

ESTERI

Isahluko: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#)

ISAHLUKO 1

Kwathi emihleni ka-Ahashiveroshi yena ungu-Ahashiveroshi lowo owabusa kusukela e-Indiya kuze kube seKushe phezu kwezifunda eziyikhulu namashumi amabili nesikhombisa² yebo, ngaleyo mihla lapho inkosi u-Ahashiveroshi ihlezi esihlalweni sobukhosi sombuso wayo, esasiseShushani endlini yenkosi,

³ ngomnyaka wesithathu wokubusa kwayo, yenzela izikhulu zayo zonke nezinceku zayo idili, amaqhawe asePheresiya naseMediya, nabakhulu nezikhulu zezifunda bephambi kwayo,

⁴ lapho iyibonakalisa ingcebo yombuso wayo odumileyo, nobukhosi nobuhle bobukhulu bayo izinsuku eziningi, izinsuku eziyikhulu namashumi ayisishiyagalombili.

⁵ Seziphelile lezo zinsuku, inkosi yenzela abantu bonke ababe khona eShushani endlini yenkosi, abakhulu nabancane, idili izinsuku eziyisikhombisa egcekeni lensimu yendlu yenkosi.

⁶ Kwakukhona izilenge ezimhlophe neziluhlaza, ziboshelwe ngezintambo zelineni elicolekileyo nezibubende emasongweni esiliva nasezinsikeni zamatshe amhlophe; imibhede yayiyigolide nesiliva phezu kwendawo egandaywe ngamatshe abomvu, nangamaparele, nangamatshe amnyama.

⁷ Baphuziswa ngezitsha zegolide, izitsha zahlukene, ezinye nezinye, iwayini lamakhosi eliningi njengokwesandla senkosi.

⁸ Ukuphuza kwaya ngomthetho wokuba kungacindezelwa muntu, ngokuba inkosi yayiyalile zonke izinduna zendlu yayo ukuba zenze njengokuthanda kwabantu abanye ngabanye.

⁹ Naye uVashiti, inkosikazi, wenzela abesifazane idili endlini yenkosi u-Ahashiveroshi.

¹⁰ Ngosuku lwesikhombisa, lapho inhliziyo yenkosi isithokoza ngewayini, yayala oMehumani, noBizitha, noHaribona, noBigitha, no-Abagitha, noZethari, noKarikasi, izinduna eziyisikhombisa ezazikhonza ebusweni buka-Ahashiveroshi inkosi

¹¹ ukuba zimlethe uVashiti inkosikazi phambi kwenkosi, abe nomqhele wobukhosi ukuba abonise abantu nezikhulu ubuhle bakhe, ngokuba wayebukeka kahle.

¹² Kepha inkosikazi uVashiti yenqaba ukuza ngesiyalezo senkosi ngesandla sezinduna; ngalokho inkosi yathukuthela kakhulu, ulaka lwayo lwashisa phakathi kwayo.

¹³ Yayisisho inkosi kwabahlakaniphileyo abazazi izikhathi ngokuba yayinendlela enjalo inkosi phambi kwabo bonke ababewazi umthetho nokwahlulela;

¹⁴ ababe seduze naye kwakungoKarishena, noShethari, no-Adimatha, noTharishishi, noMeresi, noMarisena, noMemukhani, izikhulu eziyisikhombisa zasePheresiya naseMediya ezaziphambi kobuso benkosi, zihlala emqoka embusweni

- ¹⁵ yathi: “Siyakwenze njani kuyo inkosikazi uVashiti njengomthetho, ngokuba ayenzanga izwi lenkosi u-Ahashiveroshi ngesandla sezinduna, na?”
- ¹⁶ UMemukhani wathi phambi kwenkosi nezikhulu: “UVashiti, inkosikazi, akonanga enkosini kuphela, kepha nakuzo zonke izikhulu nakubantu bonke abasezifundeni zenkosi u-Ahashiveroshi.
- ¹⁷ Ngokuba le ndaba yenkosikazi iyakuphumela kubo bonke abesifazane ukuba amadoda abo adeleleke emehlweni abo, lapho kuthiwa inkosi u-Ahashiveroshi yamyala uVashiti, inkosikazi, ukuba alethwe phambi kwayo, kepha akafikanga.
- ¹⁸ Namuhla amakhosikazi asePheresiya naseMediya ayizwile le ndaba yenkosikazi ayakukusho ezikhulwini zenkosi, kube ngukudelela nentukuthelo enkulu.
- ¹⁹ “Uma kukuhle enkosini, makuphume izwi lobukhosi, lilotshwe phakathi kwemithetho yamaPheresiya namaMede, lingalahlwa, lokuba uVashiti angabe esangena phambi kwenkosi u-Ahashiveroshi, inkosi inike omunye omuhle kunaye ubukhosikazi bakhe.
- ²⁰ Lapho isimemezelo senkosi eyakusenza sesiyakuzwakala embusweni wayo wonke, ngokuba mkhulu bonke abafazi bayakuwahlonipha amadoda abo, amakhulu namancane.”
- ²¹ Laba lihle lelo zwi emehlweni enkosi nasezikhulwini; yenza-ke inkosi njengezwi likaMemukhani;
- ²² yathuma izincwadi ezifundeni zonke zenkosi, ezifundeni ngezifunda njengokubhala kwazo nasezizweni ngezizwe njengezilimi zazo ukuba yilowo nalowo muntu abuse endlini yakhe, akhulume ngolimi lwesizwe sakubo.

ISAPHLUKO 2

- E**mva kwalokho lapho ulaka lwenkosi u-Ahashiveroshi selubohlile, yamkhumbula uVashiti nalokho akwenzileyo, nalokho okumenyezwe ngaye.
- ² Zase zithi izinceku zenkosi ezaziikhonza: “Inkosi mayifunelwe izintombi ezibukekayo,
- ³ inkosi imise ababonisi ezifundeni zonke zombuso wakho ukuba babuthene ndawonye zonke izintombi ezibukekayo eShushani endlini yenkosi endlini yabesifazane phansi kwesandla sikaHegayi induna yenkosi, umgcini wabesifazane, zinikwe izinto zazo zokuqhola.
- ⁴ Intombi enhle emehlweni enkosi mayibe yinkosikazi esikhundleni sikaVashiti.” Yaba nhle leyo nto emehlweni enkosi, yenze njalo.
- ⁵ Kwakukhona umuntu womJuda eShushani endlini yenkosi ogama lakhe lalinguMoridekayi kaJayire kaShimeyi kaKishi wakwaBenjamini,
- ⁶ owayethunjiwe eJerusalema kanye nabathunjwa ababethunjwe noJekoniya, inkosi yakwaJuda, owathunjwa nguNebukadinesari, inkosi yaseBabele.
- ⁷ Wayelokhu emondla uHadasa ongu-Esteri, indodakazi kayisekazi, ngokuba wayengenayise, engenanina; intombi yayiyinhle, yayibukeka; sebefile uyise nonina, uMoridekayi wayithatha yaba yindodakazi yakhe.
- ⁸ Kwathi lapho izwi lenkosi nesimemezelo sayo sekuzwakele, nalapho izintombi eziningi zibuthene eShushani endlini yenkosi phansi kwesandla sikaHegayi, u-Esteri wangeniswa endlini yenkosi phansi kwesandla sikaHegayi, umgcini wabesifazane.
- ⁹ Intombi yayiyinhle emehlweni akhe, yafumana umusa kuye; washesha wayinika izinto zokuqhola, nezabelo zayo, nezintombi eziyisikhombisa ezazikhethelwe yona zivela endlini yenkosi, wayiyisa yona nezintombi zayo endaweni enhle yendlu yabesifazane.
- ¹⁰ Kepha u-Esteri wayengakhulumanga ngabantu bakubo nangezihlobo zakhe, ngokuba uMoridekayi wayeyiyalile ukuba ingakusho.

¹¹ UMoridekayi wayehamba zonke izinsuku phambi kwegceke lendlu yabesifazane ukuba azi impilo ka-Esteri nokuthi kwenziwe njani kuye.

¹² Lapho kufika isikhathi sezintombi ngezintombi sokuba zingene enkosini u-Ahashiveroshi emva kokuba kwenziwe kuzo njengomthetho wabesifazane izinyanga eziyishumi nambili ngokuba zagcwaliswa kanjalo izinsuku zokuqholwa kwazo, izinyanga eziyisithupha ngamafutha emure nezinyanga eziyisithupha ngamakha nangezinto zokuqhola abesifazane

¹³ intombi yangena ngaleyo ndlela enkosini, nakho konke eyakushoyo yakunikwa ukuba iphume nakho endlini yabesifazane, iye endlini yenkosi.

¹⁴ Yangena khona kusihlwa; ekuseni yabuyela endlini yesibili yabesifazane phansi kwesandla sikaShahashigazi, induna yenkosi, umgcini wezancinza, ingaphindi ingene enkosini, uma inkosi ingathokozanga ngayo, ibizwe ngegama.

¹⁵ Lapho sesifikile isikhathi sika-Esteri, indodakazi ka-Abihayili, uyisekazi kaMoridekayi omthathe ukuba abe yindodakazi yakhe sokuba angene enkosini, akafunanga lutho, kuphela lokho akushoyo uHegayi induna yenkosi, umgcini wabesifazane. U-Esteri wafumana umusa emehlweni abo bonke abambonayo.

¹⁶ U-Esteri wayeseyiswa enkosini u-Ahashiveroshi endlini yakhe yobukhosi ngenyanga yeshumi, eyinyanga kaThebeti, ngomnyaka wesikhombisa wokubusa kwayo.

¹⁷ Inkosi yamthanda u-Esteri phezu kwabo bonke abesifazane, wafumana umusa nesihe emehlweni ayo kunazo zonke izintombi, wamfaka umqhele wobukhosi, wamenza inkosikazi esikhundleni sikaVashiti.

¹⁸ Inkosi yayisizenzela zonke izikhulu zayo nezinceku zayo idili elikhulu, idili lika-Esteri, wanika izifunda ukuphumula, waphana ngezipho njengokupha kwenkosi.

¹⁹ Lapho izintombi sezibuthwa ngokwesibili, uMoridekayi wahlala esangweni lenkosi.

²⁰ U-Esteri wayengakalandi lutho ngezihlobo zakhe nangabantu bakhe, njengalokho uMoridekayi amyala ngakho, ngokuba u-Esteri wenza okushiwo nguMoridekayi njengalapho esondliwa nguye.

²¹ Ngalezo zinsuku uMoridekayi esahlezi esangweni lenkosi, izinduna ezimbili zenkosi oBigithani noThereshi kubalindisango zazithukuthele, zafuna ukubeka izandla enkosini u-Ahashiveroshi.

²² Leyo ndaba yaziwa nguMoridekayi, wayitshela u-Esteri inkosikazi; u-Esteri wayisho enkosini egameni likaMoridekayi.

²³ Lapho indaba iphenywa, kufunyanwa ukuthi injalo, zaphanyekwa zombili emthini; kwalotshwa encwadini yezindaba zemihla ngemihla phambi kwenkosi.

ISAHLUKO 3

Emva kwalezo zinto inkosi, u-Ahashiveroshi, yamenza mkhulu uHamani indodana kaHamedatha umAgagi, yamphakamisa, yamisa isihlalo sakhe phezu kwazo zonke izikhulu ezazinayo.

² Zonke izinceku zenkosi ezazisesangweni lenkosi zakhothama, zakhuleka kuHamani, ngokuba inkosi iyale kanjalo ngaye. Kepha uMoridekayi akakhothamanga, kakhulekanga kuye.

³ Zase zithi izinceku zenkosi ezazisesangweni lenkosi kuMoridekayi: “Weqelani isiyalezo senkosi na?”

⁴ Kwathi zikhuluma kuye imihla ngemihla, engazilaleli, zamtshela uHamani ukuba zibone ukuthi amazwi kaMoridekayi ayakuma yini, ngokuba wayezitshelile ukuthi ungumJuda.

- ⁵ Lapho uHamani ebona ukuthi uMoridekayi akakhothamanga, kakhulekanga kuye, uHamani wagcwala ulaka.
- ⁶ Kwakudelelekile emehlweni akhe ukubeka izandla kuMoridekayi yedwa, ngokuba zase zimtshelile abantu bakaMoridekayi; ngalokho uHamani wafuna ukubulala bonke abaJuda ababe sembusweni wonke ka-Ahashiveroshi, isizwe sikaMoridekayi.
- ⁷ Ngenyanga yokuqala eyinyanga kaNisani ngomnyaka weshumi nambili wenkosi u-Ahashiveroshi benza iPhure eliyinkatho phambi kukaHamani imihla ngemihla izinyanga ngezinyanga, kwaze kwaba ngeyeshumi nambili eyinyanga ka-Adari.
- ⁸ UHamani wathi enkosini u-Ahashiveroshi: “Kukhona isizwe esithile esihlakazekile, sisakazekile phakathi kwabantu bezifunda zonke zombuso wakho; nemithetho yaso yahlukene neyezizwe zonke; futhi asigcini imithetho yenkosi; ngalokho akufanele ukuba inkosi isiyeke.
- ⁹ Uma kukuhle enkosini, makulotshwe ukuba sichithwe; ngiyakukhokhela amatalenta ayizinkulungwane eziyishumi esiliva ezandleni zabenza umsebenzi wenkosi, ayiswe esikhwameni senkosi.”
- ¹⁰ Inkosi yakhumula indandatho yayo esandleni sayo, yayinika uHamani indodana kaHamedatha umAgagi isitha sabaJuda.
- ¹¹ Inkosi yathi kuHamani: “Isiliva liyanikwa wena, nesizwe futhi, ukuba wenze kuso okuhle emehlweni akho.”
- ¹² Kwase kubizwa abalobi benkosi ngenyanga yokuqala ngosuku lweshumi nantathu lwayo, kwalotshwa njengakho konke uHamani ayala angakho othulasizwe benkosi, nababusi ababephethe izifunda ngezifunda, nezikhulu zezizwe ngezizwe, izifunda ngezifunda njengokubhala kwazo, nezizwe ngezizwe njengolimi lwazo; kwalotshwa egameni lenkosi u-Ahashiveroshi, kwanamathiselwa ngendandatho yenkosi.
- ¹³ Izincwadi zathunywa ngesandla sezigijimi ezifundeni zonke zenkosi ukuba kuchithwe, kubulawe, kubhujiswe abaJuda bonke, abasha nabadala, izingane nabesifazane, ngalusuku lunye, ngolweshumi nantathu lwenyanga yeshumi nambili eyinyanga ka-Adari, impahla yabo ibe yimpango.
- ¹⁴ Impinda yokulotshiweyo yanikwa ukuba ibe yisimemezelo ezifundeni zonke, kumenyezwe kubantu bonke ukuba bazilungiselele lolo suku.
- ¹⁵ Izigijimi zashesha zahamba ngezwi lenkosi. Umthetho washaywa eShushani endlini yenkosi; inkosi noHamani bahlala phansi, baphuza, kepha umuzi waseShushani wakhungatheka.

ISAPHELA 4

UMoridekayi esekwazi konke okwenziweyo, uMoridekayi waziklebhula izingubo zakhe, wembatha indwangu yamasaka nomlotha, waphumela phakathi komuzi, wakhala ngokukhala okukhulu okumunyu;

- ² waya naphambi kwesango lenkosi, ngokuba kwakungekho ongangena esangweni lenkosi embethe indwangu yamasaka.
- ³ Kuzo zonke izifunda lapho kwafika khona izwi lenkosi nomthetho wayo, kwaba khona ukulila okukhulu phakathi kwabaJuda, nokuzila ukudla nokukhala ngezinyembezi, nokulila; abaningi balala phansi bembethe izindwangu zamasaka nomlotha.
- ⁴ Izintombi zika-Esteri nezinduna zakhe zafika zamtshela lokho; inkosikazi yazwiswa kakhulu ubuhlungu; yathuma izingubo zokumembathisa uMoridekayi, yasusa kuye ingubo yakhe yamasaka; kepha akazamukelanga.

- ⁵ U-Esteri wayesebiza uHathaki wezinduna zenkosi eyayimmisile ukuba amkhonze, wamyala ukuba aye kuMoridekayi, ukuze akwazi ukuthi kuyini nokuthi kungani na?
- ⁶ UHathaki wayesehamba, waya kuMoridekayi esigcawini somuzi esasiphambi kwesango lenkosi.
- ⁷ UMoridekayi wamtshela konke okumehleleyo nenani lemali uHamani ayethembisile ukulikhokhela esikhwameni senkosi ngabaJuda ukuba babhujiswe.
- ⁸ Wamnika futhi impinda yomthetho olotshiweyo owashaywa eShushani wokuba babhujiswe, ukuze amtshengise yona u-Esteri, amtshele ngayo, amyale ukuba angene enkosini ukunxusa kuyo, acelele abantu bakhe phambi kwayo.
- ⁹ Wafika uHathaki, wamtshela u-Esteri amazwi kaMoridekayi.
- ¹⁰ Wayesethi u-Esteri kuHathaki, wayala ukuba kuthiwe kuMoridekayi:
- ¹¹ Zonke izinceku zenkosi nabantu bezifunda zenkosi bayazi ukuthi bonke abesilisa nabesifazane abeza enkosini egcekeni elingaphakathi bengabizwanga, kukhona umthetho munye ngabo wokuba babulawe, ngaphandle kwalowo inkosi eyakwelulela kuye intonga yegolide ukuba aphile; kodwa mina angibizwanga ukuba ngingene enkosini ngalezi zinsuku ezingamashumi amathathu.
- ¹² Bamtshela uMoridekayi amazwi ka-Esteri.
- ¹³ Wayesesho uMoridekayi ukuba babuyisele impendulo ku-Esteri ngokuthi: “Ungacabangi enhliziyweni yakho ukuthi wena uyakusinda endlini yenkosi kunabaJuda bonke.
- ¹⁴ Ngokuba uma uthula nokuthula ngalesi sikhathi, ukukhululwa nokophulwa kwabaJuda kuyakuvela kwenye indawo, wena nendlu kayihlo nibhubhe. Ngubani okwaziyo, uma ungafikanga embusweni ngenxa yesikhathi esinjengalesi na?”
- ¹⁵ U-Esteri wayesesho ukuba kubuyiselwe impendulo kuMoridekayi yokuthi:
- ¹⁶ “Hambani nibuthe bonke abaJuda abakhona eShushani, ningizilele ukudla, ningadli, ningaphuzi izinsuku ezintathu ubusuku nemini; nami nezintombi zami siyakuzila kanjalo, ngingene enkosini noma kungengamthetho; uma ngibhubha, mangibhubhe.”
- ¹⁷ Wayesehamba uMoridekayi, wenza njengakho konke u-Esteri amyale ngakho.

ISAHLUKO 5

Kwathi ngosuku lwesithathu u-Esteri wembatha ingubo yobukhosi, wema egcekeni elingaphakathi lendlu yenkosi malungana nendlu yenkosi; inkosi yayihlezi esihlalweni sayo sobukhosi endlini yobukhosi malungana nomnyango wendlu.

- ² Kwathi lapho inkosi ibona u-Esteri inkosikazi emi egcekeni, wafumana umusa emehlweni ayo; inkosi yamelulela u-Esteri intonga yegolide esesandleni sayo. Wayesondela u-Esteri, wasithinta isihloko sentonga.
- ³ Yayisithi inkosi kuye: “Ukhala ngani, nkosikazi Esteri, na? Yini oyifunayo na? Uyakunikwa kuze kube nenxenye yombuso.”
- ⁴ Wathi u-Esteri: “Uma kukuhle enkosini, inkosi noHamani mabeze namuhla edilini engiyilungisele lona.”
- ⁵ Yathi inkosi: “Msheshiseni uHamani ukuba kwenziwe njengezwi lika-Esteri.” Base beya inkosi noHamani edilini alilungisileyo u-Esteri.
- ⁶ Inkosi yathi ku-Esteri ngasedilini lewayini: “Isicelo sakho siyini na? Uyakusenzelwa. Yini oyifunayo na? Kuyakwenziwa kuze kube nenxenye yombuso.”
- ⁷ Wayesephendula u-Esteri, ethi: “Isicelo sami nengikufunayo nakhu:

- ⁸ Uma ngifumene umusa emehlweni enkosi noma kukuhle enkosini ukunginika lokho engikucelayo nokwenza lokho engikufunayo, makuze inkosi noHamani edilini engiyakubalungisela lona; ngiyakwenza kusasa njengezwi lenkosi.”
- ⁹ UHamani waphuma khona ngalolo suku, ethokoza enenhliziyi enhle; kepha lapho uHamani embona uMoridekayi esangweni lenkosi ukuthi akasukumanga, kanyakazanga ngaye, uHamani wagcwala ulaka ngoMoridekayi.
- ¹⁰ Kepha uHamani wazibamba, waya ekhaya; wayesethuma, walanda abangane bakhe noZereshi umkakhe.
- ¹¹ UHamani wabalandisa udumo lwengecho yakhe, nobuningi babantwana bakhe, nakho konke inkosi emkhulisile kukho, nalokho emphakamisile kukho phezu kwezikhulu nezinceku zenkosi.
- ¹² UHamani wathi futhi: “U-Esteri, inkosikazi, akangenisanga muntu kanye nenkosi edilini alilungisileyo ngaphandle kwami; nakusasa mina ngimenyiwe nguye kanye nenkosi.
- ¹³ Kepha konke lokho akunganelisi ngalutho kuso sonke isikhathi engilokhu ngibona ngaso uMoridekayi, umJuda, ehlezi esangweni lenkosi.”
- ¹⁴ Wayesethi uZereshi umkakhe nabo bonke abangane bakhe kuye: “Yenza umuthi, ukuphakama kwawo kube yizingalo ezingamashumi ayisihlanu, ukhulume ekuseni enkosini ukuba uMoridekayi aphyanyekwe kuwo, besewungena ngokuthokoza kanye nenkosi edilini.” Laba lihle lelo zwi kuHamani, wenza umuthi.

ISAHLUKO 6

Ngalobo busuku ubuthongo babaleka enkosini, yayala ukuba kulethwe incwadi yezikhumbuzo zezindaba zemihla ngemihla, zafundwa phambi kwenkosi.

- ² Kwafumaniseka kulotshiwe ukuthi uMoridekayi wayelandile ngoBigithani noThereshi izinduna ezimbili zenkosi, abalindisango, ukuthi babefunile ukubeka isandla enkosini u-Ahashiveroshi.
- ³ Inkosi yathi: “Ludumo luni nobukhulu buni okwenzelwe uMoridekayi ngalokho na?” Zase zithi izinceku zenkosi ezaziikhonza: “Akenzelwanga lutho.”
- ⁴ Yayisithi inkosi: “Ngubani osegcekeni na?” UHamani wayesand'ukungena nje egcekeni elingaphandle lendlu yenkosi ukuba akhulume enkosini ngokuphanyekwa kukaMoridekayi emthini abemlungisele wona.
- ⁵ Zathi-ke izinceku zenkosi kuyo: “Bheka, uHamani umi egcekeni.” Yathi inkosi: “Makangene.”
- ⁶ Yayisithi inkosi kuye: “Umntu inkosi ethanda ukumdumisa wenzelwani na?” UHamani wathi enhliziyweni yakhe: “Ngubani inkosi ebiyakuthanda ukumenzela udumo ngaphandle kwami na?”
- ⁷ Wayesethi enkosini: “Umntu inkosi ethanda ukumenzela udumo
- ⁸ makalethele isambatho sobukhosi ekade isembethe inkosi, kanye nehhashi inkosi ekade ikhwela kulo nelifakwe enhloko yalo umqhele wobukhosi;
- ⁹ isambatho nehhashi makunikezwe esandleni sesinye sezikhulu ezidumileyo ukuba zimembathise lowo muntu inkosi ethanda ukumdumisa, zimkhwelise ehhashini esigcawini somuzi, zimemeze phambi kwakhe ngokuthi: ‘Uyakwenzelwa kanjalo umuntu inkosi ethanda ukumdumisa.’ ”
- ¹⁰ Yayisithi inkosi kuHamani: “Shesha, uthathe isambatho nehhashi njengokusho kwakho, wenze njalo kuMoridekayi, umJuda, ohlezi esangweni lenkosi. Makungaphuthi lutho lwakho konke okukhulumileyo.”

¹¹ UHamani wathatha-ke isambatho nehhashi, wamembathisa uMoridekayi, wamkhwelisa esigcawini somuzi, wamemeza phambi kwakhe ngokuthi: “Uyakwenzelwa kanjalo umuntu inkosi ethanda ukumdumisa.”

¹² UMoridekayi wabuyela esangweni, kepha uHamani waphuthuma ekhaya ekhala, embozile ikhanda.

¹³ UHamani walandisa uZereshi umkakhe nabo bonke abangane bakhe konke okumehleleyo. Zase zithi kuye izihlakaniphi zakhe noZereshi umkakhe: “Uma uMoridekayi oqale ukuwa phambi kwakhe engowenzalo yabaJuda, awuyikumahlula, kepha uyakuwa nokuwa phambi kwakhe.”

¹⁴ Besakhuluma naye, zafika izinduna zenkosi, zashesha ukumyisa uHamani edilini u-Esteri alilungisileyo.

ISAHLUKO 7

Yafika-ke inkosi noHamani edilini lika-Esteri inkosikazi.

² Inkosi yabuye yathi ku-Esteri ngosuku lwesibili lwedili lewayini: “Isicelo sakho siyini, nkosikazi Esteri, na? Uyakusenzelwa. Yini oyifunayo na? Kuyakwenziwa kuze kube nenxenye yombuso.”

³ Wayesephendula u-Esteri inkosikazi, ethi: “Uma ngifumene umusa emehlweni akho, nkosi, noma kukuhle enkosini, mangiphiwe ukuphila kwami ngesicelo sami nokwesizwe sakithi ngokufuna kwami,

⁴ ngokuba kuthengisiwe ngathi, mina nesizwe sakithi, ukuba sichithwe, sibulawe, sibhubhe. Uma bekuthengisiwe ngathi sibe yizigqila nezigqilakazi kuphela, ngabe ngithulile, ngokuba usizi lwethu alwanele ukuba sisinde inkosi.”

⁵ Yayisisho inkosi u-Ahashiveroshi, ithi ku-Esteri inkosikazi: “Ngubani lo, uphi yena onesibindi sokwenza lokho na?”

⁶ U-Esteri wathi: “Ngumuntu omelene nathi, oyisitha, uHamani lo omubi.” UHamani wayeseshaywa luvalo phambi kwenkosi nenkosikazi.

⁷ Yayisisukuma inkosi ngolaka lwayo edilini lewayini, yaya ensimini yendlu yenkosi; uHamani wasukuma ukunxusa u-Esteri inkosikazi ngokuphila kwakhe, ngokuba wabona ukuthi usenqunyelwe okubi yinkosi.

⁸ Inkosi isibuya ensimini yendlu yenkosi, ingene endlini yedili lewayini, uHamani wayesewele embhedeni u-Esteri ayekuwo. Yayisithi inkosi: “Uyakuyiphoqa inkosikazi phambi kwami lapha endlini na?” Lapho liphuma leli zwi emlonyeni wenkosi, bamboza ubuso bukaHamani.

⁹ Wayesethi uHaribona, enye yezinduna ezaziphambi kwenkosi: “Bheka, umuthi okuphakama kwawo kuyizingalo ezingamashumi ayisihlanu, uHamani ayewenzele uMoridekayi owakhuluma kahle ngenkosi, umi endlini kaHamani.” Inkosi yathi: “Mphanyekeni kuwo.”

¹⁰ Base bemphanyeka-ke uHamani emthini ayewulungisele uMoridekayi. Yayisibohla intukuthelo yenkosi.

ISAHLUKO 8

Ngalolo suku inkosi u-Ahashiveroshi yanika u-Esteri, inkosikazi, indlu kaHamani isitha sabaJuda. UMoridekayi weza phambi kwenkosi, ngokuba u-Esteri wayeselandile ukuthi uyini naye.

- ² Inkosi yakhumula indandatho yayo ebiyisusile kuHamani, yayinika uMoridekayi. U-Esteri wambeka uMoridekayi phezu kwendlu kaHamani.
- ³ U-Esteri waqhubeka wakhuluma phambi kwenkosi, wawa ngasezinyaweni zayo, wakhala, wayinxusa ukuba ibususe ububi bukaHamani umAgagi necebo lakhe ayelicebe ngabaJuda.
- ⁴ Inkosi yamelulela u-Esteri intonga yegolide. Wayesesukuma u-Esteri, wema phambi kwenkosi.
- ⁵ Wathi: “Uma kukuhle enkosini, noma ngifumene umusa phambi kwayo, noma le nto ilungile phambi kwenkosi, uma ngithandeka emehlweni ayo, makulotshwe ukuba zibuyiswe izincwadi zamacebo kaHamani indodana kaHamedatha umAgagi azilobayo ukuba bachithwe abaJuda abasezifundeni zenkosi;
- ⁶ ngokuba ngingakubuka kanjani okubi okuyakufica isizwe sakithi, noma ngingakubuka kanjani ukuchithwa kwezihlobo zami na?”
- ⁷ Inkosi u-Ahashiveroshi yathi ku-Esteri, inkosikazi, nakuMoridekayi, umJuda: “Bhekani, nginike u-Esteri indlu kaHamani; yena bamphanyekile emthini, ngokuba wabeka isandla sakhe kubaJuda.
- ⁸ Kepha lobani nani ngabaJuda njengokuhle emehlweni enu egameni lenkosi, nikunamathelise ngendandatho yenkosi, ngokuba umbhalo obhalwe egameni lenkosi wanamatheliswa ngendandatho yenkosi awunakubuyiswa muntu.”
- ⁹ Abalobi benkosi babizwa ngaleso sikhathi ngenyanga yesithathu, eyinyanga kaSivani, ngolwamashumi amabili nantathu lwayo; kwalotshwa njengakho konke uMoridekayi ayala ngakho abaJuda, nawothulasizwe, nababusi, nezikhulu zezifunda, kusukela e-Indiya kuze kufike eKushe, izifunda eziyikhulu namashumi amabili nesikhombisa, izifunda ngezifunda njengokubhala kwazo, nezizwe ngezizwe njengolimi lwazo, nabaJuda njengokubhala kwabo nanjengolimi lwabo.
- ¹⁰ Waloba egameni lenkosi u-Ahashiveroshi, wakunamathelisa ngendandatho yenkosi, wazithuma izincwadi ngesandla sezigijimi zamahhashi, zigibela amahhashi anejubane, amahhashi enkosi akhethekileyo,
- ¹¹ inkosi eyavumela ngakho abaJuda ababesemizini ngemizi ukuba babuthane, bamele ukuphila kwabo, bachithe, babulale, babhubhise onke amabutho abantu nawesifunda abahlaselayo, izingane nabesifazane, impahla yabo ibe yimpango,
- ¹² ngosuku oluthile ezifundeni zonke zenkosi u-Ahashiveroshi, ngolweshumi nantathu lwenyanga yeshumi nambili eyinyanga ka-Adari.
- ¹³ Impinda yokulotshiweyo yanikwa ukuba ibe yisimemezelo ezifundeni zonke, kumenyezwe kubantu bonke ukuba abaJuda bazilungiselele lolo suku, baziphindisele ezitheni zabo.
- ¹⁴ Zase ziphuma izigijimi zigibele amahhashi anejubane, amahhashi enkosi, zisheshiswa ziqhutshwa yizwi lenkosi; umthetho washaywa eShushani endlini yenkosi.
- ¹⁵ Wayesephuma uMoridekayi ebusweni benkosi embethe isambatho sobukhosi esiluhlaza nesimhlophe, enomqhele omkhulu wegolide nengubo yelineni elicolekileyo nebubende; umuzi waseShushani wajabula, wathokoza.
- ¹⁶ AbaJuda base benakho ukukhanya, nokuthokoza, nokujabula, nodumo.
- ¹⁷ Ezifundeni zonke nasemizini yonke lapho kufika khona izwi lenkosi nomthetho wayo, abaJuda babe nokuthokoza nokujabula, nedili, nosuku oluhle. Abezizwe abaningi baphenduka abaJuda, ngokuba babehlelwe yingebhe ngabaJuda.

Ngenyanga yeshumi nambili eyinyanga ka-Adari ngosuku lweshumi nantathu lwayo, lapho kusondela izwi lenkosi nomthetho wayo ukuba kwenziwe, ngosuku izitha zabaJuda ezazethembile ngalo ukubusa phezu kwabo nokho kwaguqulwa ukuze abaJuda babuse phezu kwababazondayo.

² AbaJuda babuthana emizini yabo ezifundeni zonke zenkosi u-Ahashiveroshi ukuba babeke izandla kulabo ababefuna ukubalimaza; akubangakho ongamelana nabo, ngokuba abantu bonke babehlelwe yingebhe ngabo.

³ Zonke izikhulu zezifunda, nawothulasizwe, nababusi, nabenza umsebenzi wenkosi, babasiza abaJuda, ngokuba babehlelwe yingebhe ngoMoridekayi.

⁴ Ngokuba uMoridekayi wayemkhulu endlini yenkosi, nodumo lwakhe lwahamba ezifundeni zonke, ngokuba lowo muntu uMoridekayi wayelokhu ekhula njalo.

⁵ AbaJuda baceka zonke izitha zabo ngokuceka kwenkemba, nangokubulala, nangokuchitha, benza kwababazondayo njengokuthanda kwabo.

⁶ EShushani endlini yenkosi abaJuda babulala, bachitha abantu abangamakhulu ayisihlanu.

⁷ Babulala noParishanidatha, noDalifoni, no-Asiphatha,

⁸ noPhoratha, no-Adaliya, no-Aridatha,

⁹ noPharimashita, no-Arisayi, no-Aridayi, noVayizatha,

¹⁰ amadodana ayishumi kaHamani indodana kaHamedatha, isitha sabaJuda, kepha ababekanga izandla zabo empangweni.

¹¹ Ngalolo suku inani lababuleweyo eShushani endlini yenkosi lalethwa phambi kwenkosi.

¹² Inkosi yayisithi ku-Esteri inkosikazi: “AbaJuda babulele bachitha abantu abangamakhulu ayisihlanu eShushani endlini yenkosi namadodana ayishumi kaHamani; pho, benzeni kwezinye izifunda zenkosi? Isicelo sakho siyini? Uyakusenzelwa. Yini oyifunayo na? Kuyakwenziwa.”

¹³ U-Esteri wathi: “Uma kukuhle enkosini, abaJuda abaseShushani mabavunyelwe nakusasa ukwenza njengomthetho wanamuhla, aphanyekwe amadodana ayishumi kaHamani emthini.”

¹⁴ Inkosi yasho ukuba kwenziwe kanjalo; umthetho washaywa eShushani; bawaphanyeka amadodana ayishumi kaHamani.

¹⁵ AbaJuda ababe seShushani babuthana nangosuku lweshumi nane lwenyanga ka-Adari, babulala abantu abangamakhulu amathathu eShushani, kepha ababekanga izandla zabo empangweni.

¹⁶ Abanye abaJuda ababe sezifundeni zenkosi babuthana, bamela ukuphila kwabo, baphumula ezitheni zabo, babulala abayizinkulungwane ezingamashumi ayisikhombisa nanhlani ababazondayo, kepha ababekanga izandla zabo empangweni.

¹⁷ Lokho kwakungosuku lweshumi nantathu lwenyanga ka-Adari; ngosuku lweshumi nane lwayo baphumula, balwenza lwaba lusuku lwedili nolokuthokoza.

¹⁸ Kepha abaJuda ababe seShushani babuthana ngolweshumi nantathu lwayo nangolweshumi nane lwayo; ngolweshumi nanhlani lwayo baphumula, balwenza lwaba lusuku lwedili nolokuthokoza.

¹⁹ Ngalokho abaJuda basemaphandleni ababehlezi emizaneni engabiyelwe benza usuku lweshumi nane lwenyanga ka-Adari lube ngolokuthokoza nolwedili nosuku oluhle nolokuthumelana izipho omunye komunye.

²⁰ UMoridekayi waziloba lezo zindaba, wathuma izincwadi kubo bonke abaJuda ababe sezifundeni zonke zenkosi u-Ahashiveroshi, abaseduze nabakude,

- ²¹ ukumisa ukuba bagcine usuku lweshumi nane lwenyanga ka-Adari nosuku lweshumi nanhlanu lwayo iminyaka yonke
- ²² njengezinsuku abaJuda abathola ngazo ukuphumula ezitheni zabo nenyanga eyaguqulwa kubo osizini yaba ngeyokuthokoza nasekulileni kwaba lusuku oluhle, bazenze zibe yizinsuku zedili nezokuthokoza nezokuthumelana izipho omunye komunye, kanye nezipho kwabampofu.
- ²³ AbaJuda bakwamukela ukwenza lokho abakuqalileyo, nalokho ayekulobe kubo uMoridekayi,
- ²⁴ ngokuba uHamani indodana kaHamedatha umAgagi, isitha sabo bonke abaJuda, wayecebile ngabaJuda ukuba abachithe, waphonsa iPhure elinyinkatho ukuba abanqobe, abachithe;
- ²⁵ kepha lapho lokho kwafika phambi kwenkosi, yasho ngencwadi ukuba lelo cebo elibi ayelicebe ngabaJuda libuyele ekhanda lakhe, yena namadodana akhe baphanyekwe emthini.
- ²⁶ Ngelokho babiza lezo zinsuku ngokuthi iPhurimi ngegama lePhure. Ngelokho ngenxa yawo onke amazwi aleyo ncwadi, nangenxa yalokho abebekubonile ngale ndaba, nalokho okubehleleyo,
- ²⁷ abaJuda banquma bamukela, bona nenzalo yabo, nabo bonke ababezihlanganisa nabo, ukuthi bayakugcina lezo zinsuku zombili njengokubhalwa kwazo nanjengesikhathi sazo esinqunyiweyo iminyaka yonke, bangaphuthi,
- ²⁸ zikhunjulwe lezo zinsuku, zigcinwe ezizukulwaneni ngezizukulwane, emindenini ngemindenini, ezifundeni ngezifunda, emizini ngemizi, lezo zinsuku zePhurimi, zingaphuthi phakathi kwabaJuda, nesikhumbuzo sazo singapheli enzalweni yabo.
- ²⁹ U-Esteri inkosikazi, indodakazi ka-Abihayili, noMoridekayi umJuda base beloba ngamandla onke ukuba baqinise le ncwadi yesibili yePhurimi.
- ³⁰ Wathuma izincwadi kubo bonke abaJuda ezifundeni eziyikhulu namashumi amabili nesikhombisa zombuso ka-Ahashiveroshi, zinamazwi okuthula neqiniso,
- ³¹ ukuba aqinise lezo zinsuku zePhurimi ngezikhathi zazo esinqunyiweyo njengokuzimisa kukaMoridekayi umJuda no-Esteri inkosikazi, nanjengalokho bezimisele bona nenzalo yabo ngendaba yokuzila ukudla nokukhala kwabo.
- ³² Izwi lika-Esteri laqinisa lezo zindaba zePhurimi, kwalotshwa encwadini.

ISIAHLUKO 10

Inkosi u-Ahashiveroshi yathelisa izwe neziqhingi zolwandle.

² Zonke izenzo zegunya lakhe namandla akhe, nayo yonke indaba yobukhulu bukaMoridekayi inkosi eyayimkhulisela kubo angithi kulotshiwe encwadini yezindaba zemihla ngemihla yamakhosi aseMediya nasePheresiya na?

³ Ngokuba uMoridekayi, umJuda, wayelama inkosi u-Ahashiveroshi ngobukhulu, emkhulu phakathi kwabaJuda, ethokozelwa ngabafowabo abaningi, efuna okuhle kwesizwe sakubo, ekhuluma ukuthula kuyo yonke inzalo yabo.

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