



# Sifo semkhuhlane



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Mbuyane usebenta matima. Usebenta kusukela ekuseni kuze kube sebusuku. Nanome kumakhata, akagcoki timphahla letifutfumalako. Nyalo sewubambe umkhuhlane. Mkhuhlane lomubi. Ugula kakhulu.



Mbuyane ube semakhateni. Uyachucha futsi  
uyatsimula. Unefiva.

Mbuyane ugula kakhulu.





“Lomkhuhlane uyingoti, utongibulala,” kusho Mbuyane. “Angikhanuki kudla. Angikhanuki lutfo. Emasotja ami emtimba abutsakatsaka.”





Indvodzana yakhe Mancoba ikhatsatekile. “Babe akadli futsi akalali. Uyaphendvuka,” kusho Mancoba. Mancoba wavuka ekuseni kakhulu, waya entsabeni. Wabuya nemutsi i-*Artemisia*. Utawunatsa yini Mbuyane? Mancoba wawubilisa, wanika babe wakhe. Mbuyane washaya inkomishi umutsi wacitseka.



“Babe, awufuni kuphola? Uwucitselani umutsi? Utawuphila njani?” kusho Mancoba.





Mancoba uhlala nababe wakhe losakhulile. Make wakhe usebenta emakhishini edolobheni abuye ekhaya kanye ngenyanga.

Mancoba washayela make wakhe lucingo mayelana nesimo lesisekhaya. Make wameluleka kutsi atsengele babe umutsi wemkhuhlane.



Mancoba wagijimela ekhemisi wabuya nemutsi wemkhuhlane.

Wanika babe, wanatsa walala.







Mbuyane waphendvuka, libhodlela lemutsi lawa laphuka. “Maye! Libhodlela liphukile. Ngitawuphola njani? Lomutsi uyabita.”



“Babe, libhodlela liphukile umutsi wacitseka,” kusho Mancoba. “Awu! Ndvodzana yami, bekuyingoti,” kuphendvula umuntfu lomdzala abukeka akhatsatekile.





Ntsambama Mancoba wahlala endlini yekuphumula abukela mabonakhashane. Imicabango yakhe beyikhashane, acabanga ngekugula kwababe wakhe. Wanaka uma eva ngalesifo lesesabekako etindzabeni. Bakhuluma nge-*COVID-19* lebulule bantfu labanyenti emhlabeni. Watfuka.



Libhodlela lemutsi liphukile. Umkhuhlane  
sewungetelekile. Umtimba wonkhe waMbuyane  
ubuhlungu. Akasakhoni lutfo. Mancoba wacabanga  
ngalomkhuhlane loyingoti. “Nyalo ngikumikisa  
emfolamphilo bayokuhlola,” kusho Mancoba.  
Mbuyane ahlahle emehlo, wanikina inhloko watsi,  
“angiyi lapho.”





Ekuseni Mancoba waya etitolo ayotsenga liphephandzaba ngalokutayelekile. Ekhasini lekucala bekubhalwe i-*COVID-19* sifo lesesabekako, ngemagama lagcamile. Uma afika, wahlala phansi wafundza kahle lesihloko. Sachaza timphawu futsi basho kutsi kufanele bantfu bahlolwe.



Mancoba sewukhatsatekile. Waya ekamelweni lababe wakhe, wambuka alele embhedzeni angakhoni lutfo. Lomuntfu lomdzala uyatsimula uyakhwehlela lokungapheli. Watsatsa liphephandzaba walibeka phambi kwababe kute afundze. Mbuyane wafundza, wabuka indvodzana yakhe wase uyagucuka.





Mbuyane waphendvuka lilanga lonkhe. Mancoba ucela babe wakhe. “Ngiyacela babe, asiye emfolamphilo. Ngiyakuncenga.” Mbuyane wabuka phansi.



Mancoba wasita babe wakhe kutsi asukume, baya emotweni wase uyashayela baya emtfolamphilo.

“Sitani, sitani!” kumemeta Mancoba. Bahlengikati baletsa situlo semasondvo. Bahamba naye egumbini lekuhlola.







Mbuyane wahlolwa ngudokotela. Mbuyane nendvodzana yakhe bahlololwa i-*COVID-19*. Bamnika umutsi batsi awunatse. Babuye bamnika nemjovo. Mbuyane walala.



## Bahlengikati bakhumbuta Mancoba ngokuphepha ngalesikhatsi se-*COVID-19*:

- Hlala ugeza tandla ngemanti nensipho.
- Naka libanga lokuchelelana.
- Faka imaski uma uya emphakatsini.
- Uma utsimula nome ukhwehlela, sebentisa liphepha lethishu lelilahlwako nome ukhwehlele engcozeni yakho.





Umkhuhlane walapheka, Mbuyane wacala  
kukhanuka kudla. Sewuyakujabulela kudla.  
Akasaphendvuki agucuke. Mancoba nababe wakhe  
babuyela emfolamphilo kute batfole imiphumela  
ye-COVID-19. Ngenhlanhla, imiphumela begimihle.  
Bativa bakhululekile.



Mbuyane naMancoba babonga dokotela nebahlengikati, babuyela ekhaya. Kusakela ngalelo lilanga, Mbuyane wacinisekisa kutsi ugcoka afutfumale uma kumakhata. Abengafuni kubamba umkhuhlane futsi. Abehlala ageza tandla ngemanti nensipho. Ucinisekisa kutsi ufaka imaski kute ativikele ku-COVID-19 naleminye imikhuhlane.

