

# KATAKWE KUTAUNI

WOLEMBA LAWRENCE KADZITCHE



# KATAKWE Kutauni

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Wolembe Lawrence Kadzitche

# KATAKWE

## Kutauni

Wolembe Lawrence Kadzitché

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Nkhaniyi ndiyopeka. Maina, anthu, malo kapena zochitika ndizopeka kapena zikugwiritsidwa ntchito mwanthano ndipo ngati zikufanana mwa njira ina iliyonse ndi anthu enieni, amoyo kapena akufa, zochitika zenizeni kapena malo enieni, izi ndizongofanana chabe.

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## Kuchoka Kumudzi

"Umfiti kapena chiyani?" Bwido adakalipa. "MumabwererANJI pamowa pano ngati mumadziwa kuti mulibe ndalama?"

Katakwe adasuzumira ku kona komwe kudachoka mawuwo. "A Bwido, mukulalata chani? Yakugayani kale njungu nthawi yomweyi? "

Tsikulo, adali pachikhuthe cha a Namagezo, mayi wodziwa kutcheza kachasu mmudzi wonse wa Mnamizana. Idali nthawi yoti anthu adali atamaliza kale kukolola. Motero, ngakhale dzuwa lidali likungofika kumene paliwombo, anthu adali atakhazikika kale mwaunyinji pakachasupo.

"Umenewu ndi umfiti basi," adadzitsimikizira Bwido akugwedeza mutu mobayizika. "Eti wina wake wandibera velemoti yanga!"

"Mwayakatu, a Bwido," Katakwe adatero akuseka. "Ili pambali panupo n'chiyani?"

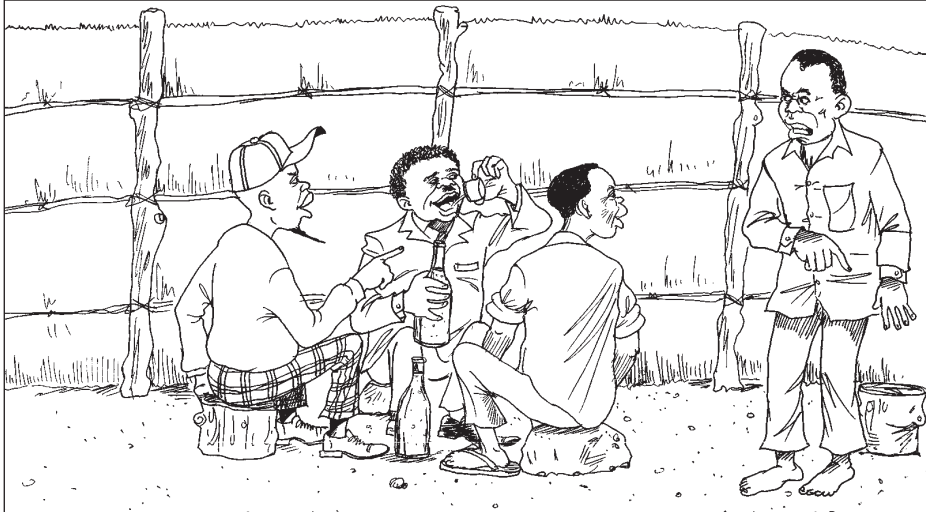
Bwido adatenga velemoti amanena Katakweyo n'kumenyetsa pansu. "Umu muli madzi. Wina wasinthitsa velemoti yanga ya kachasu ndi ya madzi."

Katakwe adasekansa. "Nanunso mumanyanya umbombo. Ndi izi zomamwa nokhanokha anthu azikuberani mowa. Itanitsani ina mudzakhale pano."

"Basi ndikupita. Sindingakhalenso pachikhuthe chino," adakana Bwido monyansidwa akunyamuka. "Padiwa sasewera; kundibera mowa sikukusiyana n'kundibaya ndi mpeni."

Mkuluyo atachoka, Katakwe adagwa nalo phwete. Adatembenukira kwa malume ake a Topitopi omwe adakhala pambali pake. "Azichenjera anthu a kaligwiritsa."

A Topitopi adanyamula veta nathira kachasu mu toti. "*Hawu!* Ukutanthauza chiyani?"

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"Velemoti amalirira mkulu uja ndi iyo ili mmanja mwanuyo," Katakwe adafotokoza monyadira. "Velemoti ndimati ndagula ija munali madzi. Bwido atayang'ana kumbali ndinasinthitsa ndi yake yomwe munali bibida."

A Topitopi adatsanulira kachasu kukhosi kwinku akugwedeza mutu wawo wobulungira ngati mwezi womwe udafoleredwa ndi tsitsi lambiri lakuda lositidwa ndi mwala wamoto. Adaipitsa kukamwa ngati avumata tsabola kenaka n'kupuma momva bwino. Mkulu wazaka makumi asanu, iwo adali wonenepera ndi afupi. Ngakhale kunkatentha adavala jasi lomwe adabopha mabatani onse. Kuphazi kudali nsapato yakuda yosongoka. Adali ndi tindevu tapamphuno.

"*Mfowethu*, n'chifukwatu ndikuti waganiza bwino zopita kutauni," iwo adatero akukutumula toti. "*Hayi*, izi zoti uzingokhala mmudzi muno n'kumaba *skokiaan*, kuchita gwamula ndi kumamwera amayi kachasu powanamiza kuti uwakwatira sizidakakuthandiza."

Katakwe adaseka n'kuwonetsa mndandanda wa mano othimbirira ndi kachasu kwinku akunyamula velemoti. Iye adali mnyamata wazaka makumi atatu, wamsinkhu wapakatikati ndi woonderapo koma wakamimba ka mtsuko. Mutu wake waukulupo chipumi, udanka ukutepa ngati nguli mpaka pachibwano pomwe tindevu ta tonde tidati njo ngati udzu wouma. Adali mu sikipa ndi thalauza la tchekitcheki. Kumutu adavala chipewa cha kapusi.

Tsibweni akewo adapitirira. "Ndunenazitu n'zowona. *Hei, wena*, mbuzi zanga zidatha n'chiyani? Sikulipira milandu yako? Ayi kuno mphwanu adadza-

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kwereta ndalama m'dzina lanu. Kuno watukwana amfumu. Adakukagwira apapa, *mfowethu*, sunakwane mlandu?"

"*Hayikona*, malume," Katakwe adatero akutsanzira Chichewa chachitchona chomwe tsibweni akewo amakonda. "*Hawu*, pachipanda mapulani anga tidakamwa chani pano? A Namagezo sakutikongoza kachasu chifukwa choti ndawanamiza kuti n'kawatumizira ndalama n'kapita ku tauni?" Adasintha nkhani mwadzidzidzi. "Izo zili apo, malume; mmene kukutentheramu bwanji osavula bulandili?"

"*Nix*, Katakwe, mntakwethu, kutchena n'kupirira. Jasi limeneli ankavala ndi baas Rosi ku Johanzibeki. Mzungu osati mkada ngati iwe."

"Tsono kuno n'kwa Mnamizana osati ku Jonzibeki, a Topitopi," adawakhira nkhanio mkulu wina yemwe ankadutsa kuchoka kokagula velemoti yake.

"*Suka wena lapha! Hayi*, mumadziwa chiyani inu a *umthakathi* woti chibadwire chanu simudatulukeko mmudzi muno?" adamuyankha munthuyo a Topitopi. "*Hayikona*, simungathe ngakhale tsiku limodzi mu Johanzibeki asanakulizeni matsotsi. *Hamba kwa hell*"

Kenaka adatembenukira kwa Katakwe, "*Mfo*, n'chifukwatu ndimati wagani-za bwino zopita kutauni. Taona zoganiza za anthu okulira mmudzi muno. *Hayi*, zambwerera basi."

"Kodi mukuti kutauniko azikatani iwowa?" adalowererapo mnyamata wachitatu yemwe adali pagulupo akulandira velemoti ndi toti kuchokera kwa Katakwe. Adali wamtali ndi wochepa thupi. "Kutauni kumafunika anthu ophunzira. Iwowa sukulu adathawira panjira, akalowatu ntchito ya ulonda."

Katakwe adaseka akugwedeza mutu. "A Kwatiwani, anati akupita m'tauni kukafuna ntchito ndani? Ndikuuze msuweni wanga; m'tauni simusowa chochita. Ine ndupita m'tauni osati kukasewera koma kukapanga makobiri."

"Ndalamazo mukapanga m'njira yotani, amwene? Kukagulitsa ziwalo zamunthu?"

"Ichi," Katakwe adatero akuloza mutu wake, "n'chomwe chikandipangire matambala."

Kwatiwani adafuna kukoka nkhanio koma a Topitopi adalowererapo. "*Suka lapha. Izindaba zamadoda nje*, Kwatiwani. Mzako usamugwetse ulesi chifukwa choti usowa womwa naye kachasu iye akachoka. *Ayikona*. Ife tikufuna tizikapeza pofikira tikamakagulitsa fodya ku okoshoni."

"Awo ndiwo mawu," Katakwe adavomereza akuyang'ana mbuzi zomwe zimadzikanda pokhula khoma la khitchini. "Awa asiyeni azivuwula gule."

"China, *mfowethu*, m'tauni mumafunika kuchangamuka," adaunikira a

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Topitopi. "Tikugwira ntchito ku Jozibeki, ukangochita tulo umapezeka wabw-  
erako ulibe kanthu."

"Malume, za ine mukudziwa. M'taunimo akadziwadi kuti kwadza Katakwe,  
mwana wachisamba wa a Namnyama, mphwawo wa a Topitopi."

"*Hayikona*, ndati zokandichititsa manyazi toto. *Nix*," adabwereza a Topitopi  
ngati mphini kwinaku akukamula thukuta kumaso ndi dzanja. "Anthu akadzi-  
we kuti mfana wafikayu malume ake ndi ochangamuka."

"Tsibweni, uyikeni pansu," adatsimikiza Katakwe. "Kuno mudzangoti phe.  
Mbiri idzakufikani kuti m'tauni mwalowa shasha wa ku Mchinji."

"*Yebo!* M'taunimo ukafikire ku Chigwirizano, ndiko kuli malo ogona  
otchipa," adamutsina khutu malume akewo.

Katakwe adanyamuka kukataya madzi m'chimbudzi. Mayendedwe ake,  
monga mwa nthawi zonse, adali onjanja ngati akuponda pa wofuwofu.  
Pobwerera adapeza a Topitopi akuvina, nyimbo ya gule ikuphulika pakamwa.

"Ndidowole mtongo ndidowole mtongo," adayimba a Topitopi.

"Ndidowole mtongo, dowola," adavomereza Katakwe akupalasula ngati  
nyolonyo.

Apo kachasu adachucha monga madzi a pa kasupe. Kudalidi kusangalala  
kuti Katakwe akupita kutauni. Kaamba koledzera, a Topitopi adagona pomwe-  
po, Katakwe adakagona m'chimbudzi, pomwe Kwatiwani adasokera ndiku-  
pezeka kuti wakagona kumanda.



## A Topitopi

"Usakalankhule; ndikathana nawo ndine," a Topitopi adatero. "Mwini mbumba ndi ine; palibe angatsutsane ndi maganizo anga."

"Ndikudziwa, malume," Katakwe adawachemerera. "Ndikangopita kutauni mudzasiya kumwa njungu m'zikhuthe; mudzidzamwa wa mame m'mabala."

"N'chifukwa ndikufuna upite kutauni basi," adatsimikiza tsibweni akewo. "Nane n'dzadyeko zako, *mfowethu*."

Kuweta galu n'kumuponyera fupa, Katakwe adati, "Muyambiratu kuzidya panopa. Dikirani ndikugulireni velemoti yoti muzimwa mnjira kuti tikafike ndi mkokomo."

A Topitopi adaseka. "Ife dzana tatsanzikana kale pachikhuthe cha a Namagezo ndiye winanso azilankhula zobwirira. Mawa iweyo ukhala uli m'tauni."

"Malume, utati ulephereke ulendo umenewu zinthu zikhoza kundisokonekera; anthu aja andikongoza ndalama ndikhoza kuwabwezera chiyani?"

"*Hayikona*, ulendo sungalephereke. Zonse ndithana nazo; mwana wa Mchewa amanyada ndi tsibweni ake."

Adali masana. Katakwe adawalondola malume akewo pachikhuthepo kukawafotokozera kuti makolo ake amuwuza kuti asintha maganizo ndipo salola zoti iye apite kutauni.

Atagula botolo la mowalo, iwo adanyamuka. Atayandikira nyumba ya makolo a Katakwe, a Topitopi adamupsinyira diso mphwawoyo nati, "Mphwanga, tsegula maso ndi makutu uwone umo akuluakulu amakambira nkhani. *No lapha-lapha*"

A Topitopi adayamba kulankhula atayandikira mpanda watsekera womwe

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udazungulira nyumbayo. "Ziti? Kupereka ulemu chikhale chifukwa?" Adadzaima pachipata cha mpandawo. "Hayi, munthudi ndi mchenga saundika eti!"

"Kodi ndi achimwene, fikani," adatero mai a Katakwe mwaulemu kuchokera pakhonde pomwe ankaswa mtedza.

A Topitopi sadasunthe. "Namnyama, kodi muja unakwatiwa ndi galuyu, padali amuna angati amene ankakufuna?" iwo adafunsa. Adadziyankha. "Ambirimбири. Kumulola iyeyu sichidali chifukwa choti amachokera kutali?"

"Achimwene..."

"Hei wena, suka lapha! Kuti adzakwatire kuno ku Mchinji, kwawo kudalibe akazi?" adapitiriza kulalata a Topitopi. "Sikufuna anamwali oundika bwino komanso akhalidwe? Ndiye lero azikulanso mtima? Hayikona."

"Achimwene, alamu anutu ali m'nyumbamu," adatero motsitsa a Namnyama. "Akumveranitu."

"Ngakhale atamva ndilibe nazo mgugu," adayankha mosasamala a Topitopi. "Loko atakusiya pali amuna ambiri omwe akhoza kukukwatira."

"Banda," a Namnyama adanyengerera pogwiritsa ntchito mfunda wa achimwene awowo. "Tiyeni mukakambire nkhaniyo m'nyumba."

"Chabwino, tiye m'nyumbamo tikakumane ndi munthu wa nkhwidzi akufuna kusokoneza mbumba yangayu," adatero a Topitopi akudziwa kuti wandisokosera n'kulinga utamva.

### *A Topitopi*

Iwo adatsatira chemwali awowo m'nyumbamo. Katakwe adalondola ngati kamphonda kagalu, pakamwa atasoka.

"Kodi ndi alamu," bambo ake adawalandira a Topitopi m'nyumbamo ngati sadamve zomwe amalankhula panja zija. "Khalani pampando."

A Topitopi sadalole zokhala pansi. "Sindinabwerere kudzacheza lero," iwo adatero, nadukiza n'kuyang'ana bambo a Katakwe moderera. "Hei, wena, kodi zomwe ndikumva zoti ukufuna kuletsa mphwanga kuti asapite kutauni n'zowona?"

"Walasa, mlamu," adavomera bambo a Katakwe. "Ine sindikuona chifukwa choti apitire kutauni. Kuno safuna kugwira ntchito kapena kupanga bizinesi ina iliyonse, ndiye kutauniko azikatani?"

Katakwe adaseka chamumtima. Adayenera kuwafotokozera kangati makolo akewo? Ndani adawauza kuti iye amapita kutauni kukagwira ntchito? Iye amapita kukapanga ndalama. Sikuti adali atapeza kale njira yokapangira makobiriwo koma adali ndi chitsimikizo kuti ikapezeka akakafika kutauniko.

A Topitopi adathira kachasu m'toti. "Sindisamala kuti kuno amatani." Adatsanulira kachasu kukhosi. "Nkhani pano ndiyakuti amene ukufuna asapite kutauniko ndi mphwake wa ndani?"

Bambo a Katakwe anadabwa ndi funsoli. "Mphwanu."

"Ndikufuna yankho lomveka, *no lapha-lapha*. Ndati mphwake wa ndani?"

"Wa inuyo a Topitopi."

"Ndiye waitenga kuti mphamvu yotsutsana ndi ine pankhani ya mphwanga?"

"Ine ndimaganiza..."

A Topitopi adakweza dzanja. "Zomwe umaganiza ndiliba nazo kaso. Usamayiwale kuti udakwatira mayi wachichewa. Kwa ife achewa mchimwene ndiye amene amayang'anira ana a mchemwali wake. Ndiye mkazi wako ndi mchemwali wanga."

"Ndikudziwa," adayankha bambo a Katakwe. "Komatu mukuti ndi mphwanuyo nanenso ndi mwana wanga."

"Kwathu kuno bambo wamwana ndi nkunzi. Ntchito yake ndi yobereka ana basi. Yolera ndi ya malume wa anawo," adaunikira mosimbwa a Topitopi. "Ndiye ineyo, monga malume wa ana ako, mwambo wathu ukundipatsa mphamvu yowalera momwe ndikufunira. Kaya ukugwirizana nazo kapena ayi koma ndi momwe zilili."

Mawuwa adawafowola bambowo ngati alumidwa ndi njoka. Adatsimikizadi kuti pamudzi pakakhala pazitsiru, palibedi njira yomwe mkamwini angakulirepo mwendo. Adangoti kukamwa yasa ngati chambo chouma kusowa chonena.

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"Katakwe ndi mphwanga. Ndiye ine monga malume ake ndikuti apita ku tauni," adatsendera nkhani mothira mchere pachilonda a Topitopi. "Nkhani iyi yatha. Mawa Katakwe akunyamuka."

"Achimwene..." mayi a Katakwe adalowererapo.

"Chete, m'nthu wamayi; pano pali nkhani za amuna okhaokha-izindaba zamadoda. Ine monga malume wa Katakwe ndikuti apita kutauni kaya mukufuna kapena simukufuna."

"Achimwene, mukundidabwitsatu; kodi kulimbikira kuti apite kutauniku n'kufuna kumuthandiza mwanayu kapena pali kaphindu kena kake kanu?"

"A Namnyama, ndinu nankungwi ndipo munayenera kudziwa kuti simungafunse funso lopanda nzeru ngati limeneli kwa mchimwene wanu," adapherera a Topitopi. "Ndakhala m'ma tawuni monga Jubeki ndi Kepitawuni nthawi yaitali ndipo ndikudziwa kuti kutauni ndiko kuli moyo wofewa. Kumudzi kuno kuli chani? *Hayi!* Kulima chaka ndi chaka koma osatukuka. Zadothi!"

"Banda, pali anyamata ambiri mmudzi muno omwe atukuka kuchokera mu ulimi," a Namnyama sadafune kugonja. "Achimwenewa minda ali nayo koma safuna kulima. Akati agwira ntchito ndiye kuti ndiganyu kapena yolimitsa mowa wa dima. Kutauniko akasintha bwanji? Pajatu madzi sayiwala khwawa."

Katakwe adamwetulira. Mayi akewo amanenadi zowona. Pakakhala mowa wa dima kapena waudzu palibe amamuposa kugwira ntchito. Chonsecho minda yake imagonera osalima. Koma vuto lidali pati? Mnjira iyi kapena iyo, ndalama yomwera mowa amayipeza.

"Izo zili apo, chemwali, komanso kutsutsa galu n'kukumba. Ndiye pankhaniyi, mlekeni Katakwe atose kuti aone ngati mbewa ziliko. Ine ngati mwini mbumba ndati mphwangayu apita kutauni. Amene sakugwirizana nazo ilo ndi vuto lake."

Malumewo adatsegula velemoti yawo nakhuthulira kachasu yense pansu. "Mphwangayu anyamuka mawa."

Mayi akafinyira bere pansu mwana akufuna kuyamwa ndiye kuti zavuta; palibe adatsutsanso.

### 3

## Pa Siteji

Kumwamba kudalibe ndi mtambo womwe, kuli biliwili. Kavuluvulu amakungana apo ndi apo n'kumatuwitsa Katakwe ndi anthu ena omwe adayima pasiteji ya basi ya Waliranji. Abale ake adali pomwepo kudzamuperekeza.

A Topitopi adali atatchena suti yawo yamtundu wotuwa yomwe adagula nthawi yomwe ankagwira ntchito kumigodi ya ku Joweni. Mmaso mudali magalasi akuda akulu omwe amapangitsa nkhope yawo kuti iziwoneka ngati ya kadzidzi. Tindevu tawo tapamphuno adali atatithenera bwinobwino.

Katakwe adali mu zovala zomwe adavala tsiku lija ankamwa kachasu kwa a Namagezo. Chomwe adaonjezerapo lidali jekete lamtundu wa mtsiro lomwe adamupatsa a Topitopi.

Nthawi siyidatalike poti nkhani yayikulu idali yoti aliyense amamupempha Katakwe choti akamugulire kutauni. Kenaka basi ija amati sasamba kaamba kotuwa ndi fumbi idafika ikubuwula ngati nkhumba. Katakwe adaponya chikwama chake pamwamba pabasiyo kenaka n'kukwera nakhala pafupi ndi windo.

"Tsono mfowethu, kumakatsatira zija ndakuuza," adatero mofuwula a Topitopi. "Posamba mankhwala amwayi aja osayiwala kumakanenerera. Mawu ake ndi omwe aja: mwayiwo, mwayiwo... Ukatero zonse zizikangoyenda mya ngati ukumeza nsima ya therere."

Katakwe adalalaka kuti basiyo inyamuke msanga. Koma anthu adali akukwerabe. Vuto la malume akewo lidali chiyani? Iwo adawona kuti bongololo akudzolera mafuta pagulu? Komanso adali atamuwumiriza kusamba ndi kudzola mankhwalawo mmawa wa tsiku lomwelo, ndiye zidakatheka bwanji kuti ayiwale ndondomeko yake?

Mwana wamwamuna adayesa kuti zatha koma adawerengera madzi a

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mphutsi. "Hawu, n'kadayiwala kukupatsa palibe kanthu ndi chiyeretsa kukhosi ndimati n'katenga kwa Kelesoni chija," adapitirira kulankhula a Topitopi akupisa m'thumba. "Magwiritsidwe ake a ntchito paja ndidakuwuzwa kale."

Mkulu wina wamfupi wonenepa adatulutsa mutu wake pa windo. "Mkulu, kodi mphwakoyu akupita kukayamba using'anga kapena chiyani?"

"Nix. Zochita akaona m'tauni momwemo," adayankha a Topitopi akumupatsira Katakwe kaphukusi kamankhwala kudzera pa zenera. "Mutiwu ndiwon-gothandiza kuti china chilichonse chomwe akafune kupanga chikayende bwino."

Shoti uja adaseka. "Tsono zina wam'ninkhanso chiyani?"

"Zodzitetezera. Ndam'ninkha vuwo loti zikathina, azikabisalamo," adanyadira a Topitopi. "Hayi! Mphwangayu alipa ndi bomba!"

Katakwe adangoti ngwindi, ngati nkuku yonyowa. Moti malumewo samaona kuti amanenazo zidali zochititsa manyazi? Mpang'ono pomwe iye samakhulupirira mankhwala omwe adapatsidwawo. Iye adangolandira pofuna kukondweretsa tsibweni akewo. Pulani yake idali yoti akawataya akakafika kutauni.

"Ada, ndiye ndinudi nyukiliya," mkulu uja adatero basi ija ikunyamuka. "Mtera onsewu nkhanu yake yomweyi!"

Anthu onse adaseka m'basimo. Katakwe ulendo adauwona kutalika. Kuchoka pa Waliranji mpaka kukafika ku Lilongwe nkhanu idali yomweyo.

## Ulendo

"Ah, tafika," mawu a mkulu wina yemwe adakhala naye mpando umodzi m'basimo ndiye adathetsa nkhani.

Katakwe, yemwe adanamizira kugona, adatsegula maso ake. Kunjako adaona nyumba zazikulu ndi zokongola. Magalimoto a pamwamba adaimitsidwa kunja kwa nyumbazo. Ana ankasewera pakapinga wobiriwira bwino ngati msipu wakudambo.

Ndizidzakhala nyumba zoterezi ndikadzapanga makobiri, iye adaganiza motero. Adalalaka Kwatiwani akadakhlapo kuti adzionere zomwe amatanthauza. Pa chikwangwani padalembedwa: Takulandirani mu mzinda wa Lilongwe. Yendetsani magalimoto mosamala."

"CIVO Stadium kumanja ndi Maula kumanzere," adatero mkulu adakhala naye pampando uja.

Katakwe sadakhulupirire maso ake. Moti imeneyi idali ndende yotchuka yomwe adatsekerako msuweni wake Tsetekani zaka zapitazo chifukwa chotentha nyumba ya zakhali ake polimbirana dimba? Ngati ma pulizoni adali wokongola chonchi, nanga nyumba zina?

"Ndi ndende yokongola," iye adatero kuti awonetse kuti tauni amayidziwa. "Msuweni wanga Tsetekani..."

Mkulu wamfupi wolongolola uja adamudula poseka mwachipongwe. "Imeneyo sindende ya Maula. Ndi tchalitchi cha akatolika cha Maula. Pulizoni ili chakumunsiko. Za malo siyirani ife, inu koma za nyanga."

Anthu adasekansa m'basimo. Manyazi adamugwira Katakwe. Chifukwa chonena kwa ndithendithe, monga nanthambwe, adadzinyozetsa. Anthu aziti chiyani kusokoneza tchalitchi kuyesa ndende?

Basiyo idawoloka mtsinje wa Lilongwe n'kukwezeka chitunda mu msewu

*Katakwe Kutauni*



wa Kamuzu Procession. Kenaka idakhota pa maroboti a pa mzikiti n'kulowa msewu wa Malangalanga. Paliponse pomwe padagwa maso a Katakwe padali anthu. Ena akupita uku, uko kapena atangoima. M'mbali mwa msewu maven-da amagulitsa malonda osiyana siyana.

Basiyo idakwawa m'chikhamu cha anthucho, khamulo likupereka malo n'kubwereranso ikadutsa. Kenaka idafika mu depoti ya Lilongwe. Kudzera m'zenera lakumbuyo, Katakwe adaona anyamata akukwera makwerero a basiyo, kenaka adamva mdidi wa mapazi awo padenga.

Poti iye adali kumbuyo, adali womaliza kutsika. Adapeza mnyamata wamfupi ndi wojintcha yemwe adavala *T-Shirt* ya Peter Tosh atatsitsa kale chikwama chake.

"Zikomo kwambiri, achimwene," Katakwe adathokoza akutambasula manja ake kuti alandire chikwama chija.

"Sindidya kuthokoza, mzimwale," adatafula mnyamata uja. "Tafukunya K500 yotsitsira chikwamachi."

"Chani?" Katakwe adadzidzimuka. "Ndalama imeneyo ikufanana ndi yomwe ndalipira kuchokera kumudzi kufika kuno."

Mnyamatayo adaseka n'kuwonetsa mano achikasu ndi fodya. "Ndilibe nazo kaso kuti walipira ndalama zingati kuchokera kugomo kwanu kufika kuno."



*Ulendo*

Ninkhe dola yanga."

Kwa kanthawi kochepe Katakwe adayang'ana chithunzi cha Peter Tosh akukhwewa chamba ndi mawu olembedwa kuti "Legalise it" omwe adali pa T-shirt ya mnyamatayo. "N'kapanda kukupatsa ndalamazo?"

Dzanja la mnyamatayo lidapisa mu buluku la jinzi yosachapa. Potuluka, lida-fumbata mpeni. "Ndikagulitsa katundu wakoyu."

Thukuta lidatuluka pamphumi pa Katakwe, mtima wake ukugunda mothamanga. Adaponya maso ake. Koma anthu omwe adali pafupi adazemba masowo ngati samaona zomwe zimachitika.

Kumbuyo kwake, mnyamata wina amagulitsa maswiti kwa mayi wina yemwe adabereka mwana kumbuyo. Mkulu wina adanamizira kumadya yelo banzi. Mlonda yemwe adali pageti adayang'ana dala kumbali. Katakwe adatha kuona akuberedwa padepotipo dzuwa likuswa mtengo.

"Eee, mphwanga, ndili ndi zochita zina," adakalipa mnyamata uja atamukwenya Katakwe kolala. "Ufukunya dolayo kapena ayi?"

Nthawi yomweyo padatulukira mnyamata wamtali atavala suti ndi magalasi akuda mmaso. " Eee chikuchitika n'chiyani?"

"Mbavayi ikufuna kundibera," adafotokoza Katakwe. "Akuti ndilipire K500 chifukwa choti watsitsa chikwamachi."

Mnyamata wasutiyo adachotsa magalasi ake n'kumuyang'ana mnyamata uja ndi diso la mwala. "Eee mphwanga ngati sukufuna kuphikidwa, ponda ponda."

Mnyamatayo adatsonya n'kuzimilira m'gulu la anthu. Katakwe adadzazidwa ndi chimwemwe. Palibe adakalimbana naye. Iye adali atasamba mwayi.

"Zikomo kwambiri," Katakwe adathokoza akunyamula chikwama chija.

"*Not at all*," adatero tholoyo akumwetulira. "Mwadzangoyenda m'tauni muno?"

"Uh uh, ndadza kudzapanga makobiri," Katakwe adayankha kwa Mose wakeyo. "Panopa ndufuna ndikakhale kaye ku resthouse ku Chigwiri kwinaku ndikuyang'ana nyumba ya lendi."

Mkuluyo adamwetulira. "Ndiyetu mwayenda ndi mwayi, achimwene. Yemwe amakhala m'nyumba yanga wangotuluka dzana; mukhoza kukalowa mmenemo. Siili patali, tikangowoloka mtsinje wa Lilongwe."

Katakwe sadakhulupirire. Kodi uwu udali mwayi chabe? Kapena mankhwala adamupatsa tsibweni ake aja amagwiradi ntchito?

Adatengana ndi mnyamatayo kulowera cha ku mtsinjeko. Nyumba za ku Area 3 zidaoneka patsidya lamtsinjewo ndipo Katakwe adatha kudziwona akukhala ku mayadi.

*Katakwe Kutauni*

Akuyandikira mtsinjewo, adangowona anyamata awiri balamanthu, mipeni ili m'manja. Tholo uja adavula magalasi n'kumuponyera Katakwe diso ngati lija adamupatsa mnyamata padepoti paja. "Mphwanga, tipatse ndalama zako zonse."

Katakwe adadzidzimuka. Adalakwitsa. Tholoyo sadali Mose koma Farao.

Mmodzi mwa anyamata aja adaponya mpeni wake womwe udamuphudzula Katakwe khutu n'kukabaya mtengo. Njira salimbira, chikakula patuka; Katakwe adapereka ndalama zake zonse akunjenjemera ngati wadwala malungo.

"Titenge ndi chikwama chomwechi?" adafunsa mmodzi mwa anyamata aja.

Tholo uja adagwedeza mutu. "Zero. Tingakangotengeramo nsabwe, nsikidzi ndi nkhuſi. *After all*, mungakhale chani choti n'kukagulitsa?"

"*Okay, boss*," adavomera mnyamatayo akulavulira pachikwamapo ngati kuti chidali nyansi.

"Mphwanga, takulandira m'tauni," adatero tholo uja akubwezera magalasi ake mmaso. "Tizionana."

Iye ndi anyamata awiriwo adasowera m'tchire la m'mbali mwa mtsinjewo. Katakwe adakhala pansu nayamba kulira ngati waferedwa. Adalira kwa nthawi yayitali, nkhuwa itamutha mphamvu. Akhala bwanji m'tauni wopanda ndalama?

## *Village Boy aning'ina*

Tambala akavumbwa akunga msoti. Patapita nthawi, Katakwe adanyamula chikwama chake nayamba kubwerera cha ku depoti ya basi ija akuyenda ngati wadwala. Atayandikira adakhala pansu pamwala womwe udali pafupi ndi malo omwe amayi amagulitsa ndiwo zamasamba.

Maso ake adagwa pagalu yemwe ankasaka zakudya padzala lina. Galuyo adapezapo fupa. Akuti azidya, padatulukira galu wina waukali yemwe adadzalanda fupalo. Galuyo adayambanso kufunafuna chakudya. Sadapezenso china. Kenaka adagona pansu mutu atasamira pamiyendo, akuoneka wachisoni.

Ndine ameneyo, iye adaganiza motero akukupa ntchenteche zomwe zimafuna kutera kumaso kwake. Kungofikira kuberedwa m'tauni. Monga galuyo adalibe chiyembekezo. Ngakhale atafuna kubwerera kumudzi, akhoza kuyenda bwanji?

Kubwerera kumudzi? Bongo wake udatsutsa ganizo limenelo. Kumudzi kuti azikasekedwa kuti tauni yamukanika? Kuonjezera apo ndalama zomwe adamuberazo zidali zoti adakongola kwa anthu osiyanasiyana ndiye akawabwezera chiyani anthuwo akabwerera? Adayenera kupeza njira ina yoti akhalirebe m'taunimo.

Adadya mutu kwa nthawi yaitali. Ganizo lidamufikira. Amavutikiranji? Kodi kudambwe sadamuphunzitse kuti ukapanda galu umalimba ndi mpiku? Amayi ankagulitsa malonda aja adamuyang'ana modabwa akuona kuti akuseka yekhayekha.

M'taunimo adamupezerera chifukwa amachokera kumudzi. Amamutenga ngati munthu watulo, wogona, wogodomala. Tsopano iye adakonzekera kuwaonetsa momwe mzimwale amabwezera moto.

*Katakwe Kutauni*



Dzuwa lidali litadutsa paliwombo lili cha m'litsipa. Iye adapita malo otsenjera navala buluku lakutha. Mwendo umodzi adaukwinya kulekeza pabondo muja amachitira anthu opalasa njinga. Adavula nsapato navala masilipazi. Adatenga jekete lake nalisolasolasola n'kuvala.

Pomwe ankalowera cha ku Devil Street, mluzu udali pakamwa. Idali nthawi yoti ma town boy amumve kutentha village boy. Atasuzumira m'mabala angapo, adakalowa ina yake momwe mudali anthu ambiri.

Nyimbo ya chizungu inkawuluka m'balamo kuchokera m'choimbira chapamwamba. Chikwama atakolekera kumbuyo, iye adangofikira kuvina nyimboyo, pakamwa akulikita ng'oma zagule mokweza: 'mbendembe mba-mbamba-mbendembe'. Sitepe idali ya kangw'ingwi.

Ataona kuti wakoka chidwi, adalowera ku kauntala akuvina muja imachitira nyau ija amati chadzunda. Adafikira kuponya chikwama chake pa kauntalapo.

"Bala gelo, werenga mowa wonse ulipo ungati muno," iye adatero mokweza kwa mnyamata wogulitsa mowa m'balamo. Kenaka adatembenukira kwa anthu onse omwe adali m'balamo. "Makosana, ndalama za mchewere zatseketsa bala ino; mowa wonse tagula ife wofukula makobiri pansu."

Chidwi cha onse m'balamo chidatera pa iye. Katakwe adangozindikira wina wake wadzamukumbatira kumbuyo n'kumugwira mmaso muja amachitira ana.

"*Guess who?*" adafunsa mawu ozuna achikazi m'chingerezi.

Katakwe adatembenuka. Maso ake adathobwedwa. Adaphethira kangapo

*Village Boy aning'ina*

kuti alipenye bwinobwino getsi lidamuthobwalo. Adamukumbatirayo adali msungwana wamfupi, wonenepera ndi woyera ngati mzungu. Adali m'dilesi lonyezimira lofiyira logwira thupi. Tsitsi lakuda lalitali lidasefukira mmapewa kuchokera m'kachipewa kofiyira komwe adatsomeka pamutu pake.

"*It's me,*" adatero mtsikanayo ndi mawu ngati akuyimba. "Wafika liti?" Sanadikire kuti Katakwe ayankhe. "Darling, mowa sagula choncho. Tiye tikakhale pansu."

Katakwe adapezeka akukokedwa kukakhala pakona.

Msungwanayo adamwetulira. Tizidikha tidaoneka m'masaya mwa mutu wake woumbidwa ngati mtima. Mwana wamkazi adali mbambande, adaganiza Katakwe. Monga kutulo iye adamva msungwanayo akuti, "Ndalama zako sunga, lero ndikumwetsa ndine."

Mtsutso wa Katakwe udatsekedwa ndi kisi ya pakamwa. Mwana wamphongo adapuma mozama, atakutidwa ndi kafungo kokoma ka perefyumu. Momwe msungwanayo ankapita pa kauntala, maso a Katakwe adagwa pa mbuyo yake yomwe inkavina ngati ikuti *Katakwe ndimakukonda, Katakwe ndimakukonda*. Mnyamata adagwedeza mutu mokhutitsidwa, nkhope yake ikuwala ndi chisanagalalo mosasiyana ndi ya mphaka woti wagwira khoswe.

Posakhalitsa msungwanayo adayala mowa unayi wa girini pamaso pake. Katakwe adayamba kuukantha.

"Tsono wokondeka, ukudzatani m'tauni muno?"

"Nimadzagulitsa kachewere ndiye ndati n'dyeko ndalama za thukuta langa nisanabwerere ku Dedza."

"Ndiye ndalamazo amadya chomwechi?" adafunsa mwachidwi namwaliyo.

"Siya, buthu. N'zankhani zedi oti n'khale n'tadya bwanji sizingathe," Katakwe adayankha. "Iweyo konzeka kusamba mowa."

Msungwanayo adamwetulira mokhutitsidwa. "Ndati mowa ndigula ndine. Ndiwe mlendo wanga."

Katakwe adageya. "Zime'zo nivomera pokhapokha unene kuti tikagona limodzi."

Namwaliyo adamupsopsontha patsaya. "Ineyo ndili nawe *tight* ngati nthata pa chikopa cha ng'ombe. Tsono honey dzina lako ndiwe ndani?"

"Ndine Gugudani koma kumudziku amangonditcha Mchewere poti ndimalima mbatatesi kwambiri," adafotokoza Katakwe akumwa mowa. "Iweyo?"

"Chikondi," msungwanayo adatero, nazunguza maso ake akuluakulu oyang'ana moleza. "Chikondi Chikuwuluka"

Katakwe adaseka. "Dzina lokoma. Bwanji osati Chatera?"

*Katakwe Kutauni*

“N’zomwe chachita usiku uno,” msungwanayo adamunongóneza kukhutu. "Chimauluka koma tsopano chatera pa iwe."

Katakwe sadakhulupirire makutu ake. Monga Aonenji, njovu idali itagwa m'mbuna mwake.

Apo adaumwa mowa woguliridwa ndi msungwanayo. Monga mnyamata wozolowera kachasu, mowawo adalimba nawo. Koma Chikondi sadapereke mpata. Mabotolo amowa amakumana asanu asanu pomwe adakhalapo.

Ataona kuti Katakwe waledzera ngati anagwa m'mbiya ya masese, Mwana wamkazi adayitanitsa takisi. Adamutengera Katakwe ku rumu kwake ku Chigwirizano.

## Kodi ndiwedi mchikumbe?

Katakwe adagona ngati wafa. Mmawa podzuka anadabwa kuona katundu wake yense ali mbwe pansu ngati masamba oyoyoka, Chikondi akuyendayenda m'chipindamo ngati wachita misala.

"Bwanji, wokondeka?" Katakwe adafunsa.

Mwana wamkazi adamuyang'ana ndi diso lodzaza ndi mkwiyo. "Amwene, tandiuzani zowona, ndinudi mchikumbe?"

Katakwe adamwetulira. "Bwanji ukufunsa?"

Chikondi adadzakhala pakhundu pa Katakwe. "Tangondiyankha."

"Sindine mchikumbe," Katakwe adaulula. Iye adayala zonse zomwe zidamuchitikira chifikire chake m'tauni dzulo. "Ndinalibe pogona. N'tadya mutu ndinaganiza zonamizira kuti ndine mchikumbe podziwa kuti asungwana otchukuma m'mabalanu mumakonda alimi kuti muziwabera. Ndimadziwa kuti mundimwetsa kuti n'kaledzera mudzandikolopole."

Msungwana adangoti zyoli ngati ali pachinamwali.

"Si uyu wandimwetsa komanso kundipatsa malo ogona aulele," adanyadira mwanthabwala Katakwe.

Chikondi adakhala chete kwa kanthawi. Nthawiyi mtima wa Katakwe udali ukugunda ngati ng'oma. Sadakayike; padali pawiri basi. kunyozedwa kapena kubayidwa ndi mpeni kumene.

Koma zomwe zidachitika zidamudabwitsa. Namwaliyo adayamba kuseka mwachikhakhadza.

"Shaa, koma ndiye unandipusitsa bwanji. Udakakhala kuti unali nazo udakadzuka uli wekha komanso ulibe kalikonse ine ndili patali."

"Pepa, buthu, ulendo uno unagwira mtakato kuyesa mtaji."

*Katakwe Kutauni*



"Ineyo ndimadzitenga kuti ndine dolo m'tauni muno; sindikumvetsa kuti unandizondotsa bwanji," adatero Chikondi akupukuta misozi yomwe idadza chifukwa chosekako.

"Usadabwe, namwali, kwa ine apa panali pamchenga," adadzitamirira Katakwe. "Kwathu ndimadya ndi kuledzera pogwiritsa ntchito bongo."

Mwana wamkazi adaluma mlomo wammunsi, dzanja lili pachigama. "Aise, ukuoneka kuti ndiwe munthu wamapulani; titati tigwirizane, tikhoza kudya bwino m'tauni muno."

"Awo ndiwo mawu," adavomereza Katakwe podziwa kuti kuyenda awiri simantha. "Ine ndili m'tauni muno kudzapanga matambala."

"Kudzapanga matambala?" adafunsa modabwa Chikondi.

Katakwe adavomera.

"Mmayesa umati ulibe ndalama?"

"Panopa ndilibe ndi lobowola lomwe koma ndili ndi ichi," adayankha Katakwe akuloza mutu wake.

Yankholi lidawonetsa kuti lamuchititsa chidwi mtsikanayo. "Tafotokoza."

"Ndili okonzeka kupanga chilichonse chobweretsa ndalama koma bola," Katakwe adadukiza kuti zimveke bwino, "bola chisakhale chofunika kukhetsera thukuta."

Chikondi adamuyang'anitsitsa Katakwe ngati nkhozi. "Wachikondi, zikuoneka kuti zolinga zathu n'zofanana m'tauni muno. Tsono poyamba tiye tidziwane



*Kodi ndiwedi mchikumbe?*

kaye za *serious*. Ndiwe ndani ndipo wachoka kuti?"

"Ndine Katakwe, chisamba cha a Namnyama, mphwawo wa kumtima wa a Topitopi. Pamudzi ndi pa Mnamizana ku Mchinji. Ndine mchewa osati wa dzina chabe koma wa mzinda."

Chikondi adaseka. "Dzina la Chikondi ndinakuuza lija ndi langa lenileni. Koma la Chikuwuluka ndi lodyera. Ndapeza iwemu nanga la makolo anga lili ndi ntchitonso? Kuyambira pano kwinako ndi Mrs Katakwe. Ndine msena wa *original*. Kwathu ndi ku Malaka ku Nsanje."

Kodi amalota, Katakwe adadzifunsa. Zinthu zimayenda mothamanga kwambiri. Momwe ankamumata phula m'maso Chikondi m'bala muja, sadaganize kuti akatani msungwanayo akakazindikira kuti wapusitsidwa. Koma apa zinthu zidali zitakonzeka zokha popanda iye kuchitapo kanthu. Ndithu, sadalakwitse kubwera m'taunimo.

"*Great*. Mchewa kuphatikizana ndi msena; tauni ino itimva kuwawa."

"Nawenso nthabwala," adatero Chikondi. "Tsono, mchewa, vimankhwalavi n'vachani?"

"Anandipatsa ndi malume anga. Obiriwirawo ngopezera mwayi, zithumwa ndi nyangazo ndi zodzitetezera. M'kaphukusiko muli *palibe kanthu* ndi *chiy-eretsa kukhosi*."

"Pamenepa laini yapezeka kale," adaunikira mosangalala Chikondi. "Tiyambe using'anga."

"Mankhwalawatu sagwira ntchito," adaulula Katakwe.

Chikondi adamupsinyira diso. "Using'anga wake wabodza!"

"Yogwira," adayankha Katakwe. "Koma mwayi wokhawo ndizigwiritsa ntchito ndine."

Onse adaseka nakumbatirana mwachikondi.

## 7

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# Using'anga wa mbulanda

Masana a tsiku linalo, Katakwe adatulukira ku Area 3. Adali atavala nsanza ndipo kumsana adakolekerako kasaka. Mayendedwe onjanja aja adali atawaponya uko, akuyenda mwamatewe ngati bakha.

Malinga ndi momwe adamuuzira Chikondi, banja la Kwiyo lidali pafupi kutha. Adagwedeza banjalo adali Selina, mzake wa Chikondiyo. Pulani yawo idali yoti Katakwe akanamizire kuti ndi sing'anga wodziwa mankwala achikondi. Podziwa kuti chonenepetsa nkhumba sichidziwika, adali atasamba ndi kudzola *mwayi* uja adamupatsa a Topitopi. Mkamwa adaponyamo kachidutswa ka *palibe kanthu*.

Adatulukira panyumba ya Kwiyo. Idali nyumba yaikulu ndipo idazunguliridwa ndi kapinga wosamaliridwa bwino. Maluwa okongola adaliponse. Timbalame tinkayimba tinyimbo mumtengo wina wapafupi ndi pakhonde.

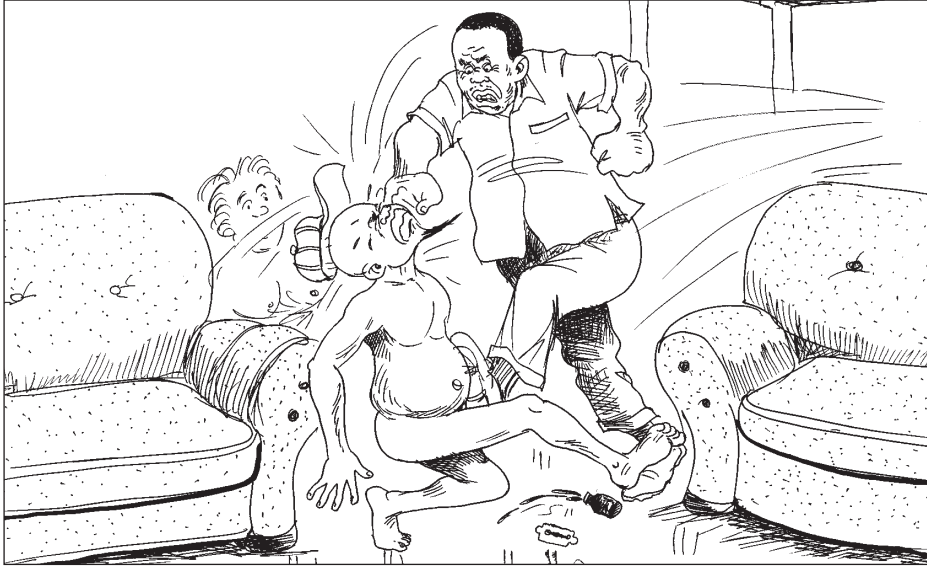
Katakwe adagogoda. Padapita kanthawi kenaka chitseko chidatseguka. M'maganizo a Katakwe chithunzi cha mkazi wa Kwiyo chidali cha ntchembere yosawoneka bwino. Koma mkazi yemwe adatsegula chitsekocho adamuzula moyo ndi kukongola kwake.

Adali wamtalipo ndi wonenepera. Kabudula wothina yemwe adavala, adaumba mokoma ntchafu zokhuthala bwino. Katakwe adayesera kuthawitsa maso ake, koma sadathe kuchoka pa mawere onga mapapaya omwe ankafuna kuphulitsa bulauzi yowonetsa mchombo ya msungwanayo.

"Ndikuthandizeni, bambo?" msungwanayo adafunsa mwaulemu.

Katakwe adaponya maso ake uku ndi uku. "Pepani, mwina ndalakwitsa. Kodi kuno ndi kunyumba kwa a Kwiyo?"

*Usinganga wa mbulanda*



Msungwanayo adavomera. "Mayi Kwiyo ndine."

Katakwe adalozza nyumbayo nafunsa motsitsa. "Kodi kapena bambo akhoza kukhala m'katimu?"

Mayi Kwiyo adakana pogwedeza mutu.

"Mayi, muli pamoto. Inuyo nthawi ina iliyonse mukhala zovuta," adatero Katakwe.

Nkhawa idawoneka pankhope ya mwana wamkazi. "Ndikhala zovuta?"

"Mumwalira. Pali mkazi wina..."

Katakwe sadamalize mauwa. Msungwanayo adamuza kuti alowe. Polowapo, Katakwe adalowa cham'mbuyo n'kudzatembenuka mwadzidzidzi. Kenaka adatulutsa kalitchowa kuchokera m'kathumba adanyamula kaja nakupiza makona anayi a chipinda chochezeracho.

"Mmm, mmm," Katakwe adadzuma. "Imfa. Eee imfa. Ndikumva fungo la imfa."

Adati chati deru, chadabwitsa mlenje. "Bambo, tafotokozani bwinobwino icho mwadzera."

"Mayi, dzina langa ndine Bauzeni koma ndimadziwika ndi dzina loti Mkozamabanja," Katakwe adadukiza nadzuma kwinaku akudzigwedeza. "Ndine sing'anga. Dera langa ndi lamankhwala achikondi."

*Katakwe Kutauni*

Mayi Kwiyo sadanene kanthu.

"Dzulo panabwera msungwana wina wake kudzandipempa mankwala achikondi akuti, *ndikufuna kulanda banja la kamkulu kena dzina lake Kwiyo komwe kamakhala ku Area 3.*" Katakwe adadukiza kenaka n'kufunsa mwadzidzidzi. "Mayi mumamudziwa khuzumule?"

Mwana wamkazi adagwedeza mutu kusonyeza kukana.

"Khuzumule ndi mankhwala oyipa. Ukangomudyetsa mwamuna amayiwala ngakhale mayi ake. Ndiye msungwanayo ndinamupatsa muti wowopsawo kuti akapatse Kwiyo." "

Msungwanayo adamuyang'ana Katakwe mowonetsa kuti samamvetsa chomwe amatanthauza.

"N'tamupatsa kale khuzumuleyo mpomwe amandiuza kuti *nafenso mahule tikakhaleko kumayadi.* Pomufunsa, mpomwe amati amakhala pabala. Komabe chomwe chandifikitsa kuno chinali choti amati *sindikufuna kamkazi kakeko kachokenso ndi moyo. N'kachoka pano ndikupitanso pena ndikapeze muti woti kakakaponda kakamwalire.* Tsono ndinaona kuti ndisaphetse munthu wosalakwa; ndiye kudza kwangaku."

Mwana wamkazi adaoneka kuti waopsedwa ndi nkhaniyi. "Sing'anga, simukunama. Ineyo pakhomo pano ndungokhalira kupilira. Hule mukunenalo amati Selina. Langowayikiratu amuna anga kukhwapa."

"Tsono apo mpang'ono. Akangobwira khuzumuleyo, azingokuwonani ngati zinyatsi," adachenjeza Katakwe.

"Tsono mungandithandize bwanji, sing'anga?"

Mmene adagwirizirana ndi Chikondi, adayenera kumupatsa msungwanayo mankhwala abodza n'kutchaja chintengo chachikulu. Koma ataona duwalo, maganizo ena adalowa m'mutu mwake. Paja amvula zakale adati ukayenda mtchire wayendera zonse, kodi sadakatha kupeza danga lopanga ndalama komanso kuchita za dama ndi msungwanayo? Adaona kuti zikhoza kutheka bola kuzitenga bwino.

"Mayi, ndikhoza kupikisula zonse zomwe mfitiyo yatchera. Koma vuto ndi-lakuti mwina simungalole kuchita zina mwa zizimba zomwe zima funika. Komanso chiponda mthengo ndichokwera."

"Ndalama sivuto kwa ine," adayankha mwachangu mwana wamkazi. "Komanso momwe zinthu zilili, palibe kuchitira mwina. Kuli bwino kuchita zizimba zovuta kusiyana n'kumwalira."

"Simukunama," adavomereza Katakwe mtima wake ukuthamanga. Pulani yake idali itagwira. "Mayi, ndikutemerani mphini. Komatu mphini zake

*Using'anga wa mbulanda*

timatema inu muli maliseche, nanenso ndili maliseche."

Mayi Kwiyo adakweza mapewa ake. "Ngati chizimba chake ndi chotero nanga ine n'ti cha? Bola ndisunge moyo."

Mayiyo adayambadi kuvula zovala. Tsopano Katakwe sadakayike. Uwu sudali mwayi chabe; idali mphamvu ya mankhwala adamupatsa malume ake aja. Sadalakwitsedi kusamba mankhwala aja.

Maganizo onse a Katakwe adali pa zomupusitsa msungwanayo oti sadamve kulira kwa galimoto yomwe idafika panja kapena kutseguka kwa chitseko. Atangoponya buluku lake uko, adangozindikira khosi lake lili mmanja mwa munthu ndipo akutembenuzidwa. Ngakhale Katakwe samamudziwa mwamuna wa mkaziyo sipadali pochitanso kufuna kumuuzza kuti adali amene adamukwenyayo. Nkhope yake idali yokwiya koopsa.

"Chikatere?"

"Pe...pe...pepani, ndine sing'anga..."

"Oh, ndiye using'angawo umachita uli maliseche?" adafunsa Kwiyo. "Tsono lero uphonzira kuti using'anga wochita mbulandawo osamachita ndi akazi a eni."

Mmene chibakera choyamba chimamuonetsa nyenyezi, Katakwe adatsimikiza kuti mankhwala amwayi aja palibe chomwe amamuthandiza. Mwayi udali pati? Chadzana lake adali ataberedwa ndipo lero ndiuyu ankamenyedwa. Adadzitsimikizira kuti akangopulumuka pamenepo akangofikira kutaya mankhwalawo.

Kwiyo adali thunthu lamunthu ndipo Katakwe amangomva ngati akumenyedwa ndi hamala. Iye adadziwa kuti akapanda kuthawa, akhoza kutaya moyo wake. Atapeza danga adabulika.

Chifukwa cha mantha monse ankathawa, sankadziwa kuti ali maliseche. Adadutsa mmbali mwa mtsinje wa Lilongwe mpaka kukafika ku Chigwirizano. Atafika ku rumu mpomwe adazindikira kuti sadavale!

## 8

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# Chikondi akalipa

Chikondi adaoneka ngati amafuna kuphulika ndi mkwiyo.

"Mchewa iwe, mmayesa mmene umachoka kwanuko umati ukudzapanga ndalama? Ngati umafuna chiwerewere ndiye mpaka kuthera mtunda wonsewu? Ku Mchinji kwanuko kulibe akazi?"

"Alipo," adayankha Katakwe.

"Ndiye ndalamazo umati udzapangira m'kabudula?"

Katakwe sanayankhe. Naye chete n'kulankhula.

"Tinagwirizana kuti ukamupositse mkazi wa Kwiyo osati ukamunyenge," adapitirira kukalipa Chikondi.

"Sikuti ndimafuna kugona naye," adadziteteza Katakwe. "Chinali chizimba."

Mwana wa mkazi adaseka ngati zikumusangalatsa. "Sitinagwirizane chizimba choti ukakhale buno bwamuswe ngati mfiti. Ulibe ndi manyazi omwe eti. Kuzolowera mbiyazodowoka kapena chiyani?"

"Chikondi..."

"*Shut up!* Chifukwa cha chimasomaso chako taluza ndalama zochuluka..."

"Chikondi..."

"Ndati tseka kukamwa. Koma mutu wako umagwira kumene?"

"Bwanji?"

"Wayamba kundidabwitsa maganizidwe ako. Mkazi wa Kwiyo umati ugone naye opanda kudziteteza. Koma ukudziwa kuti kunjika kuno kuli matenda?"

"Ndikudziwa."

"Ndikudziwa," adabwereza monyodola Chikondi. "Kupusitsa mkazi n'kugona naye usamayese kuchenjera. Asing'anga aja amapusitsa amayi n'kumagona

*Chikondi akalipa*



nawo amayesa mashasha. Koma ayi. Sadziwa icho atenga."

Mawu amanena Chikondiwo adamugwira mtima Katakwe. Adangoti phe.

"Ukudziwa kuti mkazi wa Kwiyo ali bwanji?" adafunsa Chikondi. "Mwamuna wake ndi wothamanga. Ukudziwa kuti adamupatsa chiyani?"

Katakwe adangoti khuma ngati nkhuu yachitopa. Ngakhale chala sichiloza mwini, kuyang'ana zonse, adaona kuti adaganizadi mopusa.

"Anthu mukagwirizana chinthu pamafunika kupanga chomwecho," adatero Chikondi. "Sudamve kuti ichi chakoma ichi chakoma pusi adagwa chagada?"

"Ndidamva..."

"Lero ndizomwe zakuchitikirazi. Mmalo moyendera nzengo zomwe tinagwirizana iwe unakatengeka ndi kufumbula kwa asakhwi."

Fisi akagwa mmbuna salankhula; Katakwe adangokhala chete. Mmalo mwake iye adasuzumira nkhope yake mobera pagalasi la pakhoma. Mwamwayi zibakera zambiri za Kwiyo zidafikira m'thupi motero nkhopeyo siyidatupe.

Chikondi adapitiriza kukalipa. "Panopa nduganiza zoti basi ndingokusiya; sungandipindulire."

Mtima wa Katakwe unadumpha. Popanda msungwanayo iye adalibe pogwira m'taunimo. "Chikondi..."

Mwana wamkazi adakweza dzanja kwinku akugwedeza mutu. "Ok. Panopa ukuti yolipirira rumu ndiyitenga kuti? Yazakudya?"

Katakwe adangoti kukamwa yasa.

*Katakwe Ku Tauni*

"Kapena ndikusiye mu rumu momwe muno ine ndikatchukume ku mabala; zikusangalatsa zimenezo?"

"Ayi."

"Chabwino, kupatula nzeru zopusitsira amayi, pulani yako ndiyotani?"

Mwana wamphongo adatulukira kuti adalibe pulani ina iliyonse. Iye adachoka kumudzi ndi ganizo loti akapange makobiri koma zoti akapanga ndalamazo motani sadaganize.

Chikondi adaseka. Adadzakhala pomwe padali Katakwe namukumbatira.

"Katakwe, ukudziwa kuti ndimakukonda?"

Katakwe adavomera pogwedeza mutu.

"Udakali nayo pulani yofuna kupanga ndalama?"

"N'chomwe ndidadzera."

"Ok. Tiye tizikakhala limodzi kunyumba kwanga kwa Phwetekere. Koma ukakachitanso zobwirira ngati izi, ndidzakuponya pansu ngati khala lamoto," adachenjezeratu mwana wamkazi.



## Kwa Phwetekere

Dzuwa, lomwe lidali mmunsi kumadzulo, lidakongoletsa tauni ndi kamtundu kofiyirirapo. Katakwe ndi Chikondi adatulukira m'taunimo kuchokera ku Chigwirizano. Ulendo wawo udali wa ku lokeshoni ya Phwetekere. Ngakhale Katakwe adali asadaoneko kwa Phwetekereko, iye amaganiza kuti adali malo apamwamba malinga ndi momwe amaonekera Chikondi.

Katakwe anadabwa kuona nyumba zokongola za mu Area 3 ndi Falls Estate akuzisiya. Naonso msewu udasintha; udali wokumbika kwambiri moti woyendetsa takisiyo amayenera kumazemba maenje.

Zodabwitsa zidapitirira. Galimoto ija idapezeka ikudutsa mkati mwa tinyumba tating'ono ndi tosamangidwa bwino ndi tokhala pafupipafupi. Kenaka galimotoyo idayima pamalo pomwe pamaoneka ngati pa ka msika. Katakwe anadabwa kuti ayimiranji. Koma woyendetsa takisiyo adatsitsa chikwama chake kuonetsa kuti ulendo wathera pomwepo.

Katakwe adamwaza maso ake. Anyamata anayi a tsitsi la mangongo ankasuta chamba m'mbali mwa msewu cha kumanja. Chakumanzere, ana amatola zinthu pankhuti yaikulu. Pakhonde pa nyumba ina asungwana atatu omwe adavala ngati ali kuchinamwali ankaphoda nkhope zawo.

"Tafika, darling," Chikondi adatero. "Uno ndiye mudzi wako watsopano."

Katakwe adayang'ana msungwanayo modabwa. "Chiyani? Umakhala kuno?"

"Eya. Kumayadi timakufuna koma sitingakwanitse."

Katakwe akutsika, nsapato yake idafikira kuwonda china chake chofewa. Ntchentche zidabalalika. Poyang'ana adaona kuti adaponda bibi.

"Pepatu, honey. Kunoko nyumba zambiri zilibe zimbudzi ndiye ana amango-

*Katakwe Kutauni*



biba pali ponse," adafotokoza Chikondi akuthamangitsa ntchentche yomwe idamutera pamphuno.

Kenaka adalimva fungolo. Lidali paliponse. Fungo lazinthu zovunda. Lidadzaza mlengalenga mwakuti Katakwe adamva ngati akhoza kulikhudza. Linkachokera m'zinyalala zomwe anthu amangotaya paliponse.

Katakwe adapuma mozama. "Ndafika inemu, sititha miyezi itatu tili kuno. Kuno n'kofunika anthu otha mapulani."

Chikondi adaseka. "Kodi iwe umati ine kuyenda m'mabala kumandisangalatsa? N'kutha mapulani kumene."

"Tafika ife eni mapulani," adadzitamirira Katakwe akuchotsa bibi zija paudzu. "Umphawi kwa iwe posachedwa ukhala mbiri yakale."

"Bola mapulani ake asakhale oduka ngati aja unachita kwa a Kwiyo."

"Easy, munthu wamayi," Katakwe adauzilira. "Chomwe ana amagwera n'kuti aphunzire kudzuka. Nanenso ndatenga phunziro."

Katakwe adamulondola Chikondi kupita kunyumba kwake. Padalibe msewu, ankangodutsa m'timipata ta pakati panyumba. Padalibe kuti uku ndi kumaso kwa nyumba. Komwe kumakhala kumaso kwa nyumba ina kumapezeka kuti ndi kumbuyo kwa nyumba ina. Malo ena amayenera kumadumpha timitsinje ta

*Kwa Phwetekere*

madzi ochokera m'mabafa tomwe timayenderera paliponse.

Adafika panyumba ya Chikondi. Udali mdadada wa makomo asanu womwe umaoneka ngati ukhoza kugwa nthawi ina iliyonse. Atalowa mkati adalandiridwa ndi udzudzu womwe umawuluka ngati njuchi pachisa.

Nyumbayo idali ndi chipinda chimodzi. Ngati lokeshoniyo inkawoneka yosasamalidwa, chipindacho chinkangokhala ngati chapumulumuka ku mphepo yamkuntho. Zinthu zidali mbwe: mkeka ndi matilesi, zofunda, mulu wa zovala zosachapa ndi masutikesi awiri. Mphemvu zidali laka pomwe padaunjikidwa ziwiyi zakukhitchini.

"Pepatu, dear, nanga usiku sindimakhala ndikuzisaka, masana ndikugona ndiye sindipeza nthawi yosamalira pakhomo," adafotokoza Chikondi mosafunsidwa. "Koma wafika iwemu ndisintha poti tsopano ndine mayi wa pabanja."

Mtima wa Katakwe udadumphira ndi chisangalalo. Msungwanayo amaonetsa kuti wagwa naye m'chikondi cha pansu pamtima komanso amafuna kumuthandiza. Iye pofika m'taunimo adalibe pulani ina ili yonse kupatula gani-zo loti akapange ndalama. Koma namwaliyo ndiye adamuonetsa chofunika kuchita.

Apa adatola khasu ndi mpini womwe. Kuonjezera kuti namwaliyo amafuna kumuthandiza, adalinso wa kumaso kwa anthu. Adali woti akadzapita naye kumudzi kwawo aliyense azikamupatsa ulemu kuti wapeza mbambande. Adatha kudzionga akudzitamirira pamaso pa anzake kuti adakwatira mkazi wokongola osangoti bola wovala dilesi.

Koma Katakwe adadziwa kuti ngati amafuna kuti namwaliyo azimupatsa ulemu adayenera kuchitapo chamuna. Monga mnyamata wometedwa, iye amadziwa kuti akazi sapatasa ulemu munthu wamanja lende. Panopa ankasungidwa ngati mwana ndi Chikondi. Chidali chachidziwikire kuti izi sizingapitirire kwa nthawi yayitali ngati iye sayamba kubweretsa ndalama pakhomopo.

Chikondi adakamuyikira madzi osamba ku bafa. Katakwe adaponya ka bafa tawulo paphunzi kuti akasambe. Akufika adangodabwa mnyamata wina wojintcha ngati nkhuzi akukalowa m'bafamo atakulunga bafa tawulo m'chuwuno.

"Amwene, madzi ali m'bafamo wayika ndi mkazi wanga," Katakwe adalozera.

Mnyamatayo adamuyeza ndi maso kenaka n'kulavulira pansu. "Ndikudziwa. Ndiye?"

Yankholi lidamudzidzimutsa Katakwe. Adafuna kuyankha mokalipa koma

*Katakwe Ku Tauni*

mnyamatayo adadzipopa ngati finye n'kukulunga zibakera zake nganga atayimitsa ngati ya mkango. Katakwe adameza malovu n'kunyambita milomo yake yomwe idauma mwadzidzidzi.

Chikondi ndiye adamupulumutsa. "Musiye, ndiyika madzi ena," mwana wamkazi adatero akumukokera mnyumba. "Awa amakhala anyamata opanda chilichonse ofuna pothetsera mavuto awo."

Katakwe sadafune kutchipa. "Unachitatu bwino kudzandigwira. Ndidakamupha galu amene uja."

"Ndikudziwa. Ndiye zoti ine ndikhale pamphala chifukwa choti iwe uli ku pulizoni kaamba kopha nkhandwe ngati iye uja toto."

Mnyamata uja atatuluka, Chikondi adakamuyikiranso madzi ena. Bafalo, lomwe lidali la zidina, lidali ndi khoma logumuka. Katakwe akayimirira, khomalo limamulekeza m'chiuno. Chapafupi, adatha kuona asungwana omwe amatunga madzi pachitsime. Iye adasamba chowerama. Pamoyo wake adali asadasambeko movutika chomwecho.

Kuchimbudzi ndiye kudali kovuta zedi. Khomo la chimbudzicho lidatsekedwa ndi chiguduli chomwe chidamangidwa kudenga. Chigudulicho sichimafika pansu. Katakwe atanyonyamala kuti adzithandize, maso ake adagwa pagulu la amayi litakhala pansu likucheza. Sadadziwe choti achite.

Adakaganiza chomwecho adangomva, "Eee amwene, kodi mukutani monse mwalowera muja? Changu, nafenso tikufuna kudzithandiza. Kapena mukubiba miyala?"

Adali mawu achikazi. Okalipa. Katakwe adasuzumira pakachibowo cha chiguduli chija. Kunjako kodayima mayi wonenepa monga nkhumba. Mmanja adanyamula paketi ya mowa wa masese.

Katakwe adagwedeza mutu. Moti kuchoka kumudzi kunali kuti azidzayaluka chomwechi? Zopanda ulemu!

## Ayala Pulani

Atangotuluka m'chimbudzi muja, Katakwe adakalowa m'nyumba. Nthawiyi, Chikondi adali panja akukoleza mbaula yoti aphikirepo chakudya. Mwana wamkazi anadabwa kumva kusweka kwa zinthu kuchokera m'nyumbamo.

Adalowa mothamanga. Adapeza Katakwe akuswa nsupa zomwe a Topitopi adamupatsa. Tizithumwa adali atatihulitsa.

"Bwanji, wachikondi?" adafunsa Chikondi.

Katakwe sadayankhe. Adatola zidutswa za nsupazo ndi mankhwala ena onse n'kukataya m'chimbudzi. Kenaka adakakhala pakhonde namuyitanitsa Chikondi.

"Zimene zija zimanditayitsa nthawi," iye adamufotokozera wokondeka wakeyo modekha. "Panopa ndapeza pulani yatsopano.

"Ndili makutu okha okha," adayankha Chikondi.

"Zoti zithumwa zimagwira ntchito panopa ndilibe n'chikhulupiriro mpang'ono pomwe," adatero Katakwe. "Ndi uyu mwayi unafuna kukandiphetsa kwa Kwiyo."

Chikondi adaseka. "Inetu ndinkangoseka muja unkasamba ukuyimba kuti *mwayiwo, mwayiwo* ngati ukupanga zisudzo. Ndati ndithu mnyamata wabwinobwino ngati ameneyu n'kumakhulupirira zithumwa!"

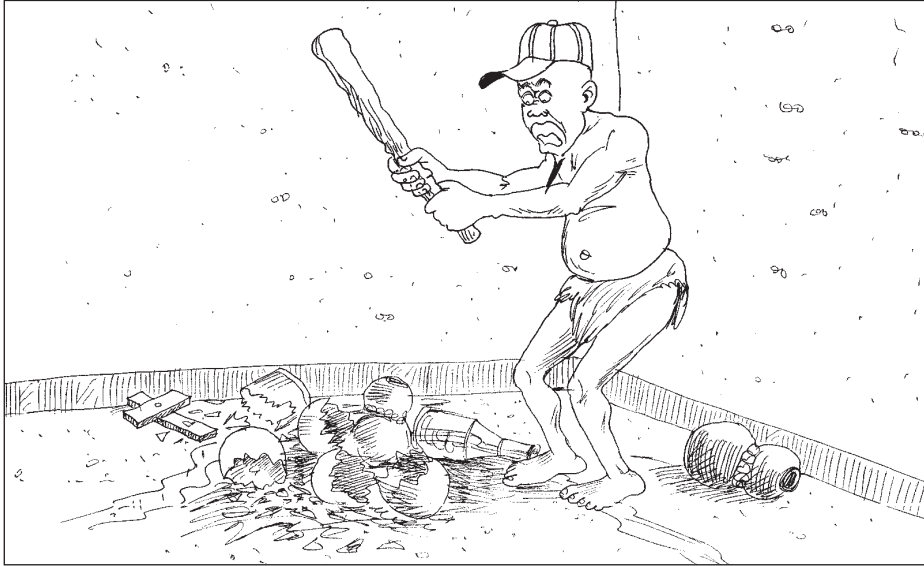
Katakwe adayang'ana anamzeze omwe amasewera pachimbudzi. "Sikuti ndimazikhulupirira; koma ndizomwezi zongoti zedi thawa bodzanso thawa."

"Malume akowo ali ukasamba ndi kudzola mwayi zonse zidzangokuyendera bwino."

"Inde."

"Koma utafika m'tauni muno?" adafunsa Chikondi akutsamira phewa la

*Katakwe Kutauni*



Katakwe.

"Minyama *full time*," adatero Katakwe. "Moti panopa nduganiza kuti tsibweni wanga amandilimbikitsa kuti ndibwere m'tauni muno pongofuna kuti apumule kulipira milandu yanga."

Chikondi adamumenya Katakwe pamsana mosewera. "Zamankhwala ponya uko. Tiye tigwiritse ntchito bongo."

"Panopa mpomwe ndikuona kuti dolo ngati ine ndimadzipusitsa bwanji posamba mankhwala mmalo mongodalira bongo?"

"Nkhani yake ndiyomwe umanena ija-chomwe ana amagwera n'kuti aphunzire kuyenda," adamulimbitsa mtima Chikondi.

"Ndatengapo phunziro kumene," adatero Katakwe. "Pulani yanga ndiyoti ndiyambe using'anga womwe sunawonekepo mu Lilongwe muno."

"Ndiye nsupa ndi zithumwa zija watayiranji? Udakagwiritsa ntchito zomwezo."

Katakwe adagwedeza mutu akuyang'ana dzuwa lomwe tsopano lidali psu ngati chitsulo chofiyira ndi moto. Theka ladzuwalo lidali litabisika kale ndi mapiri a Dzalanyama ndipo kamdima kadali katayamba kukwawa kuchokera kummawa. "Paja ndati ndikufuna ndiyambe using'anga wododometsa. Ndiye kuti zigwire, pakufunika zida zake zonse ndikonze ndekha."

Chikondi adavomera pogwedeza mutu.

*Ayala Pulani*

"Ndiyamba using'anga wochulukitsa ndalama," Katakwe adapitirira kulankhula. "Tsono chomwe ndikufuna n'choti undithandize kupeza makasito-mala akuluakulu."

"Motani?"

"Zosavuta. Abizinesi ambiri, makamaka osaphunzira, amakhulupirira mankhwala; saganiza kuti bizinesi ikhoza kuyenda opanda kukhwimira."

"Zoono," adavomereza Chikondi. "Monga a Mbudye a pa Kawondo, asing'anga satha phanzi pakhomu pawo."

"Eya. Ndikufuna anthu ngati amenewo. Zikhwaya za ndalama ndizidzazidulira pansu ngati chitsizi. Tikapeza kapitolo yokwanira basi using'anga tidzauponya pansu n'kumenya pulani ina."

"Zoono. Pausing'anga wabodza sipafunika kukhalitsapo. Ukatengeka n'kuti padakafunda umajiwa ngati galu wamkota anthu akakutulukira," adathirira mang'ombe Chikondi. "Koma sunanene kuti zikhwayazo ndizizikopa bwanji."

"Iweyo uzivala bwino n'kulowa mu sitolo yamunthu amene ukudziwa kuti amakonda mankhwala. Uzimuza Selina azikakupeza uli momwemo. Akakupeza, azikadabwa nawe kuti walemera mwachangu. Iwe uzikati bizinesi yako ikuyenda bwino chifukwa cha sing'anga wina wake-ineyo," adalongosola Katakwe. "Uzikapereka mapu kwa Selinayo wa bizinesi uja akumva kuti akatengeka adzandipeze mosavuta. Kwinako ndizikathana nazo ndine."

Chikondi adaseka. "Katakwe, udalekeza sitandade chiyani?"

"Bwanji?"

"Ukuwonekatu wanzeru," adatero moseka Chikondi. "Udakapita ku yuni-vesite udakakhala *Professor of Plans*."

Naye Katakwe adaseka. "Tsono ukudziwa? Mapulani omwewa ndiwo adandilepheretsa sukulu. Sindinkalowa m'kalasi koma n'kumakwanitsa kupusitsa makolo kuti ndimalowa."

Chikondi adasekansa namumenya Katakwe paphewa. "Nanenso. Ndidangoti sukulu ndi yachani. Bola ndidzapane chikhwaya."

"Ndiye sudachipeze?"

"Ndakhala ndikumunya pulani iyi kapena iyo koma osachipeza," Chikondi adayankha namupsinyira diso Katakwe. "Koma panopa sindikukayika; ndachipeza."

# 11

## Sing'anga Wodabwitsa

Monga Katakwe adanenera, iye adatulutsadi sing'anga wodzidzimutsa. Munthu yemwe adayala mankhwala mathero a sabata imeneyo pa Chinsapo cha Mbuzi adali woti mpang'ono pomwe palibe yemwe adakamuganizira kuti adali Katakwe. Thupi lonse adalipaka makala moti amangooneka ngati chikuni chowauka. Kumtundaku nsupa ndi zithumwa ndiye zidali malaya ake pomwe kumunsiku adangovala thewera ngati la mwana wakhanda.

Dzina la using'anga wake lidali Mombola ndipo amati wachokera ku Mukhuba ku Mozambique. Iye amati using'anga wake ndi wamizimu. Chomwe adachita n'choti adatenga dongo n'kuwumba mutu wa munthu wamkazi. Mutuwo adaukuta ndi nsalu yowoneka ngati thupi lamunthu mwakuti umaoneka ngati weniweni. Adautsomeka mu nsupa.

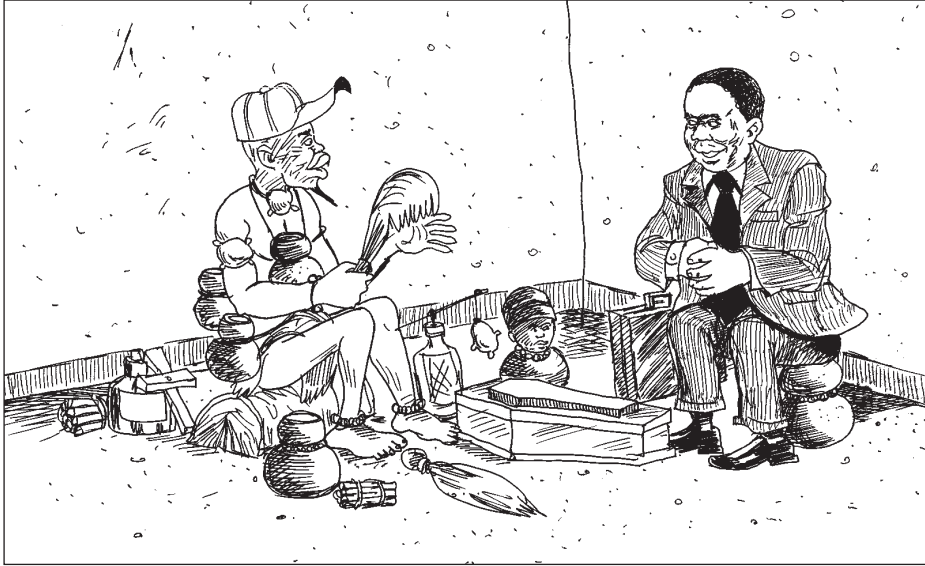
Using'anga wakewo amapangira m'kanyumba kadothi losinja kopanda ndi zenera lomwe. Chifukwa cha ichi, m'kanyumbamo mumakhala mdima ngakhale ndi masana omwe.

Munthu akafika iye amati zonse amachita ndi a Nabetha, akuloza mutu uja. Wofuna kulemerayo amadabwa kumva mutu uja ukulankhula. Motero munthuyo amagoma, osadziwa kuti mkati mwa mutumo, Katakwe adayikamo payipi yomwe adayilowetsa m'khoma kupita kuchipinda. Amalankhula kuchipindako amakhala Chikondi.

Posakhalitsa mbiri idawanda kuti kwa Chinsapo kwafika sing'anga wodabwitsa wodziwa kuchulukitsa ndalama. Anthu ofuna kupeza ndalama mosavutikira alipo ambiri zedi. Adakhamukira kwa sing'angayo.

Awa Katakwe adalibe nawo ntchito. Ndalama zawo iye amazitenga kuti n'zogulira ndiwo pakhomo. Iye amadikira kuti padzafike anamatetule a ndala-



*Sing'anga wodabwitsa*

ma. Padapita mwezi akudikirabe. Komabe ya lendi, zovala, sopo ndi nsima siy-imamusowa kuchokera kwa omwe amafikawo.

Onsewatu sikuti amawachulukitsiradi ndalama. Iye amawapatsa zizimba zosatheka kuti awabere ndalama zawo. Pomwe sing'anga amapululumukira pamakhala poti mankhwala ake akalephereka palibe yemwe amanka nalengeza. Palibe yemwe amafuna kudziwika kuti anapita kwa sing'anga. Choncho omwe ankafika kwa Katakwe ankamata pakamwa akaluzza ndalama zawo.

Tsiku lomwe wa bizinesi wina dzina lake Chuma Sichitha adafika, Katakwe adadziwa kuti tsopano watola chikwama. Chuma Sichitha adali wolemera kwambiri. Amayendetsa mabizinesi a masitolo, zigayo, magalimoto, nyumba za lendi ndi ena otero.

Mmene amafika, Katakwe adadzifunsa mu mtima kuti kodi anthu amafuna chiyani. *N'kadakhala ine pano ndili kunyanja kumadyerera thukuta langa kanamwali kali pambali osati kumadzalimbana ndi asing'anga.* Komabe sadali iyeyo.

Atalowa m'kachipinda kochitira mankhwala, Katakwe adamuza kuti akhale pansupa ina yake yaikulu ngati mtsuko.

"Muno mwafika pamaso pa azimu," iye adafotokoza. "Musalankhule mpaka

*Katakwe Kutauni*

nditakuwazani mankhwala kuopetsa kuti azimu angakulandeni mawu."

Iye adamuwaza mkuluyo madzi amankhwala. M'madzimo mudalibe mankhwala ena ali wonse. "Eya, tsopano mukhoza kulankhula kwa azimu icho mwadzera."

Chuma Sichitha adayang'ana uku ndi uku. "Ndakupezani sing'anga. Ndakhala ndikumva za inu kwa kanthawi ndithu. Komabe ndimakayika poti masiku ano alipo asing'anga ambiri a njuga."

Katakwe adadzigwedeza.

"Koma dzana m'sitolo mwanga munalowa mayi wina wooneka wochita bwino. Akugula zinthu munadzalowaniso mayi wina. Mayi wachiwiriyo anadzadabwa ndi momwe walemerera mzakeyo. M'kucheza kwawo ndinato-lapo kuti ndinu mudamuthandiza mayiyo."

"Sindine ndidamuthandiza mayiyo koma alongo angawa," Katakwe adaongolera akuloza mutu uja. "Ine ndine njira chabe. Zonse amachita ndi iwowa. Komabe sindigadziwe kuti mayi wake ndi uti poti tathandiza amayi ambiri. Komanso ngakhale nditamudziwa sindinganene poti alongo angawa salola kuti ndiwulule zomwe zimachitika muno."

"Mfundo yabwino imeneyo," adavomereza Chuma Sichitha. "Ine kudza ndi kamdimaku n'kufuna kuti anthu asandione. Nkhani ngati imeneyi siyifunika anthu ayidziwe."

"M'sade nkhawa. Ine ndi alongo angawa takhala tikuthandiza anthu ambiri koma palibe yemwe ndidamutchulapo," Katakwe adamutsimikizira mkuluyo. "Kumakhala kufuna kwawo othandizidwawo kuulula kuti ndife tidawathandiza."

Chuma Sichitha adaponya maso ake pa mutu womwe Katakwe amati ndi wa alongo akewo. "Mwandilimbisa mtima, sing'anga. Ineyo ndikufuna kutsegula bizinesi ina yake koma kapitolo siyikukwanira. Ndiye mmalo moti ndikabw-ereke ku banki ndimafuna mutandichulukitsirako."

Katakwe adaseka. "Bambo, omwe amabwereka ndalama ku banki ndi opusa. Amenewo ndi aja mumamva kuti adawalanda katundu kaamba kolephera kubweza ngongole."

"Nzomwe ndikuthawa kumene. Mzanga Maliseni bizinesi yake idatha chifukwa cha ngongole ya ku banki. Adamulanda chilichonse. Ndikunena pano akuyenda pansu munthu woti amayendera Prado."

Katakwe adagwedeza mutu wake. "Dzimvere mumtolo. Zimangovuta kuti chifukwa cha chizungu anthu timanyoza zamakolo koma timayiwala kuti adapanga zitsamba si ife koma Mulungu."

*Singánga wodabwitsa*

"Anzanga ndimawauza zimenezi, samvetsa. Kaya zawo zimenezo."

"Chabwino. Mankhwala athu siakhala apatali. Munthu akasitika wani tambala pamaonjezerekanso wani tambala. Kusitika khasu kulandira makasu awiri."

"Pamenepo mpabwino. Ine ndili ndi hafu miliyoni kwacha. Ndikufuna mundilongosolere kuti ikhale wani miliyoni," Chuma Sichitha adafotokoza icho adadzera.

"Palibe vuto. Tengani ndalamazo muwapatse chemwali angawa," Katakwe adatero naloza kabokosi kopangidwa ngati kamaliro komwe kadali pafupi ndi mutuwo. "Ikani umu."

Mkuluyo adaponya ndalamazo m'kabokosimo mwamantha. Ndi kuwala koperevera komwe kudali m'chipindamo mutu uja umaonekadi ngati weniweni.

"Tsopano a Nabetha akuwuzani zofuna kuchita," adatero Katakwe.

Chuma Sichitha anadabwa kumva mutu uja ukulankhula. "Mvetsera, munthu wadziko lapansi. Achimwene anga akupatsa mankhwala. Mankhwala amenewo ukathire mmadzi osamba. Ukasambe thupi lonse lonse. Ukakasamba uzikamva kuyabwa. Koma osakakanda. Kuyabwako kukakhala ndalama zikuchuluka kudziko lino la azimu. Tamvana?"

"Zikumveka, azimu."

"Ndikuchenjezeretu, mwana wanga. Ine sindilephera, ndiye osakachita zinthu zofuna kundilepheretsa. Ukakangokanda, udzandikwiyitsa kowopsa. Ndalama zako ndiye kuti sudzazionanso. Zikumveka?"

"Ndikumva, azimu."

"Chabwino. Basi, ndatsikira kuli chete."

"Mwadzimvera nokha, bambo. Mankhwalawa ndi a mizimu. Bokosi mwayika ndalamali likungowoneka ngati lamasevera koma ndi leni leni lamaliro lomwe tidayikamo alongo angawa. Ndalamazi zizikachulukira pansu pamanda. Monga anenera azimu, mukakangokanda ndiye kuti ndalama zanu zapotera, simudzazionanso," adachenjeza Katakwe.

"Ndalamazi ndi zambiri. Sindingakachite dala chibwana chokanda," adavomereza motsimikiza Chuma Sichitha.

"Mankhwala ndi awa. Zili ndi inu," adatero Katakwe mwankhanza. "Chipondamthengo ndi handede sauzande kwacha."

Chuma Sichitha adatulutsa mpukutu wa ndalama naziwerenga. Adati azimupatsa Katakwe koma iye adakana. "M'sandipatse ine. Ndanena kale kuti mankwala anga ndi azimu. Apatse omwe agwire ntchitoyi."

Chuma Sichitha adaonetsa kuti wagoma ndi sing'angayo. Adaponya ndala-

*Katakwe Ku Tauni*

mazo mwaulemu pambali pa mutu uja natuluka mnyumbamo.

Patapita kanthawi, Chikondi adatuluka kuchipinda kuja natola ndalama zija. "Sindinalakwitse kusiyira sukulu panjira n'kumadikira kudzakwatiwa ndi chikhwaya," adalekeza nanunkhiza ndalamazo. "Handede sauzande."

"Leka, imeneyo sindalama. Umu muli hafu miliyoni. Mawa tikhala anthu olemera," adatero Katakwe.

"Mawa? Mmayesa talemera kale?"

Katakwe adagwedeza mutu. "Padakali pano ndalamazi za mkulu uja. Koma madzulo ano akakasamba chitedze chomwe ndamupatsa chija akakanda koop-sa. Akatero walephera chizimba. Mwachidziwikire mawa abwera kuno. Tikadzathana naye mpomwe udzati talemera."

## Alemera

Katakwe adalosea zowonadi. Tsiku linalo, kunja kudakali mbu, mame asadakamuke, Chuma Sichitha adatulukira pakhomopo. Adali akukanda ndipo thupi lake limaoneka ngati latuluka zidzolo chifukwa chokandako.

Adangofikira kuti, "Sing'anga..."

"Chete!" adakalipa Katakwe. "Azimu akwiya nawe kowopsa."

Chuma Sichitha adakhumata. "Pepani sing'anga..."

"Ndati khala chete, kapena ukufuna uchite misala? Walakwira azimu. Usambe kaye mankwala usanalankhule kena kalikonse."

Mkuluyo adamutengera ku kabafa katsekera komwe kadali kuseri kwa nyumbayo. Kumeneko adamusambitsa madzi ozizira. Atatero adamupatsa mankwala ena oti amwe. Kenaka adamutemera mphini mu litsipa.

"Eya, tsopano ukhoza kuwonekera pamaso pa azimu," adatero Katakwe akumutengera m'kanyumba kopangira mankhwala kaja.

Adamuza mkuluyo kuti akhale chogwada pafupi ndi moto moyang'ana nsupa yomwe adayiyika m'bokosi longa lamaliro lija.

"M'bokosi umu lero munayenera kukhala wani miliyoni koma mulibe kena kalikonse. Chifukwa chiyani siunamvere zonena za azimu, Chuma Sichitha?" adafunsa modera nkhawa Katakwe.

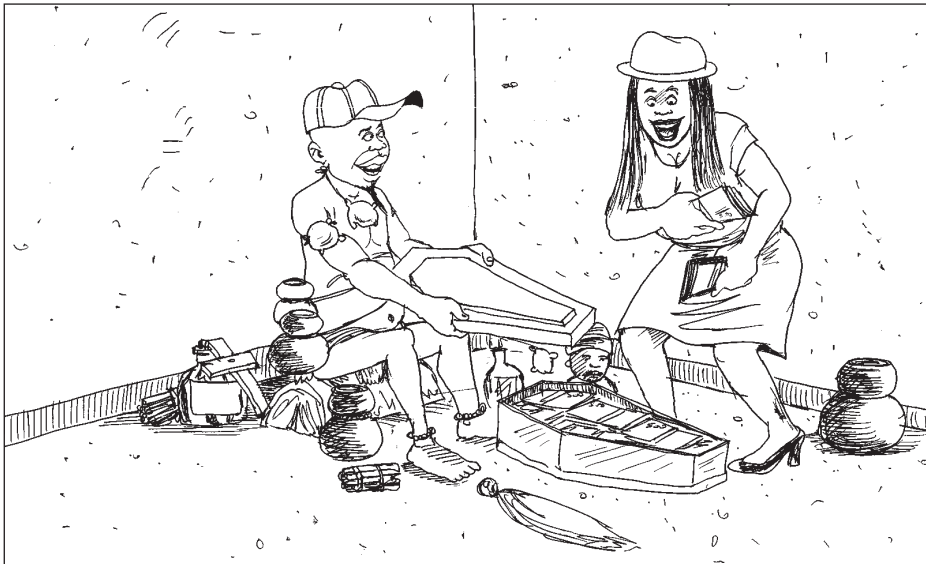
"Sing'anga, kungoti mankhwala aja..."

Katakwe adamudula. "Usauze ine. Uziuza azimu omwe ali msupawo. Wawayamba dala wekha."

"Pepani azimu, kungoti mankhwala aja anali oyabwa kwambiri motero ndi-nalephera kupirira ndiye ndinakanda."

Katakwe adatenga mankhwala naponya pamoto paja. Chuma Sichitha

*Alemera*



adayetsemula kwambiri.

"Chonde azimu, m'samuphe," adapempha Katakwe. "Waonatu, azimu akwiya nawe kwambiri."

Chuma Sichitha adali njenjenje. Zidachitikazo zidamuopisa.

Nkhope ya Katakwe idali yokwiya. Mawu ake adali oderera. "Iwe ndiwe bambo wopusa kwambiri. Munthu watsinkhu lakoli anayenera kudziwa kuti kulemera sipamchenga; bwenzi aliyense ali wolemera. Unalephera bwanji kungopirira osakanda?"

"Sing'anga..."

Katakwe adamudula monyansidwa. "Ndati uziyuza azimuwo."

"Azimu, kungoti kuyabwa kwake kunali kosapilirika. Ndachezera kukanda usiku wonse."

"Chomwe wachitachi chakwiyitsa azimu kwambiri. Ukufuna anthu aziti azimu ndi olephera?"

"Pepani..."

"Chete. Apapa ndalama zako zapotera. Uzithokoza kuti azimu akusiyira moyo. Lero udakakhala maliro..."

"Sing'anga," adagwira mwendo Chuma Sichitha. Adadzikonza yekha.

"Azimu..."

"Chete. Tuluka muno. Usadzapondenso pakhomo pano kapena kuyandikira ine ngati ukufuna moyo wako. Munthu wopusa. Tuluka."

Chuma Sichitha adati azizengereza koma Katakwe adaponya mankwala ena pamoto paja. Iye adayamba kuyetsemula kwinku misozi ikutuluka mmaso. Adatuluka mothawa nathamangira kugalimoto yake.

Galimotoyo itapita, Chikondi adalowa akuseka. Nayenso Katakwe adayamba kuseka.

"Ndathana naye munthu wadimu uja. Tsopano talemera," Katakwe adatero.

"Dala, ndiye inalipotu. Kudzipaka makala, kuvala thewera ngati baby. Tsono iye uja amayetsemula ndi chani?"

Katakwe adasekansa. "Tsabola. Ndimati ndikaponya tsabolayo pamoto ine sindimapuma. Ndiye iye poti anagwada pafupi ndi motowo yense amangofiki-ra m'mphuno."

"Basi tiye. Ndawanditsa kale mbiri kuti ukubwerera ku Mocambique," adatero Chikondi.

Katakwe adamupsontha Chikondi. "Mtsikana wanzeru."

## 13

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### Kunjoya

Atasamuka kwa Phwetekere, iwo sadathawire ku lokeshoni ina. Mmalo mwake adakalowa mu hotela ina ku City Centre ati kunjoya kaye asadakhazikike mnyumba yomwe amati akapeze kumayadi a ku Area 3.

Tauni ya Lilongwe idadziwa kuti mwana wamphongo wakumanizana ndi ndalama. Katakwe akafika pamalo a chisangalalo amagula mowa mogometsa anthu. Asungwana amamulimbirana koma amalephera kupeza ya sopo poti Chikondi amamulondera mwansanje mosasiyana ndi muja nkhuu imachitira ndi anapiye ake.

Masana a tsikulo Katakwe adali m'bala ina yapamwamba kwa Biwi. Chikondi adamugonera pamwendo. Zitini za mowa wapamwamba zidali mbwe pakatebulo chapafupi.

"Uwu ndiye moyo," Katakwe adatero akuponya kanyenya wankhuku mkamwa. "Ndiponso..."

Zomwe ankafuna kunena zidadukira kukhosi pomwe m'balamo mudalowa mnyamata wamtali atavala suti yoyera ndi magalasi akuda mmaso. Pambuyo pang'ono adatsatidwa ndi anyamata awiri atavala ma *t-shirt* ojambulidwa Haille Selassie pantima ndi ma mabuluku a jinzi akuyenda ngati ma *body-guard* a mnyamata wamtaliyo.

"Bwanji, wachikondi?" adafunsa modabwa Chikondi.

Katakwe sadayankhe. Adangoti kukamwa yasa, maso atatuzuka ngati watsamwa ndi mbatata yowotcha.

Mwana wamkazi adadzutsa mutu. "Manyuchi, chavuta n'chiyani?"

"Sizingatheke!" ndilo lidali yankho la Katakwe.



*Kunjoya*



"Sichingatheke n'chiyani?" adafunsa Chikondi akukhala pansi pambali pa mwamuna wakeyo pa sofayo.

"Waona anyamata awo?" Katakwe adafunsa akuloza anyamata atatu aja. Chikondi adavomera pogwedeza mutu. "Ndi aja ndinkati adandibera ndalama zanga n'tangofika kumene m'tauni muno."

"Ndiye utani? Ukawanenera kupolisi?"

Katakwe adati du kwa kanthawi kwinaku akudya mutu. Kenaka chimwemwe chidasefukira pankhope yake. *"No, my babe. Just sit here and watch your man in action."*

Chikondi adafuna kutsutsa koma Katakwe adali atanyamuka kale kulowera pomwe anyamata atatu aja adakhala.

*"Wawatu ma mani,"* Katakwe adawalonjera m'chichewa cha anyamata omwe amadzitenga kuti ndi eni tauni.

Anyamata atatuwo adatembenuka. Nkhope za anyamata awiri adali ma t-shirt a Haille Selassie aja zidavala chinyau cha nkhawa. Katakwe sadathe kuw-erengapo kanthu pankhope ya tholo uja yomwe idali mbe ngati khoma lopen-ta. Koma adawona dzanja lamnyamatayo likulowa m'thumba la jekete lake mwachidziwikire kukafumbata mpeni.

"Kodi ndi village boy!" adatero tholo uja moseka. Adachotsa magalasi ake namuyang'ana Katakwe momukweza ndi kutsitsa. "Ukuonekatu kuti zikukuyendera kwambiri m'tauni muno."

*Katakwe Kutauni*

"Zedi," Katakwe adavomereza. Adatulutsa waleti yake yodzimidwa ndi ndalama. "Panopa ndalama sinkhani," iye adatero akuwaonetsa anyamatawo mipukutu ya makwacha. "Zatsiku lija iwalani; ndiye tauniyo."

Nkhope za anyamata awiri aja zidamasuka. Dzanja la tholo lidatuluka m'thumba muja.

"Ndiye lero ndikufuna mumwe mowa woti simunamweponso pa moyo wanu," Katakwe adatero. "Muzingoyitanitsa mowa wa kukhosi kwanu. Bilu ndilipira ndine."

"Pakhale limiti yoti tisadutse?" Tholo adafunsa, nkhope yake ili phuliphuli ndi dyera.

"Imwani umo mungathere. *The Finance Minister is here,*" iye adatero akuwaonetsanso waleti ija. "Ndili apo ndi namwali wanga. Ukakukwanani mundiuza ndilipire biluyo."

"Ukatikwana?" Tholo adatembenukira kwa anzake aja. "Anyamata, ati ife mowa umatikwana?"

"Mayazi," anzakewo adatsutsa. "Ife achita kuleletsa."

Katakwe adabwerera pomwe padali Chikondi.

"Iwe mmayesa umati anyamatawo ndi omwe adakubera ndalama?" adafunsa Chikondi. "Nanga bwanji umacheza nawo ngati anzako akalekale?"

"Za ana amuna!" Katakwe adatero mwachidule. "Pano tiye tipitirize kusanagalala."

Chikondi sadathe kumvetisa chomwe chimachitika. Koma chomwe amadabwa chidali choti mwamuna wakeyo amati akaponya diso lake pomwe padali anyamata aja nkhope yake inkawala ndi chimwemwe. Komanso china, anyamatawo amaonetsa ngati ali ndi ndalama zambiri chifukwa ankagula mowa wodula zedi womwe ankamwa mothamanga kwambiri.

"Wokondeka, paja anyamata awo ndi mbava," Katakwe adatero ataona kuti anyamata aja aledzera. "Ndiye panopa tingochoka mozemba angayambe kutilondola."

Apanso Chikondi sadathe kumvetisa. Ndimomwe adaledzerera anyamata atatuwo iye sadathe kuwona momwe akadathera kuwalondolera. Komabe adamvera zonena za mwamuna wakeyo.

Madzulo a tsiku linalo atafikanso pabalapo mpomwe Chikondi adamvetisa zomwe Katakwe ankachita dzulo lakelo.

"Achimwene, ati anyamata atatu aja kumanama kuti mowa womwe amamwa mulipira ndinu," wogulitsa m'balamo adayamba n'kutero.

*Kunjoya*

"Ndiye unatani?"

"Sindidayimve. Ndinawauza kuti momwe amayitanitsa mowa sananene kuti awalipirira ndi wina."

"Tsono munathana bwanji?"

"Achokatu muno ali maliseche," adayankha wogulitsa mowayo akuseka. "Ndinayitanitsa ma *bouncer*. Ndiye tinawalanda ndalama zonse zomwe anali nazo kuphatikizapo mafoni ndi zovala zomwe n'kuwauza azipita."

Katakwe adamupsinyira diso Chikondi. "Waonatu, namwali. Sindine munthu wosewera nane. Ayisanza ndalama yomwe adandibera."

Chikondi adagwa nalo phwete. "Mwamuna wanga ameneyo!"

## 14

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### Kuhotela

Kamphepo kozizira kadabweretsa kafungo kabwino kamaluwa osiyanasiyana. Kumwamba kudalibe ndi mtambo womwe, dzuwa likulowera chakumadzulo. Awiriwo adakhala panja pamipando ya ndakhutagone panja pa hotela ankagona ija.

Kupatula iwowo, panjapo padalinso mzungu wina yemwe adakhala yekha chapakatali. Pafupipafupi mzunguyo ankayang'ana wotchi yake yapamkono. Pakapita kanthawi ankayimirira n'kuwongola miyendo n'kudzakhalanso pansi.

"Honey, mzungu uyo ndiye zamusokonekeratu," Katakwe adamuza Chikondi.

Chikondi adaponya maso pamzunguyo. "Akuwoneka ngati akudikira wina wake."

"Chiyenera kukhala chibwenzi. Ndiyetu chamupondetsa," adatero Katakwe mwa nkhwidzi.

"Katakwe, ndakhala ndikunena kuti tikuchitachi n'chibwana," Chikondi adasintha nkhani mwadzidzidzi. "Ndalamazi tikungochotsa koma sitikuonjezerapo. Bwanji tisamuke mu hotela muno komanso tiyambe kabizinesi kena kake?"

Katakwe adaseka. "Mtima pansi, Chikondi. Ndakhala ndikukuwuzwa kuti ndikuphika pulani ina yake yomwe itilemeretse. Ikati yapsa, ndidzakuomolera. Panopa tiye tibafewetsa kaye moyo."

Chikondi adagwedeza mutu. "Kodi tizingokhalira zimenezi? Ine mmayesa iwe unkati tipeze kapitolo yoti tiyambire china chake?"

"Ndalama tidakali nazo. Tangoganiza, panopa tidakali ndi hafu miliyoni. Kuti ithe ndi liti?"

*Kuhotela*



"Pankhani ya ndalamayo, nawenso ukunyanya kulengeza; kodi amatero?"

"Eee. Anthu azikhumbira. Uyo zikumuwawa aphulike!" Katakwe adayankha mosasamala.

"Zimenezo sindikugwirizana nazo," adatsutsa Chikondi. "Pajatu ng'oma yolira siyikhala kung'ambika."

"Eeee, komanso paja fumbi ndiwe mwini."

Chikondi adafuna kulankhula koma Katakwe adamuyika chala pakamwa wokondeka wakeyo. "Zonse siyira ine." Adatulutsa mpukutu wandalama. "Paja umati ukufuna nsapato zanyuwani. Thamanga m'tauni undipeza."

Katakwe adamwetulira akuyang'ana namwaliyo akupita kukavala zovala zoti alowere m'tauni. "Ndamutseka pakamwa. Ndaninso azituluka thukuta ndi bizinesi? Ndipeza pulani ina yosavuta yopezera ndalama."

Adatseka maso ake kuti aphe tulo. Adangomva, "Excuse me".

## 15

# Golide

"Hello, young man," adatero mzunguyo akutambasula dzanja lake. "I'm Frank Hodges from South Africa."

Mzunguyo adali wazaka zozungulira makumi anayi ndipo tsitsi lake lidali litayamba kuchita imvi m'litsipa. Adali msuti yapamwamba yakuda ndipo mmaso mudali magalasi amaso.

"Hi," Katakwe adayankha akumugwira chanza Hodges. "I'm Katakwe."

"Pepani ndakusokonezani," adapepesa mzunguyo. "Ndimadikira munthu wina wake koma zikuoneka kuti wachedwa kwambiri."

"Ndaonadi choncho," Katakwe adavomera akukupa njuchi yomwe imauluka pafupi ndi mutu wake.

"Munthuyo tinagwirizana zina zake. Mwatsoka sindingathe kudikirabe poti ndili ndi *appointment* ina yake pa folo koloko," adafotokoza Hodges akuyang'ana wotchi yake ya pamkono. "Ndaona kuti ukunjoya ndi kadona ndiye sindikuganiza kuti uchoka msanga."

"Ndikugona m'hotela yomwe ino ndiye sindichokapo."

"Great. Komabe osamangika chifukwa cha ine. Munthuyo ngati afike udakalipo ndikufuna umupatsireko uthenga."

Katakwe adavomera.

"Munthuyo sindinakumanepo naye. Koma akuti ndi nkunzi yamunthu, wandevu za mpanda ndi wakuda kwambiri. Dzina lake ndi Colonel Cato."

"Ndi msilikali?"

Mzunguyo adagwedeza mutu. "Panopa adapuma koma adali kolonelo mu gulu la Renamo nthawi yankhondo ku Mozambique. Akafika umuuze kuti andipeze ku Mamfumu Hotel mu rumu namba 17," adadukiza natulutsa

*Golide*



kapepala m'thumba. "Olo andiyimbire foni pa nambala iyi."

Katakwe adamuyang'ana m'bunoyo mokayika. Adagwirizana chiyani ndi chigawenga cha Renamocho? Adali atamva mbiri yoipa ya nkhanza zomwe zigawenga za Renamo zimachita nthawi ya nkondo ya chiweniweni ku Mocambique. Mosadziwa mwina amadziponya mmavuto.

"Sikuti pali zoopsa," adatero Hodges ataona kukayika kwa Katakwe. "Ndimagula golide padziko lonse lapansi. Cato ali ndi golide yemwe akugulitsa ndiye tinagwirizana kuti tidzakumane pano. Ngati ungamve kuti pali wina aliyense akugulitsa golide, udzandiuze. Padzakhala kaphindu kwa iwe."

"Uthenga wanu wafika, Mr. Hodges," adamutsimikizira Katakwe.

Mzunguyo atapita, ganizo lidamufikira. Pulani amafuna ija adali atayipeza. Zinali zachidziwikire kuti Colonel Cato samadziwa kuti Hodges amupeza kuti. Bwanji iyeyo angogula golideyo kwa Cato n'kukagulitsa kwa Hodges pa phindu?

Ali mu maganizo amenewa, anthu awiri adatulukira. Mmodzi, yemwe adali phiri la munthu, adavala safari suti yomwe imaoneka ngati iphulika. Nkhope yake ya ndevu zampana imamupangitsa kuti aziwoneka woopsa. Mwachidziwikire adali munthu yemwe mzungu uja amadikira.

Winayo, yemwe adali wantali kwambiri, adali woonda ngati udzudzu ndipo adali mu suti yakuda. Mutu wake wooneka ngati dzungu udali wampala ngati

### *Katakwe Kutauni*

chiboli.

Katakwe adapita pomwe anthu awiriwo adakhala. "Ndikhulupirira kuti ndinu Colonel Cato?"

Mkuluyo adamuyang'ana Katakwe. Kudali ngati kuyang'anidwa ndi ng'ombe yoti ikufuna kukugunda. "Ndine ameneyo."

Katakwe sadalolere kuti awopsedwe. "Pali nkhani ina yake yomwe ndimafuna tikambirane poduka mphepo."

"Tikambirane pompano, *senhor*. Osadandaula ndi Fernandes," adatero Cato akuloza nsungwi yamunthu ija. "Tidali limodzi mu Renamo."

Maso a Katakwe adaombana ndi a Fernandes. Maso a mkuluyo amaoneka ngati opanda moyo, muja amaonekera maso a nsomba yakufa. Katakwe adakai-ka ngati amakhoza kufuna kuchita bizinesi ndi makosanawo. Koma dyera lida-pambana.

"Panali katundu wina yemwe mumafuna kugulitsa kwa Hodges," Katakwe adatero. "Ndikhoza kukugulani mtengo wake utakhala wabwino."

Colonel Cato adagwedeza mapewa. "Ndizinthu zoti tidangolanda nthawi yankhondo ndiye mtengo wake ndi wozizira. China tikufuna tigulitse msanga kuti tizibwerera kwathu."

"Ndalama ndili nazo koma muyenera kuti mundipatse kaye pang'ono kuti ndikawone ngati siwafeki. Akakhala wa *genuine* ndidzakugulani yense."

"*Nao problema*," adavomereza Cato. "Ife sitifuna kuchita bizinesi yachinyengo."

"*Good*. Ndiye tiyeni tikambirane mtengo tsopano."



## Atsatsa malonda

Sadachedwe. Mmawa wa tsiku linalo, Katakwe adatulukira ku Mamfumu Hotel atatenga kachidutsa ka golide komwe Cato adamupatsa. Adapeza Hodges akumudikira panja pa hotelayo. Adatengana ulendo wakuchipinda cha mzunguyo.

"Ndinasangalala kwambiri utandiyimbira foni kuti wapeza katundu yemwe ndimafuna," adatero Hodges akumulozera Katakwe mpando woti akhalepo. "Ndiwe waluso ndi bizinesi kuti upeze katundu panthawi yochepea chonchi."

Katakwe adamwetulira. Sadamuze Hodges kuti adakumana ndi Cato. Mmalo mwake adangomuza kuti munthu wa ku Mozambiqueyo sadafike koma iye adapeza golide wogulitsa. Uwu udali mwayi wake woti naye akatamuke.

Adapereka golideyo kwa Hodges. Mzunguyo adamuwunika pa makina kwa nthawi yaitali, akumutembenezira uku ndi uku. Pomaliza adati, "Uyu ndi golide wa jenuwini. Uli ndi wochuluka bwanji?"

Katakwe adafotokoza.

"Ndigula yenseyo pamtengo wa wani miliyoni."

Katakwe sadathe kukhulupirira mwayi wake. Cato ankagulitsa golide wake hafu miliyoni kwacha. Ndiye kuti iye adzapanga pulofiti ya hafu miliyoni kwacha. Zosamvetseka.

"Chabwino. Ndibwera naye golideyo mawa nthawi ya teni koloko," adatero Katakwe akuyimirira.

Adagwirana chanza. "Mudzandipeza. Ngakhale utapeza golide wochuluka bwanji ubwere naye. Ndidzagula yense *cash*."

Atangosiyana ndi mzunguyo, Katakwe sadachedwe. Adayimba telefoni.

"*Ola*," idayankhidwa.

*Katakwe Kutauni*



"*Como esta, Colonel Cato,*" Katakwe adatero m'chipwitikizi chomwe adaphunzira chifukwa cha akulu awiriwo. "Tikumane mawa naini koloko pompa-ja. Ndibweretsa *dinheiro.*"

"*Muito obrigado, senhor Katakwe,*" Cato adatero. "*Nidzafika nove pronto.*"

Maganizo a Katakwe adali pa makobiri pomwe amabwerera ku hotela komwe amagona. Apa adapeza dilu yotentha. Sadamuze Chikondi china chili chonse. Amafuna adzangomudzidzimutsa ndi mulu wa ndalama.

"Namwaliyu adziwadi kuti wakumana ndi mwamuna wanzeru," iye adadzi-lankhulira .

## Zimusokonekera

Pulani yake idali yoti achoke Chikondi asadazuke. Koma nthiti yakeyo idadzuka iye atangomaliza kusamba. Mwana wamkazi anadabwa mwamuna wake akuvala suti yomwe amayidalira. Pakamwa padali nyimbo ya Lawrence Mbenjere, 'ndinkati udzavala kamisolo yoyendera limoti, anawa adzavala mikuna yoyendera mabatele...'

"Wakuti, *darling*?" Chikondi adafunsa akukhala tsonga pabedi.

Katakwe adamwetulira. "Ulembe *list* ya zinthu zomwe umafuna pamoyo wako. Madzulo ano ndikhala ndi ndalama zosefukira."

Pati bi pali minga; mwana wamkazi anadabwa. "Uzitenga kuti?"

"Khala ndi chikhulupiriro mwa mwamuna wako, munthu wamayi," Katakwe adayankha. "Ndikamabwera, dzandipempe chili chonse chomwe moyo wako umakhumba."

"Usandidabwitse, dear. Dzana lomweli unandipatsa ndalama zogulira nsapato ndiye lero uzikambanso zoti ndinene chomwe ndikufuna?"

"Ndati khala ndichikhulupiriro. Monga adayimba Mbenjere, chaka chino tigona pabedi lochita khwethemu-kuli kusefukira makobiri."

Chikondi adagwedeza mutu. "Ndidakuwuzatu kuti kwa ine ndalama zomwe tili nazo ndi zokwanira. Chongofunika n'choti tizizigwiritsa ntchito bwino."

"Osadandaula. Komwe ndikupitako n'kokambirana za bizinesi," adanama Katakwe. "Kungoti bizinesi yake ndiyotentha n'chifukwa ndimati tikhala ndi ndalama zosefukira."

"Bizinesi yanji yachinsinsi ngati umfiti?"

"Ikangogwira laini imeneyi ndikutengera kumudzi akakuone malume anga," Katakwe adawerama namupsopsontha Chikondi. "Kenaka tidzapange wa lululu wobeba."

*Katakwe Kutauni*



Akazi nkhani yabanja amayipatsa ulemu kwambiri. Chikondi sadatsutsenso. "Uyende bwino. Komatu wakumudziwo sikuti ulephereke."

Nayini koloko ndendende adakumana ndi Cato. Katakwe adakondwera kuti sadafike ndi Fernandes. Munthu woondayo amamuopsa.

Zonse zidatha mphindi zochepa. Katakwe adachoka pamalopo ndi golide, Cato ndi ndalama.

Teni koloko adatulukira ku Mamfumu. Anadabwa osamupeza Hodges akumudikirira. Adataya nthawi pomayang'ana agulugufe omwe omwe ankasewera pamaluwa kunja kwa hotelayo.

Ola lidapita, mzunguyo sadatulukirebe. Adaganiza zongokamuyang'ana ku rumu kwake. Adagogoda. Palibe adayankha.

Mtima wa Katakwe udayamba kuthamanga. Adali kuti m'bunoyo? Adapita pa reception.

"Ndikufuna mzungu yemwe ali mu Rumu 17, Mr Hodges," iye adatero mtima wake ukugunda.

Wa pa reception po, kamsungwana kokongola, kadayang'ana m'buku la alendo. "Mr Hodges atuluka mu rumu yawo faifi minitsi pasiti nayini."

"Chani?"

*Zimusokonekera*

"Pali china chake chomwe chavuta, achimwene?" adafunsa msungwanayo mwaulemu.

"Sizingatheke," adatero Katakwe, akuyesetsa kubisa kunjenjemera kwa mawu ake. "Tinagwirizana kuti tikumane teni koloko. Sangachoke osakumana nane."

Receptionist yo adatenga bukhu la alendo lija namuonetsa Katakwe. "Mr. Frank Hodges. Atuluka 9:05."

Katakwe adaona dzinalo. Chizungulire chidamugwira. Hodges adatuluka 9:05. Imeneyo idali nthawi yomwe adamaliza dilu yake ndi Colonel Cato. Kodi padali mgwirizano wina uli wonse?

"Anasiya uthenga wina uli wonse?" adafunsa Katakwe atatsamira pa kauntala kuti asagwe.

"Ayi, koma ndinamva akuti akubwerera ku South Africa," adayankha msungwanayo. "Koma muli bwino bwino, achimwene?"

Katakwe adamasula taye pakhosi. Malaya ake adayamba kunyowa ndi thukuta.

"Ndili bwino," adayankha mofooka. "Ndiona kuti ndipanga bwanji."

Pomwe amatuluka muhotelamo ndi pomwe adakumbukira nambala ija adamupatsa Hodges. Adaseka. Amadandaula chiyani?

Adayimba foniyo. Siyidatheke. Kapena adali malo oti kulibe *network*? Sadadziwe choti achite. Adakhala panso kunja kwa hotelayo kamtima kena kakuti mwina Hodges atulukira. Mzunguyo sadatulukire.

Chakumasana adatsimikiza kuti mzunguyo wapita. Atani? Ndalama zake zonse adali atagulira golidayo. Adayenera kupeza msika wina wa golidayo bola atulutse zomwe iye adalowetsa.

Mochenjera adafunsa kwa anyamata ogulitsa zinthu moyenda yenda omwe adamuza malo omwe kudali sitolo yogula ndi kugulitsa miyala. Adayipezadi sitoloyo ku Bwalo la njovu. Chikwangwani chidalengeza: Hanif and Sons: Timagula miyala yamtengo wapatali. Mmenemo mudali miyala yamitundu yosiyanasiyana.

Hanif sadavutikenso n'kupima golidayo. "Ife sanagula golide ameneyu chifukwa wafeki."

Katakwe adamva ngati amutsutsula pachilonda. "Mukutanthauza chiyani kuti ndi wafeki?" iye adakalipa. "Golide ameneyu adapimidwa ndi katswiri wachizungu wogula golide."

"Dikirani muzaona," adatero mmwenyeyo akutenga *hacksaw*.

Adacheke golide uja. Mkati mudali mwala. Mwala ngati wina uli wonse.

*Katakwe Kutauni*

Golide uja adali wongopenta pamwamba.

"Mwaona zomwe ife amanthauza?" adanyadira Hanif.

Katakwe adayang'ana mulu wagolidewo kukamwa kuli pululu ngati kwa chimbano. Kalanga, adapusitsidwa!

Atakwiya komanso atasokonezeka adayesa kuimba selofoni ya Cato. Monga momwe adapenekera foniyo idali yozimitsa.

Zonse zidagwa mmalo mwake. Colonel Cato, ngatidi lidali dzina lake, adamupusitsa mogwirizana ndi mzungu uja. Ndipo monga galu wadyera, iye adatola fupa lothiridwa poizoni.

Atani kuti apeze ndalama zake? Sadavutikenso n'kutenga golide wopanda ntchitoyo. Adatuluka m'sitolomo mutu utazungulira.

## Zifika Pothina

Adakhala kwa nthawi yaitali atatsamira zitsulo za mlatho wa pafupi ndi chipatala cha Kamuzu Central. Apo ndi apo magetsi adayamba kuyatsidwa mu Kawale ndi Mchesi pomwe dzuwa lidazimirira kumadzulo.

Adali paulendo wobwerera ku hotela amagona kuja ndipo adaima pam-lathopo kuti aganize njira yothanira ndi vuto lake. Akati chiyani kwa Chikondi? Kupatula kuti sadamuze kuti ndalama zawo amafuna kukagulira golide, akamva bwanji akakati zonse zapita? Komanso ku hotelako adayenera kutuluka. Koma ngakhale akatuluke, akakhala kuti opanda ndalama? Mutu wamwana wamwamuna udayima.

Dzuwa linyenga; mdima ndiwo udamuchotsa pam-lathopo. Mwezi udali utat-uluka, apo ndi apo ukubisala m'mitambo. Kamphepo kamadzulo kozizira kankaomba. Adayamba kuyenda pang'onopang'ono ngati wanyamula katundu wolemera kulowera ku hotela kuja. Adadutsa pa Kamuzu Central Hospital n'kutenga msewu wolowera ku City Centre.

Nthawi yomwe ankayandikira pa Lilongwe Nature Sanctuary mpomwe adaona galimotoyo. Idangokhala ngati yatuluka pansi. Magetsi ake adamuthob-wa. Akuphethira chibakera chidamugwa mmimba. Akugwa, manja adakwenya zovala zake n'kumukokera m'tchire lomwe lidali m'mbali mwa msewu.

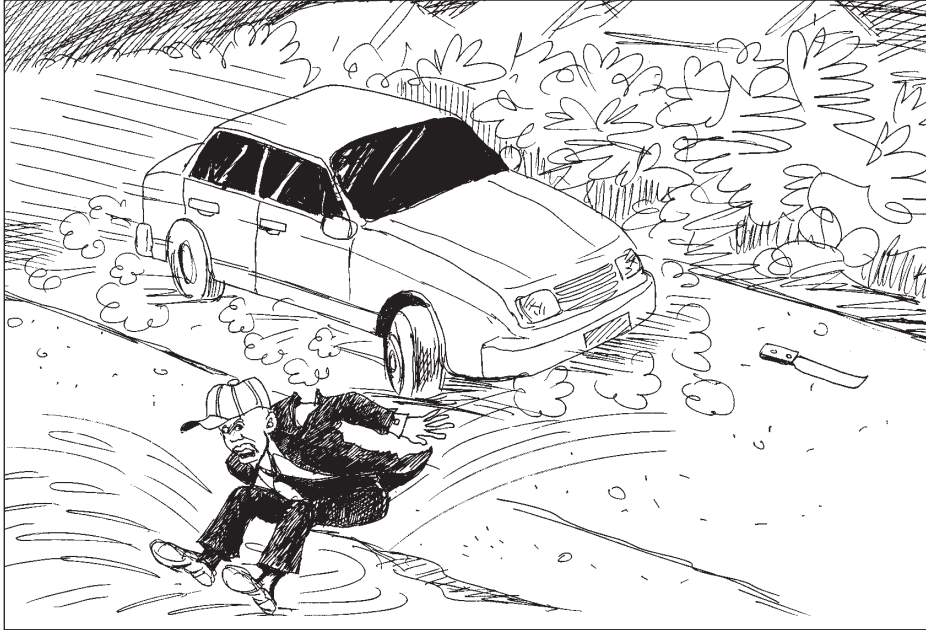
Munthu yemwe adatulukira adali wantali, woonda ndi wamutu ngati dzun-gu. Adali munthu ankamuopsa uja. Adali munthu uja adali ndi Colonel Cato tsiku adakumana koyamba ku hotela lija.

Fernandes!

"*Senhor* Katakwe, wageni!" adatero Fernandes. "Takumananso!"

Mantha adamukuta Katakwe.

*Katakwe Kutauni*



"Tikufuna zinthu ziwiri," adapitirira Fernandes. "Ukatipatsa zimenezo tikusiya."

Katakwe adangoti zii, mantha atamubera mawu.

"Choyamba, tikufuna golide uja unagula kwa Cato," adafotokoza Fernandes. "Kenaka lilime lako. Cato akufuna aone ngati ungamalankhule ulibe lilime."

Katakwe adadziwa kuti zafika povuta. Adayenera kudziwa; mbalazo sizidakamusiya ndi moyo kuopa kuti mwina akhoza kukazinenera ku polisi.

"Mundipheranji? Cato ndidamulipira ndalama zake." Katakwe adadziteteza. "Ngati pali woluzo ndine. Nkhaniyi sindipita nayo kuli konse."

Mwezi udawala ngati masana. Mkuwala kwa mweziko, nkhope yankhanza ya Fernandes imangooneka ngati chibade. "Sitingakhulupirire zimenezo. Sudziwa kutseka pakamwa. Ife tidadziwa bwanji kuti uli ndi ndalama?"

Katakwe adakumbukira mawu a Chikondi, "Pankhani ya ndalamayo, nawenso ukunyanya kulengeza; kodi amatero?" Mwachidziwikire ndipakamwa pake padamumemera nkondoyi. Monga tiyi, iye adaulula mazira ake omwe.

Mpeni udang'anipa mmanja mwa Fernandes. Mwezi udalowa m'mitambo ngati kuti umathawa mpeniwo. "Mugwiritse, Juwawo. Ndikufuna ndimudule



*Zifika pothina*

lilaka."

Munthu wa ku Mocambiqueyo adamugwira Katakwe chigama ndikutsegula kukamwa kwake. Mwana wamwamuna adadziwa kuti sizithera pomwepo. Kenaka afuna kuona mkati wa kholingo lake. Aone ngati angalankhulenso ndi khosi loduka.

Ndi mantha, Katakwe adanyamula mwendo wake ndipo adamenya bondo la munthu adamugwira uja ndi chidendene cha nsapato yake.

Juwawo adakuwa namutaya Katakwe. Fernandes adatukwana, maso ake akupita kwa mzakeyo yemwe adagwira bondo lake ndi ululu. Monga kalulu wothawa galu, Katakwe adakhumata nalo liwiro.

Adatuluka mtchiremo n'kulowanso mumsewu, akumwaza maso uku ndi uko. Adayamba kuthamanga pamene galimoto yomwe idaima m'mbali mwa msewu idanyamuka kuti imuombe.

Katakwe adadumpha n'kugwera m'chidikha chodutsa madzi cha mmbali mwa msewu. Akuyimirira, mpeni udamudutsa pafupi ndi mphuno. Fernandes amabwera mothamanga.

Adadziponya pansu nagubuduka kangapo kenaka n'kudzuka n'kulowanso mtchire. Adathamanga chowerama. Kumbuyo, adamva mtsonyo wokwiya wa omwe amamuthamangitsa aja kuonetsa kuti wawasowa

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### Mathero ake

Kumudzi, akatulutsa kamano, ankathamanga ngati mphenzi. Panopa, adatulutsanso liwiro lotero. Posakhalitsa adatulukira ku hotela kuja. Chikondi adamutsegulira.

"Katakwe, chachitika ndi chiyani?" adafunsa mwana wamkazi akuyang'ana suti ya Katakwe yomwe idali yokhadzuka komanso yotuwa ndi dothi.

"Ndi nkhani yaitali," Katakwe adayankha mwachidule. "Pita ukatenge takisi tithawe mu hotela muno."

Chikondi adafuna kutsutsa koma atamuyang'ana Katakwe yemwe amanjenjemera ndi mantha adatuluka mwachangu.

Mofulumira, Katakwe adasintha zovala. Kenaka adanyamula masutikesi awo onse n'kukakweza m'takisi yomwe Chikondi adayitanitsa. Ulendo udapsa.

M'njira monse Katakwe adakhala akusuzumira kunja kuti aone ngati padali galimoto yomwe imawatsatira. Koma sadaone ina iliyonse.

Adakafika ku resiti hausi. Uku n'komwe ndi nkhope yakugwa Katakwe adafotokoza zonse zomwe zidamuchitikira. Chikondi adamvetsera zonse opanda kuponyapo mawu.

"Chifukwa chiyani sunandiuze, Katakwe?" Chikondi adafunsa monong'ona.

"Ndima funa kuti ndikuonetse kuti wapeza mwamuna wanzeru ndi wamapulani," adayankha mwamanyazi Katakwe. "Ndima funa kuti udziwe kuti wapeza mwamuna weniweni. Ineyo ndimakukonda zedi."

"Udakandiuza," adatero Chikondi. "Anthu okondana sabisirana kanthu. Zonse tidakapangira limodzi."

Katakwe adakumbatira mutu wake. "Undikhululukire, Chikondi..."

Chikondi adatenga chala chake nachiyendetsa pamphuno pa Katakwe. "Kodi

*Mathero ake*



ukudziwa? Zovala wavalazi n'zomwe udavala tsiku tidakumana lija. Rumu ino ndiyomwe tidagona usiku wa tsiku limene lija. Panopa ulibe ndi lobowola lomwe, tsiku limene lija udalibe ndi lobowola lomwe."

Katakwe adamuyang'ana bwenzi lakelo muja amachitira woyimbidwa mlandu woweluzwa akamapereka chigamulo.

"Ukuwona kuti udachita zanzeru kubwera kutauni kuno?"

Mwana wamwamuna adagwedeza mutu.

"Umati kwanu uli ndi minda," Chikondi adatero. "N'zooka zimenezo?"

Katakwe adavomera.

"Basi tiye tipite kumudzi kwanu tikayambe ulimi," adatero Chikondi.

"Ukuti tipite? Tipitira limodzi?"

Chikondi adavomera akumwetulira.

"Panopatu ndiliba china chilichonse," adaunikira Katakwe.

"Uli ndi ichi," Chikondi adatero akuloza mutu wa Katakwe. "Tikapeza mapulani. Koma mapulani ake achilungamo. Uona tikapanga ndalama kuposa zamadiluzi."

Katakwe adayimirira ndikujowa ngati kamwana kambuzi koti kangotuluka

### *Katakwe Kutauni*

kumene mkhola mmawa.

"Wihi! Koma ndine munthu wamwayi bwanji! Ndimayesa ulendo wanga kutauni kuno ndangolemba mmadzi. Ndapeza nthiti yanga. Mudzi wonse ukadziwa kuti ana amuna analidi m'tauni!"

Chikondi adagwedeza mutu namwetulira. "Mwamuna wanga ameneyo. *Never gives up!*"

Katakwe adamunyamula Chikondi nazungulira naye muja amachitira anthu oti angokwatirana kumene pojambulitsa zithunzi. Kenaka adamuyika panso namupsopsontha pa mlomo. Khoswe wamkulu adawayang'ana kwa kanthawi, kenaka adachoka ngati kuti samafuna kuwasokoneza.

## Kwa awerengi

Bukhuli ndi loyamba mu mndandanda wa mabuku a Katakwe amene akhale akusindikizidwa motsatizana. Kwa inu amene mwasangalala ndi nkhanayi, dza-werengeninso bukhu lachiwiri la KATAKWE KUMUDZI lomwe lituluke posachedwapa.

Lawrence Kadzitche 0995 553 456



## KATAKWE KUTAUNI

Kumudzi, malo omwe amapezeka padali pakachasu kapena pomwe pali mowa wa dima kapena wa udzu. Mpaka pomwe, molimbikitsidwa ndi malume ake a Topitopi, adaganiza zopita kutauni.

Iye adatulukira m'taunimo ndi ganizo limodzi; kukapanga ndalama. Atangofika, adaberedwa ndalama zake zonse. Tsiku lomwelonso adakumana ndi Chikondi Chikuwuluka, msungwana wotchukuma m'mabala. Limodzi, adapangana zolemera mosakhetsa thukuta. Zonse zidayenda bwino mpaka pomwe adakumana ndi Hodges, mzungu wogula golide wochokera ku South Africa.

Nthano za Katakwe zimatuluka sabata iliyonse m'nyuzipepala ya Weekend Nation. Bukuli ndi nthano imodzi yaitali

### **Lawrence Kadzitché**

A Lawrence Kadzitché anabadwa pa 20 November 1970 mwana wachitatu m'banja la ana asanu ndi anayi. Adachita maphunziro awo ku Magawa Secondary School, nakapitiriza ku Polytechnic. Chidwi chawo cholembe chidayamba kaamba ka nthano zomwe mayi awo amakonda kuwauza ali a ang'ono. Nthano yawo yoyamba idatuluka m'chaka cha 1987 m'magazini yotchedwa Bonanza. Kuchokera pamenepo alemba nthano zambiri zomwe zakhala zikusindikizidwa m'manyuzipepala osiyanasiyana. Ili ndi buku lawo loyamba.