

Her Story

A Podcast featuring Women from Eswatini



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Joy Ndwandwe

Queen of indigenous knowledge

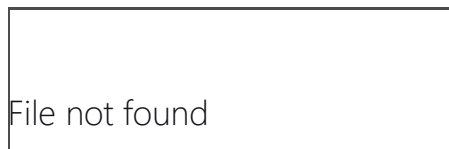
Joy Dumsile Ndwandwe grew up in Swaziland and always knew that she was different to other people. It took her many years to understand that she has a "spiritual gift", as she calls it, and access to knowledge from her ancestors. Since her realisation, Joy has come to study and write books to preserve indigenous knowledge.

Before Joy started her writing career, she was working as an accountant. When she found out that the soul of a former Queen was living inside her, she quit her job and started studying at the University of South Africa.

Joy comes from a family where women were always supported to pursue academic careers. Her grandfather empowered his daughters to study who went on to become some of the first people in Swaziland with PhDs. It looks like Joy will soon be walking in their footsteps as she is currently doing a PhD in Philosophy, focusing on governance in Southern Africa whilst respecting indigenous knowledge and tradition.

Joy researches how Eswatini can preserve the traditions that unify its people. To pass on her research, she has published three books: [Releasing Monkeys](#) (2003), [Akusiko Kwami, Kwebantfu: unearthing King Sobhuza II's philosophy](#) (2009) and [Negating, resisting or affirming cosmological principles : towards an African humanism leadership theory and model](#) (2015).

"Our culture is more than boobs and bums. It really is about rain", says Joy. Listen to the second episode of "Her Story" to find out why she doesn't want to call herself a feminist and if there will ever be a female ruler in Eswatini.



This episode is available on [iTunes](#) and [Spotify](#).