Background

Hello everyone, and welcome. Allow me to introduce myself—I am Kaleab E. Alamnew. My life’s journey began on the 17th of July, 1998, when I took my first breath in the bustling metropolis of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. My formative years unfurled in the picturesque village of Mekanisa, a hidden gem that holds an irreplaceable corner in my heart. Here, I resided in a secluded, three-story haven, void of immediate neighbors, which offered me the sanctity of solitude.

Picture a young boy, navigating through life on a bicycle, each pedal stroke propelling him not just down the road but also further into his own thoughts, dreams, and aspirations. The relative quietude of Mekanisa’s lanes was the ideal backdrop against which my imagination came alive. I experienced a unique kind of freedom, as expansive as the skies above and as intimate as the tales I would one day share. Let me quote Paulo Coelho here: "Freedom is not the absence of commitments, but the ability to choose—and commit myself to—what is best for me." Mekanisa gave me that invaluable freedom to choose, to dream, and to become.

Life presented me with a new chapter when I moved to a sprawling condominium complex situated in the heart of the city, near the iconic Semen Hotel and closely monitored by three police stations. Imagine transitioning from a serene village to an animated microcosm of hundreds of families. It was a breathtaking contrast. Day in and day out, the condominium was a lively tapestry of social engagements, communal laughter, and unforgettable shared experiences. The essence of community was no longer a concept but a vivid, palpable reality. I was surrounded by neighbors who would eventually become more than just familiar faces—they became my extended family.

It's crucial to mention my educational milestones, as they form the cornerstone of my intellectual and emotional growth. My school years began in Betelhem, setting the academic foundation before I shifted to Jiva High School in 2013. This school wasn't merely a place of learning; it was a second home. I succeeded academically, certainly, but Jiva gave me more than grades. It bestowed upon me friendships that I treasure, memories that I hold dear, and life lessons that have shaped my moral compass. Gratitude fills my heart when I think of every teacher, every friend, who contributed to my transformation. They didn’t just teach me; they believed in me, and in doing so, changed the trajectory of my life.

Then came 2017, a watershed year. Fresh off the high of achieving stellar grades in Ethiopia’s Matriculation exams, I transplanted my dreams and ambitions to the fertile grounds of the United States. With each passing semester, from an anonymous college to the hallowed halls of UCLA, my character was forged through rigorous academics and soul-enriching friendships. The journey, I must confess, was both challenging and exhilarating. Yet, every obstacle conquered made the triumphs all the more rewarding. As I walked across the graduation stage in 2023, I realized that my American dream, once a flicker of possibility, had been brilliantly realized.

Today, I revel in the life that I’ve created here in the USA. I stand here, as a living testament to the power of dreams and the indomitable will that turns them into reality. Like the iconic Maya Angelou said, "I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it." My journey, filled with its ups and downs, has not reduced me; instead, it has enriched me in ways too profound to articulate.

So, why do I share my story? I share it as a canvas upon which you can project your own aspirations and challenges, a tale of relentless ambition, and unyielding resilience. It is a reminder that each of us is the author of our destiny. In the narrative of my life, you might find the inspiration to be the hero of your own.

Thank you for allowing me to share this voyage with you. Until the next chapter.

Education History

Back in time around 2012, one of my old middle school friend who named as Ezra, we used to love in the same place just like neughborhood to each other at the condominuuim and we used to go to Betelhem school. So, one day, it was lunch time and we had to meet for lunch and eat at the lunch time. We ate and started to talk and have a fun. He asked me a deep question what would be my goal in the future. In that time, I didn’t know what I wanted to be in the future. I asked him back that question and he replied “I hope one day I wanted to be Astronaut”. I don’t even know what is that this and I tried to memorize it for later to search up after school. In the mean time, I luckly got a mirror which it can reflacted by sun and passed the mirror and there was a share a single light spot in the ground. I will to pu my hand on it and my skin felt hot then I put a soft leaf on the group and spot the light passing through the mirror. The light made a hole on the surface of leaf. I then started to think something different like why don’t I studdt about plannet. Around the globe or world, many people know what is the living thing and non living things. But there are some people or rare that they know few about plannets and whats there outside the space or universe. I used to think what if there is a chance to become an astronaust if I am too at calculation and physics. I kept asked myself and imaged myself to be astronaust one day and I started to dreaming it. Then I went back to my old frind int eh next days and told him that I wanted to become astronaust too and he said it would be hard and tried to make me feel down. So, at this time, I was annoyed and at the sametime, it gave me motivation to get up and work hard to get what I wanted to success in the future. Later in that year, My old friend moved to another place and I went to USA and unfortunately we never talk or meet again. That’s where it began to learn more about planets, rockets, what is out there inside and ourside universe. It is just amazing to know as extra knowledge as erevrone including me learn in this world with anything if we wanted to. So, my goal was to work inside NASA or Rocket Lab or SpaceX or something like this to get or achive what I wanted to be. I knew it was easy to come this far but I was strong enough to make impposible things to possible especially if you are too smart at anything to do your own risk and surprise the world by seeing your action that nobody nor scinectis did ever in the past decades. I wanted to learn everything if God gave me an opportunity to learn and teach the world what I knew or learnt. Here are the three mainly reason I wanted to become aerospace engineer then become astronaust. First of the most, I sometime read and heard that some scintists disappred from space that they went to investigate somewhere in the space and I always asked myself what caused them and what was the reason it happened like that way and how can we know for future if some kind of strange happen for our future astronomer even for myself I become astronaust one day. So, the first reason was to study and find a solution to this kind of situation. Second, I wanted to investigate a planeets if there could be a living thing in the moon or mars or others. If there is nothing, I wanted to create any tech that could make a living things in one of plants which could be essential for life. Third reason is to bring any useful like minerals or anything like piece of rocks or asteroid and anythignt that make a history and to know if it is worth to bring more to our life essential and produce for oil or fuel to the world. These are the main reasons for what I wanted to become astronoust and sometimes I always wish that I woudlve been astronaust by now and proud of myself.

Education Journey

Picture it—2012, Betelhem School, lunchtime. I found myself sitting across from my close friend Ezra, a neighbor from the communal heart of our condominium life. Our meals were more than just a time for nourishment; they were an open forum for the dreams that lingered on the peripheries of our young minds. During one such meal, Ezra posed a question that would upend the very fabric of my reality: "What do you aspire to be in the future?" At that moment, I was a blank canvas, unsure of the portrait I wished to paint for my life.

Ezra, with a gleam in his eyes, revealed his aspiration to become an astronaut—a declaration so outlandish and unfamiliar that I had to commit it to memory to explore later. In the words of Carl Sagan, "Imagination will often carry us to worlds that never were. But without it, we go nowhere." And so, stirred by curiosity and the limitations of my own imagination, my life took an unexpected turn.

As fate would have it, a simple mirror would catalyze this journey. I chanced upon a mirror that refracted sunlight onto the ground, its focused beam hot to the touch. Placing a leaf beneath this concentrated spotlight, I watched in awe as it pierced through, leaving a hole. A revelation unfurled within me—could I too become a person who explores the uncharted landscapes of the universe, from the celestial bodies that orbit Earth to the mysteries beyond our galaxy?

The universe is a vast expanse, home to known and unknown elements, explored and unexplored territories. While many are content with understanding the phenomena within our planet, I felt an unquenchable thirst to fathom what lies beyond Earth. It was the quintessential lightbulb moment: Why not become an astronaut? To echo the sentiments of astronaut Sally Ride, "You can't be what you can't see." But that day, I saw it, clear as the light I held in my hand—I could become an astronaut.

In the subsequent days, I shared this newfound vision with Ezra. He tried to dampen my enthusiasm, suggesting the arduous path that lay ahead. Ironically, his skepticism fueled my ambition, catapulting me into a determination vortex. "Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall," said Confucius, and rise I did. Ezra moved away, and our lives ventured on diverging paths. I migrated to the United States, where dreams are woven into the very fabric of its flag, and we never spoke again.

My ambition to become part of something groundbreaking like NASA, Rocket Lab, or SpaceX was a daunting mission, but I was propelled by the idea that “impossible is just an opinion,” as Paulo Coelho states. I envisioned three primary reasons to embark on this cosmic journey.

Firstly, I was driven by the harrowing accounts of astronauts lost in space. A scientific inquiry beckoned—what were the underlying causes, and how could future explorations preempt such catastrophes? Secondly, my dreams extended to the very soil of extraterrestrial planets. Could we find life elsewhere? If not, could we create sustainable ecosystems on uninhabited planets through innovative technology?

Lastly, I envisioned the extraction of invaluable resources from celestial bodies, resources that could revolutionize our industries and energy solutions on Earth. In the simplest terms, I wanted to rewrite history, challenge norms, and expand the realm of possibilities. I wanted to be an aerospace engineer first, laying the ground rules, before catapulting myself into space, physically embodying the dreams once scribbled on the margins of my school notebooks.

Sometimes, I catch myself pondering—had I pursued this path, where might I be today? But no matter the course, the essential fact remains that dreams are the stepping stones of reality. And as I inch closer to making mine a reality, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of pride.

In retrospect, the voyage from a young boy in Addis Ababa, innocently intrigued by the piercing light of a simple mirror, to a man envisioning a future in the great beyond of space encapsulates the transformative power of education and ambition. The realms of science, mathematics, and community shaped not just a career path but a life's mission. Like a rocket ship on the launch pad, I was fueled by aspirations, propelled by curiosity, and aimed towards the vast, endless possibilities of the cosmos. What began as a mere speck of a dream, barely visible on the grand tapestry of youthful aspiration, has blossomed into an unwavering sense of purpose and a relentless pursuit of knowledge. This journey—peppered with challenges, choices, and changes—stands as a testament to the wisdom of Robert Frost, who once said, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I— I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." As I reflect on my educational history, it's apparent that the choices made in the classrooms and hallways of Betelhem School, Jiva High School, college, and ultimately UCLA, have paved a winding, uphill road toward not just career goals but towards a life imbued with meaning and potential. I am ever-thankful for the tapestry of experiences, people, and opportunities that have shaped me, for they have all contributed to the rich, complex narrative that I call my life.

**The Art of Coding: More Than Just Ones and Zeros**

When you think of art, chances are you picture something visually stunning—a timeless painting, a breathtaking sculpture, or perhaps a captivating performance. But what about the invisible art, the art that powers our modern world? Yes, I'm talking about coding. To the uninitiated, it may look like random sequences of numbers, letters, and symbols. But each line of code is a brushstroke, and with it, I paint the canvas of possibility.

Experience: The Evolution of My Coding Language Palette

My journey into the world of coding began in college. Starting off with mainstream languages like Java, JavaScript, Ruby, C#, and C++, I was initially like an artist experimenting with primary colors. Each language opened a new avenue of expression, allowing me to dabble in diverse projects ranging from simple webpage designs to complex algorithms.

However, university brought a whole new spectrum of colors to my coding palette. The high stakes of aerospace engineering required specialized tools: MATLAB for numerical computations, CAD for precision design, Ansys for simulation, and Rocket Lab software for real-world aerospace applications. Each tool was a new instrument, a new medium, broadening the canvas on which I could translate my ideas into reality.

Projects: When the Going Gets Tough

Let me take you behind the scenes, to the less glamorous side of this journey. Learning these advanced tools was no walk in the park. Remember your first time trying to ride a bicycle? Wobbly, unsure, and, let's admit it, a bit terrifying. That's how I felt diving into MATLAB and Ansys. Each project felt like a mountain to climb—daunting yet irresistibly challenging.

I had to grapple with sleepless nights and endless lines of code that seemed to laugh at my confusion. However, each error message was a lesson in disguise, and every debugging session brought me one step closer to fluency in this complex language. The projects I worked on were as diverse as they were challenging, from designing 3D models of aircraft components to simulating airflows over wings.

Coding: A Reflection of My Journey

Below, you'll find snapshots of my work—a sneak peek into the years of practice, persistence, and passion that have shaped my coding skills. Each image captures a moment of revelation, of triumph, of another obstacle conquered.

So, as you scroll through these glimpses of my work, remember: coding is more than just ones and zeros. It's a form of art, an expression of problem-solving, and above all, it's the embodiment of the challenges I've faced and overcome.

Conclusion: Beyond the Code

As you browse through the lines of code, complex algorithms, and intricate projects showcased in this section, it's essential to realize that they aren't just digital constructs—they are a testament to an incredible journey. A journey that began with bewildering error messages and sleepless nights, but culminated in deep understanding and meaningful solutions.

These projects represent more than just programming skills; they capture a mindset, a tenacity for problem-solving, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. They are the tangible outcomes of countless hours spent learning, experimenting, failing, and succeeding. They stand as evidence of not only technical prowess but also the personal growth that comes with grappling with difficult problems.

Each snippet of code embodies a challenge met, a lesson learned, a concept grasped. And as you navigate through the visual depictions of these projects, remember that for each line of code you see, there were multiple drafts, tests, and iterations that you don't—the unseen effort behind the visible result.

Thank you for taking the time to delve into this segment of my portfolio. I hope it has offered you a glimpse into my world—a world shaped by both the struggle and the beauty of mastering complexity. After all, in coding as in life, it's not about the destination; it's about the journey.

Feel free to reach out if you're intrigued, have questions, or simply want to discuss the fascinating world of programming further. I'm always eager to engage in intellectual dialogues and collaborative ventures.

**Lessons from Life: More Than Just a Game or a Thrill**

Life has an incredible way of teaching us lessons, often in the most unexpected arenas. For me, those arenas have primarily been sports and adventure. Each has not only tested my physical capabilities but has also forged character, instilled discipline, and endowed me with valuable life skills. In this section, I invite you to explore how I've taken leaps—sometimes literally—to expand my horizons.

Skills: The Symphony of Sports

My relationship with sports is not just a pastime; it's a journey into the self. Among the myriad sports I've engaged in, swimming holds a special place in my heart. Whether it's freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, or the advanced dolphin and underwater techniques, each stroke feels like a brush with meditation. I've even managed to hold my breath underwater for almost two minutes, plunging into the depths as if entering a sanctuary.

Other sports like basketball, soccer, and running have also played pivotal roles in shaping me. Each sport is like a chapter in a grander tale, teaching me skills like teamwork, focus, and endurance. But why take my word for it? In this section, you'll find pictures and videos capturing some of my finest moments—from scoring the winning goal in soccer to perfecting my butterfly stroke.

Adventure: The Excitement of the Unknown

If sports are my way of conversing with my inner self, adventures are my dialogues with the world. My thirst for thrills has led me to embrace every adventure opportunity that comes my way. I've ridden jet skis, plunged into raging waters, screamed my lungs out on roller coasters, ice-skated, swum with sharks, skydived, and zoomed through terrains on an ATV, among others. Each adventure is like a new flavor of life, instantly invigorating and eternally unforgettable.

And it's not just about the adrenaline rush. Adventures teach resilience, quick thinking, and the appreciation for the sheer variety of experiences life has to offer. Trust me; the pictures and videos you'll find here will do a better job of narrating these unforgettable moments than any words ever could.

Conclusion: The Big Picture

As you scroll through the photos and videos encapsulating my sportsmanship and adventurous spirit, remember that each snapshot is more than just a memory. They are freeze-frames of life lessons, of overcoming fears, of mastering skills, and of embracing the pure joy of living.

These sports and adventures have taught me that life is not about waiting for the storm to pass but about learning how to dance in the rain—or swim through it, as my case may be. They have made me realize that we are all on a perpetual journey of self-discovery and that it is our experiences that shape us, not our fears or hesitations.

In conclusion, these activities are not just hobbies for me; they are classrooms without walls, teachers without lectures, and lessons without textbooks. Through each sport, each adventure, I've learned not just about the world around me but also about the world within me. And that, in my opinion, is the biggest adventure of them all.

I hope you enjoy the visual journey as much as I've enjoyed living these moments. Thank you for sharing this chapter of my life story with me. Feel free to embark on your own adventures and don't forget to make a splash along the way!

**Rewards and Certifications: The Milestones That Shaped My Journey**

Navigating the diverse landscapes of academia and skill development is never a linear path. Along the way, I've achieved milestones that have reinforced my commitment to excellence and learning. These certificates and accolades not only reflect my technical and academic aptitude but also mirror the discipline, perseverance, and grit required to attain them.

National Ethiopia Examination (10th Grade)

My educational journey began with a noteworthy performance in the National Ethiopia Examination during 10th grade, where I secured Straight A's in a range of subjects. These included Amharic, English, Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Civic Education, and History. The document showcasing these achievements will be attached, but more than just a piece of paper, these grades were my first stepping stones in the world of rigorous academic commitment.

GED Certification

Recognizing the need for a more flexible yet challenging educational framework, I opted for the General Educational Development (GED) route for my 11th and 12th grades. While Mathematics, English, and Natural Sciences were my strong suits, Social Studies presented itself as an academic nemesis—almost a rite of passage that made me more resilient and focused. And while it may not be my favorite, it taught me the value of pushing through subjects that don't come naturally.

College Years

With a leap of faith, I stepped into college life and it paid off exceedingly well. Achieving a GPA of 3.8 wasn't just an academic feat; it was a testament to the skills and discipline I had honed over the years. The transcript that I'll attach stands as proof of this exciting chapter in my life.

UCLA Bachelor's Degree

Finally, the journey culminated at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Aerospace Engineering with a GPA of 2.8. While the numbers may not tell the whole story, they certainly don't capture the blood, sweat, and tears behind surviving one of the most challenging engineering courses. A 2.8 in Aerospace Engineering at UCLA is a narrative of relentless work, continuous learning, and sheer willpower.

Conclusion: The Essence of Achievement

The certificates and grades you see attached to this section are not just symbols of academic success; they're monuments to the arduous yet fulfilling journey I've undertaken. Each grade and every certificate stands as a chapter in my life story—a story of trials, triumphs, and unyielding persistence.

Thank you for taking the time to explore these important milestones with me. I hope they give you a deeper insight into both my professional capabilities and personal ambitions. After all, these achievements are not the end but the foundation upon which I intend to build an even more compelling future.

Closing Thoughts: Beyond The Horizon

As the curtain begins to close on this digital stage, I can't help but feel a sense of profound gratitude. I've taken you on a journey through my educational odyssey, from the turning point of acing the National Ethiopia Examination to the rigors and triumphs of Aerospace Engineering at UCLA. We've walked through the creative chaos of my coding exploits, delved into the adrenaline-pumping world of sports and adventure, and highlighted the milestones that have shaped me both as a professional and a human being.

Why share all of this? Because I firmly believe that our experiences, struggles, and achievements are not merely for us to hold but to share, to inspire, and most importantly, to propel others towards their own horizons. I've told you my story not as an epitome of perfection but as a testament to the tenacity, resilience, and continuous learning that define my life's journey.

The Exit: An Invitation to You

The screen may dim, but the story is far from over. As you exit this digital space, I want you to take a moment to envision your own dreams, your own aspirations. And then, take that very crucial first step toward achieving them. If my story has inspired you even a bit, then consider that a collective victory.

This is not a goodbye; it's a 'see you later.' I am continuously evolving, and my story gets a new paragraph, a new chapter every single day. And I invite you to be a part of it. Whether it's collaborating on an aerospace project, coding the next big thing, or even sharing an adventure or two, I am more than just a collection of experiences and accolades. I am a fervent believer in the transformative power of dreams, collaboration, and the will to overcome.

So here’s my invitation: reach out, connect, and let's build not just a better future for ourselves but for the world we inhabit.

Thank you for sharing this journey with me, for allowing me into your thoughts, if only for a short while. It's been an absolute pleasure and honor, and I look forward to the exciting possibilities that await us.

**Closing Thoughts: The Horizon Awaits You**

The chapters of my life that you've explored here—my educational journey, my professional experiences, my passions—are not mere landmarks of the past. They're stepping stones, each contributing to a lifelong adventure that's far from complete. But let's talk about your adventure for a moment.

You've heard my story, and now it's time to turn the focus to you, the one visiting these digital pages. What are the dreams that keep you awake at night? What are the barriers holding you back? Remember, hard work and motivation are the essence of every success story. Your aspirations may seem distant now, just as mine once did, but every step you take brings you closer to that horizon. Believe in the beauty of the climb, in the worth of the struggles. It's the journey that shapes us, and when you reach your summit, the view will be unlike any other.

The Exit: The Sum of Our Stories

As you move away from this space, think of your own path as not being separate from mine or anyone else's. We are all bound by the stories we live and the dreams we nurture. The certificates I've earned and the skills I've honed are not just milestones but testaments to the fact that the paths we choose have the power to shape us, to make us better versions of ourselves.

Your future is a blank canvas, and you hold the brush. So why not reach out and share your story? Let's weave the fabric of our stories tighter, turning single threads into a tapestry of collective ambition and fulfillment.

Thank you for spending this time with me. My hope is that you leave here more determined than ever to embrace the work, the sweat, the failures, and the triumphs that make life a beautiful, ongoing act of becoming.