

U-ESTA

*INdlovukazi uVashithi Ikhutshwa
Ebukhosini*

1 Lokhu yikho okwenzakala ngesikhathi sika-Ahasuweru, owayebusa amazwe angaphezu kwekhulu elilamatshumi amabili lesikhombisa kusukela e-Indiya kuze kuyefika e-Topiya. ²Ngalesosikhathi inkosi u-Ahasuweru waye busa esesigodlweni saseSusa, ³kwathi emnyakeni wesithathu ekubuseni kwakhe, wenzela izikhulu zakhe kanye leziphathamandla zakhe idili elikhulu. Abakhokheli bebutho basePhesiya labase Mediya, amakhosana, kanye lezikhulu zezabelo bonke babekhona.

⁴Okwezinsuku zonke ezilikhulu lamatshumi afika mibili, watshengisa ubukhulu benotho yombuso wakhe kanye lobucwazicwazi lobukhosi bombuso wakhe.

⁵Kwathi lezonsuku seziphelile, inkosi yenza idili elikhulu elabakhona okwezinsuku eziyisikhombisa, endaweni ehonqolozelweyo esigodlweni senkosi, lisenzelwa bonke abantu abaziwayo labantukazana ababesigodlweni saseSusa. ⁶Egumeni kwakulezilengiso ezimhlophe leziluhlaza okwesibhakabhaka, zibotshelwe emasongweni esiliva ngezintambo zelineni elimhlophe lelembu eliyibubende ezinsikeni zamatshe aqinileyo. Kwakukhona imibheda yegolide lesiliva ephansini elicandwe ngamatshe aligugu, abomvu, aluhlaza, amhlophe lamnyama lamanye adulayo.

⁷Iwayini lalinathelwa ezinkezweni zegolide, inye ngayinye yehlukene kwezinye, njalo iwayini lesikhosini

lalilinengi, kutshengisa ukukhululeka kwesandla senkosi.

⁸Ngokulaya kwenkosi, isethekeli sinye ngasinye sasikhululekile ukuthi sinathe ngokwentando yaso, ngoba inkosi yalayeza zonke iziphathamandla ezazisipha iwayini ukuthi ziphe umuntu ngulowo lalowo njengokufisa kwakhe.

⁹INdlovukazi uVashithi laye wenzela abesifazana ababesigodlweni seNkosi u-Ahasuweru idili elikhulu.

¹⁰Ngelanga lesikhombisa, inkosi u-Ahasuweru isidakiwe ngenxa yewayini, yalaya abathenwa abayisikhombisa ababeyisebenzela – uMehumani, loBhizitha, loHaribhona, loBhigitha, lo-Abhagitha, loZethori kanye loKharikhasi ¹¹ ukuthi balethe kuyo iNdlovukazi uVashithi ethwele umqhele wakhe wobukhosi, ukuze abukise ubuhle bakhe ebantwini kanye lezikhulwini, ngoba wayemuhle kakhulu. ¹²Kodwa kwathi abathenwa beyitshela ngokulaya kwenkosi, iNdlovukazi uVashithi yala ukuya. Ngakho inkosi yathukuthela yavutha ngolaka.

¹³Njengoba kwakuyinjwayelo ukuthi inkosi icebisane lezingcitshi ezindabeni eziphathelene lemithetho kanye lokwahlulela, yakhuluma lamadoda ahlakanihileyo ayezwisisa ngomumo walezozikhathi ¹⁴ njalo ayeseduzane kakhulu lenkosi – uKharishena, uShethari, u-Adimatha, uThashishi, uMeresi, uMarisena loMemukani, izikhulu eziyisikhombisa zasePhesiya laseMediya ezazilemvumo yokuya enkosini njalo zilezikhundla eziphakemeyo embusweni. ¹⁵Yasibuza yathi, "Umthetho uthi kwenziweni eNkosikazini uVashithi? Phela kayilalelanga umlayo wenkosi u-Ahasuweru awuthumela kuyo ngabathenwa."

¹⁶UMemukani wasephendula phambi kwenkosi kanye lezikhulu zayo wathi, "iNdlovukazi uVashithi wonile, hatshi enkosini kuphela, kodwa lasezikhulwini zonke kanye labantu bonke bezabelo zonke zeNkosi u-Ahasuweru. ¹⁷Phela isenzo seNdlovukazi sizakwazakala kuwo wonke amakhosikazi, abe esedelela omkawo esithi, 'Inkosi u-Ahasuweru yalaya iNdlovukazi uVashithi ukuthi alethwe phambi kwayo, kodwa yala ukuza. ¹⁸Lamhlanje amakhosikazi aphakemeyo asePhesiya kanye laseMediya asizwileyo isenzo seNdlovukazi azaphendula izikhulu zenkosi zonke ngendlela efananayo. Kuzakuba khona ukungahloniphi kanye lengxabangxoza.

¹⁹"Ngakho-ke, nxa kulungile enkosini, kakube khona umthetho ozaphuma esigodlweni njalo ulotshwe emithethweni yelizwe lamaPhesiya lamaMediya, ongeke uguqulwe njalo, ukuthi uVashithi akumelanga aphinde angene lapho okulenkosi u-Ahasuweru. Njalo inkosi kayiphe isikhundla sakhe sobundlovukazi komunye ongcono kulaye. ²⁰Kuzakuthi nxa umthetho wenkosi umenyezelwa kuwo wonke umbuso wayo omkhulu abesifazana bonke bazahlonipha omkabo kusukela koweyisekayo kusiya komkhulu."

²¹Inkosi kanye lezikhulu zayo bathokoza ngalokhu kucebisa, inkosi yasisenza khona lokho uMemukani akucebisayo. ²²Yathumela izincwadi kuzo zonke izigaba zombuso, kuleso laleso sigaba incwadi yaso lakulabo bantu ngolimi lwabo, kwamanyezelwa ngolimi lwalabo lalabo bantu ukuthi yileyo laleyo ndoda kumele ibuse umuzi wayo.

U-Esta Ubekwa Ukuba YiNdlovukazi

2 Emva kwalokho ukuthukuthela kweNkosi u-Ahasuweru sekudedile, yamkhumbula uVashithi kanye lalokho ayekwenzile, lalokho okwakumenyezelwe ngaye. ²Izinceku zenkosi zasezisithi kuyo, "Akudingelwe inkosi amantombazana amahle agcweleyo". ³Inkosi kayikhethe iziphathamandla kuzo zonke izabelo zombuso wayo ukuthi zilethe wonke lawo mantombazana amahle endlini yabesifazana esigodlweni saseSusa. Kabafakwe ezandleni zikaHegayi, umthenwa wenkosi, olonda abesifazana; njalo kazilungiswe kuhle ziqhole ngamakha. ⁴Kuyakuthi intombi ethokozisa inkosi ibe yiNdlovukazi esikhundleni sikaVashithi. Iseluleko lesi sayithokozisa inkosi, yasisilandela.

⁵Kwakukhona esigodlweni saseSusa umJuda owendlu yakoBhenjamini, okwakuthiwa nguModekhayi, indodana kaJayiri, indodana kaShimeyi, indodana kaKhishi, ⁶owayethunjwe eJerusalema nguNebhukhadinezari inkosi yaseBhabhiloni, kanye lezinye izithunjwa ezazigoqela uJehoyiyakhini inkosi yakoJuda. ⁷UModekhayi wayelomzawakhe okwakuthiwa nguHadasha, ayemondlile ngoba engelayise loba unina. Intombazana le, yayisaziwa langokuthi ngu-Esta, yayibukeka kakhulu inhle, njalo uModekhayi wayeyondle njengendodakazi yakhe ize ifelwe nguyise lonina. ⁸Kwathi umlayo wenkosi kanye lesimiso sekumenyezelwe, amantombazana amanengi alethwa esigodlweni saseSusa afakwa ezandleni zikaHegayi. U-Esta laye wathathwa wasiwa esigodlweni sobukhosi wanikezelwa kuHegayi, owayelonda indawo yabesifazana.

⁹Intombazana le yamthokozisa wayithanda. Wahle wayinika okokuzilungisa kuhle lamakha okuziqhola kanye lokudla okuqakathekileyo. Wayipha amantombazana ayisikhombisa okuyisebenzela ayekhethwe esigodlweni senkosi, wamsusa kanye lamantombazana akhe wabafaka esigabeni esihle kakhulu endaweni yabesifazana.

¹⁰U-Esta wayengawuvezanga umhlobo adabuka kuwo lemuli yakwabo, ngoba uModekhayi wayemenqabele ukukwenza lokho. ¹¹Izinsuku zonke uModekhayi wayehamba eduzane leguma lendlu yabesifazana ukuze ezwe ukuba u-Esta uqhuba njani lokuthi uyaphila na.

¹²Intombi yayiqeda izinyanga eziyisithupha igcotshwa ilungiswa kuhle njalo iqholwa ngamakha njengalokho okwakulungiselelwa abesifazana; izinyanga eziyisithupha igcotshwa ngamafutha emure lezinye eziyisithupha iqholwa ngamakha lokunye okokuqhola, ingakayi eNkosini u-Ahasuweru.

¹³Indlela intombi eyayisiya ngayo enkosini yile: loba yini intombi eyayiyifuna yayikuphiwa ukuze ihambe lakho esigodlweni senkosi isuka endlini yabesifazana. ¹⁴Ntambama yayisiya esigodlweni kuthi ekuseni ibuyele kweyinye ingxenye yendlu yabesifazana isiyalondolozwa nguShahashigazi, umthenwa wenkosi owayegcina abafazi beceleni. Wayengabuyeli enkosini ngaphandle kokuba yona ithokoza ngaye njalo imbize ngebizo lakhe.

¹⁵Kwathi lapho ithuba lika-Esta (intombazana eyayondliwe nguModekhayi, indodakazi kamalumakhe u-Abhihali) selifikile ukuthi aye enkosini, kacelanga lutho ngaphandle kwalokho okwakukhulunywe nguHegayi,

umthenwa wenkosi owayelondoloza abesifazana. U-Esta wathakazelelwa yibo bonke abambonayo. ¹⁶U-Esta wasiwa enkosini ngenyanga yetshumi, inyanga yeThebhehi, ngomnyaka wesikhombisa wokubusa kweNkosi u-Ahasuweru. ¹⁷Inkosi yakhangwa ngu-Esta kakhulukazi okwedlula abanye bonke abesifazana, njalo yamthakazelela yathokoza ngaye okwedlula zonke ezinye izintombi ezigcweleyo. Ngakho yamethwesa umqhele wobukhosi yamenza waba yindlovukazi endaweni kaVashithi.

¹⁸Inkosi yasisenza idili elikhulu kakhulu, idili lika-Esta, isenzela izikhulu kanye leziphathamandla zayo. Yamemezela usuku lwekhefu kuzo zonke izabelo, yapha lezipho ngesandla esikhululekileyo sobukhosi.

UModekhayi Uvumbulula Icebo Elibi

¹⁹Kwathi izintombi ezigcweleyo sezihlangene okwesibili, uModekhayi wayehlezi esangweni lenkosi. ²⁰U-Esta wayekwenze kwaba yimfihlo okwemuli yakhe lalapho adabuka khona njengalokhu uModekhayi ayemtshele ukuba akwenze, ngoba waqhubeka elandela imilayezo kaModekhayi njengalokhu ayekwenza esamkhulisa.

²¹Ngesikhathi uModekhayi ehlezi esangweni lenkosi, izinceku zenkosi ezimbili ezazilinda emnyango, uBhigithana loThereshi, bathukuthela baceba ukuyibulala inkosi u-Ahasuweru.

²²Kodwa uModekhayi wakuzwa ababekuceba wasetshela iNdlovukazi

u-Esta, owabika lokho enkosini, eabaza isenzo esihle sikaModekhayi.

²³Kwathi lowombiko usuhlolisiwe kwatholakala ukuthi uliqiniso, iziphathamandla lezo zombili zalengiswa endaweni yokulenga. Konke lokhu kwalotshwa egwalweni lwezindaba phambi kwenkosi.

Icebo LikaHamani Lokubulala AbaJuda

3 Ngemva kwalezo zenzakalo, inkosi u-Ahasuweru wenza uHamani indodana kaHamedatha um-Agagi waba lodumo ngokumphakamisa wamupha isikhundla esiphakemeyo esihloniphekayo esedlula esezinye zezikhulu zonke. ²Zonke iziphathamandla zesigodlweni esangweni lenkosi zaguqa phansi zamkhotamela uHamani, ngoba inkosi yayilaye lokho ngaye. Kodwa uModekhayi kazange amkhotamele loba amkhonze.

³Kwathi iziphathamandla zasesigodlweni esangweni lenkosi zabuza uModekhayi zisithi, "Kungani ungalaleli umlayo wenkosi?"

⁴Bakhuluma laye izinsuku ngezinsuku kodwa wala ukwenza lokho. Ngakho bamtshela uHamani ngalokho befuna ukubona kumbe isenzo sikaModekhayi sasizakwamukeleka, ngoba wayebatshelile ukuthi yena ungumJuda.

⁵Kwathi uHamani ebona ukuthi uModekhayi kamguqeli njalo kamkhonzi, wathukuthela kakhulukazi.

⁶Kwathi ngoba wayesekwazi ukuthi uModekhayi udabuka ngaphi, wawulahla umqondo wokubulala uModekhayi yedwa. Kodwa uHamani wadinga indlela yokubulala bonke abomhlobo kaModekhayi, abaJuda, kuwo wonke umbuso ka-Ahasuweru.

⁷Ngomnyaka wetshumi lambili wokubusa kuka-Ahasuweru, ngenyanga yakuqala, inyanga ethiwa yiNisani, benza inkatho ethiwa yiPhuri phambi kukaHamani ukuze bakhethe usuku lenyanga. Inkatho yadla inyanga yetshumi lambili, inyanga ethiwa yi-Adari.

⁸UHamani wasesithi eNkosini

u-Ahasuweru, "Kukhona abantu abathile abahlakazeke basabalala phakathi kwabantu abasezigabeni zonke zombuso wakho abalemikhuba eyehlukene leyabantu bonke abanye, njalo abangalaleli imithetho yenkosi. Inkosi akumelanga ibayekelele kulokho. ⁹Nxa inkosi ikholiseka ngalokho, kakube lesimemezelo somthetho wokuba babhujiswe. Mina ngizafaka phakathi kwengecebo yesigodlweni amathalenta esiliva alitshumi lenkulungwane ukuphathisa amadoda azakwenza umsebenzi lo."

¹⁰Ngakho inkosi yakhupha indandatho yophawu lwayo emunweni yayipha uHamani indodana kaHamedatha, um-Agagi, isitha samaJuda. Inkosi yathi kuHamani, ¹¹"Gcina imali le, wenze ebantwini njengokuthanda kwakho."

¹²Kwathi ngosuku lwetshumi lantathu ngenyanga yokuqala onobhala besigodlweni babizwa. Babhala ngokulotshwa kwesabelo sinye ngasinye njalo ngolimi lwabantu laba lalaba, yonke imilayo kaHamani eyayisiya kuziphathamandla zenkosi, ababusi bezabelo ezehlukeneyo kanye lasezikhulwini ezaziphethe abantu abehlukeneyo. Yayibhalwe ngebizo leNkosi u-Ahasuweru ngokwakhe yananyekwa ngophawu lwendandatho yakhe. ¹³Izincwadi zathunyelwa ngezijijimi kuzo zonke izabelo zenkosi kulomlayo wokuba kubhujiswe, kubulawe njalo kutshabalaliswe bonke abaJuda abatsha labadala, abesifazana labantwana ngelanga elilodwa, ilanga letshumi lantathu lwenyanga yetshumi lambili, enyangeni ethiwa ngu-Adari, njalo lokuphanga izimpahla zabo.

¹⁴Amazwi esimemezelo leso ayezakhutshwa abe ngumthetho omisiweyo kuzo zonke izabelo, aziswe bonke abantu bakuzo zonke izizwe ukuze bazilungiselele lolosuku.

¹⁵ Izigijimi zakhuthazwa ngumlayo wenkosi, zaphuma zakhupha umthetho omisiweyo esigodlweni saseSusa. Inkosi loHamani bahlala phansi banatha, kodwa abedolobho laseSusa badideka.

UModekhayi Ucela u-Esta Ukuba Asize

4 Kwathi uModekhayi esezwile

ngakho konke okwasekwenziwe, wadabula iziqgoko zakhe, wagqoka amasaka okulila waziphuqha ngomlotha, waphuma wangena phakathi komuzi ekhala kakhulu njalo kabuhlungukazi.

² Kodwa wahamba wayafika esangweni lenkosi, ngoba akulamuntu owayevunyelwa ukungena egqoke amasaka okulila. ³ Kuzo zonke izabelo lapho isimiso somthetho lomlayo wenkosi okwafika khona, kwaba lokulila okukhulu kubaJuda, bezila ukudla, bekhala njalo belila. Abanengi balala emlotheni begqoke amasaka okulila.

⁴ Kwathi izinceku zika-Esta kanye labathenwa bakhe befika bemtshela ngoModekhayi, waba lokudabuka okukhulu. Wamthumela izembatho zokuthi agqoke endaweni yamasaka okulila, kodwa wala ukuzamukela.

⁵ U-Esta wasebiza uHathakhi, omunye wabathenwa benkosi owayekhethwe ukuba yinceku yakhe, wamlaya ukuba ayedingisisa lokho okwakukhathaza uModekhayi lembangela yakho.

⁶ Ngakho uHathakhi waya kuModekhayi egcekeni ledolobho phambi kwesango lenkosi.

⁷ UModekhayi wamtshela konke okwakwenzakale kuye, kugoqela inani lemali uHamani ayethembise ukulibhadala lingene kungebo yesigodlweni kusenzelwa ukubhujiswa kwabaJuda. ⁸ Wamupha njalo amazwi esimemezelo lesa ayesehutshwe aba ngumthetho omisiweyo wokubhujiswa

kwabo, owawumenyenzelwe eSusa, ukuze awutshengise u-Esta njalo amchazele ngawo; njalo wamtshela ukuthi amkhuthaze ukuba aye enkosini ukuyacela isihawu sayo encengela abantu bakibo. ⁹ UHathakhi wabuyela wayamtshela u-Esta lokho okwakukhulunywe nguModekhayi.

¹⁰ Yena wasemlaya ukuba athi kuModekhayi, ¹¹ "Zonke iziphathamandla zenkosi kanye labantu bamazwe esigodlweni bayakwazi ukuthi inkosi ilomthetho owodwa zwi kuloba yiyiphi indoda loba owesifazana osondela enkosini angene endlini ephakathi engabizwanga; kufanele abulawe, ngaphandle kokuba inkosi yelule intonga yayo yegolide imkhombe ngayo impilo yakhe iphephe. Kodwa, sekwedlule amalanga angamatshumi amathathu selokhu ngacina ukubizelwa enkosini."

¹² Kwathi amazwi ka-Esta ebikwa kuModekhayi, ¹³ waphendula wathi: "Ungacabangi ukuthi ngoba wena usendlini yenkosi nguwe wedwa kubo bonke abaJuda ozaphepha. ¹⁴ Nxa ungala uthule ngalesi sikhathi, usizo lokukhululwa kwabaJuda kuzavela kwenye indawo, kodwa wena kanye lemuli kayihlo lizabhubha. Njalo kwazi bani, ukuthi uze kulesi sikhundla sobukhosi ngenxa yesikhathi esinjengalesi na?"

¹⁵ U-Esta wasethumela impendulo le kuModekhayi: ¹⁶ "Hamba uyebuthanisa ndawonye bonke abaJuda abaseSusa, lingizilele ukudla. Lingaze ladla loba ukunatha okwezinzuku ezintathu, ebusuku lemini. Mina kanye lezincekukazi zami sizazila njengani. Nxa lokhu sekwenziwe, ngizakuya enkosini loba nje lokho kungekho emthethweni. Nxa ngibhubha, ngiyabe ngibhubhile."

¹⁷Ngakho uModekhayi wasuka wayakwenza lokho okwakulaywe ngu-Esta.

Isicelo Sika-Esta Enkosini

5 Ngelanga lesithathu u-Esta wagqoka izembatho zakhe zobukhosi wema enkundleni engaphakathi kwesigodlo phambi kwendlu yenkosi. Inkosi yayihlezi esihlalweni sayo sobukhosi endlini yayo, ikhangele emnyango.

²Yathi ibona iNdlovukazi u-Esta emi enkundleni, yathokoza ngaye yasiselula intonga yayo yegolide eyayisesandleni sayo, yamkhomba ngayo. u-Esta wasesondela wathinta isihloko sentonga.

³Inkosi yasibuza yathi, "Kutheni Ndlovukazi Esta? Kuyini okucelayo na? Uzanikwa loba yini, okungafika kungxenye yombuso."

⁴U-Esta wathi, "Nxa inkosi ithokoza ngalokhu, bengicela ukuthi inkosi, kanye loHamani beze lamhla edilini engililungisele yona."

⁵Inkosi yathi, "UHamani keze khathesi, ukuze kwenziwe okucelwa ngu-Esta." Inkosi loHamani baya edilini elalilungiswe ngu-Esta.

⁶Kwathi besanatha iwayini, inkosi yambuza njalo u-Esta yathi, "Siyini isicelo sakho? Uzakukwamukeliswa. Kuyini okucelayo na? Uzanikwa loba yini okungafika kungxenye yombuso."

⁷U-Esta waphendula wathi, "Isikhalazo sami lesicelo sami yilokhu: ⁸Nxa inkosi ingamukela ngomusa njalo nxa inkosi ithokoza ngokwamukela isikhalazo sami njalo igcwalise isicelo sami, bengicela ukuthi inkosi kanye loHamani kusasa beze edilini engizabalungisela lona. Kulapho engizaphendula okubuzwe yinkosi."

UHamani Uthukuthelela uModekhayi

⁹UHamani wasuka lapho mhlalokho ethabe kakhulukazi. Kodwa uthe ebona uModekhayi esesangweni lenkosi wananzelela ukuthi kamsukumeli loba ukutshengisa ukwesaba phambi kwakhe, wagcwalelana ngokumthukuthelela uModekhayi. ¹⁰Kungenani, wazibamba waya emzini wakhe, wabiza abangane bakhe ndawonye kanye loZereshi, umkakhe, ¹¹uHamani wasezincoma kubo ngenotho yakhe enengi, langamadodana akhe amanengi, kanye lazo zonke izindlela inkosi eyayimhlonipha ngazo lokuthi imphakamise yambeka phezu kwezinye izikhulu leziphathamandla.

¹²UHamani wengeza wathi, "Njalo akusikho kodwa lokhu. Yimi ngedwa zwi umuntu omenywe yiNdlovukazi u-Esta ukuba ngiphelekezele inkosi edilini alenzileyo. Njalo usenginxusile kanye lenkosi kusasa. ¹³Kodwa konke lokhu akungisuthisi ngitsho nxa ngilokhu ngibona umJuda loya uModekhayi ehlezi esangweni lenkosi."

¹⁴Umkakhe uZereshi kanye labangane bakhe bonke bathi kuye, "Yenza indawo yokulengisa abantu, ibe zingalo ezingamatshumi ayisikhombisa lanhlanu ubude ubusucela inkosi ekuseni ukuba ilengise uModekhayi lapho. Ube usuziyela edilini uchelesile." Umcabango lo wamthokozisa kakhulu uHamani, yasisakhiwa indawo yokulengisa.

UModekhayi Unikwa Udumo

6 Ngalobo busuku inkosi yaswela ubuthongo; ngakho yalaya ukuba kulethwe kuyo ugwalo lwemilando, imibhalo yombuso wayo, izobalelwa.

²Kwatholakala emibhalweni ukuba uModekhayi wayeveze ukuba uBigithara loThereshi, iziphathamandla zenkosi ezimbili ezazilinda entubeni, zazicebe

ukubulala inkosi u-Ahasuweru. ³Inkosi yathi, "UModekhayi wazuza dumo bani lokwaziwa ngalokhu?" Izinceku zenkosi zathi, "Akulalutho alwenzelwayo."

⁴Inkosi yasisithi, "Ngubani osenkundleni na?" uHamani wayesanda kungena enkundleni yangaphandle yesigodlo ezokhuluma lenkosi mayelana lokulengisa uModekhayi endaweni ayeyakhele lokho.

⁵Abantu bayo bathi, "UHamani umi enkundleni."

Inkosi yalaya yathi, "Mngeniseni."

⁶UHamani esengenile inkosi yathi kuye, "Kuyini okungenzelwa umuntu inkosi ethokoza ngaye ukumupha udumo?"

UHamani wacabanga ngaphakathi wathi, "Kambe ngubani ongaphiwa udumo yinkosi ngaphandle kwami?"

⁷Ngakho waphendula inkosi wathi, "Emuntwini inkosi ethokoza ngaye ukumupha udumo, ⁸kabalethe isambatho sobukhosi esesake sagqokwa yinkosi kanye lebhiza eselake lagadwa yinkosi, elilesicoco sobukhosi ekhanda lalo.

⁹Isambatho leso kanye lebhiza kakube sezandleni zesinye sezikhulu zenkosi ezihloniphekayo kakhulu. Umuntu lo inkosi ethokoza ngaye ifuna ukumupha udumo kagqokiswe lezozambatho, abesekhokhelwa edabula phakathi kwemigwaqo yedolobho egade ibhiza, kumenyezwe phambi kwakhe ukuthi, 'Lokhu yikho okwenziwa emuntwini inkosi ethokoza ngaye ukumupha udumo!' "

¹⁰Inkosi yasilaya uHamani yathi, "Hamba khona manje uyethatha izambatho kanye lebhiza wenze njengokucebisa kwakho kuModekhayi umJuda, ohlezi esangweni lenkosi. Ungaze watshiya loba yikuphi okuqambileyo."

¹¹UHamani wasethatha izembatho kanye lebhiza. Wamgqokisa uModekhayi, wasemkhokhela ephezu kwebhiza wadabula imigwaqo yedolobho, ehamba ememeza esithi, "Lokhu yikho okwenziwa emuntwini inkosi ethokoza ngaye ukumupha udumo!"

¹²Ngemva kwalokho uModekhayi wabuyela esangweni lenkosi. Kodwa uHamani watshitsha waya ngekhaya, emboze ikhanda ngosizi, ¹³watshela uZereshi umkakhe kanye labangane bakhe bonke ngakho konke okwakumehlele. Abeluleki bakhe lomkakhe uZereshi bathi kuye, "Njengoba uModekhayi, osuqale ukudilika phambi kwakhe engowomdabu wabaJuda, awungeke umelane laye, uzangena ekuhluphekeni okuchithayo." ¹⁴Kwathi besakhuluma laye, kwafika abathenwa benkosi bamthatha masinyane ukuya edilini elalilungiswe ngu-Esta.

UHamani Uyalengiswa

7 Inkosi loHamani basebesiyakudla leNdlovukazi u-Esta, ²kwathi besanatha iwayini ngalelo langa lesibili, inkosi yabuza njalo yathi, "Ndlovukazi Esta, kuyini okucelayo na? Uzakukwamukeliswa. Kuyini okucelayo na? Uzanikwa loba yini okungafika kungxenye yombuso." ³INdlovukazi u-Esta wasephendula esithi, "Nxa ngifumene umusa kuwe nkosi, njalo nxa inkosi kuyithokozisa, bengicelela ukuphila, yisicelo sami lesi. ⁴Ngoba mina kanye labantu bakithi sithengisiwe ukuze sichithwe njalo sibulawe ukuze singabikhona emhlabeni. Ngabe besimane sathengiswa njengezigqili ezesilisa lesifazana, bengizazithulela,

ngoba akulahlupho olunje olungabangela ukuthi inkosi iphanjaniswe." ⁵Inkosi u-Ahasuweru wathi eNdlovukazini u-Esta, "Ngubani lowo? Ungaphi umuntu obelesibindi sokwenza into enje?"

⁶U-Esta wathi, "Isitha lomuntu ololunya nguyenalo uHamani olomona." UHamani wasethuthumela phambi kwenkosi lendlovukazi. ⁷Inkosi yasukuma igcwele ulaka yatshiya iwayini layo yaya phandle esivandeni sesigodlo. Kwathi uHamani ebona ukuthi inkosi yayisiyenze isinqumo ngempilo yakhe, wasala ngemuva ukuba azincengele impilo yakhe eNdlovukazini u-Esta. ⁸Kwathi inkosi isiphendukile esivandeni sesigodlo ingena endlini yedili, yathola uHamani eziphosa esihlalweni lapho u-Esta ayehlezi khona. Inkosi yababaza yathi, "Hawu! kambe udlova indlovukazi yona ikhona lapha endlini lapho engikhona!" Kwathi ilizwi lelo liphuma emlonyeni wenkosi bagubuzela ubuso bukaHamani.

⁹Kwathi uHaribhona, omunye wabathenwa ababesebenzela inkosi wathi, "Kulesakhiwo sokulengisa abantu esingamatshumi ayisikhombisa lanhlanu ukuphakama esimiswe eduze lendlu kaHamani. Yena ubesenzele uModekhayi, owaveza icebo elibi ukusiza inkosi."

Inkosi yathi, "Mlengiseni lapho yena!"

¹⁰Bamlengisa kuleso sakhiwo sokulengisa ayasilungiselele uModekhayi. Ulaka lwenkosi lwaseludeda.

Isimemezelo SeNkosi NgabaJuda

8 Ngalonalelo langa inkosi

u-Ahasuweru yanika iNdlovukazi u-Esta impahla kaHamani, isitha sabaJuda. UModekhayi weza phambi kwenkosi, ngoba u-Esta wayesechazile ngobuhlobo

babo. ²Inkosi yakhupha indandatho yayo yophawu lobukhosi, eyayisiyithathele uHamani, yayipha uModekhayi. U-Esta wamkhetha uModekhayi ukuba apathe impahla kaHamani.

³U-Esta wabuye wancenga enkosini, ezilahla ezinyaweni zayo njalo ekhala. Wayicela ukuba inqabele icebo elibi likaHamani um-Agagi, ayelicebe ngabaJuda. ⁴Inkosi yasiselulela intonga yayo yegolide ku-Esta owasukuma wama phambi kwayo. ⁵Wathi, "Nxa kuyithokozisa inkosi, njalo nxa ingamukela ngokuthokoza ibona kuyinto efanele ukwenziwa, njalo nxa ithokoza ngami, akubhalwe umlayo ozachitha izincwadi ezalotshwa nguHamani indodana kaHamedatha, um-Agagi, ezazibhalwe ngezimiso zokuchitha amaJuda kuzo zonke izabelo zenkosi.

⁶Kambe kungavuma njani ukubona incithakalo isehlela abantu bakithi? Kungavuma njani ukuba ngibone incithakalo yemuli yakithi?"

⁷Inkosi u-Ahasuweru waphendula iNdlovukazi u-Esta loModekhayi umJuda ngokuthi, "Ngoba uHamani ehlasele abaJuda, sengiphe u-Esta impahla yakhe, njalo seblemngise esakhiweni sokulengisa. ⁸Ngakho-ke bhala omunye umlayo ngebizo lenkosi usenzela abaJuda njengokubona kwakho, ube usuyinameka ngophawu lwendandatho yenkosi, ngoba awukho umbiko olotshwe ngebizo lenkosi wananyekwa ngophawu lwendandatho yayo ongadilizwa."

⁹Onobhala besigodlweni bahle babizwa masinyane, ngelanga lamatshumi amabili lantathu ngenyanga yesithathu, inyanga ethiwa nguSivana. Babhala yonke imilayo kaModekhayi kubaJuda, lakuziphathamandla, kubabusi lakuzikhulu kuzo zonke izabelo ezilikhulu elilamatshumi amabili lesikhombisa kusukela e-Indiya kuze

kuyefika eTopiya. Imilayo leyo yayibhalwe ngombhalo walelo lalelo lizwe ngolimi lwalabo bantu njalo lakubaJuda ngombhalo wabo lolimi lwabo. ¹⁰UModekhayi wabhala ngebizo leNkosi u-Ahasuweru, wanameka imibiko leyo ngophawu lwendandatho yenkosi, wathuma izigijimi ezazigada amabhiza ayematha ngesiqubu efuyelwe ukusetshenziswa yinkosi.

¹¹ Isimiso somlayo wenkosi sasinika abaJuda kuwo wonke amadolobho imvumo yokuhlangana lokuzivikela; ukuchitha, ukubulala babhubhise yonke impi ehlo mileyo eyaloba yisiphi isizwe loba isifunda esasingabahlasela kanye labesifazana labantwana; lokuthi baphange impahla yezitha zabo.

¹² Ilanga elamiswayo ukuba abaJuda benze lokho kuzo zonke izabelo zeNkosi u-Ahasuweru lalingeletshumi lantathu ngenyanga yetshumi lambili, inyanga ethiwa ngu-Adari. ¹³ Isimiso somlayo lowo sasizakhutshwa sibe ngumthetho kuzo zonke izabelo umenyazelwe ebantwini bezizwe zonke ukuze abaJuda bahlale belungele ngalelo langa ukuphindisela ezitheni zabo. ¹⁴ Izigijimi zaphuma ngokuphangisa zigade amabhiza esigodlweni, zifuqwa ngumlayo wenkosi. Isimiso somlayo samenyazelwa edolobheni laseSusa.

¹⁵ UModekhayi wasuka phambi kwenkosi egqoke izembatho zobukhosi ezilombala oluhlaza okwesibhakabhaka lomhlophe, umqhele wegolide omkhulu kanye lesambatho esiyibubende eselembu lelineni elihle. Kwaba ledili lentokozo edolobheni laseSusa.

¹⁶ Kwaba yisikhathi sokuthaba lokuthokoza, injabulo lodumo kubaJuda. ¹⁷ Kuzo zonke izabelo lakuwo wonke amadolobho, ingqe lapho isimiso somyalo wenkosi esaya khona, kwaba lentokozo lenjabulo kubaJuda, kwaba lamadili kwadliwa. Abantu abanengi

bakwezinye izizwe baba ngabaJuda ngenxa yokwesaba abaJuda.

Ukunqoba kwabaJuda

9 Ngelanga letshumi lantathu

ngenyanga yetshumi lambili, inyanga ethiwa ngu-Adari, isimemezelo somlayo wenkosi kwakufanele senziwe.

Ngalelilanga izitha zabaJuda zazikade zithemba ukubanqoba, kodwa kwaba lokuguquka abaJuda baba yiyo abanqoba labo ababebazonda. ² AbaJuda babuthana kumadolobho abo kuzo zonke izabelo zeNkosi u-Ahasuweru ukuhlasela labo ababefuna ukubachitha. Kakho owayengamelana labo, ngoba abantu bezizwe zonke ezinye babebesaba.

³ Kwathi zonke izikhulu zezabelo, iziphathamandla, ababusi kanye lezisebenzi zenkosi bancedisa abaJuda, ngoba besesaba uModekhayi.

⁴ UModekhayi wayesengumuntu omkhulu esigodlweni; udumo lwakhe lwamemetheka kuzo zonke izabelo, waba lamandla amakhulu kakhulu.

⁵ AbaJuda bachithiza babulala izitha zabo zonke ngenkemba, benza intando yabo ezitheni ezazibazonda.

⁶ Esigodlweni saseSusa, abaJuda babulala njalo bachitha amadoda angamakhulu amahlanu. ⁷ Babulala njalo uPharishandatha, uDalifoni, u-Asiphatha, ⁸ uPhoratha, u-Adaliya, u-Aridatha, ⁹ uPharimashitha, u-Arisayi, u-Aridayi loVayizatha, ¹⁰ amadodana alitshumi kaHamani indodana ka-Hamedatha, isitha samaJuda. Kodwa abazange bayithathe impango.

¹¹ Inani lalabo ababulawayo esigodlweni saseSusa labikwa enkosini ngalonalelo langa. ¹² Inkosi yathi eNdlovukazini u-Esta, "AbaJuda sebulale bachitha amadoda angamakhulu amahlanu kanye

lamadodana kaHamani alitshumi enqabeni yaseSusa. Kuyini asebekwenze kwezinye izabelo zenkosi? Tshono, siyini isicelo sakho? Uzakunikwa. Kuyini okucelayo na? Lakho uzakwenzelwa."

¹³U-Esta wathi, "Nxa kuyithokozisa inkosi, phana invumo kubaJuda abaseSusa ukuthi benze isimiso somlayo lo kusasa njalo, uvumele ukuba amadodana kaHamani alitshumi alengiswe esakhiweni sokulengisa."

¹⁴Inkosi yalaya ukuba kwenziwe lokho. Isimiso somlayo samenyazelwa eSusa, alengiswa amadodana kaHamani alitshumi. ¹⁵AbaJuda baseSusa bahlangana ndawonye ngelanga letshumi lane ngenyanga ethiwa ngu-Adari, babulala amadoda angamakhulu amathathu eSusa, kodwa abazange bayithinte impango.

¹⁶Kusenjalo, abajuda ababesele ezigabeni zenkosi babehlangene labo ukuzivikela lokuthi bathole ukuphumula ezitheni zabo. Babulala izinkulungwane ezingamatshumi ayisikhombisa lanhlanu kodwa kabazange bayithinte impango.

¹⁷Lokhu kwenzakala ngelanga letshumi lantathu ngenyanga ethiwa ngu-Adari, kwathi ngelanga letshumi lane baphumula balenza ilanga lentokozo ledili.

Idili LePhurimi

¹⁸AbaJuda baseSusa bona babehlangene ngelanga letshumi lantathu leletshumi lane, kwathi ngeletshumi lanhlanu baphumula balenza laba lilanga lentokozo ledili.

¹⁹Yikho lokho abajuda abahlala emaphandleni, labo abahlala emakhaya bathakazelela usuku lwetshumi lane olwenyanga ka-Adari njengelanga lentokozo ledili, ilanga lokuphana izipho. ²⁰UModekhayi wabhala

ngalezizinto, wasethumela izincwadi kuwo wonke amaJuda kuzo zonke izabelo zeNkosi u-Ahasuweru, eziseduze lezikhathana, ²¹ukuthi babeledili lokuthokoza minyaka yonke ngamalanga etshumi lane letshumi lanhlanu kunyanga ethiwa ngu-Adari ²²kube yisikhumbuzo sesikhathi lapho abajuda bathola ukuphumula ezitheni zabo, njalo kuyinyanga lapho usizi lwaba yintokozo lokulila kwaba lilanga lokujabula. Wababhalela ukuba bakhumbule lawo malanga abe zinsuku zokuthokoza lamadili njalo baphane izipho zokudla baphe izipho kubayanga.

²³Ngakho abajuda bavuma ukuqhubeka ngamadili entokozo ababewaqalile, besenza lokho uModekhayi ayebabhalele ngakho.

²⁴Ngoba uHamani indodana kaHamedatha, um-Agagi, isitha samaJuda wonke, wayecebe ukubachitha abajuda njalo wayenze inkatho okuthiwa yiphuri eyadala ukubhujiswa lencithakalo yabo. ²⁵Kodwa kwathi icebo lelo selivelile enkosini, yathumela imilayo ebhaliweyo ukuthi amaqhinga amabi kaHamani ayekade ewamisele abajuda acine esephendukela yena, njalo yena lamadodana akhe balengiswe endaweni eyakhelwe lokho. ²⁶(Ngakho amalanga lawo athiwa yiPhurimi, kusuka ebizweni elithi phuri.) Ngenxa yakho konke okubhalwe encwadini le lakho konke ababekubonile lokwakwenzakale kubo, ²⁷abajuda bakwenza umlandu wabo ukuthi baqalise umkhuba wokuthi bona kanye lezizukulwana zabo labo bonke abahlangana labo kumele loba kutheni baphumule ngezinsuku lezi ezimbili minyaka yonke, ngendlela eyayimisiwe langesikhathi esasiqanjawe. ²⁸Amalanga la kumele akhunjulwe njalo alandelwe kuzo zonke izizukulwana zezimuli zonke, ezifundeni zonke. Akumelanga

amalanga la ePhurimi ayekelwe
ukuthokozelwa ngabaJuda, loba ukuthi
isikhumbuzo sawo sikhohlakale sife
kuzizukulwana zabo.

²⁹Ngakho, iNdlovukazi u-Esta,
indodakazi ka-Abhihayili, kanye
loModekhayi umJuda, babhala ngegunya
eligcweleyo isiqinisele sencwadi yesibili
eyayimayelana lePhurimi.

³⁰UModekhayi wathumela izincwadi
kubo bonke abaJuda ezifundeni
ezilikhulu elilamatshumi amabili
lesikhombisa embusweni ka-Ahasuweru,
amazwi ayebafisela inhlalakahle njalo
ebaqinisa – ³¹ukuba lezinsuku zePhurimi
ngezikhathi ezazimisiwe,
njengokumemezela kukaModekhayi
umJuda leNdlovukazi u-Esta,
lanjengalokhu ababeziqalisele khona
kanye lezizukulwana zabo mayelana
lezikhathi zokuzila lokulila.

³²Isimemezelo sika-Esta saqinisa
imithetho le emayelana lePhurimi,
kwalotshwa phansi emibhalweni.

Ukhulu BukaModekhayi

10 Inkosi u-Ahasuweru wenza

isinqumo sokuthelisa abantu kuwo
wonke umbuso lakumagumbi
akhatshana. ²Zonke izenzo zamandla
akhe amakhulu, kanye lemibhalo
elandisa ngobukhulu bukaModekhayi
inkosi eyayimphakamise ngabo,
akulotshwanga na egwalweni
lwemilando yamakhosi aseMediya
lasePhesiya? ³UModekhayi umJuda
wayelandela inkosi u-Ahasuweru
esikhundleni embusweni,
engumhlonitshwa omkhulu phakathi
kwabaJuda, njalo eqakathekiswa
ngabanengi kubaJuda bakibo, ngoba
wayesebenzela ukuphila kuhle kwabantu
bakibo njalo wayemela inhlalakahle
yabo bonke abaJuda.