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qhude manikiniki!
uGenesisi 32

Waluthatha-ke uJakobe uhambo olubheké ngasempumalanga, ekhaya-konina. Langa lithize waze wafikela emthonjeni okwakuyaye kuhlanganele khona abelusi bonke besifunda nemihlambi yabo yezimvu, bezoziphuzisa. Babeyaye balindane, baze baphelele bonke, bese kuba yikhona begudlula itshe okwakuyaye kuvalwe ngalo umthombo, badedelane ngokuphuzisa imihlambi yabo. Ufika-nje uJakobe umthombo usavaliwe.

Usebabuza-ke uJakobe ukuthi baliqhamukisa phi. „EHaran“ kuphendula bona belu. „Hawu! Niyamazi uLaban, indodana kaNahor?“ Bavume. Kuthé besaxoxelana nangempilo, qhamukiyane uRahel, indodakazi kaLaban, nomhlambi wakwabo.

`Uyise wale ntombi ngumnewabo kaMama! Ufuyé kangaka?!´ esho ngomcabango. Useqonda emthonjeni, egudlula itshe, ethelela imfuyo kaLaban, iphuza. Wasondela kuRahel, wamanga. Injabulo yamlethela izinyembezi. Useyamtshela-ke uRahel ukuthi uyindodana kaRibheka, owelamana noyise. Waphuthuma ekhaya uRahel, wafika waxoxela uyise le ndaba. „Indodana kadadewethu?“ kubuza uLaban ngokujabula. Waphuma wamhlangabeza. Babingelelana, wamanga, weza naye ekhaya. Wayikhinika-ke indaba uJakobe, elanda nesizathu sohambo lwakhe. Ekukuzweni konke lokho uLaban, waphetha ngokuthi:“Sinyama nye, ngiqinisille!“

Kuthé esehlanganisé inyanga uJakobe kwamalumakhe uLaban, wayesemqonda-nje uLaban, embuza ukuthi ngabe uzifisela holo lini kulokhu kusebenza kwakhe okungaka. ULaban belu uzele; unezintombi ezimbili esezikhulakhulile, uLeya noRahel ngokwelamana kwazo. ULeya kwakungathi amehlo akhe awaphilile kahle; uRahel emuhle, engenamucu wacala. UJakobe wayezithandela uRahel. Usephendula-ke kulo mbuzo kamalumakhe, ethi: „Ngiganisele uRahel! Ngizokusebenza iminyaka eyisikhombisa uma-nje ungangethembisa ukungiganisela yena.“ Kwaba ùkuvumelana kwabo-ke lokho.

Yedlulisa okwezinsuku iminyaka eyisikhombisa! „Sishadise-ke njengokwesivumelwano sethu. Sengiwufezile owami umgomo!“ kusho uJakobe.

Wamema-ke, wamema uLaban, wenza idili, kwashadwa. Kusihlwa usekhokhobisa uLeya, eyomfaka elawini; uJakobe useze ebona ngakusasa, eselalé naye ubusuku bonke, ukuthi kanti uthukuselwé okungenguye amfisayo.

„Usukwenzelani-ke lokhu?“ ebuza kumalumakhe.
„Iminyaka yonke lena ngisebenza-nje, ngisebenzela ukuganwa nguRahel, njengokwesivumelwano sethu. Buqili buni lobu osungenzela bona manje?“

“Ngesiko lakithi phela kuyaye kukhishwe kuqala endala ngaphambi kwencane.” Kuchaza uLaban. “Zithokozise nje-ke wena iviki nalona engikuniké yena; uzothola-ke nalona omunye emva kwalokho. Usuzomsebenzela-ke naye iminyaka eyisikhombisa.”

Kwaba njalo ke.

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Ekupheleni kwesonto uLaba wamnika uRahel njengokwamazwi akhe. Walala naye uJakobe, kwaba ngumkakhe; wayemthanda kakhulu kunoLeya. Waqhubeka-ke iminnyaka eminye eyisikhombisa ekhonzé kwaLaban.

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