



ECHOES OF THE HILLS: A JOURNEY OF RESILIENCE AND REDEMPTION

"Echoes of the Hills: A Journey of Resilience and Redemption" recounts Jethro Cheruiyot Sumbeiywet's life in rural Kenya, detailing his upbringing in Narok County and the challenges he faced alongside his family. The autobiography emphasizes the resilience fostered within familial bonds and the profound influence of love and support in navigating life's adversities. Through poignant recollections, Sumbeiywet invites readers to reflect on the transformative power of perseverance and the enduring impact of familial connections in shaping one's journey towards self-discovery and fulfillment.

Exploring Resilience: Lessons from 'Echoes of the Hills'"

DEDICATION

I dedicate this autobiography to my beloved family, whose unwavering love and support have been the guiding light through the twists and turns of my journey. They stood by me through every triumph and trial, providing strength, encouragement, and a sense of belonging that anchored me in times of uncertainty.

To my parents, whose sacrifices and tireless efforts paved the way for my success, I owe a debt of gratitude that words cannot fully express. Your unwavering faith in me, coupled with your boundless love, has been the cornerstone upon which I've built my dreams.

To my siblings, who have been my companions and confidants throughout the years, I am endlessly grateful for your laughter, your wisdom, and your unwavering support. Together, we have weathered storms and celebrated victories, forging bonds that transcend time and distance.

To my extended family, whose love knows no bounds, I am humbled by your unwavering belief in me and your steadfast presence in my life. Your encouragement has been a source of strength and inspiration, spurring me on to pursue my dreams with passion and determination.

To my family, who saw me through the darkest of nights and cheered me on through the brightest of days, I dedicate this autobiography with love and gratitude. You are my rock, my foundation, and my greatest blessing, and I am forever grateful for the gift of your love.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

DEDICATION	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	2
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	3
FOREWORD	5
INTRODUCTION	6
CHAPTER 1	9
EARLY SCHOOL YEARS	9
CHAPTER TWO	10
MIDDLE SCHOOL CHALLENGES	10
CHAPTER THREE	12
CHALLENGES IN HIGH SCHOOL	12
CHAPTER FOUR.....	13
DETERMINATRION AND REDEMPTION	13
CHAPTER FIVE	16
Embracing Change: A Journey Through University Life	16
CHAPTER SIX	20
Gratitude for the Journey: Embracing Technology and Perseverance	20
CONCLUSION.....	22

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am humbled to extend my deepest gratitude to all who have played a part in its creation, not merely as spectators, but as cherished companions on this journey of remembrance and reflection. To my beloved family, whose unwavering love and support have been my steadfast companions through the highs and lows of life's tapestry, I offer my deepest appreciation. Your enduring presence, boundless encouragement, and unwavering belief in my dreams have been the guiding light illuminating my path.

To my dear friends and mentors, whose compassionate guidance and words of wisdom have gently nudged me forward in moments of doubt and uncertainty, I am profoundly grateful. Your presence in my life has been a source of strength and inspiration, reminding me of the boundless possibilities that lie within the human spirit.

To the countless souls whose paths have intertwined with mine, leaving an indelible imprint upon my heart, I extend my heartfelt thanks. Each encounter, however fleeting, has enriched my journey in ways I could never have imagined, reminding me of the inherent beauty of human connection.

To you, dear reader, who now holds this book in your hands, I extend my deepest gratitude for accompanying me on this voyage of self-discovery and introspection. It is through your eyes that these words come to life, and for that, I am profoundly grateful.

And finally, to the universe itself, whose mysterious ways have orchestrated the symphony of my life, I offer my humble thanks. In the grand tapestry of existence, every thread is woven with compassion and purpose, reminding us of the interconnectedness of all things.

In closing, I am reminded of the profound compassion that binds us together, transcending time and space. It is with a heart full of gratitude and humility that I express my deepest appreciation to each and every one of you, for without your presence, this journey would not have been possible. Together, we have walked the path of love, resilience, and hope, and for that, I am eternally grateful.

FOREWORD

In this autobiography, I aim to encapsulate the essence of my life's journey, honoring significant experiences while sharing valuable lessons learned. Through candid reflections, I hope to inspire readers with tales of resilience amidst adversity and celebrate the enduring bonds of family and friendship that have shaped my path. Ultimately, my goal is to leave behind a legacy of hope and perseverance, offering comfort and guidance to those navigating their own trials and triumphs in the labyrinth of life.

INTRODUCTION

EMBARKING ON THE JOURNEY OF JETHRO

CHERUIYOT SUMBEIYWET

My name is Jethro Cheruiyot Sumbeiywet, and with the gentle breeze of nostalgia, I invite you to accompany me on a voyage through the labyrinthine corridors of my life. Born into the embrace of rural Kenya, amidst the rolling hills and fertile valleys of Narok County, my journey began in the quaint village of Sogoo, a place steeped in the timeless rhythms of nature and the enduring bonds of community.

As the eighth child in a family of thirteen, I arrived into a world suffused with the laughter of siblings and the tender care of loving parents. Each day dawned with the promise of adventure, as I roamed the sun-kissed fields and meandered along the winding paths that crisscrossed our homestead.

Raised in the traditions of Christian faith, the AGC Noosagami church became the cornerstone of my spiritual upbringing. Here, amidst the hallowed halls of worship, I found solace in the serenity of prayer and the camaraderie of fellow believers. Sunday school lessons and scripture readings instilled within me a deep reverence for the teachings of Christ and a fervent desire to walk in His footsteps.

Memories of childhood are woven into the fabric of my being, each moment a precious gem in the tapestry of time. With my friend Aron, i traversed the landscapes of imagination, embarking on adventures that stretched beyond the boundaries of our rural surroundings. Together, we explored hidden caves, climbed towering trees, and reveled in the magic of innocent play.

Yet, even amidst the joys of childhood, the responsibilities of rural life beckoned with the rising sun. From the first light of dawn until the shadows lengthened into dusk, I labored alongside my family, tending to the needs of our livestock and nurturing the soil that sustained us. Each chore was a testament to the resilience and perseverance ingrained within the fabric of our rural existence.

In the gentle embrace of twilight, we would gather as a family beneath the sprawling branches of the acacia tree, our hearts united in the bonds of kinship and shared experience. Here, amidst the flickering glow of firelight and the aroma of home-cooked meals, we found solace and joy in each other's presence, weaving memories that would endure the test of time.

As the seasons turned and the years passed, I embarked on the journey of adolescence, navigating the turbulent waters of self-discovery and identity. With each passing day, I grappled with the complexities of growing up in a world filled with both beauty and adversity. Yet, through it all, I found strength in the enduring love of family and the unwavering support of friends.

In the crucible of adolescence, I discovered the power of education as a gateway to opportunity and self-realization. With determination and diligence, I pursued my studies with fervor, fueled

by the dream of a brighter future and the desire to uplift my family and community. Each lesson learned and each milestone achieved brought me closer to the realization of my aspirations.

And so, as I stand on the threshold of adulthood, I am filled with gratitude for the journey that has brought me to this moment. With each step forward, I carry with me the lessons of the past and the dreams of the future, guided by the light of hope and the wisdom of experience. And as I embark on this odyssey of self-discovery and growth, I invite you, dear reader, to join me on this transformative journey, as together we navigate the vast expanse of life's unfolding horizon.

CHAPTER 1

EARLY SCHOOL YEARS

Starting nursery school alongside my brothers marked the beginning of my educational journey. It was the year 2006, and at the tender age of 6, I embarked on this new chapter of my life. The transition was tough; accustomed to the comforting presence of my mother, I found myself navigating unfamiliar territory.

Despite the initial challenges, I knew I had to adapt and become resilient. From the outset, I was determined to excel. Known for my ambition to be the best, I immersed myself in learning and embraced

the joys of reading. However, the competitive nature of school life presented its own set of hurdles, pushing me to strive for excellence even more. One particular schoolmate, Hedwick, stood out amidst the sea of faces in our classroom. Together, we formed a formidable team, conquering tests and examinations with ease. Our synchronicity was evident in subjects like Social Studies, where we both achieved commendable scores, much to the delight of our teachers. Despite Hedwick's eventual departure to another school, our friendship and shared academic prowess left an indelible mark on my early educational journey.

CHAPTER TWO

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHALLENGES

Transitioning to Standard Seven brought new challenges and responsibilities. I found myself following in the footsteps of my older brothers, whose academic achievements had set high standards for me to emulate. Their untimely passing before my crucial Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exams left me with a sense of duty to honor their legacy through my own academic pursuits.

Despite the weight of familial expectations, I remained determined to forge my own path to success. Participating in inter-school academic competitions became a defining aspect of my middle school years. Competing against peers from schools like Noosagami Fountain Academy, Naisudori Primary, Kewet Primary, and Nkaroni Primary, I consistently ranked among the top performers in English and Social Studies. These victories bolstered my confidence, reinforcing my belief in my ability to excel despite the challenges I faced. As the year of my KCPE exams approached, I remained focused on my studies, determined to secure a bright future for myself. When the day of reckoning arrived, I poured my heart and soul into the examinations, leaving no stone unturned in my quest for academic excellence.

The culmination of years of hard work and perseverance came to fruition when I received my results, achieving a commendable score of 327 out of 500. This achievement was not only a testament to my academic prowess but also a tribute to the resilience and determination instilled in me by my family and mentors.

CHAPTER THREE

CHALLENGES IN HIGH SCHOOL

Entering Longisa Boys High School marked a significant shift in my educational journey.

Transitioning from the familiar surroundings of Narok County to Bomet County presented new challenges and adjustments. The initial period was particularly difficult as I struggled to adapt to the new environment and its rules. For nearly two years, I grappled with the daunting task of

acclimating to my surroundings while witnessing a decline in my academic performance.

Concerned voices of family and friends urged me to reconsider my approach, highlighting the importance of balancing education with personal challenges.

Despite the hardships, having my primary school friend, Hedwick, alongside, provided some solace amidst the unfamiliarity. However, the rigors of academic life and the stark realities of my circumstances weighed heavily on me, prompting a period of introspection and self-reflection.

As the days passed, I found myself questioning my abilities and doubting whether I had what it took to succeed in this new environment. It was a time of uncertainty and self-doubt, where every setback seemed to chip away at my confidence and resolve. Yet, amidst the darkness, a glimmer of hope began to emerge as I realized that adversity was not a roadblock but an opportunity for growth and resilience.

CHAPTER FOUR

DETERMINATION AND REDEMPTION

It was during this period of soul-searching that I realized the need to redefine my path and reclaim control of my academic destiny. Disheartened by the lack of belief from those around me, I resolved to channel my energy into serious academic pursuit. A pivotal moment came with the guidance of Madam Lilian, our Kiswahili teacher, whose unwavering support and mentorship reignited my passion for learning. Immersing myself in the study of Kiswahili became a source of joy and inspiration, fueling my determination to excel.

With relentless dedication, I devoured Kiswahili literature, devouring books like "Chozi la Heri," "Tumbo Lisiloshiba," and "Kigogo" with fervor. Each page turned was a step closer to self-discovery and academic redemption. As I delved deeper into the world of Kiswahili literature, I found solace in its words and inspiration in its stories. With each passing day, my confidence grew, and my academic performance began to improve. Encouraged by small victories and fueled by a newfound sense of purpose, I embraced the challenges ahead with unwavering determination.

Secondary Education (KCSE) exams would only shape who I would become. Despite being overwhelmed by challenges, I remained steadfast in my belief that I would succeed. My love for Kiswahili and the guidance of Madam Lilian, my mentor and Kiswahili teacher, were invaluable during this time. Her insightful advice inspired me to embark on an intensive reading journey. I vividly remember pouring over English and Kiswahili textbooks, revisiting them more than ten times in preparation for the final exams.

When the exam results were announced, I was elated to discover that I had topped the class. This achievement reaffirmed my belief in my abilities and assured me that success was within reach. Eventually, I earned a B plain overall, with B- and above in all subjects. It was a gratifying moment, knowing that my hard work had paid off.

However, amidst my academic triumphs, my family faced eviction from the Mau Forest in Narok South Constituency, Sogoo location. The prospect of losing our home weighed heavily on my mind, but I refused to let it deter me from my studies. I understood that education held the key to rebuilding our lives. Returning home after the exams, I was confronted with the harsh reality that our land was no longer ours. The abundant water supply we once enjoyed had become scarce. It pained me to witness the government strip away the land where I had spent nineteen years of my life, erasing cherished memories and experiences.

Despite the adversities, I refused to be defined by them. I vividly recall the confrontations with the police guarding the boundaries of our land, determined to protect what little we had left. From December 2019 to March, life was a relentless rollercoaster of hardships. Yet, it was during this tumultuous period that my vision for the future crystallized. I resolved never to settle for the same life again; I was determined to change the trajectory of my family's future.

As I eagerly awaited enrollment into university, I reflected on my childhood aspirations. Although I had once dreamed of becoming an information technologist without fully understanding the profession, my passion had evolved over time. In high school, I applied for

three courses in clinical medicine, driven by a newfound passion. However, a lingering desire to pursue information technology persisted. In July, I received the life-changing news that I had been accepted to join Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.

This acceptance marked a significant milestone in my journey. Despite the obstacles I faced, I remained resolute in my pursuit of education, fueled by the desire to carve out a better future for myself and my family

CHAPTER FIVE

Embracing Change: A Journey Through University Life

Upon receiving acceptance into the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology program, I eagerly joined Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) during the September intake. The anticipation of embarking on this new academic journey was palpable, although the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic had delayed our enrollment from July to September. Located in Nyeri, DeKUT offered a fresh start, and I approached this next chapter with excitement.

Transitioning from the structured environment of high school, where we were confined to the campus until holidays, to the newfound freedom of university life was a stark contrast. The realization dawned on me that adapting quickly to this new environment was essential. However, the rapid pace of change caught me off guard, and I found myself struggling to keep up. The complexity of the programming languages we were required to learn seemed daunting, threatening to overwhelm me. Yet, amidst the uncertainty, forging friendships became a lifeline.

As I navigated through the challenges, the passion I once held for becoming someone significant began to wane. However, I refused to let adversity diminish my resolve. Maintaining communication with Hedwick, my close friend from high school who was also set to join DeKUT, provided a sense of comfort. Remembering the hardships, I had endured, I was determined to ensure he did not face similar struggles. Thus, I made every effort to ease his transition into university life.

Relocating to Kahawa, near the school, marked a pivotal moment in my journey. Living closer to campus allowed me to focus on my studies while retaining a sense of independence. It was during my second year, second semester, that I experienced a transformative shift. The passion within me reignited, driving me to prioritize self-improvement and skill development. This newfound zeal coincided with the formation of what we fondly refer to as the "Great Minds" group.

The Great Minds group, comprising Vincent, Frank, Mark, and myself, served as a haven for personal growth and camaraderie. Initially established as an informal forum during our third year, it blossomed into a close-knit family. Within this circle, we shared experiences, exchanged ideas, and supported each other's endeavors. It was a space where we collectively embraced opportunities for growth and development.

Our activities ranged from exhilarating bike rides to challenging hikes and engaging in coding competitions. We seized every opportunity to enhance our skills and expand our horizons. Each member contributed to the group's dynamic, fostering an environment of mutual encouragement and support. As the semester progressed, our bonds strengthened, and our shared aspirations fueled our collective ambition.

By the time I reached the final semester of my fourth year, I found myself fully immersed in my project work. The journey had been arduous, marked by moments of doubt and uncertainty. Yet, with the support of the Great Minds group and my unwavering determination, I persevered. The camaraderie and shared vision of self-improvement propelled me forward, reminding me of the importance of surrounding oneself with like-minded individuals.

As I reflect on my university experience, I am grateful for the challenges that shaped me and the friendships that sustained me. Each obstacle served as an opportunity for growth, strengthening my resolve and shaping my character. As I prepare to embark on the next phase of my journey, I carry with me the invaluable lessons learned and the enduring bonds forged. The future is filled with possibilities, and I am eager to embrace whatever opportunities come my way.

In conclusion, my time at DeKUT has been transformative, filled with both trials and triumphs. Through perseverance and the support of my peers, I have navigated the complexities of university life and emerged stronger and more resilient. The Great Minds group, in particular, has been instrumental in my personal and academic development, fostering an environment of collaboration and continuous improvement. As I prepare to graduate, I am filled with gratitude for the experiences that have shaped me and the friendships that have enriched my journey. Armed with newfound skills and a steadfast determination, I look forward to embarking on the next chapter of my life with optimism and enthusiasm.

CHAPTER SIX

Gratitude for the Journey: Embracing Technology and Perseverance

As I reflect on the journey I've undertaken in life, I am overwhelmed with gratitude towards God. There were moments in the past when I felt like I was nothing, struggling through

challenges without a clear path ahead. However, through perseverance and faith, I discovered my passion for technology. I am thankful for the opportunity to pursue education, especially in a field as dynamic and impactful as information technology.

My journey in technology has been a transformative one. From initially not understanding what information technology entailed to now delving deep into programming languages, data science, machine learning, IoT, and cybersecurity, I have come a long way. It was during my third year that my passion for programming truly blossomed. Learning about Android development was a particularly enriching experience. Today, I can confidently create mobile apps, build models, and deploy them within applications or onto the cloud. This newfound skill set has not only changed my life but has also opened my eyes to the immense potential of technology to revolutionize businesses, organizations, and society as a whole.

Technology has the power to transform industries and reshape the way we perceive and interact with the world around us. It offers endless opportunities for exploration and innovation. Despite facing hardships along the way, I am grateful that I persevered. Those challenging moments taught me resilience and determination, molding me into the person I am today. I refuse to be defined by my past struggles; instead, I am determined to make a positive impact on society and contribute meaningfully to my country as a citizen.

As I continue on this journey, I pray for God's guidance and wisdom. Each step forward is filled with the hope of making a difference and leaving a lasting legacy. My aspirations extend beyond personal success; I strive to be a beacon of hope and inspiration for others facing similar challenges. By embracing technology and leveraging its potential for good, I believe we can create a brighter future for generations to come.

Looking back on how far I've come, I am reminded of the countless hours spent studying, the late nights debugging code, and the moments of self-doubt overcome by sheer determination. Each obstacle was a stepping stone towards personal and professional growth. I am thankful for the support of friends, family, mentors, and colleagues who have stood by me through thick and thin. Their encouragement and guidance have been invaluable in shaping my journey.

In the fast-paced world of technology, learning never stops. I am committed to continuously honing my skills, exploring new technologies, and staying abreast of industry trends. The journey ahead may be filled with uncertainties, but I face it with unwavering faith and optimism. With God's grace and determination, I am confident that I will continue to make strides towards my goals and make a positive impact on the world around me.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I am immensely grateful for the opportunities that have come my way and for the lessons learned along the journey. Through perseverance, faith, and a passion for technology, I have overcome obstacles and achieved milestones that once seemed out of reach. As I look towards the future, I am filled with excitement for what lies ahead. With God as my guide and technology as my tool, I am ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities that come my way. I am determined to leave a legacy of innovation, compassion, and positive change, making a meaningful difference in the world