



Growing up in a time of AIDS: Abaqophi basOkhayeni Abaqinile Children's Radio project

Igugu likaBaba / The apple of Dad's eye

S'fundo N, 12 years old, 2006

- S'FUNDO:** Igama lami nginguS'fundo. Ngihlala noBaba noMama kuphela. Futhi ngiyedwa ekhaya, ngiyajabula futhi ukuthi ngiyedwa ekhaya ngoba konke ngiyakudinga ngiyakuthola.
- TRANSLATION:** My name is S'fundo. I live with my father and [step]mother, just the two of them. I am the only [child] at home. I am happy to be the only one because I get everything I need.
- S'FUNDO:** Ngifuna ukunioxela ngendaba yami eyenzeka ngisakhula ukuthi uBaba ngangigula wangisiza kakhulu ngani ngoba kuba ebengasizanga ngabe ngashona, ngoba ngani uMama wayenqaba ukuthi ngihambe noBaba. Ngikhumbula ngelinye ilanga babefikile ekhaya ukuzongilanda. UMA wanqaba ukuthi ngihambe nabo noboGogo. Emva kwalokho sebehambile ngasale ngambuzi uMama ukuthi bakuphi oGogo, hayi lababakho uma wakho okuzalayo. Wathi bahambile ngase mina ngiyahamba ngayohlala endleni ngedwa. Wase uMama uyafika uzongincenga emva kwalokho ngase ngiyagula. UMA bethi bayabhula bathola ukuthi kumele ngiye ekhaya Kwambuzi, uma ngingayanga ngizoshona. Bese uMama uyavuma ukuthi ngiye eKwambuzi. Wayesethi uBaba wangithatha uBaba wangisa kwadokotela eMkhuze.. Futhi ngikhumbula ngelinye ilanga uBaba ngenkathi sengasaguli sethi "Uthanda ngikwenzeleni?" Ngathi ngithanda angithengele ibhola. Wangithengela. Ngasengiyabona lapho ukuthi uBaba uyangithanda. Futhi ngabona ukuthi uBaba uyangithanda ngani ngoba, uma ebusuku ngivuka ngiyochama uphatheka kabi usuke ezitshela ukuthi ngiyagula. Futhi kwesinye isikhathi uma ngingadlanga ukudla ngisuthe naye ukudla akakudli, uvele ayitshela ukuthi mina uma ayikudli ukudla yena uma ekudla ukudla mina ngingakudlanga ukudla chaza ukuthini? Kungcono singadli sobabili.
- TRANSLATION:** I want to tell you about what happened to me when I was still young; I was sick and my father helped me a lot. If he hadn't helped me I would have died. My mother [at first] refused to let me go [and live] with my father. I remember one day [my father and grandmother came to my mother's] home to fetch me. My mum refused to let me to go with [them]. After they had gone I asked my mum where my granny had gone – not my maternal granny [but my father's mother]. She said they had gone. And then I went and sat alone in the house. My mother came and pleaded with me [not to be sad], and then after that I became sick. When they went to [the sangoma] they found that I must go [and live at my father's] home at Kwambuzi; If I didn't go I would die. So then Mum allowed me to go to Kwambuzi. Then my father took me to the doctor at Mkuze. I also remember one day during the time I was still sick my

father asked me what I would like him to do for me. I said I would like him to buy me a ball. He bought one for me. I saw then that my father loved me.

Then I realized that my father loves me. I know this because if I go to the toilet during the night, he gets worried and tells himself that I'm sick. Also sometimes if I don't feel like eating, he also doesn't eat: he tells himself that if I don't eat he is not going to eat either and what does this mean? It's better for both of us not to eat.

[walking home]

S'FUNDO: Sesi sesibheke ekhaya kulomgwaqo, kodwa ekhaya uma uyekhaya kukude, kodwa uma ungazi ubuka isigxobo lesi esijikayo esiye ekhaya. Kodwa mina noma ngihamba ngiya esikolweni ngijwayela ukuhamba ngebhayisikili, njalo nje ngishova ibhayisikili, kodwa kunenhlabathi. Ngiyasokola kwesinye iskhathi ngoba umoya angiwugcwalisi kakhulu, sesizodlula kulenhlabathi eningi manje lapho kujwayele khona ukubhajwa ibhaysikili lami. Ngiphatheke kabi maselibhejwa ngoba ngisuke ngiphuthuma ngijarhe esikolweni. Manje lapha sekuvela iground lethu ngempel laphe esidlala khona. Kodwa eyi nami mangibuka leliground lami leli, heyi vele ngikhumbule ukukhahlela ibhola. Umbala wasekhaya wendlu uba ngathi uba blue besekuthi phezulu kube namathayilisi, besekuthi sibiye ngengodo nje (natural wood) sibiye ngengodo zemvelo yonke indawo. Sezivala igeyithi.

TRANSLATION: Now we are going home on this road. If you go to my home it's a long way. If you don't know [the way] you look out for the [electricity pole] where the turnoff to my home is. When I go to school I usually go by bicycle, I pedal through lots of sand. Sometimes I struggle [to pedal] because I don't put lots of air in my bike's tyres. Now we are going through a lot of sand - Over there I usually get stuck with my bike. I don't like getting stuck because I am always in a rush to get to school. Now here is soccer field where we play. *Eyi*, when I look at my field, *heyi* I really miss playing soccer. The colour of my house is blue and it is roofed with tiles. Then we fenced with chopped trees ... Now we are closing the gate.

Knocking on door. Door opens.

S'FUNDO: Sanibona Baba.
TRANSLATION: Hello Dad.

FATHER: Yebo sanibonani.
TRANSLATION: Hello.

S'FUNDO: Baba ngicela ukubuza ukuthi wawuthandelani ukungilanda eManguzi?
TRANSLATION: Dad I want to ask why you fetched me from Manguzi ([mother's homestead])?

FATHER: Bengifisa uhlale nami sibe sobabili sihlale ndawonye njengomndeni.
TRANSLATION: I wanted you to stay with me so the two of us could be a family.

S'FUNDO: Kungani ngenkathi uMama enqaba ukuthi ngizohlala nawe ungayeki?
TRANSLATION: Why didn't you give up when my mother refused to let me to go and live with you?

FATHER: Kwakufanele ukuthi ngigcine ngimbonise simbonisana ekugcineni ugcine usizakale wena.
TRANSLATION: I had to make her understand so that in the end you would be helped.

S'FUNDO: Ngicela ukukubuzwa ukuthi wena Baba wazizwa njani ngenkathi uMama esithi sevuma ukuthi ngingahamba nawe?

TRANSLATION: Please can I ask you how you felt when my mother agreed that I could go with you?

FATHER: Ngathokoza kahulu.

TRANSLATION: I was very happy.

S'FUNDO: Yini into eyakwenza ukuthi uthokoze?

TRANSLATION: What made you happy?

FATHER: Ukuthi sengizokwazi ukuthi ngihlale nawe, eh sikwazi ukuthi naye simvakashele masesibenaye masesimdinga so umndeni uphelele ke masekunjalo.

TRANSLATION: Knowing then that I would be able to live with you, eh and you would be able to visit [your mother] and be with her when we needed her so [you and I] could be a complete family always.

S'FUNDO: UBaba wabona ukuthi mina angikwazi ukufunda waseyabona ukuthi kumele ngisuke ngiyofunda Okhayeni. Okhayeni bangisiza kakhulu ngoba wabona futhi noMam ukuthi angenzi kahle. Wase uthi kumele ngibuyele emuva. Wafonela uBaba wamtshela ukuthi mina ngingenkinga. UBaba wanganqaba. Bahlangana nami bangibuza. Lapha ke nginothisha wami owayengifundisa kwagrade1. Ngizocela ukuthi ayichaze.

TRANSLATION: My father noticed that I was not able to read and thought he should move me to go to school at Okhayeni. At Okhayeni they helped me a lot, because my teacher also saw that I wasn't doing well. She suggested I go back [a few grades]. She phoned my father and told him that I have a problem. My father agreed with her. They met with me and asked me [if I would be happy to repeat certain parts of Grade one]. Here I am now with my teacher who taught me in Grade one. I will ask her to introduce herself.

TEACHER: Sanibinani lona okhulumayo nguBongekile Mngomezulu, ufundisa ugrade 1 Okhayeni Primary School.

TRANSLATION: Hello I am Bongekile Mngomezulu who teaches Grade one at Okhayeni Primary School.

S'FUNDO: Bengicela ukubuzwa ukuthi Mam ukuthi kungani ngingakwazi ukufunda kube nangangiyekeli ikuthi ngiqhubeka ngifunde ngingakwazi ukufunda?

TRANSLATION: I would like to ask you Mam how you managed to be so patient with me, and didn't just leave me, when I didn't know how to read?

TEACHER: Eh, Okhayeni okokuqala nje seye sifise ukuthi bonke abantwana bafunda khona senze konke okusemandleni ethu ukuthi mabe phuma kuthi baphume benalo lonke ulwazi namakhono abo ethuthuke ngendlela efaneleyo. Yingako siyesikwazi ukunaka ingane nengane, njengoba kuseyisikolo esincane siyakwazi ukubona ingane nengane enenkinga bese siyazama ukuthi singayisiza kanjani ngoba inkinga yakho enkulu kakhulu kwakukuthi isiZulu wawungekakwazi ukusifunda nokusibhala kodwa ukwagrade 6.

TRANSLATION: Eh, in the first place at Okhayeni we do all in our power to help the children we teach to come out with all the knowledge and skills to help them progress properly. Because we are a small school we are able to notice every child's problems and find ways to help. That is why we tried the system we followed in helping you, because your biggest problem was in reading and writing in Zulu even though you were in grade 6.

- S'FUNDO:** Ngicela ukukubuza umbuzo omunye ukuthi wazizwa kanjani ngenkathi mina ngivumile ukuthi ngiyofunda kwagrade 1?
- TRANSLATION:** Please can I ask you another question, how did you feel when I agreed to go [back] to Grade one?
- TEACHER:** Eh S'fundo ngajabula kakhulu ngenkathi ufuna ukuyofunda isiZulu kwagrade1, ngoba ngabona ukuthi uzimisele ukuthi ubenenqubela phambili. Njengoba nje manje wathi uma use udlulile ekuthatheni iyifindo yesiZulu kwagrade 1 njengamanje awusenankinga usukhululekile. Uyakwazi ukubhala nokufunda isiZulu, uyakwazi ukubhala nokufunda isiNgisi namanye amakhono akho nje asethuthuke ngendlela esijabulisa kakhulu.
- TRANSLATION:** Eh S'fundo I was so happy when you agreed to go to Grade one to learn Zulu, because I saw that you were determined to progress. Because you got a good grounding in all the Zulu sounds in Grade one, you don't have any problems now. You are confident: you know how to read and write Zulu; you know how to read and write English, and your other skills are developing in a way that makes us very happy.
- S'FUNDO:** *Starts singing song...*
Uma sengiqedile, ngifuna ukuba udokotela. Loya ngoma eyangibusisa ngoba uma ngiyicula ngivele ngibona ngathi ngibona amazulu, ngibona amazulu eyivulele.
- TRANSLATION:** When I am finished school, I want to be a doctor. This song blesses me because when I sing it, I can truly see the heavens, I can see the heavens opening.

"There are victories to be won...give me power every hour to be true"



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