, ife tingosauka.”

Anzakewo adaseka nati, “Azikhlapodi wina oseketsa.”

Atayenda masiku ambiri, adafika pamalo pena pomwe Nthondo adaseka chikhakhali. Anzake adamfunsa kuti, “Usekanji, Nthondo?”

Nthondo adayankha, “Ndakumbuka zinanso. Pamudzi

apo ndidabapo mapira chifukwa njala idandivuta, ndiye adandimenya kwambiri tsono ndidathâwa tsiku lina. Ndithathâwa ndidakumana ndi anthu ena amene ndidafika nawo ku Harare.”

Anzakewo adati, “Palibe kanthu, nanga lero suyu wabwera nacho chuma chambiri. Kwanu anthu akakhumbira kwambiri.”

“Indedi,” adatero Nthondo, “Ndakomera kuti icho ndikachifuna ndachipeza lero.” Adayenda ulendo wawo mpakana adaoloka Zambezi. Adayenda m'zipululu mosôwa madzi. Mudali miyala yambiri yoti poyenda imati, “Tsekere! Tsekere! Tsekere.” Onsewo atafika pakamtsinje kamadzi adatula katundu wawo nayamba kumwa madzi. Nthondo adati, “Ine ndalema, madziâwa ndimwabe bwino. Ndiyambe ndapuma kuti angandipweteke pakhosi chifukwa pauma.”

Anzakewo adati, “Chabwino, ndipo ife utipeza pamtundapo; tikupumula pamthunzi.”

“Eya,” adavomera Nthondo.

Atachoka anzakewo Nthondo adayamba kuchotsa thekenya. Balamantu! Nthondo adangoona munthu wosekaseka atatenga tsangwe la nsaâwa kumanja akudya.

Munthuyo adati, “Moni, mwana wanga.” Adatengako nsaâwazo nampatsako Nthondo napitiriza nkuti, “Ulendowu ngopita kutali kodi?”

Nthondo adayankha kuti, “Eya, kutali.”

Munthuyo adati, “Ha! Walema, mwana wanga, likadakhala kale ndikadali ndi mphamvu ndikadakusenzerapo.”

“Eya, ndiponso ine ndikadakulipirani mukadandisenzero.” adatero Nthondo.

Momwemo munthuyo adati, “Kodi! Patseni ndiyesere.”

“Chabwino, uyu katundu. Tsono inu muyambe mwaima pamtundapo pali anzanga.”

Munthuyo adasenza natsogola. Nthondo atachotsa thekenyalo adatsikira mumtsinjemo namwa madzi nawatsata anzakewo pamthunzi.

Anzake adati, “Kodi Nthondo, wasiya kuti katundu

pakuti ukubwera opanda katundu?”

“Kodi munthu uja anandilandira apoyo sanafike pano?”

“Iyayi.”

“Ha! Tsono wapita kuti?”

“Iwe unapatsa munthu wina kuti akunyamulire?”

“Ha! Nanga siwataya pamenepo? Katundu ndiye amapatsa munthu osamdziwa? Waba ameneyo.’

“Ha! Kalanga ine, bulangete langa! Nsalu zanga! Mayo ine! Thandizeni kufuna lero lokha,” Anyamatawo adayesa kufunafuna tsiku limenelo, koma adalephera osampeza munthuyo.

M'mawa adangoti, “Tiyeni, nanga titani?” Choncho adanyamuka onsewo. Atayenda masiku awiri adafikanso ku Dzalanyama. Atayenda masiku atatu adafika pamudzi woyandikana ndi kwawo kwa Nthondo. Pamene po adakumana ndi munthu wina yemwe adamuza kuti Chokerapo adali ndi mwana wamkazi, koma adamwalira.

Tsono Nthondo adaŵauza anzake kuti, “Munthuyo akuti kwathu kudali maliro choncho tibaima pano kuti tikafike usiku.” Anzakewo adavomera naima, napita kukamwa mowá. Kutada adanyamuka. Atafika adayamba kulira. Atatha adafika atsibweni ake nalowá m'nyumbamo.

Anthu a pamudzipo atamva kulirako adathamangira komweko kukaona ndani akulirayo. Kumene ko adamva kuti Nthondo wafika pamodzi ndi anthu ena. Tsono anthu adati, “Unikani tiwaone.”

“Ndiwe Nthondo? Tsopano udakula,” adatero atsibweni ake nasekera kwambiri.

Anthu ena adafikanso nayamba kumfunsa kuti, “Auje mudaŵasiya bwino?”

“Eya”

“Abwera liti kuno?”

“Sindidziwa, koma adangondiuza kuti, ‘Iwe batsogola tikakupeza kumudzi’.”

Atsibweni ake atadzapereka nsima adati, “Idyani, ndipo ine ndikukagona; tionana m'mawa.”

M'mawa adabweranso atsibweni ake a Nthondo nati,

“Madzulo aja sindidafunse zambiri chifukwa ndimati mubapuma. Kodi anzau aja mudaŵasiya ali bwino?”

Mmodzi wa iwo adati, “Kuja kuli bwino ndipo tidachoka bwino, koma Nthondoyu adapeza ngozi panjira. Tidangoti titafika pamtsinje, ife timamwa madzi. Nthondoyu adati, ‘Ine ndikumwa bwino ndikapuma.’ Tsono tonse tidati, “Chabwino, ife titsogola utipeza pamtundapo.” Ndiye ati iyeyu akuchotsa thekenya asadamwe madziwo, adafika munthu yemwe adamuuza kuti amulandire katunduyo. Munthuyo atatenga katunduyo adathaŵa naye. Ife tidangoona akubwera, pomfunsa kuti, ‘Mwana iwe Nthondo, katundu ali kuti?’ Iyeyu adati, ‘Ndinapatsa munthu wina kuti andisenzerrepo.’ Pamenepo ife tidadziŵa kuti katundu wakeyo wabedwa. Tidayesa kufunafuna, koma osampeza. Tsono tidangoti, ‘Tiyeni, katundu wakubera.’ Anzake amene adachoka nawo kuno, adakana kubwera tsopano, ndipo iyeyu posôwa obwera nawo atakumana ndi ife tidamlola. Tsono poti pita uko sikuyenda nchifukwa chake ɬadza naye kwa inu. Tsono ife tizipita lero lomwe lino. Popeza mwatifunsa zidatero.”

Atsibweni ake a Nthondo adati, “Ha! Mwana uyu adachoka ndi tsoka ulendo umenewu. Timangomva mphekesera kuti Nthondo ali m'gadi. Ena amati ali m'chipatala. Ha! Ndipo mukuti katundu adafika naye, koma adam’bera munthu panjira. Ha! Umo mmomwemo. Tikakhala ife kuno masikuŵa sitimalira chuma ayi, koma timangolira moyo wake. Inu mukuti mudamtola; zikomo. Mudagwira ntchito, mukagone kutali ndi moto mungadzapse. Poti mukuti mukupita ndikuti, ‘Chabwino, pitani bwino. Pano mpanu’.”

Tsono atsibweni ake a Nthondo adatumwa mwana wina kuti agwire nkhuku. Atabwera nayo adaipereka kwa anyamatawo nachita zikomo. Anyamatawo atalandira nkhukuyo, adalaŵira kwa Nthondo ndipo Nthondo adaWa. perekeza nabwerera kunjira.

Tsiku lina Nthondo adapita kwa atsibweni ake kukapanga ming'oma ya njuchi. Kumeneko atsibweni akewo

adati, “Ha! Mphwanga Nthondo, nkale lija udabwerali? Kodi chuma chimene unkabwera nacho ndi chokhacho adakuberacho? Ndalamala sudabwere nazo kuti undipatseko nanga?”

Nthondo adati, “Ndalamala ndikadafika nazo zambiri, koma anzanga aja m'njiramu amati ndikawauza kuti anzanga tiyeni tikagule chakudya samandiyankha. Ndiye masiku ambiri ndimangogula ndekha. Ndikagula upeza nawonso akudya nawo.”

Atsibweni akewo adati, “Ha! Kupusa nanga. Iwo amangoti wogula zinthu ndiwe. Nanga alongo ako uwapatsa chiyani? Sadzakuyesa munthu wouma mtima kodi? Ha! Mtima waumataya ngwachabe chifukwa ukadasungitsa ukadakhala nazo ndalamala zochuluka.”

“Pamenepo ndidatolapo phunziro kotero ndidzadziwa masiku ena. Pakadapanda munthu amene adandiberayo chuma chikadakwanira.” Atatha kupanga ming'omayo napaka mankhwala ake m'kati mwake adaiwaula ndi moto m'katimo ndipo adayamba kupita nayo kwavo.

Panjira atsibweni ake adati, “Kodi iwe, udzasunga abale ako aja ine ndikadzafa?”

Nthondo adavomera kuti, “Eya.”

“Nanga kuba kumeneko, kodi ungarthe kusunga nako abalewo?” Atamfunsa choncho atsibweniwo Nthondo sadayankhe. Tsono atsibweni akewo adaptirira nati, “Munthu wamagwiragwira sayanjana ndi anthu, ndipo iye amafa msanga. Choncho iwe ukadafa ku Harare kuja chifukwa cha kuba. Usamati ndikamakuweruza nuyesa kuti ndikukunena chabe iyayi. Monga mwambi uja umati mawu a munthu wamkulu akoma akagonera choncho, mawu angawa udzawakumbukira m'tsogolo. Komatu kale udali mwana wabwino osakuganizira kuti ungarthe kuba, koma tsopano mfunthi ati! Ndipotu chenjera masiku ano kwachuluka chambu, usamaba ungadzapotoke pakamwa.” Onsewo adafika kumudzi naika ming'omayo.

Tsiku lina m'mawa Nthondo adapita kumunda. Kumenko adakumanako ndi msuwani wake dzina lake

Mdzitula. Iye adayamba kukamba naye nkhani. Mdzitula adati, "Moni, amuna anga."

"Eya, waphika ndiwo zanji lero?"

"Ndikaphika ndiwo zotaninso pomwe iwe nyama ukungodya wekha osakumbuka mkazi, ndiponso ungoyendayenda osabwera kudzamuona mkazi wako?"

"Chabwino, ndibwera mawa, nsima ndidzaipeze utakhazika pambiya kuti ndidzaipeze yofunda bwino. Mawa ndikadzapeza usanaphike ndidzakuleka chifukwa sindifuna mkazi wosaphikaphika."

"Kodi chuma ndicho mubwera nacho liti? Suja mkazi wa munthu wobwera ku Harare savala dewere, nanga inu mudzandipatsa liti?"

"Chidamka ndi madzi pa Zambezi."

"Ha! Suja akuti adakubera?"

"Ha! Ndani angandibere ine Nthondo mwana wa a Kumphepo, wobadwa fisi nalira. Amanama amene amatereyo."

"Nanga udzavalira liti, sikale lija udafikali kodi?"

"Ha! Ndileke iwe ndizipita, undicedwetsa chabe. Ndifuna kukachita ntchito kumudzi. Tangondipatsako mtedzawu ndizipita ndidya."

Mdzitula adatenga mtedza nampatsako Nthondo. Nthondo adamva chisoni kwambiri.

Tsiku lina m'mawa Nthondo adapita kukaona anzake amene adabwera nawo limodzi ku Harare. Atafika kumudziko anzake onse adakondwera.

Adauza akazi awo kuti, "Taphikani nsima chifukwa wabwera mnzathu amene tidabwera naye ku Harare." Akazi onsewo adaphika nsima zawo ndipo adakondwera onsewo.

Atatha kudya Nthondo, adaŵalaŵira anzakewo nati. "Tsalani bwino, ndikupita."

Wina wa anzakewo adati, "Iyayi, musapite kuti tichezepo usiku uno."

Koma Nthondo adakana nati, "Pepani, ndidzagonabe m'tsogolo muno."

Anzakewo adamvomereza namuuza kuti, “Chabwino, pitani.”

M'mâwa mwake Nthondo adapita pena ndipo anthu ambiri adayamba kunena kuti, “Bwanji simutipatsako chuma, a Nthondo?”

Mwamanyazi Nthondo adati, “Tilibe chuma koma m'tsogolo tidzapereka.” Choncho Nthondo adalema nako kupemphako ndipo adalingirira zakuba. Adatenga mankhwala ake natemera.

Adatenganso moto napita kumudzi kwa mnzake wina amene adabwera naye limodzi ku Harare. Tsono atafika, Nthondo adapita kunyumba ina imene idali kuthengo naiyatsa moto. Nthondo adaona anthu onse ali piringupiringu, ena akulira pomwe ena akutulutsa katundu, ena akukaona motowo. Tsono Nthondo ataona chomwecho adafulumira ndi kukaba katundu m'nyumba ya mnzakeyo nayamba kuthawa Anthu a pamudzipo adaona motowo, . koma pamene onse adamwazikana adamva mfuwu ndi kulira kuti chuma chawo chabedwa.

Anthu onse adathamangiranso kukaona, nayesayakufunafuna koma osapeza mapazi a munthu wakubayo. Nthondo adayamba kumawagâwirako chuma chake anthu amene amampempha.

Nthondo adavalavala chuma chimene adabacho mpakana chidatha. Tsono Nthondo adasaukanso kwambiri ndithu. Tsiku lina Nthondo adapita kumunda. Pamene adakwera pachulu adaona dzenje. “Ha! Kunda (Bwampini), ndikatenga khasu. Nthondo adapita kumudzi komwe adabwereka khasu. Adatenganso chitsopi napita kumundako. Kumeneko adayamba kukumba mpakana adaphapo akunda asanu. Atapha adamanya nadya nyama yake. Tsono adapempha gaga nayamba kufufutira zikumba zija. Atatha kufufutako adapala ubweya wake ndi kusoka zikumbazo namatika kunsanza zake. Tsiku lomwelo Nthondo adakumana ndi anzake ena. Pamenepo iwo adaona zigamba zakudazo nayamba kumseka.

Wina adati, “Ha! Ku Harare kusamakhala ngati kumene

adamka a Nthondo komukira nkhuli. Ndikadakhala ine ndikadapitanso ngati, ha! Iyayi. Ndiko kungotsata imfa.” Nthondo adachita manyazi ndithu.

Tsiku lina usiku mwezi utawala bwinobwino anyamata ambiri ndi asungwana adayamba kuseŵera. Atasewêra kwambiri adapita kukagona.

Posakhalitsa anthu onse adamva kulira kuti, “Mama iwe! Mama iwe!” Anthu ena adatuluka m’nyumba zaho kukamvera ndi kukaona anthu amene amalirawo. Nthondonso adapita komweko. Tsono anyamatawo atatha kulira adalowâ m’nyumba imodzi. Anthuwo adalowânsa momwemo nakondwera kwambiri. Adayamba kuwafunsa anyamatawo za moyo ngati adali bwino kapena ayi.

Anyamatawo adayankha bwino nanena kuti, “Sitidavutike koma tili ndi moyo. Atakambakamba adatuluka onse, koma Nthondo yekha adatsalira momwemo.

Nthondo adati, “Lero ndakondwera kwambiri kuti inu anzanga mwafika. Ha! Ndidaungulumwa. Masiku ambiri ndimagona ndi tiana tating'onoting'ono. Tsono lero ndasangalala.”

“Nanga iwe, udabwera ndi Yani?”

“Ndi anthu enanso.”

“Akuti?”

“Momwe mwa a Mtupatupamu.”

“Kodi mudayenda bwino ulendo umene uja?”

“Ha! Anthu adandibera.”

“Kuti kumeneko?”

“Pajapa kuti titaojoka Zambezi, tsono titayenda masiku ena ... pali kamtsinje kamadzi paja.”

“Ha! Udachita tsoka lalikulu, mnzathu. Kungoyambira pamene timachoka kuno ndi pobwera pomwe tsoka lokhalokha. Nanga za mnyamata uja udamupandayu udamva? Adafa iwe utangochoka chatsopano apa. Ha! Bwenzi uli m'gadi masiku ano.”

“Ndithudi.”

“Eya, zoonadi.”

“Ha! Zidali zoopsa. Kaya ndimzimu wa atate kapena

wa amayi. Ndipo usatero, kumanda sumkira dumbo.” Anzakewo nawonso adamdandaulira. Atatha kukamba Nthondo adalaŵira nakagona. Patsikulo afisi adayamba kulira, Uuŵi! Uuŵi! Uŵi! m'dzulo momwe. Afisiwo adasautsa kwambiri usikuwo namwazikana m'matandakucha. M'mawa anthu onse adaptanso kukaŵaonetsetsa anyamata amene adabwera ku Hararewo. Patapita tsiku limodzi adayamba kugâwa chuma. Chitâwakwanira onse wina adatenga nsalu ina nampatsako Nthondo.

Tsiku linzakelo anyamatawo adayambanso kugona kumphala. M'mâwa tsiku lina adamva kuti pamudzi wa a uje padali mowa ndipo onse adapangana zopita komweko. Adavalira kwambiri. Wina adatenga zake namubwereka Nthondo. Adaumwa moŵawo, nabwerako. Anyamatawo adakhala akuvalira masiku ambiri kufikira potsiriza Zidâwathera.

Madzulo lina anyamatawo adayamba kukamba nkhanî.

Wina adati, “Anzanga, mudziŵa kuti kuŵeta mbuzi tidalekera ana tsopano, koma ntchito yathu ndiyo kuyendayenda ndi kufuna chuma. Sitivalanso nguwo kodi tikamangokhala monga momwe avalira pabwalo Mpakhomomu?”

Nthondo adati, “Ine zimenezi ndidayamba kale kulingirira ndipo ndimati ndidzakufunsani bwino mutapumula. koma inu lero mutero; chabwino, ine ndikufunitsitsa. Tsono tiyeni tipangane komwe tidzapite.”

Wina adati, “Kupitanso ku Harare akulu sangatilole chifukwa tangobwera posachedwapa. Bwanji nanga tipite ku Kapata tikasenze mtengamtenga?”

Winanso adavomereza kuti, “Eya, tipitedi ku Kapatako kuti mtengatengawo tikatule ku Kabula. Mtengo wake ndindalamâ khumi ndi zisanu chifukwa chakuti ku Kabula nkutali. Onsewo adavomerezana kuti mwezi unzakewo apite.

M'mâwa kutacha onsewo adaptanso kubwalo kukaba ntchuwa. Atagomagoma ntchuwayo Nthondo adati, “Mnzanga, tiye tikaseme sansi. Mnzakeyo adavomera

napita kukadula mtengo wamwimbi napita nawo kubwaloko kukasema. Atatha adasula njero nayamba kuphunzira kuimba. Adatero adayamba kuphunzira nyimbo yakuti:

*Ine nkakhala mbeta;
Sinchiona ine;
Sinchiona ine chiwala;
Sinchiona ine chiwala, mchenga.*

Nthondo adadziwa kwambiri kuimba nyimbo imeneyo, ndipo anzake adamuuza kuti, "Kafune lalikulu shalali chifukwa sansiyi akunga wolira." Nthondo adapita kwa msuweni wake uja, Mdztitula kukapempha shala lakelo. Atabwera nalo adakonzera sansi wakeyo. Adali sansi wolira kwambiri. Kuimba kwake kwa Nthondo kudali kokoma kwambiri. Kotero kuti ngakhale mbalame za mlengalenga zidalekeza kuimba kwawo ndi kumamvera sansi wa Nthondo. Amuna ndi akazi adakopeka kumvera sansi wa Nthondoyo. Adatero masiku ambiri pomwe amayembekeza kuti mwezi wotsatirawo azipita ku Kapała.

Tsiku lina m'mawa mnyamata wina adati, "Nthondoyu watifukira ndi kuimba sansiku, azangotisokosera masiku onse. Ine ndisiya kumaonera nawo. Cha! Zachabe." Anzakewo adati, "Udzaonerera ndithu."

Nthondo poimba sansi wakeyo amalingirira kuti, "Ha! Ine ndine mwana wamasiye, amayi ndilibe, atate ndilibenso." Choncho Nthondo adapeka nyimbo zambiri zolina kumalingiriro ake. Tsiku lina adayamba kuimba sansi wakeyo atavala nthenga kumutu kwake. Pamenepo adayamba kuvina ndi kulira. Anthu ambiri adakusikana kukaonerera pamodzi ndi mnyamata yemwe amanena kuti Nthondo wamufukira sansi wakeyo. Nthondo adayimbayimba napita kunyumba kukagona.

Tsiku lina Nthondo adapita kumudzi wina chifukwa kumeneko kudali mowa wammeto. Nthondo atafika kumeneko adayamba kuvina ndi sansi wakeyo. Anthu adayamba kumsupa kwambiri. Ena adamsupa nkhuku,

mbuzi ndi nkhosa. Zonsezi adaziperekwa kwa atsibweni ake aja. Anthu ambiri adabwera kudzamuona ndi kudzamumvera Nthondo. Tsopano Nthondo adamveka kwambiri.

Nthaŵi ina Nthondo adakhala ndi anzake pamphala pamene adayamba kukamba nkhani.

Wina adati, “Kodi anzanga, ulendo uja tidzanyamuka liti?” Ndipo mnzake wina adati, “Eya, zoonadi, koma tifulumire. Ndiganiza tichoke.” Apo ena onse adavomereza ndipo aliyense adayamba kupempha ufa ndi ndiwo. Ena adalandira pamodzi ndi nkhuku, koma Nthondo adangotenga chafutsa wosokoneza ndi nsinjiro nadyukulira kumodzi.

M'mâwa aliyense adafuniratu mwana wosenza thumba la ufa. Nthondo adatenga mwana wa atsibweni ake kuti amsenzere thumba lake ndipo adalonjeza kumulipira makopala asanu ndi limodzi pobwerera ulendo wawo. Tsono adafuniratu mbaniro zasungwi zoti akapanire katundu. Atatsiriza wina adati, “Tiyeni, tzipita tsopano kwacha.” Onse adaimirira ulendo wolinga kuzambwe.

Nthondo ndiye adali mtsogoleri paulendo wawo chifukwa ndiye adali wokulirapo. Ati ndawala, osafuna kuchewuka pokwera paphiri. Ena amene samakhoza kuyenda bwino adasauka ndi kutsetsera. Poti liŵiro la mumchenga nkuyambira limodzi, anyamatawo adayamba kupita. Adayenda mitunda yambiri. Mwina kumangopita m'nsanga mokhamokha.

Adaona mitengo yambiri yongoti se! Tsono anyamatawo adaikhumbira kwambiri chifukwa mitengoyo idali yosalalitsa. Nthondo adati, “Ha! Chimanga chilola opanda mano. Nanga nkudziŵa kuti kwathu kuja timatha mtunda kufuna nsichi zosalala tikafuna kumanga nyumba. Ha! Sindinaone zotero. Kuno eni ake a mitengo yotere azingogona m'zithando!”

Pamenepo wina adati, “Chauta amapatsa mosiyanitsa kwambiri. Kwina amaperekwa chimanga chochuluka pomwe ndiwo zimâwasôwa kwambiri. Chonchonso anthu amene ali ndi ndiwo zambiri mwinanso amasôwa chodyera

ndiwozo. Kwathu ife adatimana mitengo yochuluka koma adatipatsa mitsinje ndi madzi abwino; ndiponso kwathu kuli miyala yochapira. Nanga kuno wachuma zovala zake angathe kuchapira kuti? M'makandemu munthu nkuchapiramo kanthu? Ndiponso kuno kuoneka ngati nkosowa madzi m'chilimwe."

Mnzake adavomereza kuti, "Zoonadi, kodi simunachione chitsime chija chili pajachi?"

"Eya, ndinachiona," adayankha Nthondo. Adatinso, "Kuli bwanji kuti tidzapite timenya lusi pano?"

Enawo adati, "Nanga tidzayenda bwanji? Kaya, tikakanyamula ku Kapata kukatula ku Kabula tidzatulenso kuno." Onsewo adavomerezana nalimbitsana kudzatero. Adakamba kwambiri nkhanga zili checherere kulira. Kenaka kudayamba kuda ndipo atafika pamudzi pena adapempha malo ogona.

Kutacha anyamatawo adaphika chakudya. Atadya wina adapita kwa mfumu ya pamudzipo kukalaŵira nati, "Tsalani bwino, tisungireni malo."

Mfumuyo idavomera niti, "Chabwino, koma mupita ndi njala."

Mnyamatayo adati, "Ayi, palibe kanthu, tidzadyabe m'tsogolo muno." Atatero anyamatawo adanyamuka ulendo wawo.

Atayenda madzulo adafika m'mudzi wabwino. M'mudzimo mudali mitengo yambiri yamitawa, anyamata ndi asungwana ambiri. Ndiponso mudali dulitsedulitse wa mipanda. Zipata zake zidali zambiri.

Nthondo ataona zonsezo adati, "Ha! Anzanga, mudzi uno ngwabwino kwambiri, pamudzi posachokeka." Tsono anyamatawo adalinga kwa mfumu.

Atafika anyamatawo mfumu idati, "Moni, nonsenu!"

"Eya."

"Mufunanji?"

"Ife tili paulendo wopita ku Kapata ndipo chimene tafikira kuno ndicho kuti kwaitdera ndimmene tati ukafika pamudzi pa anthu uzipempha malo chifukwa chauta

sakhala kuda mlendo. Upeza eni ake a pamudzi ati, “Msatuluka m’nyumba pamudzi pano! Chaomba guta.”

Mfumuyo idaseka niti, “Kani uli ndi nkhaninso.” Choncho mfumuyo idakondwera nawo anyamatawo chifukwa adali alendo ansangala. Chabwino, nyumba ilipo. Mukadapanda kufunsa mukadalakwa. Pamudzi pa anthu sagona patchire. Kaya tidandaule chakudya chokha chifukwa mkazi wanga waflka tsopano apa kuchokera kunkhuni.”

Anyamatawo adati, “Zikomo.”

Atawalozera m’nyumba adaloŵamo. Ndipo adabwera anyamata ambiri naŵapatsa moni. Ena adawatengera za ufulu nayamba kukamba nkhani. Pamene mwezi udâwala eni mudziwo adayamba kuvina ngoma. Nthondo ndi anzakewo adapita komweko kukaonerera.

Nthondo ataona kuti nyimbo zake zidali zokoma adayamba kuvina nawo. Ha, kulakwa ati! Anthu a pamudzipo ndi anzakewo adamseka kwambiri.

M’mâwa kutacha adapangana kuti, “Tiyeni tiswere lero kuti miyendo ipumule. Anyamata apamudzipo atafikanso, Nthondo adati, “Ine ndifuna kuti wina ndipalane naye ubwenzi pamodzi ndi anzangaŵa; choncho amene afuna tingathe kupalana naye.” Apo adaoneka anthu ambiri amene adafuna chibwenzi. Nthondo ndi anzake aja adapereka mipeni kuchita chigwirana manja. Anyamata a pamudzipo adapereka nkhuku koteri onse sadasôwe zakudya.

M’mâwa Nthondo ndi anzake adalaŵira kwa abwenzi awo pamodzi ndi kwa amfumu a pamudzipo. Atalaŵira adanyamuka. M’nsanga mwina adakumana ndi ntchefu, mphalapala, akatenthe, mbaŵala ndi nyama zina monga zilembwe zambiri. Padalinso matakadzo a mikango ndi afisi, ndiponso mayenje a mapazi a njovu. Motero onsewo adayenda ndi mantha. Adafika pamudzi pena pameneuzuwa lidawalowera.

Nthondo adafunsa eni ake a pamudzipo kuti, “Kodi kutsogoloku kuli mudzi wina pafupi?”

Eni mudziwo adati, “Musapitirira ulendo wanu chifukwa mudzi uli kutali.” Tsono anyamata onsewo adagona pomwepo. Pamene adayamba kuodzera adadzidzimuka chifukwa adamva kuti, “Ndi... Ndingu, ndi... ndingu! Lu! Lu! Lu! Lu! Lu! Lu! Lu! Lu! Tseketsani! Tseketsani! Zilombo.”

Nthondo ndi anzakewo adachita mantha nakwera patsanja m'nyumbamo. Zilombozo zidachezera kulira. M'mawa Nthondo ndi anyamatawo adakondwera kwambiri chifukwa mafupa awo adamasuka. Kenaka adanyamuka ulendo wawo mbaniro atadendekeradendekera. Atakumana ndi munthu wina, Nthondo adamfunsa munthuyo kuti, “Kodi mtsinje uwo dzina lake nchiyani?”

“Ndiye Buwa ameneyo. Kodi kuno simudaoneko kale?”

“Iyayi, tonse sitidaoneko kale kuno.”

“Umenewu ndimtsinje woopsa pooloka ngati munthu sakhalala ndi mtsogoleri.”

Pamenepo Nthondo adati, “Ha! Pepani, tiperekezeni padokopo chifukwa tonse ndife alendo.” Munthuyo adavomera kuŵaperekeza.

“A! Madziwo ali pamenepo?”

“Eya.”

“Bwanji pali udzu pamenepo?”

“Kaya mmomwe adapalengera Chauta.”

“Nanga udzu umenewu dzina lake nchiyani?”

“Gumbwa.”

“Ha! Ndadabwa chifukwa sindidaone zotere nkale lomwe.” Mosakhalitsa anyamatawo adaoloka Buwayo. Madzulo adagona pamudzi pena.

Usiku Nthondo adakongwa kwambiri koteru kuti adatuluka kukaba nkhuni pakhomo pa munthu wina. Pamenepo mwini wake atamva adatenga mpini wa khasu natsekula chitseko bwinobwino ndi kufuula. Nthondo adayamba kuthamanga kolimba. Adathamangira ku njira ina, koma munthuyo sadaleke kumpitikitsa. Kenaka Nthondo adaponda pa dzenje la msampha wa m'njira nakola. Adayesa kufuna kuuchotsa koma adalephera

chifukwa mwini nkhuni adali atafika kale. Kotero Nthondo adagwidwa. Mwini wakeyo adammenya Nthondo kwambiri. Atafika kumudzi adamumangirira pa mzati wa nkhosa. M'mawa adaweruza mlandu wakewo ndipo adamulipitsa. Nthondo ndi anzakewo adayendabe mpaka adafika ku Kapata. Onsewo adakondwera nakagona.

M'mawa anyamatayo adatuluka mumsasa m'mene adagona. Adapita pakhomu pa mzungu wina. Adaŵafunsa chimene adadzera ndipo iwovo adati, "Tifuna ntchito ya mtengatenga."

Koma mzunguyu adati, "Palibe ntchito pano."

Anyamatayo adayesetsa kufunsira kunyumba zambiri, koma konseko sadaipezeko ntchito imene amaifunayo. Bwino lake iwo adafika pakhomu pa mzungu wina. Pamene po mzunguyu adauza mnyamata wake kuti awafunse chimene adadzera.

Mnyamatayo adaŵafunsa kuti, "Mufunanji pano?"

Nthondo adati, "Tifuna ntchito yamtengatenga yokatula ku Kabula." Apo mnyamatayo adalowa m'nyumba kukafotokozerwa bwana wakeyo.

Mzunguyu adati, "Chabwino, ndamva kuti mukufuna ntchito ndipo muyambe mwadikira kuti ndiyambe ndadya." Tsono Nthondo ndi anzakewo adakhala pamthunzi.

"Tamasulani chimanga chija tibakazinga," adatero Nthondo.

Choncho adamasula chimangacho nayamba kukazinga. Atatsiriza adadikirabe.

Kenaka adamva kuti, "Inu! Bwerani kuno msanga." Anyamatayo adaimirira punzipunzi ndi njala nafika pakhomu pa mzunguyu.

Mnyamatayo adati, "Ndandani bwino." Anyamatayo adandanda ndipo mzunguyu adawalemba mayina. Adayamba kumlemba Nthondo natsirizira ndi mayina ena onsewo. Adawâpatsa katundu wawoyo pamodzi ndi kalata yokaperekera katunduyu. Tsono anyamata aja adaptanso kumsasa kumene adagonako nakagonanso.

Usiku Nthondo adalota maloto. Adalota ataŵaona atate

ake amene adafa kale akupha nsomba ndipo Nthondo adapemphako, koma atate ake adamukanira nati, “Iwe, sindiwe mwana wanga chifukwa undichititsa manyazi ndi kuba kwakoku.” Pamene po Nthondo mosadziwika adabako nsomba imodzi. Atatero atate ake adayamba kumpitikitsa. Nthondo adayesetsa kuthawâ ndi kuuluka, koma osatheka mpaka atate akewo adamgwira pakhosi iye nabanika.

Pamene po Nthondo adadzidzimuka nati, “Anzanga, taukani ndikusimbireni maloto anga. Ndalota atate anga akundipitikitsa. Ndinayesetsa kuthawâ koma osatheka, mpaka anafuna kundiphâ. Mani angakhoze kunditanthauzira maloto ameneša?”

Potanthauzira wina adati, “Munthu amene alota munthu wakufa nziwanda zimenezo chifukwa chake pafunika kuti ujisamba mankhwala a ziwanda kuti ungadzapenge m'tsogolo mwake.”

Apo Nthondo adati, “Malotowâ andisautsa masiku ambiri koti sindipeza mtendere. Maloto ake ndiwo amene ndalongosolaâ, koma aliponso ena ambiri. Kodi nanga akuwadziwâ mankhwala a ziwandawo alipo pano?”

Wina adati, “Kakumbe mizu ya mtengo wamathulisa ena amati chivumulo ndiwo mankhwala.”

Nthondo adakondwera kwambiri. Usikuwo sadagonenso koma amangokamba mpaka kudacha naphika chakudya chawo ndi kupita ulendowo. Adandondozana popita kutacha. Adasenzasenza matumba awo a thonje mofulumira. M'mâwa adafikanso ku Buwa naoloka. Tsono iwo adaleka njira imene adadzera popita ku Kapata, koma adatsata ina yachidule. Adayenda ulendo wawo mokondwera.

Pamene po anyamatawo adayamba kukamba nkhani. Wina adati, “Ha! Kodi tidzaleméra anthu akudafe?”

Ena adati, “Ha! Kaya.” Anyamatawo ali paulendo wawowo mwadzidzidzi onsewo adangoti jega! Adamva mpembe wa njovu. Onsewo adali asadaione po kale njovu.

Pamene anyamatawo adamwazamwaza maso adaona

kotero kukubwera chinthu chachikulu chili ndwi!!!. Nthawî yomweyo anyamatawo adathâwira pamudzi pena pamene padali pafupi napempha malo msangamsanga. Anthu a pamudzipo adatenga ng'oma zawo, ena zinthu zina napita kuminda yawo kumakafuula ndi kuyimba ng'oma zawozo. Komabe njovuzo zidafika kumindayo ndipo zidadya chimanga chambiri. Mawungu zimangomeza osatafunu. Usikuwo anyamatawo adavutika chifukwa sadazolowere zotero kwavo. M'mawa adayenda ulendo wawo naoloka Lilongwe, Diamphwi ndi Linthipe. Kuyenda kwavo kudali kosauka chifukwa cha njala.

M'mâwa tsiku lina anyamatawo adaona mimbulu ikugwira mbaâwala. Tsono anyamatawo adangodikira napangana kuti alanditse bwino lake. Pamene mimbuluyo idapha mbaâwalo adalanditsa nyama yake natenga ndi kuyamba kuiotcha. Nthondo adaidya kwambiri. Atakhuta adatengako ina nakagula chimanga, ina adaisunga kuti azidyera panjira. Anyamatawo adayendabe ulendo wawo. M'mâwa tsiku lina mnyamata wina adakanika kuyenda chifukwa miyendo imamupweteka. Tsono anyamatawo ataona mudzi wina wapafupi adalowa m'mudzimo ndi kukhalamo.

Tsiku Iina Nthondo adatsekuka m'mimba ndipo anzake adati, “Nyama ija imeneyo ndiyo yakutsakula m'mimbamu.”

Nthondo adangoseka nati, “Palibe kanthu chifukwa ndidaidya kwambiri, ndipo lero yabwezera mangâwa. Ikakupweteka nyama ndiyo iyamikika kuti munthu udadyadi nyama.”

Anyamatawo adakhala pamudzipo chifukwa cha kudwala kwa Nthondo ndi wina amene amamva miyendo kupweteka uja. Nthondo adachira, koma wina yekhayo amadwalabe. Enawo amamlindira. Chisanu chidâwavuta. Tsiku Iina m'mâwa anyamatawo atadyaidya nsima adayamba kuothera dzuâwa. Akuothera adamva beru kuti, Nge! Nge! Nge!

“Ha! Nchiyani chimenechi kodi?” Nthondo adawafunsa anzakewo.

“Kaya... Tatiyeni tikafunse kwa eni ake a pamudzi panôwa. Mwina nkungokhala chiwembu chopanganirana ife, paja adati, ”Apawo mmizu ya kachere ikumana pansi.” Apo Nthondo adakodola munthu wina wa pamudzipo nafunsa kuti, ”Chilirachi nchiyani kodi?”

“Beru limeneli,” adatero munthuyo.

“Achita chifukwa nchiyani?”

“Ife tonse a pathu pano timati likafika tsiku lalero timalitcha tsiku Lasabata, ndiye tonsefe timakapemphera kutchalitchi kukapembedza Mulungu amene adatilenga ife tonse; akuda ndi oyera ndi mitundu yonse ya anthu a m'dziko lapansi malinga nkuti kale makolo athu adachimwa kwa Mulungu. Choncho Mulungu adafuna kuononga anthu onse, koma mwana wake Yesu, ndiye amene adati, ‘Atate, ndikawafera anthu ndine.’ Tsono atafa adaukanso ndipo ali Kumwamba. Tsopano afuna kuti tizimkonda mwakupemphera, tikapanda kukondana naye sakatikondanso kwawo. Pamene po munthu wochita izi: kuba, kupha, chigololo, ndi udani sadzalandiridwa, koma anthu aufulu ndiwo,” adatero munthuyo.

Pamene po Nthondo adati, “Kodi! Zili monga muja achitira akulu kukateta kukachisi?”

“Ha! Usalingiriranso zija, nzakale zimene zija. Ifenso makolo athu ambiri amachita chimodzimodzi, koma zikusiyana chifukwa zimene zija timapembedza makolo pomwe izi nza Mulungu.”

“Koditu!”

“Eya, zitero.”

“Monga mlendo angathe kuonerera nawo zimenezi?”

“Inde, anthuni.”

“Chabwino, popita kumeneku mutiitaneko chifukwa kukhala ndi mtsogoleri nkwabwino.”

“Chabwino, ndikuitanani.”

Tsono Nthondo adakafotokozena anzake motere, “Ati ndiberu: Ndilo lija limalirali kuti azipita kukapemphera Mulungu ati! Ndipo ine ndinati kapena achita ngati kupembedza azimu... ha! Nkufupi ngati, watitaya Amakana

amati nzachabe.”

“Ha! Zachabe akhale kachisi? Suja timati tikathira nawo mfunde ndi kumaimbira: *Mvula kolole, mvula kolole!* Osakhalitsa ungoona chimvula pu!”

“Ndipo ukuti amati nzachabe munthuyo? Chabwino, tikaona.”

“Eya, anaterodi, ndipo ndamuza kuti pamene azipita atiitaneko chifukwa amati ngakhale alendo angathe kulowa nawo.”

Onsewo adakondwera nati, “Kuyenda kwina... Ha! Kuyenda uku nako. Tiona nako malodza lero.”

Bwino lake beru lidaliranso kachiwiri ndipo anthu adayamba kusonkhana kumalo kosonkhanirako. Nthondo pamodzi ndi anzakewo adaitanidwa kumeneko. Nthondo adadabwa nanong'oneza mnzake kuti, “Ha! Tinabwereranji ife kuno? Ameneŵa azitiseka popeza sitinasambe. Tangoonani mmene asambira eni akemutu! Taonani lamba. Nsalu zili m'miyendo anzathu dziko lomwe lino. Ife nanga suyu nsabwe zili tukutuku zingotiluma. Chabwino, tikhalebe popeza tabwera kale, tikadadziŵiratu sitikadabwera.”

Tsono anthu adayamba kuimba nyimbo pakhomo. Pamene adamva, anyamatawo adasirira kwambiri. Nthondo adati, “Ha! Nyimbo zimenezi kukadakhala kwathu ndikadaimba ndi sansi wanga uja. Ha! Kati nkutheka? kaya; chifukwa nyimbozi nzachilendo.” Anthu adayamba kuloŵa pamodzi ndi ulendo wa Nthondo amene. Atalowâ mphunzitsi adati afune nyimbo yakuti ndipo onse adafuna nyimbo zawo nayamba kuimba.

Kenaka mphunzitsiyo adati, “Tipemphere.” Apo anthu onse adatsinzina pamene mphunzitsiyo amapemphera, koma Nthondo ndi anzakewo sadatsinzine. Atatha mphunzitsiyo adatenga chibuku chakuda ndipo adayamba kuŵerenga mawu akuti, “Kapena simudziŵa kuti osalungama salandira Ufumu wa Mulungu? Musasocheretsedwe. Adama kapena opembedza mafano, kapena achigololo, kapena akudziipsa ndi amuna, olobodoka ndi zoipa, kapena mbala, kapena oledzera, kapena olalata sadzalowâ

mu Ufumu wa Mulungu. Ndipo ena a inu muli otere, koma mudasambitsidwa ndi kuyeretsedwa, ndipo mudayesedwa olungama m'dzina la Ambuye Yesu Khirisitu ndi mwa Mzimu wa Mulungu wathu.” Adaonjezera mawu akuti, “Anthu oipa alibe mtendere, ati Mulungu wanga.”

Mphunzitsiyo adalimbikitsa mawu akuti, “Munthu amene saphunzira za Yesu Khirisitu ndi kumtsata sangathe kulandira za ufulu pamaso pa Mulungu. Mulungu adana nazo zoipa zonse monga kumana, kuba, chigololo, kupha, kusirira, nyanga ndi zinthu zonse zoipa. Ngakhale ife a masiku ano Mulungu sabwera kudzacheza nafe monga momwe amachezera ndi makolo athu kale, koma tikhulupirira kuti Mulungu amadzacheza ndi ife pamene tilota maloto. Nanga munthu amene adziwa kuti ine ndine wake wa Mulungu angathe kulota munthu akumupitikitsa, kapena chilombo chikumupitikitsa kufuna kumgwira nadzidzimuka dzidzidzi! Nati, Ha! Kani ndimalota? Angathe kutero kodi munthu wa Yesuyo? Musadzinyenge. Munthu wa Yesu amapeza zabwino padziko lapansi lomwe lino. Anthu ambiri akusauka ndi mtengatenga, mwina aweruzidwa milandu, mwina kusowa. Chifukwa sichina koma kuti sadalandire Yesu mumtima mwawo. Anthu oipa alibe mtendere, ati Mulungu wanga.”

Tsono Nthondo adamva mawu onsewo. Ngakhale amamva kunyerenesa, koma sadakande kuti amve bwino mawu onsewo chifukwa amachita ngati amatchula zoipa zokhazokha za Nthondoyo.

Atatha kuphunzitsa, adaimba nyimbo. Kenaka adapemphera ndi kutuluka. Pamene adatuluka Nthondo ndi anzakewo adaitanidwa kukadya nawo chakudya. Kumeneko adakacheza mpaka madzulo. Tsopano anyamatawo adapita ku nyumba imene amagona.

Usiku Nthondo adayamba kukamba nkhani ndi anzake nakumbutsana zomwe adaziona.

Nthondo adati, “Mtima wanga unali wankhaŵa mmene ndinamva mawu aja lero lino. Poyamba paja mmene amaimba nyimbomu ndinangoti kaya nzotani? Ndipo

mawu aja andithyola mphamu. Paja wati munthu wochita zoipa sadzalandiridwa kwa Mulungu. Pamene paja ine ndamva chisoni kwambiri chifukwa mwini kuba, dama ndi kupha ndine. Pokhapo pandithera mphamu. Anzathu a panowa ndiwo olemera, nanga m'nyumba muja amati ndi m'sukulumu munaonapo wina ovala ngati ife? Onse aja suja anali anthu osambasamba? Ha! Kwathu kuja tipusirako, Ine ndikadakhala wakuno ndikadachita nawo sukulu; koma ngakhale ndipite kwathu kuba ndi zina ndaleka lero.”

Pamenepo mnyamata wina adati, “Kodi ngati ndiwe wekha amene watsutsidwayo, ntonsefe kaya. Koma iwe usamachita kudandaula kuti, “Ine ndimaba, ndimachita dama, kapena ndidapha munthu.” Monga nkuleka? Iyayi. Nzoona monga kuti iwe waleka kuba kuja ukubaku? Monga ife titaba, iwe sungadye nawo? Ha! Wangosauka iwe. Choipa nchoipa chikada sichiyyera. Eni ake apanowa adazolowera, nanga iwe mlendo ungarthe kutani?”

“Monga nsalu yakuda tichiika padzuwa pamenepo nkumavumbiwa ndi mvula singathe kuyera kodi?” Apo winayo adatsutsidwa ndipo adaleka makaniwo. Pambuyo pake adapangana kuti m'mawa azinyamuka ulendo wawo. Tsono anyamatawo adagona.

Usikuwo Nthondo adalota akupita ku dziko lina lachilendo. Kumeneko adapezako anthu ena amene amazunzika ndi moto wophulitsa maso awo, ndipo adaonanso anthu amene amaimba nyimbo zambiri zonga zimene adazimva msanazi. Tsono gulu lililonse lidali ndi mwini wake. Kugulu lakumotolo kudali munthu woopsa wanyanga ziWiri ndi mchira wamoto kunsonga kwa mchirawo; koma kugulu linalo kudali munthu wamtali wovala zoyer a m'thupi lake. Pamene adafikako Nthondoyo atsogoleriwo adayamba kumlimbirana. Munthu woopsayo adamkupatira pamimba ponsepa kumkokera kumotoko, koma munthu wabwinoyo adangomgwira dzanja.

Tsono munthu woopsayo adanena kuti, “Tayireni munthuyyo ndipite naye chifukwa ngoipa.”

Winayo adati, “Ngwanga, ndidamgula.” Pamene

amamlimbirana motero Nthondo adauka.

M'mâwa anyamatawo adauka ndi kukonzeka nalaŵira pamudzipo. Tsono mnyamata amene amadwalayo adamuuza kuti azinyamuka kukadazizira. Atatero anyamatawo adanyamuka,

Mnyamata wina adati, “Bwanji Nthondo sukusangalala?”

Nthondo adangoti, “Palibe kanthu kena.”

Masiku ena adagona panjira anyamatawo. Pofika kunyanja mnyamata wina adati, “Kodi tikatenganso wina katundu kukatula ku Kapata kuti tikakhoze kusendako lizi lija pajapa?”

Ena onsewo adakana kuti, “Ife tifuna kukapumula chifukwa pamutu pathu pali nsumpha. Patapita masiku anyamatawo adafika ku Kabula. Wina adatulutsa kalata m'thumba la mbuzi napana kutsekera. Choncho adayamba kuonetsa kalatayo m'nyumba za azungu. Mzungu wina adaŵalozera anyamatawo kunyumba kumene koti akapereke katunduyo.

Atafika pakhomopo, mnyamata wantchito adaŵafunsa kuti, “Mwachokera kuti?”

Nthondo adanena nati, “Tachokera ku Kapata.”

“Kalata ili kuti?”

Nthondo adatenga kaiatayo naipereka. Tsono mnyamatayo adapereka kalatayo kwa mzungu wake.

Mzunguyyo adati, “Bwanji mudachedwa panjira?”

Nthondo adati, “Chifukwa anthu awiri tidadwala panjira.”

Mzunguyyo atamva za vutolo, adatenga ndalamu naŵalipira. Tsono anyamatawo adaphika nsima nagona. M'mâwa adanyamula mbano zaho nayamba ulendo wopita kwavo. Anyamatawo adayenda msana ndi usiku mpaka adakafika . kwavo.

MUTU V

Ukulu Wake

Pamene adafika anyamatawo, anthu adamva ndipo m'mâwa anthu onse adapita kukâwaona anyamatawo. Ataonana nawo adakondwera kwambiri.

Anyamata ena adafunsa Nthondo nanena kuti, "Mutisimbire zimene mudaona pa ulendo wanu."

Nthondo adati, "Tsiku lija tidayenda bwinobwino. Padambo pena tidapeza nyama zochuluka ndipo tidachita mantha kwambiri. Patapita masiku ena tidafika ku Buwa. Kumenko tidaoloka pagumbwa. Madzi ongooneka kuti munthu apa angathe kumira. Tsiku lina tidafika ku Kapata. M'mâwa mzungu wina adatipatsa katundu ndipo tidayamba kupita ulendo wathu. Pena tidalanditsa nyama kwa mimbulu yomwe tidagulira chimanga. Pamudzi pena ine ndi uyu tidadwala. Iyeyu amamva miyendo, koma ine m'mimba chifukwa cha nyama imene idandisudzula. Tsiku lina m'mâwa tidafika ku Kabula. Atatilipira tidayamba kubwerera ndiye pomwe tafika kuno. Ha! Ndipo kuli mtunda uko, madzi wochita kusowâtsadi. Kungopitirako umphaâwi basi."

Munthu winayo adati, "Nanga inu mumadya chiyani kuti mimbayi izitupa chotere?"

Nthondo adayankha kuti, "Kayera ameneyu ndiye adamchititsa katsuko chifukwa ndiwo Zina kudalibe.

Tangoonani mbalazi.. Chisanu cha pa Kapeni chimenechi."

"Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!" Adaseka onsewo.

Munthuyo adati, "Tayambani mwapuma, ife tikatola mphalabungu tikupezani." Choncho anyamatawo adakhala pamudzipo. Madzulo adafika anthu amene adakatola mphalabunguwo.

Nthondo atakula amakonda kukhala kubwalo ndi anthu

aakuluakulu. Ntchito zonse zimene akuluwo amachita iye amachita nawo. Kuyendayenda ndi kuba zonse adaleka.

M'mawa tsiku lina Nthondo adamva nkhani zimene akakamba akuluwo kuti, "Nthondo, uzigwira molimbika ntchito chifukwa tsopano ukusandulika munthu. Ndiponso mwana wolima ndiye angakwatire pamudzi pa anthu, ndipo anthu ambiri amamukhumbira kuti ndiye nkukhala mkamwini wa munthu. Osati mwana waulesi, ha! Anthu sangathe kumkonda, angoti akati, "Ine ndifuna mbeta, anthu amvekere, lekeratu." Nthondo atamva mawu a anthuwo adakondwera.

M'mawa kutacha munthu wina adakumana ndi mnzake wa Nthondo nayamba kukamba nkhani kuti, "Kodi Nthondo mudamusiya ku Kabula pakuti saoneka?"

Pamenepo mnyamatayo adati, "Mufunsiranji kwina mumuona akuyenda?"

"Mwati zikadakhalamo zinthu, sibwenzi atatha kale kuba."

"Kodi mwakumbuka za zija? Lero akuti adaleka ati. Akuti adakakhumbira sukulu ku Domwe."

"Zikomo adachita bwino kuleka."

Nthondo adakhaladi bwino koti anthu amamtama kwambiri. Akakhala pabwalopo sakakana akamtuma. Choncho Nthondo adakhoza kusoka mphasa, kusema mipini, kumanga masindwi a nyumba ndi ntchito zina. Kawirikawiri pabwalopo anthu amabwera nayo milandu yawo kwa atsibweni ake a Nthondo. Nthondo ndiye adali wovomera poyankhula koteri kuti adadziwa maweruzidwe a milandu. Milandu yochepta yokha ndiyo imene imamusautsa. Chifukwa cha ichi anthu ambiri adamkhumbira kwambiri.

Tsiku lina Nthondo adamva atsibweni ake kuti. "Takupatsa mkazi." Nthondo adavomera koma pambuyo pake atazindikira kuti mkaziyo adali wamng'ono adamukana.

M'mawa tsiku lina Nthondo adayenda ndi mnyamata amene akakondana naye. Patsikulo onsewo adapita

kukasamba. Tsono Nthondo adati, “Mnzanga, ndifuna kudziwa, kodi sukulu suikonda?”

Mnyamatayo adati, “Ndiikonda.”

“Kodi zija anyoza anzathu zija nzabwino?”

“Ayi, nzoipa.”

Kenaka adagwirizana nati, “Tiyeni tilekane nawo chifukwa amene aja akutiphunzitsa zoipa.” Atakambakamba adapita kumudzi nayamba kukamba nkhani m'mphala mwawo.

Usiku wina Nthondo ndi mnzakeyo adakamba nkhani zakuti, “Ife tizingovutika ndi nsikidzi ndi mphutsi. Kodi mbeta tikafunse liti? Ha! Zimenezi zindiwa wa ine kwambiri. Kansima kazikhala kang'onong'ono, ndiwo zake zam'chipande. Ha! Ndizifuna mkazi tsopano. Kaja adandipatsa mtsibweni wangaka sinkafuna chifukwa pondipatsa chakudya ndikakauza kuti kakhale pansi kuti tizidyera limodzi kamati, ‘Yanga ili kwa ayiya.’ Chifukwa chake ndifuna mkazi wamkulu.” Anyamatawo adakambakamba nagona tulo.

Kenaka Nthondo adatsimikiza mtima zokafunsira mbeta. Choncho m'mawa mwina anyamatawo adakamba kwambiri nkhani ya akazi popeza onsewo amafuna kupeza akazi.

Nthondo adati, “Kodi pofuna kusankha mkazi tizisankha wotani?”

Anyamata ena adati, “Mkazi azikhala wotuwa ndiye mkazi wantchito, osakhala mkazi wosambasamba, wadama, simkazi ameneyo, sangathe kusungu mwamuna bwino.”

Anyamata ena adati, “Pofuna kusankha mkazi pafunika kumpenya chifukwa mkazi wakungomva kuti, ‘Takufunsirani mbeta ndipo mbetayo yatha,’ siwabwino chifukwa mkaziyo akakhala wophinya diso nkumkana bwanji?”

Ena adati, “Mkazi usamafunsa mwana wa mtsibweni wako, iyayi, chifukwa msuweni amanyada, mwina samvera zimene unena iwe, koma amangoti Cha! Zachabe.”

Enanso adati, “Zonse munenazo nzopanda pake,

koma chimodzi chokha... mthiko. Mkazi azikhala wophika ngakhale akhale wotani palibe kanthu. Simulipenya banja la a Mziza? Akazi awo aja ngosalala kodi?" Choncho anyamatawo adaleka kutsutsanako.

Tsiku linanso Nthondo ali ndi mnzake, mnzakeyo adati, "Kodi Nthondo ukulingirira zotani pokhala du? Ukulingirira zofuna sukulu Zija kodi? Ha! Wangosauka, iwe! Cha! Tatiye tikakumbe mbatata."

Nthondo adati, "Sindingathe kuchita choipa ngakhale Wina atandituma sindingathe, koma ndikulingirira za mkazi kumene ndingathe kumpeza."

Mnzakeyo adati, "Kodi bwanji osakafunsa mkazi uja ali pamudzi pa a Mnjondoyu?"

"Kodi pa a Mnjondo pali mbeta? Tiye komweko lero tikamuone mwana wamkaziyo." Mnzakeyo adavomera ndipo onsewo adapita kumudzi kwa a Mnjondoko. Atafika Nthondo adapita kunyumba kumene kudali mwana wamkaziyo. Poyamba adapempha madzi akumwa. Posakhalitsa mkaziyo adabwera nawo madziwo.

Mkaziyo atachoka adati, "Ndiameneyu mkaziyo, nanga iwe maso ako sanadyerere?"

Nthondo adati, "Lekani! Ndiye mkazi ameneyo. Ichitha mbeta, ...ha! Siotukwanitsa. Ndikapita kumudzi ndikauza atsibweni anga kuti akatume munthu wina akandifunsire mbeta." Tsono anyamatawo adachoka nadzera kubwalo limene lidali kumphepete kwa tchire chifukwa choopa asirikali. Adacheza nawo pang'ono nayamba kupita kwavo.

Madzulo Nthondo adapita kunyumba ya atsibweni ake nati, "Odi!"

"Eya."

Nthondo adalowa m'nyumbamo nakhala kuthala.

Atsibweni ake adati, "Msakhale uko; mbuzizo zingakuminireni, koma khalani kukhomoko. Nthondo adanyamuka nakakhala kukhomoko. Atsibweniwo adamfunsa Nthondo za chimene adadzera.

Nthondo adayamba kufotokoza kwa atsibweniwo kuti, "Chodzera ine muno ndicho kuti ndinakayenda kumudzi

kwa Mnjondo ndipo kumeneko ndaonako mkazi. Ndifuna kuti ndikamfunsite mbeta ndiye chifukwa chake ndabwera kuti mudziŵiretu.”

“Ine sindifuna kuti iwe ukafunsire mbetayo chifukwa paja ine ndidakupatsa mkazi, suja udakana iwe?”

Nthondo adati, “Kodi inu mukundikaniza chifukwa chiyani osanga mudziŵa kuti ine ndine mwana wamasiye. Ndipo mundiletsa, ha! Ine ndamkonda kwambiri mkaziyo, ndikamfunsite.

Atsibweniwo adamfunsa kuti, “Kodi pamene iwe ukafunsa mbeta kwa Mnjondo nanga adzasunga mudzi uno ndani? Pano pakuipira kodi?”

Nthondo adati, “Ine sinditcha pano poipa, koma nditapita kukakhala kumeneko bwino lake ndikatenga chitengwa ndi kudzakhala kuno.”

Apo atsibweni ake adati, “Kutero ndiko. Chabwino, kafunse. Uuze wina akakufunsire.”

Nthondo adakondwera napita kumphala ndipo adauza mnzakeyo nati, “Ha! Ndachita mwayi.”

“Bwanji?”

“Wandilola nanga.”

“Wachita bwino ndithu.”

“Ha! Zoonadi.”

Posakhalitsa Nthondo adapita ku nyumba ya alamu ake. Tsono atalowa m'nyumba sadakhalitsemo nthawî, koma adauza alamu ake kuti, “Tatiyeni pakhomopa tikakambeko zobisa.”

Adatuluka ndipo Nthondo adati, “Chokuitanirani ndicho kuti lero lomwe lino tinamka tiyenda kwa a Mnjondo ekukafuna mbeta. Ndaipeza kumeneko mbetayo. Hi! Mwana wamkazi warnng'onopo thupi, wamtali, ndiponso woyer. Kamkanda koyera kali m'khosi thi! Ndiye ndinabwera kwa atsibweni kudzâwfotokozer, koma osandiloleza mpakana tinasautsana kwambiri. Kenaka avomera. T sono ndabwera kwa inu kuti mukandifunsire mbetayo mawa.”

Mlamu wakeyo adati, “Chabwino, tipite mawa. Munthu azikhala ndi banja.”

M'mawa kutacha Nthondo adalaŵirira ku nyumba ya mlamu wakeyo nati, "Kwacha, tiyeni."

Mlamu wakeyo adati, "Tiyambe tasamba m'maso ndi kulawa kagaga." Atatha adayamba kupita kwa Mnjondo kuja. Tsono atafika kumudziko, adafika kubanja kumene kudali mwana wamkaziyo. Komwekonso kudali mnyamataya wina komwe adafunsirako mbetayo. Pamene poadaonana naye mnyamataya nayamba kufotokozerana motere:

"Mnyamataya adati, "Moni!"

"Eya."

"Nkwabwino kumudzi kwanu?"

"Eya, kuli bwino, kaya zochitika m'mbu yo sitidziwa."

"Mwangotichezera?"

"Eya, tangokuchezerani chifukwa tangoona kwathuku opanda chothirako kummeroku chifukwa chake tati, 'Mnzanga, tiye timke uku tikamwe nawo kamowa.' Eya, tsono monsemu tangotantha chabe mmalo moongola pakamwa. Paja adati amene atsekula chitseko ndiye amene wamva m'mimba. Chobwerera ife ndicho cuti tidamva kabodza kakuti kuno kuli mbeta. Chifukwa chake pozindikira cuti ifenso tili tokha tati, 'Ha! Tipite kumeneku mwina nkutilola.' Mbetayo ndimlongo wanu."

"Kodi mukuti mwatsata mbeta?"

"Eya."

"Mbetayo ufunu ndiwe, kapena uyu, kapena wina amene mwamsiya kumudzi?"

"Afuna ndiuyu."

"Dzina lake ndani?"

"Dzina lake ndi Nthondo."

"Chabwino, izi ndamva ndipo ndiwa fotokozeramake a mwanayo. Tsono inu mubwere mawa."

"Eya, tibwera mawa. Tsalani bwino."

Tsono Nthondo adapita kumudzi kwawo pamodzi ndi mlamu wakeyo. Atafika kumudziko adauza anthu ena zonse zimene adamva kumudzi kwa a Mnjondoko.

Adafotokoza cuti, "Anthu akomweko atiuza kutikawa onenso mawa. Choncho mawalo tilawirira ndiponso

zonse tidzakufotokozerani rnaŵa lomwelo.”

Anthuwo adavomera nati, “Chabwino, tidzamva māwa . lomwelo.”

Usiku wonse Nthondo adagona akungoganiza za mkaziyo. Mwina kumlota akuyankhula naye mpakana kudacha. M'mamawā Nthondo ndi mlamu wakeyo adalaŵirira kupita kumudziko.

Atafika adapeza eni akewo atakambirana kale. Pamene po iwovo adakumbutsa nkhanayo ndipo eni akewo sadanene mawu ambiri, adangoti, “Pitani, kwanu mukanene kuti mbeta yatha ndipo mnyamatayu mukabwere naye māwa.” Anyamatawo adalaŵira nabwerera kwawo. Atafika adafotokoza zonsezo kwa anthu apamudzipo. Anthu onse adakondwera chifukwa choti Nthondo adapeza mbeta. Kutacha Nthondo adanthunthumira ndi kukondwera. Sadayendeyende kutali kuopa kuti mlamu wake womuperekezayo angapite kwina.

Nthondo atamuona mlamu wakeyo adati, “Bwanji nanga tsopano? Kwacha, tiyeni.”

Mlamuyo adavomera nati, “Eya.” Atatero adayamba kupita onsewo.

Akupita mlamu wa Nthondoyo adati, “Nthondo, ine sindifuna kuti kumudzi kwa eni ukukakhala uzikakhala mwachibwana. Kumva zotero ine toto. Atakuchotsa ku ukwati ine sindingalole kukakufunsira mbeta yina. Lero wakula ndipo uzikhala mwachiukulu ndipo udzaona anthu akukulemekeza kuti kwa a Nthondoku, osati kungokhala mwamphwayi, sudzakhala ngati kamunthu koma ngati kagalu kachabe. Kumanga banja ndintchito.”

“Inde, zonsezo ndidazidziŵa kale; choncho ndikalimbika kwambiri.”

Anyamatawo atafika kumudziko, adamupeza mnyamata uja ndipo adampatsa moni nayamba kukamba.

Mlamu wake wa Nthondo adati, “Lero tafikanso chifukwa cha mawu amene mudatipatsa dzulo kuti lero tibwere ndi mnyamatayu. Lero suyu Nthondo takusiyirani.”

“Inde, tidatero dzulo lija; sindidanene mawu ambiri chifukwa ukwati ndiufulu. Zikomo chifukwa mwabwera

naye. Ife tifuna kuti iyeyu atisungire wathu, ndiponso ife timsunge iyeyu.” Onsewo adavomerezana.

Atatha kukambirana mlamu wa Nthondo adati, “Ha! Ine ndikupita. Nthondoyu ndamsiya. Nthondo tayamba watiye ubwerera kunjiraku.” Tsono atapita limodzi mlamu wakeyo adati, “Mommuja ndinakuuziramutu? Munthu azikhala wamkhutu.”

Nthondo adatinso, “Eya, Ndamva.”

“Chabwino, bwerera,” adatero mlamuyo.

“Eya, ndipo mukandiuzeireko Mdzitulayo moni. Mukanenenso kuti Nthondo abwera msanga aphike mowā.”

Tsono atabwerera Nthondoyo, adafika kunyumba kumene adafikirako ndipo mlamu wake adamuitana namulozera nyumba ina yoti azigona ndi mkaziyo. Kuta. yamba kuda mkaziyo adabwera nawola chipala ndi kusonkha moto. Adapita kunyumba kwa amayi ake nabwererako ndi chinsima chambiri, ndiwo yake idali nyama yankhuku naipereka kwa Nthondo. Atasamba m'manja, adayamba kudya pamodzi ndi mkazi wakeyo.

M'mawa mwake Nthondo adauza mkazi wakeyo kuti, “Lero ndipita kwathu ndipo ndikabwera mawa.”

Mkaziyo adakafotokozena amake ndipo atabwera adapereka mkanda kwa Nthondo nanena kuti, “Amayi anga akuti musamawathawe, ati ndinu mwana wawo.” Nthondo adalandira mkandawo nanyamuka kupita kwawoko.

Nthondo atafika kwawoko, adawafotokozena anthu kuti, “Ine ndili bwino. Kuno ndabwera kudzapempha nkhuku chifukwa apongozi anga adandiphera nkhuku choncho nanenso ndifuna kukapha yanga.”

Mnyamata wina adati, “Chabwino, ndikuombola ndine. Ubwere kunyumba kwanga ndikakupatsa tambala wakamphambe. Tsonotu uchenjere. Ukakapha nkhukuyo ukhale ndi nzeru chifukwa apongozi ena amafuna kumuyesa munthu. Usamapeza m'mawa m'mbale muli phiko ndi mwendo, madzulo chomwecho, m'mawa upeza akupatsa khosi ndi chikholokholo. Pamene po kumalingirira ukakhala mwana wa munthu. Chitsiru chimangokudya osalingirira kuti apongozi ake adya chiyani?”

Nthondo adalandira nkhukuyo nalaŵira ndi kupita. Atafika, adatenga nkhukuyo naipereka kwa mkazi wake nati, “Nkhukuyi akaphe kuti tidye.”

Mkaziyo adakaipereka nkhukuyo kwa amake naŵauza kuti, “Iphani, tidye.”

M'mâwa mkaziyo adapita kwa amake kukatengako nsima, ndiwoyo ili mumphika naipereka kwa Nthondo, koma Nthondo adati, “Ine sindifuna kuti ndikapha nyama ndizidya ndekha. Kumeneku nkuletsana kupha kanthu. Tiye tengä ndiwoyi ukaŵagawire amayi ako ndipo ukaŵauze kuti asamatero chifukwa nkulakwa.”

Tsono mkaziyo adatenga nkhukuyo nakaipereka kwavo. Kenaka adabwera nayo mbale nayamba kudya.

Tsiku lina m'mâwa mkazi wa Nthondo adakhwima, choncho amayi ake adapita kwa alongo awo a Mnjondo (Namkungwi) atatenga nkhuku yonenera. Namkungwiyo adatenga nkhukuyo nakaipereka kwa amfumu. Apo amfumu adalandira nafuna khundabwi kuti azikadya namwaliyo.

Kenaka namkungwiyo adauza mlongo wake wa mkazi wa Nthondo namuuza kuti auze Nthondo kuti, “Akazi ake asanduka namwali lero ndiye ndangokuuza, kwanu ndikanena ndine.”

Nthondo adakondwera kwambiri. Mlamu wakeyo adafotokoza zonse kwa mnyamata amene adadzafunsira mbeta uja.

M'mâwa mwina apongozi a Nthondo adafulula mowâ naitana anthu onse akumudzi kwavo kwa Nthondo. Anthu onse adasonkhana kukamwa moŵawo.

Atatha kumwa, mlamu wa Nthondo adati, “Anthu onse amene mwabera pano takuitanani kuti tidziŵe amene tizimutumikira pabanja la Nthondo kuti aziti amene wadwala namadziŵitsa ena mwamsanga.”

Pamenepo adasankha nkhoswe za Nthondo ndi za mkazi wake ndipo zidapezeka. Tsono adaptiriza mawu ena

kuti, "Pa banja la Nthondo mkazi wake ndinamwali monga ndidakuuuzirani, ndipo ndifuna kuti chinamwali chake chichitike msanga. Mukamuuze kuti azifuna chuma." Anthu onse adakondwera navomera.

Nthondo adamuuza kuti azisoka mphasa. Tsiku lina m'mâwa Nthondo adayamba kusoka mphasa. Zina adapempha kwa abwenzi ake. Zitapezeka mphasa makumi âwiri adazipereka kwa a Mnjondo. Choncho a Mnjondo adauza namkungwi kuti afulumize kufulula mowâ wachinamwali. M'mâwa adafulula moâwalo namwa onse. Pambuyo pake akazi adayamba kulanga mkaziyo za makhalidwe oyenera m'banja lake. Nthondonso adamulanga. Potsiriza adawâameta ndipo onsewo adamwazikana.

Tsiku lina m'mâwa Nthondo adati, "Ha! Latikola thendo. Tizingoti m'mâwa tadyera thendo, m'mawa therere, fwifwi, mlozi, kanzota, limanda, luni, ndi ndiwo zina. Cha! Ndikatcha misampha." Atakatcha misamphayo Nthondo adapha nkhanga zochuluka, nkhwali ndi njiâwa zomwe. Apo Nthondo sadasôwe ndiwo chifukwa amachitanso uzimba. Anthu ambiri amakhumbira kuti akadakhala mkamwini wawo chifukwa cha nyama zochuluka zomwe zidali lenjekelenjeke m'nyumba mwake.

Kâwirikâwiri Nthondo pamene amachokera kuuzimba milimo ya nkhokwe ili paphewa, mwina upeza wamenya luzi, kapena wakulula nkhundi nakayedzeka pabwalo pake.

M'mâwa tsiku lina, wina adamfunsa Nthondo kuti, "Kodi a Nthondo ntchito muyamba isadayambe kung'anima mvula kuti anthu aziti ndinu mwamuna wamachaâwi? Mukungosauka, nthâwi ikadalipo."

Nthondo adati, "Chifukwa ine ndine munthu woyendayenda, ndiponso mwina ndidzadwala, ndimo ndichitiramu popeza masiku sakoma onse." Ikayamba kugwa mvula Nthondo samasauka, koma amagwira ntchito yake bwino uku anzake akuchita balalabalala kufuna milimo ya ntchito zawo.

Anzakewo amakhumbira nati, "Tikangokusekani a Nthondo. Inu ndiye mudadziâwiratu."

Nthawî ina Nthondo adalingirira nati, “Kubanja kuno masiku ambiri njala ikutivuta; nditani?” M'mâwa Nthondo adatenga khasu napita kumunda kukayamba mphanje. Tsono adaunga nthumbira zambiri zazikuluzikulu ndi kubzalamo chimanga, nyemba, ndiponso adalima mbatata zambiri. Chimangacho chidabeleka kwambiri koti sadasowenso chakudya.

Apongozi ake adamkondadi nati, “Mwana wangadi amene adandigwira pamoyo.” Choncho anansi ambiri a Nthondo adamva mbiri ya mbale waho ndipo adakondwera kwambiri. Nthondo adakhala mokondwa ndi mkazi wake, sadapsetsanepo mitima. Anthu ena adakondwera naye mkaziyo chifukwa adali waulemu.

Tsiku lina Nthondo amakamba ndi mkazi wake, Nthondo adati, “Mkazi wanga, ine ndili ndi mawu. Ndikuti ine ndine mwana wamasiye; atate ndi amayi ndilibe, mayi ndi tate ndiwe. Kodi ine nditafuna kukakhala nawe kwathu, iwe ungakane?”

Mkaziyo adati, “Ine sindingathe kukana, ndiponso pano ine sindikondapo. Inu mutandiuba kuti tikakhale kwantu ine ndingathe kulola mwamsanga.” Atakambakamba adaleka.

Tsiku lina Nthondo adauza mkazi wake kuti, “Lero ndipita kumudzi kwathu, mwina ndikabwerako mawa kapena lero lomwe lino.”

Mkaziyo adati, “Chabwino.” Nthondo adapita kwawo nafika ku nyumba ya atsibweni ake.

Tsono atsibweni ake adampatsa moni Nthondo namfunsa kuti, “Kodi udzabwera liti Nthondo kudzakhala kuno?”

“Ndibwera posachedwa chifukwa mkazi wanga ndidamfunsa za chitengwa ndipo adavomera kale, koma muwauze alamu anga akunowa kuti akapemphe chitengwa.

“Ha! Kodi! Wanena pafupi ndimtuma wina akanene kwa nkhoswe zakuchikazi.” Choncho atakambakamba Nthondo adapita kukagona. M'mawa kutacha Nthondo adalaŵirira nayamba kupita kwa a Mnjondo. Tsono atafika,

adapeza mkazi wake ali kumunda. Kenaka adafika mkaziyo.

Tsiku lina atsibweni ake a Nthondo adatumiza nkhoswe ya Nthondo kwa a Mnjondoko. Itafika nkhoswego idaitana mlongo wake wa mkazi wa Nthondo ndi kunena naye kuti, “Makono tikutenga Nthondo ndi mkazi wake yemwe chitengwa. Ngati muli ndi mawu ena mungathe kunena. Chifukwa chake ndicho kuti kwathuku mfumu yathu pamudzipo ilibe aphwake, koma mphwake ndi Nthondo yekhayu. Choncho mutilole kuti titero.”

Winayo adati, “Imani ndikawafotokozer amake a mkaziyu.” Atawafotokozer adabwerako ndipo adati, “Mawu anu onse ndafotokoza, koma mayiyo akudandaula kwambiri chifukwa iwo alibe mwamuna ndipo Nthondo. ndiye amene adawagwira pakati. Chifukwa cha ichi samasowanso. Lero mufuna mupite naye kwanu, ha! Chabwino, koma mwana wawoyo akamsunge bwino.”

Nkhoswego idatenga nkhuku nipereka. Idauza Nthondo kuti, “Ndapempha chitengwa chako ndipo ativomera choncho ubwere kwathu ukakonze kanyumba kena kuti udzafikiremo.” M'mawa Nthondo adapita kwavo nakakonza kanyumbako. Tsiku lina m'mawa Nthondo adachoka pamodzi ndi mkazi wake ndi kukakhala kwavo. Anthu akwawoko adamulandira.

Tsiku lina Nthondo adatenga khasu nayamba kulima mphanje ndipo itabwera mvula Nthondo adayamba kubzala chimanga. Chimangacho chidabereka bwino ndipo adachiika m'nhokwe yaikulu.

Munthu wina adati kwa Nthondo, “Ndifuna kufunsa iwe kuti kapena uli nayo mfumba chifukwa ine kaŵirikaŵiri ndikalima chimanga nkhokwe yanga siidzala. Ndipo pamene ndaona iwe kuti munda udali waung'ono, koma nkhokwe yadzala ndadodoma ndipo ndaganiza kuti iwe udaonana ndi munthu wina amene adziŵa mankhwala amfumba.”

“Ine ndili kutilitali ndi zinthu zotere, ine ndidangoona chimanga changa chadzala osadziŵa kuti ena amachitira

mankhwala chimanga. Tsopano ndazindikira kuti chimanga changa chidalola bwino chifukwa chakuti ndidalima mphanje. Kodi iwe unalima mphanje makono?”

“Munda wanga ulibe tchire limene ndingathe kulimapo mphanje chifukwa mundawo adandipatsa ndi a Kachipere ndipo adangondipatsa tsala lokhalokha.”

“Nanga bwanji iwe osakayesa kulima mphanje? Banja nchakudyatu, kuvala nchabe.”

Unenetsa, Nthondo; ndikafuna mało ena mawa. Malowa ndidawaona kale; ndikayamba kulima mawa.”

“Kodi pali mało ambiri kuti ndikalime nawo?”

“E! Malo alipo ambiri; ngati mufuna tipitire limodzi mawa.”

“Chabwino tipite.” Choncho adalekana napita ku nyumba zawo.

Nthondo atafika kunyumba, adafotokozena mkazi wake kuti, “Mawa ndikayamba kuswa munda watsopano chifukwa tidapangana ndi myamata wina.” Mkazi wake adavomera.

M'mawa Nthondo adatenga khasu lake naitana mnzakeyo ndi kumapita. Mnyamatayo adalondola tchire limene adalionalo. Atafika, adamuuza Nthondo kuti, “Mpano paja ndimanena dzulo lija ndipo ine ndiyamba pano, inu muyambire apa muzimka chauko, ine ndizimka chauku.”

“Eya. Koma iwe udaona malo abwino. Chipsipe ati chimanga chake chidzalingana ndi ana a anthu chifukwa pano pali chonde chambiri.” Tsono adayamba kulima mphanjezo. Kenaka adamva kufuula kwa anthu ambiri, adamva mawu a nyimbo yakuti:

Chitule! Chitule! Cha bwana wafika, eya!

Nthondo adati, “Ehe! Kumeneko! Mwamva kuimbaku kodi?”

“Eya, ndikumva.”

“Nchiyani?”

“Kaya, Sindidziwa.”

“Tiyeni tikaone.” Nthawi yomweyo adaleka kulima nathamangira kumudzi. Atafika adafunsira kunjira komwe

kuti, “Kodi nchiyani akuimbira anthuchi?”

“Akuti ati kwabwera mzungu.”

“Watsata chiyani mzunguy?”

“Kaya, sitidziwa ife.”

“Ndiye anthu angoyamba ndi kukondwera ngati kuti amva kale kuti mzunguy wadzera mtendere. Ha! Kusadziwa kumeneku. Azungu ndinkhondo, ife tidadziwa kale za azungu, alibe chibale ndi munthu. Tatiye tikaone mnzanga, kakumva kalemya, kanthu umadzionera.” Adapita komweko naona mzunguy ali chachiriri. Nthondo adatenga khasu lake nakaliikakunyumba. Atamwa madzi adaptanso kukaona mzunguy. Anyamata ake a mzunguy adayamba kumanga hema. Nthondo ndi mnzakeyo adaonerera kumangako nadabwa kwambiri chifukwa cha nyumba yansalu.

Adasonkhanako anthu ambiri kudzaona mzunguy. Atsibweni ake a Nthondo adamva zakuti mzungu wafika pamudzi pawo. Iwo adauza ana ena kuti agwire mbuzi. Atagwira mbuziyo, adamuitana Nthondo ndipo atafika atsibweni ake adati, “Tenga mbuziyi tiye nayo kwa bwana tikapereke moni. Apo Nthondo adaduduluza mbuziyo napita nayo kubwalo kumene kudali mzunguy ali ndi atsibweni akewo.

Atsibweni ake a Nthondo adafika kwa mzunguy nati,

“Moni, bwana.”

“Eya.”

“Kwayani kandiwo kakuti mudye. Tasowa mbuzi yaikulu chifukwa masiku ano tili aumphawî.”

Tsono mzunguy adati, “Kodi iwe mfumu ya pamudzi pano?”

“E! Ndine mfumu ya pamudzi pano. Taonani, bwana, kuyambira midzi yonse imene idazungulira panoyi ndiyanga yokhayokha chifukwa mkulu wawo ndine. Midzi imeneyi idachoka m'mudzi mwanga tikadali pabwinja paja. Ndiye mfumu zonsezi ndimaziponya ndine.”

Pamenepo mzunguy adati, “Ndakondwera kwambiri pakumva kuti ndiwe mfumu ya mudzi uno. Tsono chimene tafikira ife kuno tikamba panthawî yamadzulo ano. Nthaŵi

imene mubwere kuno muitane nduna zanu ndi mfumu zina zazing'ono za m'mudzi mwanu muno. Mawu enanso ndikuti mundipatse anyamata ena kuti andipatse nkhuni kuti tigulane ndi mchere. Akazinso abwera ndi madzi.”

Mfumuyo idavomera ndi kuuza anthu kuti, “Amene afuna mchere pamudzi pano atenge madzi kapena nkhuni apite nazo kwa mzungu kuhemaku.” Atatero adapita ku nyumba yake.

Madzulo mzunguyo adaitana mfumuyo pamodzi ndi mfumu zina. Atafika mzunguyo adati, “Kodi mwabwera mfumu zonse?”

Anthuwo adayankha kuti, “Eya.”

Pamenepo mzunguyo adati, “Ine ndafika pano chifukwa mudzi wanu uno ndaukonda, ndifuna kuti pakhale sukulu kuti ana anu aphunzire kuwerenga ndi kudziwa zambiri. Pano ndikuyamba kukufunsani kuti tipangane.”

Mfumuyo idati, “A Mzingwa, a Chikunje, a Dzeya, mwazimvatu zomwe wanena bwanazi zoti pano pakhale sukulu; ndipo bwanayu akufunsa ife kuti tinene ngati tikufuna kapena ayi sitifuna. Pamenepa inu muti bwanji?”

A Mzingwa adati, “Ha! Zimenezi zitisautsa chifukwa bwanayu watidzidzimutsa, koma akadatilola kuti tidzayankhe mawa.”

Atsibweni ake a Nthondo adauza mzunguyo kuti, “Chabwino, ndidzakondwera ngati mudzandiyankha bwinobwino. Musachoke msanga tiyambe takamba nkhani.”

Mfumuzo zidakhala pakhomo pa hemayo; ndipo mzunguyo adatenga kabokosi kake nakaika pampando adatenga china chonga phale naika pamwamba pabokosipo nazunguza. Phokoso la anthu Iidamveka m'menemo, “Ha! M'menemo mudaikamo chiyani, bwana?” mozizwa zidafunsa mfumuzo.

“Mulibe kanthu kena, taonani siumu, adayankha mzunguyo.” Atatsekula kabokosiko, mfumuzo zidaonamo tizitsulo toyera topiringidzanapiringidzana.

“Ha! Simudaikemo anthu akufa m'menemu?”

Mzunguyo adaseka nauza mfumuzo kuti, “Zimenezi

zikufunikanso ndi inu kuti ana anu aphanzirenso zinthu zimene tidziwa ife. Sichifukwa china ayi, koma anthu amene adayamba kudziwa nzeru zotere ndiwo adaphunzira.”

“Kodi bwana, nzimenezi zasukuluzo?” zidafunsa mfumuzo. Zitakambirana ndi mzunguyo zidamwazikana nizikalowa m'nyumba zavo.

M'mawa atsibweni ake a Nthondo adaitana mfumu Zina zazing'ono pamodzi ndi nduna zavo. Adaitananso Nthondo kuti azikavomereza pamene akukamba za upo wawo.

Atafika onse atsibweni ake a Nthondo adati, “Ati inu, a Mzingwa, a Chikunje ndi a Dzeya tabwera m'mawa muno kuti tikhale upo monga tidapangana naye bwana uja dzulo ndipo ndifuna kuti aliyense anene monga momwe walingirira pamzere wa mphasa.”

“Ine ndine ndalingirira kuti za sukulu imeneyi tidayamba kale kumva kuti kudziko kuno kuli sukulu. Suja tidaiona ku Mvera sukuluyo. Eya, sukulu njabwino, komanso poipa pake ili napo. Ndikuti ku Mvera kuja kudali mizinda yometerako anamwali, nanga lero muiona kodi? Azungu adangoti atafika, ‘Lekani izi zonse.’ Si choncho? Ndipo inu anzanga muyesa kuti ife tivomere kuti pano pakhale sukulu? Nanga ana athuwa poti munthu amveka ndi mzinda? Ine zandiipira, kaya inu anzanga, nenani kuti tivomere kapena tikane.”

Pamenepo a Mzingwa adati, “Mawu onse mwanenaŵa amveka bwino ndipo padalibe munthu wa khutu logontha dzulo lija. Za sukulu imene afuna bwanayu ine sindidaione. Machitidwe ndi ntchito zake sindizidziwa. Eya, inu mukuti pano sipafunika sukulu, inenso ndivomereza chifukwa kuti mzinda usweke pathu pano ine mtima wanga sindifuna kutali kumene. Kaya a Dzeya ndi a Chikunje, mukuti bwanji” A Dzeya ndi a Chikunje adakananso.

Tsono atsibweni ake a Nthondo adaimirira nangoti, “Ha! Tiyeni kwa bwanayo tikanene kuti sitifuna.”

Kenaka Nthondo adati, “Tayambani mwakhala pansi

chifukwa ndifuna kunenapo.” Mfumuzo zidakhala pansi ndipo Nthondo adati, “Ine ndine mwana ndipo sindingathe kukulamulirani, koma ife anyamatafe sukulu timaifuna. Pamene tidapitakumtengatenga kuja tidafika pamudzi pena pamene padali sukulu ndipo anthu onse a pamenepo tidaŵaona bwinobwino. Bwanji inu mungowiringula ngati m’sukulu mudalowamo? Musakane ayi.”

“Kodi iwe ndiwe muntho wotani, Nthondo? Bwanji ukuti zinthu zimene takana ife akuluakulu iwe nkumatsutsa? Mwana opusa iwe. Munthu wofuna kuchita sukulu ine sindimfunu.”

“Ine ndikuifuna kwambiri, kandiuzireni bwanayo kuti adzaikepo sukuluyo. Ngati inu mufuna kuti ndichoke chabwino.”

Pamenepo a Dzeya adati, “Ha! Thambani mwaima amfumu. Kodi ife sindife okalamba, iyeyu ndi anzake amene afuna sukuluyo sianyamata? Ndikuti, pepani tamlolani kuti mawa lake angamadzayesa ife ndife oyipa. Mwana akalirira nyanga yamsatsi msemere kuti imfotere yekha.”

Apo atsibweni aka a Nthondo adati, “Chabwino, ndamlola. Tsongo bwino lake mzinda wanga ukadzasweka ndidzamupha Nthondoyu. Tsopano tiyenitu tikamfotokozeru.” Choncho onsewo adaptakuhema kwa mzunguyu nakhala m’khonde.

Mzunguyu atasambasamba adatuluka. Mfumu zonsezozidati, “Moni, bwana.”

“Eya, moni nonse. Nanga mawu athu adzulo mwakalingirira bwanji kuupo kwanu?”

Atsibweni aka a Nthondo adati, “Ife tonse tavomerezana kuti mutipatse sukuluyo.”

Mzunguyu adakondwera nati, “Zikomo kwambiri chifukwa mwandiyankha mwafulu.” Pamenepo mzunguyu adatenga mabulangeti nazigawira mfumuzo, ndiponso adapereka thumba la mchere. Kenaka adati, “Kwayani kalata iyi mukapereke kwa mzungu wakuboma kuti akadziwe.” Chotero adalandira kalatayo nakaiika m’shala kunyumba kwavo. Mzunguyu adalaŵirana nawo nayamba kupita kwavo.

Tsiku lina m’mawa mfumuyo idakusa anthu onse a pamudzipo ndipo idanena nawo kuti, “Ndakuitanani anthu nonse a pamudzi pano ndine. Ndifuna ndikudziŵitseni kuti

mzungu adachoka dzuloyu akufuna kuika sukulu pathu pano ndipo tidaivomera chifukwa cha mawu a Nthondo yemwe adaikondetsa. Tsono ndati ndikudziwitseni kuti aliyense adziwiretu. Mzungu uja watisiyira kalata kuti tikapereke kuboma, ndipo ndipita nayo lero kalata imeneyi. Amene ali ndi mawu ena anenepo.”

Wina adayankha nati, “Mawu anu anse ife, amfumu, tamva bwino. Monga mudalola inu sukuluyo, ife tilibe mawu ena. Nanga izo simudapangana akuluakuluokhaokha, nanga ife mwaiitananso chifukwa ninji? Izo zilibi kanthu zidatha ndipo kubomako pitani chifukwa mawu a mzunguakanika, akadakhala mnzathu wakudabwenzi titati, ‘Ha! Kakaneni’.” adacheza kwambiri namwazikana.

Pambuyo pake amfumuwo adati, “Nthondo, tengi kalata ija kunyumba kwangako ili m’shala limene ndidakatenga kwa bwenzi wanga uja.”

Nthondo adapita kukatenga kalatayo nakapereka kwa atsibweni ake aja. Mfumuyo idaitana a Dzeya, a Mzingwa ndi a Chikunje nayamba kupita pamodzi ndi Nthondo yemwe.

Tsono atafika kubomako, adapereka kalatayo kwa mzungu wakubomayo. Pamene adaiŵerenga iye adati, “Mukufuna sukulu nonsenu?”

Mfumuzo zidavomera kuti, “E! Ife tifunadi sukuluyo kuti ana athu aziphunzira.”

“Kodi mwalonjeza kuti sukulu simudzaikana?”

“E! sitidzaikana sukuluyo.”

“Chabwino, mawu anu onse ndawalemba m’buku. Mukapita kwanu mukamange nyumba yabwino yasukulu.” Mfumuzo zitavomera zidabwerera kwavo.

M’mâwa mfumuzi zidasonkhanitsa anthu nkuŵafotokozerma mawu onse amene zidamva kuboma kuja. Zidati, “Anthu nonse mwafika pano tikukudziwitsani kuti kuboma kuja tabwera ndi mawu otuza kuti popeza tikufuna sukulu tsono timange nyumba yabwino, yoyenera. Chifukwa cha chimenechi tikukuuzani mukolole msanga chimanga kuti tiyambepo ntchito imeneyi.”

Anthu onse a pamudzipo adayamba kumanga sukuluyo. Amuna adafuna mitengo ndi lizi nayamba kukumba mayenje. Atatha kuzika nsichi zake adayamba kumanga chipupa chake.

Akazi adakumba nkhuti nayamba kumata nyumbayo. Amuna adapita kunsanga (dondo) kukatema mitengo ya nyumbayo. Tsuno adamanga tsindwi la nyumbayo. Tsiku lina pamene anthu onse adali kuntchito yaudzu adamva kufuula kumudzi kwawoko. Zitatero anthuwo adalekeza ntchitoyo napita kumudzi kwawoko. Atafika adaona mzungu wasukuluyo atabwera ndipo anthuwo adapereka moni kwa mzunguyyo. Mzunguyyo adawafunsa kuti, “Amfumu ali kuti?”

“Apita kumowa ndipo momwe achokera m'mawa mpaka pano sanabwere.”

“Nanga mfumu zina zija zilipo kodi?”

“Iyayi bwana, palibe mfumu zinazonso.”

“Nanga mphwake wa mfumu ndani?”

“Mphwake wa mfumu ndimnyamata uyu. Senderani pafupi akukufunani bwana.”

Nthondo atasendera pomwepo mzunguyyo adamfunsa,

“Dzina lako ndiwe yani?”

“Dzina langa ndine Nthondo.”

Mzunguyyo adalemba dzinalo namfunсано, “Kodi mudamanga nyumba yasukulu?”

“Eya, siiyo ili apo. Ndipo tsopano tikumweta udzu wake. Tamweta udzu ochuluka kwambiri.”

“Ulendo uno ngofulumira. Ndinangodzazonda nyumbayi ndipo ndakondwa kuona kuti mudamaliza bwino. Tsuno ndikupita, koma udzauze amfumu kuti ndidzawatumizira mphunzitsi kudzayamba sukulu pano.”

“Chabwino, pitani bwino ndidzanena.”

Mzunguyyo adakwera pabulu pake namapita. Ana adamperekeza akumuimbira nyimbo.

Madzulo atafika amfumuwo, Nthondo adawafunsa kuti, “Kodi lero munakamwa nawo kuti mowâ?”

“Tinakamwa nawo kwa a Chikho; kunali kamowâ ka mzimu. Titachoka pamenepo tinapitanso panyumba pena pamene panalinso wina wa zingwe. Mnyamata ameneyo watikomola. Tangochoka ndi chipemba chofuna mowâ.”

“Pano panabwera mzungu wasukulu uja. Ati anangobwera kudzazonda sukulu kuti kapena sitinamange. Anakufunani amfumunu, koma wapeza kuti palibe. Anangondiuza ine kuti ndikuuzeni kuti adzatumiza mphunzitsi. Mzunguyo wapita.”

“Kodi! Amatero bwanayo? Chabwino, ndazimva izi ndipo pitani, ndifuna kugona chifukwa m'masomu mukuderuka.”

Pamenepo Nthondo adaimirira nkutuluka nati, “Ha! Kuteroku nkumwetsa.” Kotero Nthondo adapita kunyumba kwake.

Patapita masiku, anthuwo adaptiriza ntchito yawo natha kuifolera nyumba yasukuluyo.

Adali madzulo anthu akuotha moto, pomwe mnyamata wina adati, “Ha! Taonani munthu wovala nsalu yoyera ndi malaya oyeranso. Kapena ndimunthu amene anabwera tsopano apa ku Harare. Akupita kuti iyeyu?”

Wina adati, “Walinga ku nyumba ya amfumu.” Choncho anthuwo adayamba kukamba nkhani zina. Kenaka adamva kuti adabwerayo ndiye mphunzitsi, onse adakampatsa moni mokondwera. Amfumu adauza Nthondo kuti afune malo a mphunzitsiyo. Itapezeka nyumba mphunzitsiyo adalowâmo. Anthu adabwera nampatsa zakudya.

Atatsiriza kudya, mphunzitisi adaitana Nthondo namutuma kuti akaitane mfumuyo. Atabwera adayamba kucheza.

Mphunzitsiyo adati, “Ndakuitanani kuti ndikuuzeni chimene ndabwerera, mawa ndifuna kuyamba sukulu pano chifukwa bwana wamishoni adandituma pano. Ndifuna kuti anthu akhale odziwiratu. Mawu ena ndiwo akuti

mundifunire amene azindiphikira chakudya. Mtengo wake pomaliza sukulu ndindalamā zitatu.”

Pamenepo mfumu idati, “Eya, aphunzitsi mawu anu onse ndamva. Ndilibe mawu ena. Za ana asukulu ndiŵauza kuti abwere māwa. Kudya nkosasautsa chifukwa mlendo sangagone ndi njala, inu mudya pomwepo. Pumulani ine ndikupita ndikagone.”

Tsiku lina m'māwa dzuŵa lili pakati pa mutu mphunzitsi adapempha madzi naomba lipenga. Ndipo akulu ndi ana omwe adasonkhana. Atatero mphunzitsiyo, adayamba kuŵaphunzitsa nyimbo yakuti:

*Tisekera, tisekera,
Yesu akonda, aitana.*

Anthuwoadaphunzira msangamsanga nyimboyo.

Mphunzitsiyo adati, “Tsekani maso tipemphere.” Ena adatseka maso awo, koma ena sadatseke. Atatha kupemphera mphunzitsiyo adatenga buku lakuda lalikulu nayamba kuŵerenga mawu a Yesu. Atatsiriza kuŵerenga adayamba kuŵafotokozena anthuwo za chikondi cha Yesu kuti adatifera ife.

Atatsiriza adatenga chikalata chachikulu nachikoloŵeka nayamba kuperunzitsa kuti, “Tatini A!” Anthuwo amatinso, “Tatini A!”

Pamenepo mphunzitsiyo adati, “Mukusokoneza, musamati ine ndikati tatini ‘A’, inunso nkumati, ‘Tatini A!’, iyayi. Koma ine ndikati, ‘A’, inu muzingoti, ‘A’ Mwamva?”

“Eya, tizitero,” adavomera anthuwo. Adayamba kunena, “A! E! I! O! U!”

Atatsiriza kuŵerengako adapita ku nyumba zawo. Anthu onsewo adachezera nanena za chifundo cha mphunzitsi wawoyo ndi kukoma mtima kwake.

Nthondo adaloŵalowa m'nyumba za anthu nakamba nkhanī kuti, “Koma anthu amene amakhala aphunzitsiŵa amangosankha anthu amitima yabwino okhaokha. Kuja tidapitaku pokatula katundu ku Kabula tidadzera ku Domwe, Kumeneke tidaonanso mphunzitsi wabwino wotere.

“Ha! Kodi nkutani kuti ukhale mphunzitsi ngati iyeyu?”
Anthu ambiri adakopeka namlemekeza.

M'mawa mwake adasonkhana kusukuluko ndi mfumu zomwe. Mhondo sadajomba ndi tsiku limodzi lomwe chifukwa adakondetsetsa kuŵerenga ndi kuimba nyimbo zapamtima. Adadziŵa kuŵerenga mwamsanga. Anthu enanso adakonda sukuluyo kwambiri chifukwa chodziŵa kuŵerenga.

Tsiku lina m'mawa mphunzitsiyo adauza Nthondo kuti, “Ndifuna ulalikire pamudzi ponse pano chifukwa mawa ndi tsiku la Mulungu. Akazi onse agwiriretu ntchito zawo zosinja. Amunanso asagwire ntchito iliyonse, koma kupemphera kokha.”

Nthondo adapita kunyumba ya atsibweni ake komwe adamfunsa kuti, “Watsata chiyani?”

“Mphunzitsi uja wandituma kuti ndiuze anthu onse kuti asagwire ntchito mawa. Chifukwa chake ndikukudziŵitsani inunso kuti mudziŵe.”

“Zija ndikakana ine nzimenezi. Nkwanji kuyankhulayankhula! Usakanene tsono izi nzakuseri.”

“Tsalani bwino, koma ndinali ndi mawu enanso, ndidzakufotokozerani bwino ndiyambe ndakanena mawuŵa.”

“Mawu otani amenewo? Fotokoza tsopano chifukwa mawu osanena amädetsetsa nkhaŵa.”

“Simawu apatali, koma ndiko kuti kunyumba kwanga kuli ana amapasa, wina wamwamuna, wina wamkazi.”

“Kodi! Chabwino. Nanga make ali bwanji?”

“Ali bwino.”

“Nanga bwanji iwe umafuna kundibisira? Mmakhalidwe oipa ameneŵa. Chabwino, kazipita.”

Tsono Nthondo adauza za anthu onse zosagwira ntchito patsiku loyeralo. Litafika tsikulo anthu onse adaleka ntchito zawo.

Tsiku lina Nthondo adafululitsa Phala kunyumba kwake. Litaphikidwa phalalo Nthondo adaitana mphunzitsiyo namupatsa phalalo kuti amwe. Atatha kumwa

adayamba kukamba nkhani.

Nthondo adati, “Ha! Aphunzitsi... ine ndikufotokozerani mawu anga amene ali kumtimaku. Kale ine ndidapita ku Harare, koma kusauka kokhakokha osapeza mtendere. Ndidapitanso ku Kabula, koma urnphawî wokhawokha. Makamaka maloto ndiwo amandivuta kufikira nditafunsa mbeta kwa a Mnjondoku. Pamenepo ndipo pomwe malotowo adalekapo. Kodi nanga munthu utafuna kukhala wabwino ungaratani?”

“Maloto onsewa ngotumizidwa ndi Mulungu chifukwa choti zoipa zimene timachita ife anthu padziko lapansi pano, Mulungu sazikonda, ndipo adalonjeza kale kuti munthu amene amachita zoipa adzamuononga. Chifukwa chake ngati ufunu kupeza mtendere ukhulupirire Yesu, ndipo udzapulumuka.”

Choncho Nthondo adavutika ndi kufunitsitsa kutsata za Yesu. Apo mphunzitsiyo adamuuza kuti, “Phunzira maphunziro a Mawu a Mulungu.”

Bwino lake Nthondo adalowa kalasi naphunzira mpaka adabatizidwa ndi mzungu wamishoni nakhala Mkhirisitu. Pamenepo iye adakopanso anthu ena ambiri kuti atsatenso Yesu.

MUTU VI

Ufumu Wake

Tsiku lina Nthondo adapita kunyumba kwa atsibweni ake, koma sadayankhule nawo mawu aliwonse. Chovuta chidali choti adavutika ndi matenda, ndipo anthu onse adamva za matenda a mfumuyo koteri nduna zidauza Nthondo kuti apite kwa mfumu yaikulu kukanena za matendawo.

Posakhalitsa matendawo adakula ndipo adamwalira. Ha! Chisoni m'mudzimo. Nduna idauza Nthondo kukanena maliro nampatsa mbuzi kuti akanenere. Choncho Nthondo adatenga mbuziyo napita nayo kwa mfumu imene idagwira atsibweni ake ufumu. Tsono atafika anthu adalankhula naye motere:

“Moni, Nthondo!”

“Moni!”

“Nkwabwino kodi?”

“Iyayi, nkoipa.”

“Kwachitika chiyani?”

“Atsibweni anga adamwalira dzulo.”

“Tidapangana zoti tibwere kuno, koma ndisanachoke ndipo pamene zidachitika zinthuzi.”

“Kodi! Chabwino.”

Tsono Nthondo adalaŵira nayamba kubwerera kwavo. Mfumuyo idauza anthu ena kuti amperekeze.

Pamene adapita kumaliroko adapeza atai ka kale m'manda. Ataliralira adakhala pansi ndipo anthu ena adabwera kudzawapatsa moni kuti, “Mwamva kuno.” Anthu a panjirawo adavomera nafunsa mmene adadwalira wopitawo ndi nthawi imene adayamba. Anthu a pamudziro adafotokoza zonse bwinobwino. Atakonza zonse adachoka kubwerera kumudzi kwavo.

M'mawa tsiku Iina anthu aakulu a pamudziro adaitana

akazi aakuluakulu ndipo adawafunsa kuti, “Kodi oyenera kukhala mfumu ndani?”

Akaziwo adati, “Woyenera kukhala mfumu ndi

Nthondo.”

Akuluwo adakondwera kwambiri ndipo adati, “Konzani chimera timete maliro aja.” Choncho m'mawâ mwina adatumiza chuma kwa mfumu imene imalonga ufumu umenewo, ndipo atafika kumeneko adapereka chumacho kwa mfumu ya komweko.

Adaiuza kuti, “Muyenera kufika kwathu patsiku lakuti chifukwa kwathuku kuli mwana amene afunika atisungire mudzi uja.”

Pomwepo mfumu yaikuluyo idavomera. Patapita masiku angapo adafulula mowawo ndipo mfumu zonse zidasonkhana.

Patsiku lakumwa mówalo anthu adagwira Nthondo namuveka chidzingwiri chaufumu kudzanja kwake namuimbira nyimbo yaufumu yakuti:

Ponda Ye! Ye! Ye! Ponda.

Tsono adamulowetsa m'nyumba Nthondo nayamba kumlanga malangizo osungira mudzi.

Atatha anthu onse adamwazikana. Apo Nthondo adalowa ufumu.

Tsiku lina m'mawâ a Mzingwa ndi a Dzeya adabwera kwa Nthondo pamene adalôwa ufumu wa atsibweni ake a Chembe. Atafika adayamba kukamba nkhani.

A Dzeya adati, “Kodi inu amfumu, mudziŵa mawu aja tikakamba nthâwi yolandira sukulu panoyi, paja atsibweni anu sadaifune sukulu chifukwa cha mzinda kuti ungarthe. Ndipo lero ndikukuchenjezani popeza inu ndinu Mkhirisitu ndipo ndikuti musaiŵale mawu amene aja. Mudzi wopanda mzinda simudzi weniweni. Chimene ndadodomera ndicho kuti pamudzi pano maliro akuchitika, koma inu simukusamala zakuchita mzinda. Mwatani?”

Nthondo kwa a Chembe adati, “Mawu anu onse ndamva, koma kuchita mzinda chifukwa cha inu sindigathe

chifukwa inu simudziŵa chikondi chimene atikonda nacho Mulungu. Anthuni mungosauka ndi zachabe. Ndipo lero ndikutsimikizirani mtima kuti pamudzi panga pano sindifuna mzinda. Amene afuna mzinda achoke pano. Ine ndifuna kuti anthu onse atsate sukulu.”

“Ha! Ha! Ha!” Adaseka a Dzeya ndipo adati, “A Mzingwa, tiyeni tichoke. Tamvani zachibwana zirnene akukamba mfumuzi.” Anthuwo adaimirira mokwiya nayamba kuchoka.

Nthondo adalimbika kufulumiza anthu a m'mudzimo kupita kusukulu. Ana ake omwe adawakalipira kaŵirikawiri kuti asamajombe kusukulu. Anthu ambiri adayamba kuzindikira phindu la sukulu, ndi za chikondi cha Ambuye Yesu. Motero ambiri adasandulika Akhirisitu namtama Nthondo chifukwa cha ntchito zake.

Nthondo adakhalabe mfumu zaka zina. Anthu a njala adaŵathandiza ndi kuwapatsa zakudya. Otetana adaŵaletsa ndi kuŵakhalitsa mumtendere.

Tsiku lina Nthondo adayamba kudwala chilaso (chibayo). Anthu ambiri adabwera ndi mankhwala awo, koma matenda adakanika. Ndipo Nthondo adamwalira. M'mudzimo mudali maliro aakulu. Pa nthâwi yoika maliro ake, mphunzitsi adatsiriza ndi mapemphero. Chomwecho anthu akewo adamuyesa Nthondo mtsogoleri wawo amene adawâtengera chokoma m'mudzi mwawo.