

**THE  
INCREDIBLE  
ALPHA**

**S. O. OCHI**

© **S. OCHI**, 2021

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the written permission of the Publisher, except where permitted by law.

**ISBN-13: 9798513554714**

Published and Printed by **Elong'o Publishers**

**P.O Box 944, Narok Kenya**

**Email: [info@elongopublishers.co.ke](mailto:info@elongopublishers.co.ke)**

**Phone: +254742433826**

**Website: <https://elongopublishers.co.ke>**

## **PREFACE**

This book is dedicated to my beloved daughter Sheba Njuguna of Texas. I sincerely appreciate CPA Daniel Ogato for typing the manuscript of this book. Finally I wish to thank my entire family for giving me humble time which enabled me to finish writing this book.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PREFACE</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1</b> .....	<b>7</b>
ALPHA’S EARLYLIFE .....	7
ALPHA JOINS KILO HIGH SCHOOL.....	11
ALPHA PREPARES FOR OVERSEAS STUDIES.....	15
<b>CHAPTER 2</b> .....	<b>17</b>
ALPHA’S OVERSEAS TRIP .....	17
STOP PRESS:.....	23
<b>CHAPTER 3</b> .....	<b>29</b>
ALPHA IS RESCUED.....	29
ALPHA IN A NEW ISLAND.....	30
ALPHA ARRIVES IN KINDA.....	35
AT USHAGO.....	35
INSURANCE AGENTS VISIT ALPHA .....	43
<b>CHAPTER 4</b> .....	<b>47</b>
ALPHA WEDS ROSEMARY .....	47
THE NEXT CHALLENGE .....	50
<b>CHAPTER 5</b> .....	<b>64</b>
ALPHA JOINS POLITICS.....	64
<b>CHAPTER 6</b> .....	<b>80</b>
MERCHANTS OF POWER.....	80

<b>CHAPTER 7</b> .....	<b>90</b>
REFORMIST DR. ALPHA .....	88
NEW FACES – NEW NATION .....	90
<b>CHAPTER 8</b> .....	<b>98</b>
ALPHA AT PAINS.....	98
THE PAPARRAZI AND ROSEMARY .....	102
ALPHA INITIATES MORE REFORMS .....	104
NYIKAN ECONOMY.....	105
CHAPTER 9 .....	107
ARMY VERSES ARMY .....	107
TEN DAYS OF WAR. ....	109

# **INCREDIBLE ALPHA**

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **ALPHA'S EARLYLIFE**

Kerubo and Anyona were happily married in a traditional wedding which meant the bride and the bridegroom had to crown their marriage vows with wrestling matches. This was done in the evening as a sacred rule. The wrestlers from Kerubo's home were very strong. But winning the wrestling match was not a walk in the park. This they knew too well. After two hours of wrestlemania, both parties were declared winners and it was time for a handshake. Women ululated and children clapped to appreciate the wrestlers. Kerubo was fitted with ankle bracelets to symbolize her marital status that she was no longer single and therefore a prey for any predator. On the third month, Kerubo became pregnant and this became obvious when Anyona the husband delivered a goat to her home. The message was received with gusto and alacrity. For the next three months, Kerubo suffered from exlampsia but eventually gave birth to a healthy boy and named him Alpha. Alpha was born in a traditional African hovel made of ebony rafters and thatched with grass; A symbol of abject poverty. Indeed Anyona the husband to Kerubo was a poor man. He had three goats that he tethered in his compound; one dog and four chickens. Inside his house, things were not any better. But atleast he had a stool and a bed made of

bamboo wood. Whenever the rainy season approached, he had to throw a lot of leaves to the top of his house to save himself from torments of torrential rain. Sometimes this method worked and at times it failed to secure him.



---

### ***ANYONA' S FIRST HOMESTEAD***

After a year or so, calamity struck the young family. Alpha grew teeth but on the upper jaw first against traditional expectation. The young couple became worried. They consulted elders who in turn consulted oracles. Anyona's Parents were the first to take the first step for a remedy.

They trekked to the home of a soothsayer who after spreading his paraphernalia on a mat dotted with cowrie shells that enabled him to talk to the ancestral mediums who in turn, came up with an answer that left the family dumbfounded! Alpha was no ordinary child. His left hand was special! It was shorter!



### ***THE SOOTHSAYER IN A KAYA***

According to the mediums, Alpha would live a normal and extra-ordinary life as he was the chosen and protected son of the traditional gods. The young couple decided to keep this secret to themselves. They were partly scared but largely happy about it. They wished it comes true. To protect Alpha from cheap and common gossip from gossips, Anyona Sent Alpha and his mother to Kerubo's Maternal home where he was kept with a very high degree of exclusivity from visitors and strangers. At the Eleventh month, Alpha's lower teeth also appeared and this was most welcome by Kerubo with hilarity. She went back to her marital home. Anyona the husband gave them a hearty and warm welcome.

As a child Alpha was extra-ordinarily active. He loved running in circles in their homestead alone while laughing. He

loved being served food ( Ugali) with sour milk or meat. He also loved bananas and avocados. He literally enjoyed Kangaroo – like care from his parents. At the age of six Alpha was enrolled for formal education at Karo primary school. At first, he was reluctant to go to schooling but with time, he loved going to school like a preacher going to church.

At Karo Primary School, Alpha’s left hand became conspicuously noticeable. He was by destiny left-handed too. His IQ was above average. He loved everybody and everybody loved him. The arithmetic teacher was particularly fond of him with praises for his ability in counting 1-100 with perfection. Soon all teachers were full of praises for Alpha. Taking Position 1 in every subject and position One in every term became a foregone ritual. He did his Std One with rare dexterity. His handwriting was pretty good.

Whenever there was homework to be written on the blackboard Alpha was given that opportunity. Something that he actualized with civility.

Nicknames were common among pupils in schools in those days. Alpha’s name was eclipsed by his nickname ‘Computer’. If you wanted his whereabouts, it was much easier and faster to look for “ Computer” than looking for Alpha Anyona. Class 8 was an examinable class at the national level. Three core subjects were tested- English, Maths and General Paper. Alpha passed the National Examination with three plain As and joined Kilo Secondary School. A very prestigious school of the time. Alpha’s

fame spread like bush fire in the surrounding vicinity. A darling to not only his parents but to Karo Alumni fraternity and in all honesty to those all who knew him.



---

***ALPHA TO KARO PRIMARY SCHOOL***

## **ALPHA JOINS KILO HIGH SCHOOL**

The entire village where Alpha grew was very proud of his colorful performance but his parents Anyona and Kerubo were happy for him and unhappy at the same time in the context that they were literally unable to raise enough school fees for his education. Word reached a Parish Father, a white missionary who came to their rescue. He offered to meet all the needs required of Alpha to join Kilo Secondary School. This gesture of love brightened their faces. Finally Alpha joined Kilo Secondary School where he continued to shine even brighter. His short-left hand continued to put him on the spotlight from other fellow students. Some laughed, others marveled but life continued as usual. At the end of the first term, Alpha took position 1 out of 50

students. The school class teacher overwhelmed him with praises. He asked other students to reckon that disability is not inability. The Headteacher recognized his exceptional and exemplary performance and elevated him to the position of school prefect. Alpha became a darling to all subject teachers and to his classmates. He joined Table Tennis and Squash Club where he mastered playing skills and went on to be a national star. At Kilo Secondary School Alpha got his second nickname- EAGLE. One that could not be reached easily by other birds. If you wanted to meet Alpha, you had better start looking for ‘EAGLE’ first and Alpha Anyona Second!

At the end of the fourth year, Alpha alias ‘EAGLE’ passed his final examination with flying colours and was to join a university course in **human pathology** and medicine. He attained this fit after grapping position one per term for four straight years winning admiration and accolades from sound and sundry.

## ALPHA AT UNIVERSITY

At University, Alpha’s nickname followed him like a shadow eclipsing his real name except in the registrar’s office and examination room. In all social hours, he was simply ‘EAGLE’. EAGLE then as he was known created a good rapport with his lecturers in his department and among his peer groups. He remained devoted almost married to studying most of his time. Within no time, he became an outstanding student in human

pathology, anatomy and applicable medicine. Girls loved him and some even hunted him while others treated his aloofness as a cretin of some sort.

One day one girl by the name of Rosemary approached him with rare audacity and proposed friendship to him but Alpha had other ideas. He was simply not interested in friendship with a female student. He politely told Rosemary that he admired her and even liked her but had chosen celibacy as a way of life since he was HIV-positive status. This disclosure though feigned hit Rosemary like a thunderbolt. She was caught and swallowed by immeasurable fear. Fear that tamed her emotional ambitions and silent strategies to win over Alpha alias 'EAGLE' for herself. In the subsequent days, Rosemary disappeared to the oblivion to the satisfaction of Alpha alias 'EAGLE'. Within a very short span of time, rumour mills in female and male hostels were rife that 'EAGLE' was positive. Alpha knew the genesis of this rumours but would do little to stop the fire. Damage had already been done. Every girl, ugly or beautiful kept a safe social distance from Alpha's perceived HIV positive. Stigmatization suddenly cropped up against him. It was an abrupt taboo to sit next to him. Male colleagues were not any better. If anything, they were worse. Life had to go on. He took solace in his personal and secretive knowledge that he was not HIV positive after all as they thought. He laughed eternally and even enjoyed the unfolding drama that was no drama.

One evening while he was having prayers in an oratory, a male student approached him and pleaded with him to help him

kill a certain lady who had misbehaved with him. Alpha was taken a back at the request. “Mazee, just help me to get rid of that idiot Rosa.” “How and Why?” Eagle asked the guy. Just use your HIV weapon! I will give you good money. ”Deal?” the guy asked Alpha. “No deal; just go away” Alpha slammed the door. The guy left the room crest fallen. To end the stigmatization that had caught fire against him, Alpha opted for an open HIV test which was done and Alpha was found to be HIV negative and the result was put on the student noticeboard and the same was captured in a respected medical journal. He also went public about his condition and confided to some of his comrades that he had lied to Rosemary to keep her away from nagging him. Many students were left agape at the new developments. Some saw wisdom in his actions while others saw foolishness. Whichever way this medical debate came dramatically to an happy ending. University life can be funny.

At the end of seven years, Alpha graduated with first-class (Hons) in holistic human pathology and applied medicine and won a scholarship for further studies in an oriental overseas country. The scholarship was to take effect immediately. He was given one month to prepare and put his papers in order. In a week’s time, Alpha had cleared with the university administration and the academic registrar printed and certified his grade score subject to formal graduation later. Alpha ecstatically received his certified degree grades. He was Twenty-Four years old. While in his internship, his conduct was exemplary. Patients loved him. Everybody loved Alpha.

## **ALPHA PREPARES FOR OVERSEAS STUDIES**

Alpha took a train to ‘ushago’- the land of his ancestral upbringing that took him one day, 12 hours to be precise. His father Anyona and Mother Kerubo received him warmly. They slaughtered chicken for him and after evening prayers which was a routine in Anyona’s home, Alpha bade his parents good night and withdrew to his room for a night rest. Heavy sleep took toll of him and woke up unusually late at 8 A.m and found breakfast ready. It was a rare treat; tea accompanied by sweet Bananas and sweet potatoes that characterized traditional menu in most families of Ushago village. Before Alpha could embark on any schedule that morning of his first day at Ushago, Father Dennis Ocampo came with a carton of goodies to their home. What a pleasant surprise! Anyona ushered Father Ocampo in, by pointing his welcome gesture to the sitting room. “Shalom everybody” Father Ocampo greeted his treasured folks. “Shalom Father”, Anyona and Kerubo answered in unison. At the end of greetings exchanges, Alpha literally jumped to Father Ocampo’s arms and shoulders with tears of joy rolling down his cheeks. “Calm down my son and take your sit” Father ocampo admonished Alpha. Alpha obliged. Kerubo dashed to the kitchen to prepare coffee but Father Ocampo cut the move short by excusing himself that he was in hurry, “ I only came here to have a word with Alpha and bless his journey to the far East”, Father Ocampo excused himself. He won.

Father Ocampo advised Alpha to work even harder while in the far East and upon completion of his studies, the church could

only be too glad to have him as the head of the medical services across the country. Alpha promised to live to Father Ocampo's expectations.

The two hugged one another and Father Ocampo left to his Landrover, ignited the engine while waving goodbye to the Anyonas with a broad smile on his face. Father Ocampo was truthfully a man of God. Full of passion for his missionary crusade and love for mankind especially the vulnerable in society.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **ALPHA’S OVERSEAS TRIP**

No sooner had father Ocampo left than Alpha`s mother Kerubo moved closer to his son Alpha for a chat. Outwardly she wore a demeanour face of a strong woman but inside her stomach, there were flying butterflies. She was not hurly-burly with Alpha`s singlehood. “My son”, Kerubo started the conversation. God has been good to us. Your father and I are aging. Yesterday evening, you came from university carrying a suitcase without someone to help you carry your suitcase”, Kerubo faced his son Alpha without winking. “Mum, leave that subject matter to me. God willing the problem you are alluding to will one day be a thing of the past. I will address your concerns after completing my studies in the far East. “Alpha hit the ball back to his mother. The following morning, Alpha left to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to secure official travelling documents including a Visa which were duly stamped and given to him for personal custody. Alpha spent the next few weeks in his home receiving visitors of file and rank from far and wide. Among the visitors who came to visiting came from an American Company that specialized in insurance matters. The agents of the company convinced him to take a policy that could protect him in any event of accident, loss of property and accrued liability. Monthly subscription was to be done through money-gram to a specific pay bill. A deal was sealed and signed. Each party was satisfied and hoped for the

better. The premium was a cool 100M dollars as accrued benefits for a monthly subscription of 10 dollars per month.

On the eve of his departure for the overseas trip, his mother Kerubo served him with lunch of Ugali accompanied with roasted fish. It was a delicious meal. A meal to be remembered. Eventually the time to take the train ride clocked. Alpha bade his parents goodbye and promised to be back in two years. Kerubo took them through a ritual prayer. Jokingly, Alpha asked his mother to look for him a good suitor while he was away. “I will accomplish that as early as tomorrow”, his mother promised. The train left.



---

### *ALPHA'S FLIGHT TO THE FAR EAST*

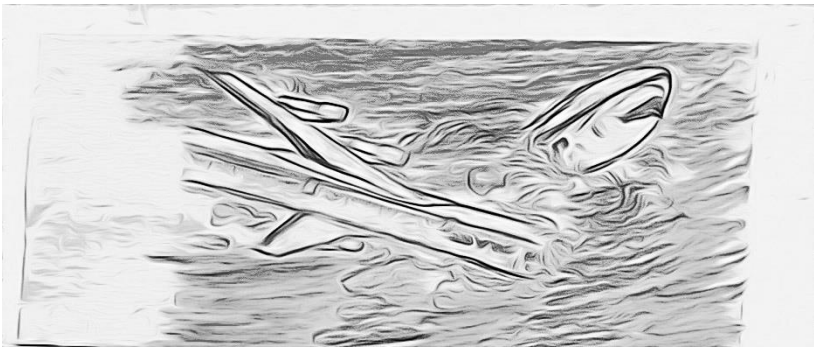
The flight from Kinda to Indonesia Via Dubai was to take off at 9 A.m. Alpha had never been in any flight before. When the plane finally took off, Alpha heard some shaking which lasted for

atleast two minutes before disappearing into tiny air like bubbles. The Safari had started in earnest. He was booked in the economy class. Everybody was busy in one way or the other with their ‘selfies ‘or had their eyes fixed on fixed video boxes watching screen films. He picked one featuring awesome ogres but dismissed it for another choice. Finally, he settled on a film featuring an abandoned child by the name “cruizero.” A short script with a powerful message on what challenges abandoned children in their formative and teenage stages undergo. He liked it a lot. It kept him busy watching the young girl moving from abandonment to acceptability; from fostered to real biological parenthood. A real emotional finale. From grass to grace. Suddenly as the plane was approaching its final destination in some international airport in Indonesia, an hoddity of a man armed with a smoking gun menacingly signaled to every passenger to lie ‘low and flat’. The cabin crew had been hijacked and were taking orders from the terrorists. The pilot was directed to change course. All passengers were at the mercy of the terrorists. Alpha prayed crying; some passengers fainted. Everybody became prayerful. Some shouted Jehovah; others hysterically prayed in tongues but the terrorists could not hear none of it. They eventually ordered everybody to be silent using incoherent English, Hindu and some orientalist languages. The plane flew for atleast four hours when the pilot in the cabin finally called “Alpha, Alpha, Alpha, I’m running out of gas!

Then suddenly the plane took a dangerous vertical angle at an alarming speed. Shouts of Jesus! Jehovah! My Lord! Allah!

Could be heard. All this time, the terrorists seemed to enjoy the hurly-bury of the shouting and crying passengers.

Then a big explosion into a mass of water; presumably the waters of Indian or Pacific Ocean. Alpha found himself chained to his sit and floating. He floated for atleast two days when waves tossed him to some 'land' which was an Island with a steep promontory rugged terrain and thick forest. He thanked God for being alive.



---

### ***CRASHED PLANE***

He was hungry and angry but atleast alive and hopeful. He tried to farthom his exact geographical locality in vain. He gave up. All he could see was a mass of water surrounding the Island. Probably a lagoon Island.

He spent his first days looking for any arrivals of human beings but there was none. His new home was foggy, dark, and quiet but windy. As time and days passed on, he discovered that the Island was inhabited by insects and insects only but only

termites made sense and mattered to him. They were his first source of food.

The small Island was very unique. It had many rivulets, many anthills, tall trees whose canopy was like a thick and huge blanket covering the Island. Discovering the Island became his major pre-occupation. There were no signs of snow or snowflakes. It was dark but warm and therefore hospitable.

He could not tell whether it was daytime or night. He longed for company but he could not get any. He even remembered Rosemary but the people who could not be erased from his heart were his parents and Father Ocampo.

He also recalled the sunny tropical climate of his home country, Nyika and in Particular Kinda the city in the sun. The western flank of the Island had fruits in abundance like gooseberries, guavas and avocado fruits hanging from avocado trees. Plenty of these fruits had fallen to the ground and remained untouched except for the red ants that formed clusters on the rotting avocados. He picked as many gooseberries, guavas and avocados as he could and returned to the eastern flank of the Island. While returning to the eastern shores of the Island, Alpha came face to face with a huge tree with a natural cave below it. ‘Unless there are snakes around, this cave is an ideal ‘house’ ’, he whispered to himself. He was right. He removed the rotting leaves and discovered that the cave could accommodate at least 3 standard beds back at home. He knelt down and thanked God for this discovery, Alpha kept exploring the Island but it was not

easily accessible. It had many thorny trees. One interesting thing about the Island was that it was warm all the time. He longed to see any birds especially the horn bill but there was none. How about the eagles? There was none! Snake? There was none!

Alpha moved from his first habitat of anthills to the cave and was very happy. The cave was a superb home. No rain drops or extreme coldness. To be honest coldness did not exist on the Island.

He wondered what the world thought of him. The fact that he had not seen Cobra-helicopters hovering on the Island persuaded him to conclude that Kinda and the world had given up on any search for survivors from the accident. He became zealously prayerful.

Jehovah God save me

God of Abraham save me

God of Sakawa save me

Jehovah God of Chege wa Mbitiru save me

God of Lwanda Magere save me

Mum pray for me

Dad pray for me

Father Ocampo pray for me.

He repeated this prayer every day. He had not shaved or cut his hair but took a bath every day. To the south of the cave the

trees were accessible and Alpha converted the branches of the trees as his gym. Every day he could climb from branch to branch like monkeys do and only left the gymnasium when pangs of hunger began to bite harder. If he was not in the Anthills looking for termites, then he was on the western shores looking for fruits on daily basis. But the gym was his main occupation.

### **STOP PRESS:**

Back at home, things were nasty and ugly. This is National T.V: Breaking news reaching our desk is that a passenger aeroplane that left Kinda this morning to Indonesia Via Dubai has disappeared from the radar with 110 passengers on board. We regret to report that one Nyikan by name Alpha Anyona was a passenger on this flight! We shall keep you updated of any other development in our subsequent news briefs. Family members are advised to be calm.

TERROR IN THE AIR- one newspaper screamed: “It is feared that the passenger aircraft hijacked with all 110 passengers on board, are dead. Frantic efforts are being made to recover the remains of the aircraft and the black box.”

This news hit Alpha’s village like an eruptive volcano. Alpha’s father Anyona could not believe what was being aired over the radio but remained strong in faith that God always had better plans. People thronged to Anyona’s home in their thousands. The mourners elbowed and shoved one another in the struggle to reach and console Anyona and Kerubo. Many fainted.

Kerubo was the first to faint. They screamed; ran a mock; others lay prostrate; some cursed the terrorists and others rolled on grass like rolling stones. Pupils from Alpha's former Primary school cried tearfully. His peer comrades from university rented their shirts. Students from Kilo Secondary school wept loudly holding their heads. All activities in the village came to a standstill. An ambulance was called to take those who had fainted to hospital. There was commotion, confusion and anxiety everywhere. At the end of the day, calm prevailed. A government spokesperson disclosed that the passenger aircraft was a victim of terrorism and not bad weather. Nothing and nobody from the aircraft had been salvaged.

“The government stands with this family during this sad moment of grief” the government spokesperson concluded in his brief. At the end of his speech the mourners sobbed and others wailed and cried... “Oh Alpha, Oh Alpha my dear; oh comrade Alpha; Computer! Eagle R.I.P “Could be heard from some of the mourners.

After a week, Kerubo was discharged from hospital. A council of elders was formed to perform customary rites. It was agreed that in the absence of Alpha's body, a young bull was to be buried in honour of Alpha who was presumed to have died. The decision of the council of elders was not challengeable or even debatable.

Father Ocampo was assigned a special day to pray for the family. Once again the crowd was moved to tears by Father

Ocampo's testimonies, hopes and aspirations about Alpha. He told the crowd that because of Alpha's exemplary conduct amidst abject poverty, the church had a moral obligation to intervene and it did so on humanitarian grounds. He concluded his sermon with a terse message: "the church had lost a young man with an outstanding character whose role as a role model could be difficult to replace." He cautioned the gathering never to lose faith in God; For God is God. The gathering beamed with confidence and hope with words of Father Ocampo. The following day, a spotless bull was buried alive according to the customary law. Mourning was not allowed. Relatives and friends just came to grace the occasion and leave at their pleasure. They came in their thousands and left food for the deceased family.

Guitarists swung into and composed songs in praise of Alpha and condemned terrorists as in-human and cowards. Meantime Anyona and Kerubo were totally confused. They agreed to consult a soothsayer to find out why this calamity struck them and yet they had been assured of the gods' intervention in Alpha's life.

Consulting a soothsayer was a priority but they were confronted with a psychological problem. How could other believers in Christ see them especially Father Ocampo?

They agreed to leave at cockcrow and return late at night. In this way, they could defeat any curious eye on them.

The path to the soothsayer's homestead was rough and zig-zag that ran through a thicket of Savanna grassland. In rain

season, it was almost impassable but as it is said where there is will there is way. They were psychologically hurt and going to the land of mediums was a must by crook or nook. Even before, it was cockcrow, the journey had started. Anyona armed himself with a stick and a machete just in case of any attack. Kerubo on the other hand armed herself with a ‘mulika mwizi’, hoe and both were in Safari boots and dressed in jeans. They left stealthily; arrived at the soothsayer’s homestead stealthily and returned home stealthily.

The door to their guest room was made of buffalo skin fastened to ebony rafters.

It was at dawn when they arrived in the land of mediums and the interpreter of the mediums was still a sleep.

“Anybody in?” Anyona called “Anybody in?” he called for the second time, when somebody in the hovel decided to cough as a way of declaring his presence.

A skeleton of a human being came out to meet them dressed in a sisal sack and to the waist only. What brings you here at this early hour?

Kerubo intervened and asked him to consult the gods for an answer! The man looked truly frail, solitary and exclusive. Two house flies on his back could almost bring him down unless he was on steroids!

At this point in time, the pathetically looking man of the gods spread his tools of trade that were all kinds of paraphernalia on a

mat through which he could be able to communicate to the ancestral gods through an untouchable medium. After making all manner of utterances that were largely like somebody talking in tongues, the soothsayer looked at Anyona and Kerubo and told them that the gods were ‘happy with them and could bless them soon but sequentially’; Anyona and Kerubo left ‘Kaya’ - the traditional oratory where soothsayers talked to mediums in a language that was archaic as aramaic.

Indeed, God is God. On the second month after this terrible accident Kerubo conceived at the age of thirty-seven years after lacking a Second child for twenty years. They married when they were only seventeen years. Kerubo was very happy. Men and women smiled whenever she went to the market to buy something or to the river to fetch water with a full-blown pregnancy. Both hoped and wanted the child to be a male but God had other plans for them. After nine months Kerubo gave birth to a bouncing baby girl. Anyona was not happy but Kerubo was satisfied. A child is a child. Whether a male or a female. At the age of 20 years, Phires had grown into a beautiful and God-fearing girl. She was programmed to join university that year in ‘Double Mathematics’. Phires loved maths and was always a head Seven Kms of her classmates in solving mathematical equations. The family had forgotten Alpha completely except in their memories.

At around this time of atleast fifteen years, Alpha had made some progress in science in the strange Island. He had succeeded in making fire using woods through the process of friction. He was a very happy man. Heavily built and hairy. He could now

roast termites and grasshoppers. His cave, gymnasium and now fire were his best gifts and discoveries.

The discovery of fire came with new challenges; gathering enough firewood! Alpha found himself busy looking for firewood from dry branches and any branch he could cut using stones. He stored fresh sticks around his fire furnace. His mattress was of dry and fresh leaves which had to be used as charcoal with the passing of time. He ended up with a triangular routine occupation. To the west he went to collect fruits; to the south to built his muscles in his gym and back to his chamber to warm or to roast termites.

## CHAPTER 3

### ALPHA IS RESCUED

One day he left fire burning and slept heavily. The strange Island was always windy but, on this occasion, the winds on that day were unusually strong. They blew some of the fire glow to the bush shrubs near the mouth of the cave and the forest caught fire. The fire spread very fast to the western side; the source of his fruits: guavas, avocado and gooseberries. The fire became fierce and left a bellow of smoke piercing the air into the sky. Alpha could not believe what he saw the following day. A group of human beings in canoes were approaching the bare Island! For many years, he had never seen a human being and now he was seeing real human beings. He was excited but at the same time had his fears. Supposing they were cannibals? For a while, he hid from them in his cave. Still, some of the trees were burning but to the western shore. Finally Alpha made a decision to call for help. “Help! help! help! Alpha shouted. To his sorrow and surprise, the men withdrew only to come back after two days. This time armed with crude weapons.

They approached Alpha with great care. Alpha knelt down; raised his hands, begging for help. The men looked at Alpha curiously and finally accepted to take him.

## ALPHA IN A NEW ISLAND

After two days, they decked on another Island whose inhabitants apparently had never been exposed to modern life. Their main food was roasted fish. They lived in caves in which there was smoldering fire all the time. In the vicinity one could see other inhabited Islands that were not far from one another.



---

### ***ALPHA'S CAVE HOMESTEAD***

One Island was not habited and was at the Centre. This was their cultural centre, they spoke a similar language and loved wrestling.

His life in the new Island was much better. Al least he had human company that gave him hope against hope. Hope that he could eventually through the grace of God make it back to Nyika

and counter hope that the hope in him could glow as hope and die a pipe dream.

The islanders were friendly and sociable people. He learned a few words for food, water and greetings but his main channel of communication was sign language. His celibate lifestyle helped him a lot in suppressing any human emotions for both male and female were almost naked all the time. He found himself a Vasco Da Gama and even a Dr. Livingstone in traversing from one island to the other making one or two discoveries. The islands were in close proximity. Seven in total. To the west, a distant Island could be seen and was treated as a revered Island. It had an active seismic fissure but without rumbling tremors. The Island served them well as a source of fire from its Lava but above all, it was the home of their goddess of fire. The goddess of fire had over years taken the most beautiful girls as human sacrifice in a cycle of five years. Each victim was psyched that she could be joining celestial angels upon being delivered to the roaring god of fire that had an eruptive cycle of five years. The victims were made to believe that the fire of the goddess was harmless and was some kind of Chariot to take the chosen one to a prince of peace ripe for marriage. This narrative was believed to the letter and whenever the occasion came up, the chosen girl graciously welcomed the opportunity. Poor girl!

To the East, was yet another distant Island that was treated with reverence with almost equal measure. Only women were allowed to step on it. Alpha with time learned that the Island housed pregnant women only. Pregnant women were not allowed

to do hard chores. Not even cooking. The clan paramount chief was kept informed on the number of women in isolation and the progress of their expectancy on a daily basis. They were allowed to join the larger family members three months after delivery.

Atleast in a year, five of these women were in isolation in this maternity bay island. By virtue of his new role as the chief's aide- in -chief, Alpha continued to make discoveries about the people who had rescued him. They shared everything. Even sorrows. Apparently, they practiced polyandry. A potent and fertile ground for HIV Aids. Luckily for them, they led an exclusive livelihood oblivious of the existence of the larger world outside their environmental and cultural exclusivity in caves. When any one of them passed on, they all came together to bury the ash of the body. Actually, their burial was in three different caves of cataracts with flowing water. The ash of the dead was simply thrown into a cave defined by age and gender. There was a burial cave for children, for males and for women.

The inhabitants of this Island did not know what to do with Alpha. They gave him food and kept a close watch on him. They were not sure whether he was a human being. Indeed, Alpha looked like an awesome ogre. An hoddity of some kind.

One day he was beckoned to a river for a bath accompanied by four strongly built men whose face and body was smeared with ochre. Alpha removed a piece of cloth that covered his private nakedness and took a bath. Two of the men went back to report what they saw. Alpha was a male human being with two

deformities. His left hand was shorter and the end of his spear had no foreskin. Apparently, they knew nothing about circumcision.

The wrestling festival was a sacred game among the clansmen of these people. They were ruled by a chief. As a rule, all men and women belonged to the chief. He had absolute authority over his subjects from the four clans. They weren't many. Just about two hundred in total. At a glance Alpha calculated that they were about twenty children, twenty girls, twenty boys, seventy men and seventy women approximately.

On the tenth day after his rescue the four clans gathered on the central island which served as a stadium. Each clan forwarded the best of their best in wrestling. A total of twenty wrestlers was gathered. A drum was beaten and the wrestlers went into 'war'. After only thirty minutes only four wrestlers stood the ground. The rest had been eliminated. This four were strong and very shrewd. They were all declared winners, children clapped and women ululated. Alpha went to the clan chief; bowed and through gestures requested for a match. The chief Okayed the match. A drum was beaten Alpha was at the centre doing a WrestleMania. He brought all the four wrestlers down. This time children did not clap nor did women ululate. The clan chief withdrew to his cave and Alpha was later taken to his cave. He was appointed the chief defender of the king as by their custom. Alpha kept configuring which part of the world he was but could not get an answer. Atleast not the correct answer. Something kept telling him that he was somewhere closer to Guyana.

As time went by, Alpha also discovered that the people who had rescued him were in touch with salt sellers from a distant country. A modern country. Alpha decided to draw the map of Africa on the ground and kept pointing his fingers to the map. After two months an interpreter was called who got convinced that indeed Alpha was from Africa! He also through signs communicated to them that he had been involved in an aircraft accident but survived. This particular explanation confused them and the chief sold Alpha for some quantity of salt. He was put on a canoe and taken to an Island that was relatively modern.

His new 'owner' suspected that indeed Alpha was from Africa. He contacted the press and Alpha was put on interview. A journalist who could communicate in English was called. Alpha gave a very lengthy account of his life in a strange Island. He told members of the press that he was a Nyikan from Africa continent who had survived an aircraft accident many years ago. This interview was electronically picked in Indonesia and the press went wild. He was given front line coverage, Kinda (the capital city of Nyika) was contacted. The press and media in Kinda went wild: **ALPHA, THE NYIKAN STUDENT WHO DISSAPPEARED 20 YEARS AGO IS ALIVE!**

A special plane has been dispatched to pick him.

## **ALPHA ARRIVES IN KINDA**

### **STOP PRESS: BREAKING NEWS:-**

This is National television Kinda. It has been confirmed authoritatively that the Nyika student who was presumed death twenty years ago is actually alive. His name is Alpha Anyona!

**INCREDIBLE: KINDA STUDENT WHO SURVIVED TERRORIST ATTACK ARRIVES IN KINDA AFTER TWENTY YEARS.** –Another Newspaper screamed.

### **AT USHAGO**

Thousands and thousands of people of all heights and colour thronged Anyona's home. Some were homogeneously dressed but majority were heterogeneous. Some walked in pairs but majority were on their own. This time they were not crying but many were overcome with joy and sang themselves hoarse. Phires who was hitherto the unknown sibling to Alpha caused a star. She kept jumping to the air like a Masai warrior with joy praising Jehovah for saving his elder and only brother. Sometimes she could run from one end of the compound to the other like an antelope beating a choir drum. Many women folks joined her. They sang and danced and danced. The dance seemed to have no end. Anyona and Kerubo were apprehensive about the news they had received about Alpha that he was still alive. "Could it be true?" They kept asking themselves without telling anybody. They were still in their resting room surrounded by closer relatives.

Outside the house was a sea of curious humanity eager to confirm that indeed Alpha was still alive. At one end of the compound were clan elders ready to have the grave exhumed once they confirmed that he was indeed alive.

The government spokesman who had dispatched the news to Anyona and Kerubo was also present in his official attire. He looked like a police officer. The educated class had bought each a newspaper with headlines screaming about Alpha. Father Ocampo was also present but, in his car, reading his Bible. Everybody was ecstatic and anxious. Many men, boys, girls and women kept on whispering to one another. Anyona and Kerubo were no exception.

Kerubo was the first to face Anyona with a whisper. She disclosed to Anyona that many times their son Alpha had appeared like a bizarre of a human being with a physical look like that of the mountain man of java in a dream. Not ones but several times. Anyona also confided to her that a stranger looking like a human being with the looks of a charged porcupine had appeared to him in a dream many times. Both remembered the words of the soothsayer, especially in their last visit where a medium made it clear that the gods were happy with them and they could be rewarded sequentially echoed in their mind.

Anyona's home was on a hill plateau and one could easily see with his naked eyes almost everything within one Kilometre Square of space without a problem. A few metres away, there were avocado and guavas, heavily loaded with ripe fruits and all

kinds of birds loved to perch on these trees to peck the fruits for food. The sound from these birds especially from horn bill and ladybird were meticulously attractive to the human ears.

At around 1` O clock which is normally a news hour, News anchor Men and Women were punctual on their desks reporting news with a great sense of clarity. The Television and Radio stations were switched on and what a pleasant surprise for the anxious audience.

This is National T.V. and here is our news in brief.

Alpha, the Nyikan student who disappeared twenty years ago will be joined with his family anytime today. The convoy escorting Alpha to his 'Ushago' Village left Kinda early in the morning today and is expected to be at ushago at a round this time -1` O clock P.m.

Almost spontaneously, a convoy of hooting cars was snaking to Anyona`s home. The crowd became more ecstatic and surged to the direction of the snaking cars. Phires was still jumping like an antelope while beating a choir drum.

Kerubo could not wait. She was overcome with motherly emotions and bolted to the direction of the snaking cars touching her stomach and shouting "my son, my son, my son" with `Vijana barubaru` in hot pursuit to stop her from being in collision with the incoming convoy of cars.



---

### ***CONVOY OF CARS TO ALPHA'S HOME***

Alpha also saw his mother and bolted from one of the cars that had stopped to meet and embrace her. Members of the press were busy aiming their cameras and taking pictures. He was heavily bearded with long strands of hair that covered his neck.

“Where is my son, where is my son,” Kerubo became hysterical with the strong youths holding her firmly. At this point, Alpha pulled the youths aside and held his mother tightly crying.

Phires did not want to be left behind. She jumped into the arms of the embracing duo like popcorn and on the trio's cheeks were streams of tears running down like water from a tap.

Finally, Kerubo stepped back and curiously looked at Alpha and asked him.

“My son, what happened?” Even before Alpha could answer her, she was holding him by the neck and head crying but this time rather loudly than before. She fainted.

Elderly women were asked to resuscitate her back to normalcy. They knew which button to switch. Any woman born as a twin was the button they urgently wanted. It was believed that by touching the patient and calling her name, the patient could regain consciousness.

Two women born as twins came forward. They touched Kerubo calling her name. Somehow this methodology worked and Kerubo regained consciousness.

All this time, Phires could not let her hands off Alpha. Alpha's Mind wandered wildly. Could this be the lady that Mum responded to my jocular challenge before boarding the train to Kinda? He decided to ask her. 'Who are you my lady?' Alpha asked her. 'You will know, for now just enjoy my company' Phires answered him.

Alpha surveyed her from head to the toes and from the toes to the head and was perplexed at her beauty. "Just like my Mum. Wonders never cease in this world." He whispered to himself. He had no clue that she was his sibling. A biological Sister!

The crowd was anxious to hear Alpha speak. When calmness prevailed, the government spokesman took to the podium and gave a very brief speech, "Ladies and gentlemen, it is my singular honour today to present to you, your son of the soil, Alpha Anyona who has gone through hallowing experiences seen and has much to tell us, thank you. I hand over the remaining schedule to the council of elder's through their village headman, Mr.

Anyona who is the father of our guest today”, he concluded his speech.

Mr. Anyona took the microphone and had this to say, “My good people of Ushago, welcome to my home once again. Just feel like you are in your own home. Before I present our guest to speak to us, I have mandatory instructions from elders which must be adhered to before our guest is allowed to speak to us. His grave must be opened; the same refilled with sand before we even think of him giving us his story.

That is what our customs demand. Somebody came and whispered something to Anyona. “Oh, my good people, I’ve just been briefed that this task has already been accomplished.”

Our next task is to have him shaved. There after father Ocampo will bless him and lead us in prayer. Phires my daughter Phires, please escort your brother to the barber shop. Phires nodded graciously. Bro come! Alpha could not believe his ears! Nevertheless, he obliged.

Alpha was cleanly shaved and put on a well-tailored suit; Courtesy of Father Ocampo. At the end of the shaving, Alpha asked the barber whether he knew the name of the lady who had accompanied him. The barber looked at him and told him, “Never doubt your father; that is your real sister. Her name is Phires. She is twenty years old and will be joining university this year,” the barber informed Alpha. “My sister?” Alpha became more perplexed and even confused. He composed himself and accepted the reality. Alpha joined the anxious crowd and Anyona gave

Ocampo the microphone. He started his sermon by telling the crowd: “There is a time and season for everything; time for joy, time for laughter and even a time of sorrow. A time for the Eagle to fly and a time for the Eagle to land. Today we are gathered here not to mourn or to cry but to celebrate the glory of our omniscient and omnipotent God as manifested in Alpha’s empirical experiences that we are all anxious to hear. He moved to Alpha and blessed him with holy water and asked him to address the crowd that was anxiously surging forward.

Alpha was an orator and rich in English language prowess. He was even more flowery and golden in his mother-tongue. He told the crowd how they were attacked by terrorists en route to Indonesia and how the plane ran out of fuel and plunged into a mass of water. Presumably either the Indian or Pacific Ocean. He moved the crowd to tears when he narrated to them that when he came to his senses, he found himself floating still fastened to his seat. He floated for two days before strong waves tossed him to an Island full of insects and huge and tall trees whose canopy eclipsed the small Island with darkness day and night. He could see light but on the far distance of massive water.

He told the crowd that he lost his memory of days, weeks, months and years. But never forgot to thank God for providing and keeping him alive all those years. Now and again, he could stop addressing the crowd to wipe out tears from his eyes. He proceeded in telling them that his food was that of termites, redcurrants, gooseberries, avocado, grasshoppers and mushrooms without salt!

All this time, members of the press and media in general were busy taking pictures and recording his speech. That evening all T.V stations were awash with Alpha's story and in the following morning he was on the front page of all local dailies with screaming headlines "ALPHA FINALLY MAKES IT TO USHAGO!"

Overnight, Anyona's home became a centre of tourist attraction. To contain the flow of human traffic from all corners of the world, the government put up a giant T.V screen and Alpha's speech at Ushago was flashed on the screen and this intervention controlled the incoming crowds of curious villagers, friends and relatives. Finally with the passing of weeks and months, the scenario of crowds of people coming to hear or peep at Alpha, gradually melted away. Life returned to normalcy. Alpha and Phires had ample time to prosecute one another and Anyona and Kerubo had enough time too to do their chores.

After a month or two Alpha's diary was filled with many requests to speak to this church or that; this school or that and responded to the requests positively with gusto and alacrity. He became an all time- motivational speaker. He was always on the move. His fame and oratory spread far and wide like bush fire.

He was almost becoming tired of this monotony when the university that had offered him a scholarship revisited the subject and renewed the scholarship but this time, he was to be an online student, Alpha accepted the offer and once more he was busy eating academic scripts. Something that excited him most.

Nothing comes for free. After two years of hard work Alpha graduated with a masters degree in human anatomy and applied medicine with a bias in physiotherapy and surgery.

### **INSURANCE AGENTS VISIT ALPHA**

One morning a Mercedes car cream in color dropped visitors in his home. He was taking a shower. Phires ushered them in and served them with hot coffee. They were sipping coffee with ogre eyes on Phires when Alpha came to meet them; they pretended otherwise.

“I hope you are Alpha?” one of them quipped. “Yes, I am” Alpha answered in the affirmative. We are from Kanon Insurance Company. I’m Lukas and my colleague is Ramon. “Nice to meet you”, Alpha interjected “more so on our part”, the two gentlemen answered back with broad smiles on their lips and faces. They gave him a suit case printed his name on both sides. Alpha was becoming tense when one of them took the suit case; opened it and splashed a Cheque of monumental monetary value on his chest! It is all yours! Come to our office any time you are free. The company management has been following your story and it was decided that you be compensated for accrued liability you suffered from the aircraft crash. Our moto is that of ‘quid pro quou’ in business terms. They bade him good bye with Ramon looking at Phires over his shoulders. She was busy doing dishing to notice Ramon’s troubles.

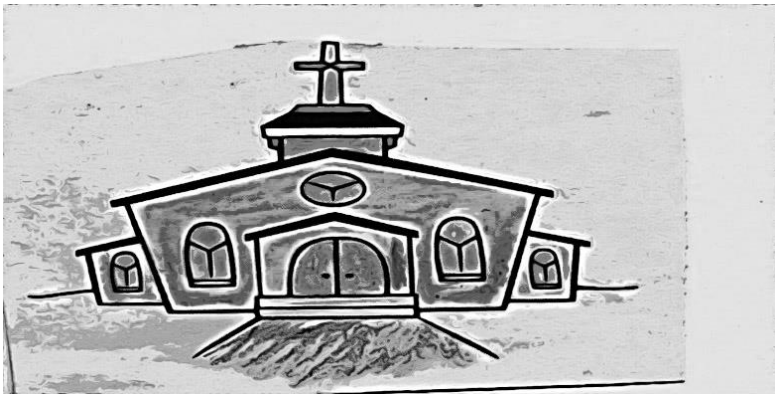
As the visitors left, Phires went out to shut the gate when one of them, Ramon, came to Phires as if he had forgotten something behind only to request for her phone number. Phires was confused but promised to give him the phone number the next time they meet. Ramon went back a disappointed but hopeful man.

The following day Alpha took the cheque to Fununu Bank but when the teller looked at the figure, he excused himself to see the manager. The manager could not believe the figure and decided to call Kanon Insurance Company. The insurance company confirmed that indeed the Cheque was from their end in favour of their client Alpha. The manager called Alpha to his office and he was given a VIP treatment. A VIP account was opened in favor of Alpha. Besides, a private car was hired to drop Alpha home. His financial status had shot up like a harrier jet to the sky of shenanigans of fame. It hardly passed a day without the bank manager calling him. He became a member of the Board of Management of the bank on shareholdings.

Alpha was not in hurry in making any withdrawals. When the bank manager noticed this trend, he called Alpha and sponsored him to a financial management symposium free of charge. This symposium became an eye opener to Alpha. Instead of Alpha being called by the bank manager, it was now Alpha calling the manager. Alpha and the Manager became intimate friends. Friendship is an asset when allowed to flourish and thrive on mutual respect and trust. With the help of the bank manager, Alpha was able to invest part of his money in Newyork Stock exchange and real estate investment. Alpha became rich

overnight. He was like the little girl who had slept an ordinary girl only to wake up a queen. Life is a mystery. Alpha's life style began to change. But his character and mannerism did not change. He remained a man of repute, clothed with humility and civility all the time.

Alpha's first gift was to Father Ocampo who was approaching retirement from public life. He bought him a good car and always cherished his moral teachings.



---

***USHAGO CATHOLIC CHURCH***

He also bought his parents a good car; renovated their house and finally bought himself a Mercedes car. The car for his parents was dominated by Phires. Phires was their driver and when she was not around, the car remained packed in the compound. Anyona and Kerubo and their two children Alpha and Phires became proudly the talk of the day in every corner of Ushago village.

Alpha began to witness conspicuous differences between his livelihood in the solitary and hitherto unmapped and unknown Island and came to the stark reality of the adage, ‘East –West home is best’ is not a hoary joke. It is a reality of all times.

Opportunity can be an eye opener but time is the greatest eye opener of all eye openers. The many business errands Alpha made to Fununu Bank and especially his interaction with the bank manager Mr. Mwaniki opened his business horizons. The two became inseparable friends like a radio broadcaster and radio.

Mr Mwaniki had a beautiful daughter who was about to wed and a big hen party was arranged to take place at Cassanova Hotel. Alpha was invited to grace the occasion by Mr and Mrs Mwaniki.

Drinks and all kinds of food were given. The climax of the event was actualized when it was time for dancing. Young and old took to the floor to make a jig. Watchful Alpha, was all this time secluded to a corner sipping Coca-cola when certainly a young and extra-ordinarily beautiful lady challenged him to a dance in the middle of the dancing hall. Civility obliged him to agree. They danced and exchanged glances at one another with ogre eyes. As fate would have it, the two ended up being lovers. Rosemary was her name. Mwaniki’s last born. She went on becoming the woman of his life.

## CHAPTER 4

### ALPHA WEDS ROSEMARY

Rosemary approached her father who was reading a newspaper seated on a sofa with his arms resting on a tea table to disclose her sacred secret. She rarely approached her father on minor issues. She had her mother to confide to and bother at times. She treated her father as some kind of hermit.

“Dad, can we talk?” Rosemary confronted her father. “What is up my daughter?” Mwaniki asked Rosemary. “Dad I’m now twenty-five years and I seek your permission to have my visitor in our home this coming weekend”, Rosemary begged of her father. “Rosemary, my daughter Rosemary, we are in the process of finalizing your elder sister’s wedding. Can’t you hold your plans a bit?” “No dad; bringing a visitor to our home is different from making wedding arrangements. I’m still your girl. Please dad accept my request.” O.K. ok. Brief your mum on the same. ” Mum is already aware dad”, Rosemary concluded her talk. She left in a hurry smiling. She went straight to her mother’s room but before she could tell her anything, his father was already in the room and she left immediately.

“Grace, I did not know that you are such a secretive woman. How come you know something about Rosemary all this time without telling me?” “Cool down my dear”, your daughter is now twenty-five years and a graduate teacher and certainly not a Lolita Korren. I expect her to tell you such sensitive matter first before

telling me anything. Yesterday she opened her heart to me and told me about her boyfriend whose name I can only remember as Alpha from county 045 and not even from our county. I was lost for words and even up to now, I don't know what to tell her.

“Alpha? Which Alpha?” Mr. Mwaniki asked; “I don't know anything. Just ask her,” Grace interjected. “If it is Alpha I know then he is most welcome to my home” Mr Mwaniki remarked. “So you even know him and the two of you are only pulling my leg?” Grace interjected rather furiously. To be honest I cannot tell for sure whether he is the one but when you mentioned county 045, I have reason to believe he could be the Alpha I know. “Tell our daughter, her visitor is most welcome”, Mr. Mwaniki concluded his conversation with his wife.

Before he could leave the room, his selfie's ringtone started to vibrate. He stopped to take the call. “Who is calling?” “I'm Alpha, we have met before; I'm Alpha, the Alpha you know. I seek your permission to meet you specially in your home this weekend. “Alpha, good morning?” “Good morning Sir!” “Please come. You are most welcome!”

Instead of going out to peruse his newspaper, Mr. Mwaniki dropped on his bed. Grace moved closer to him just in case there was a problem. “Any problem?” Grace asked him. “No problem” but I don't understand this world. If Alpha ends up in becoming your son-in-law, then you are gonna be a very lucky mother. How about you?” “I thought you told me you don't know him and you

are now lecturing me about his virtues. Men, you are strange animals.”

This discussion was rudely interpreted by a message call on Mr. Mwaniki`s phone. It was from Alpha, “I have committed 2 drivers and two of my cars to you as you prepare your daughter`s wedding. I have also committed One Hundred Thousand only to assist you in the preparations. Please call me if you need any other help; Alpha.”

Wedding bells for Mwaniki`s daughter Zipporah were in the media, Radio, Press, Church and even in tuk tuks. Everything was on top gear. Friends and relatives of Mr. Mwaniki came to lend hand in moral and material form. Some had difficulties on what gift to give Zipporah who was simply known as Zippy. Others were confused whether the gifts they had was for zippy or Mr and Mrs Mwaniki. In the midst of this civil war of thoughts many ended up dividing their gifts in two. One for Zippy another for the parents Mr and Mrs Mwaniki. Some composed songs and poems depicting Zippy`s growth and Character.

Mr Mwaniki`s home became an epicenter of beehive activities. Schedules were arranged and re-arranged. The Jam log in Mr. Mwaniki`s home was too much for one individual to handle. Alpha`s offer came in handy. He was delighted. Minutes seemed to move like seconds and days like hours. Luckily his experience as a bank manager gave him the requisite in solving intricate challenges in time and properly.

He formed several sub-committees and each committee was given a task to undertake. Prominent among these sub –committee was the committee of catering; committee of advertisement, committee in charge of traffic and security. Everything went orderly as planned till the last hour when he was told that his daughter had not secured a fitting wedding dress. He found himself scratching his head for a solution. His savings had been wiped out! Finally with the financial assistance from Alpha, Zippy was finally able to buy a lovely wedding dress. On the wedding day, Zippy looked fabulous in her rare wedding dress of silky-white in colour dotted with blue and pink ribbons and a red zip. She came out of her room with an infectious smile that exposed her milky teeth that were as white as snow. Smiling was part and parcel of her character. The wedding was a big success.

### **THE NEXT CHALLENGE**

Mr. and Mrs Mwaniki were too fatigued but had no choice but to welcome Rosemary’s challenge over Alpha; His man of her life to be. Zippy wedding had drained his savings and was in a catch22 situation. He almost rang Alpha for financial assistance but refrained himself. Even without realizing, his appointment with Alpha, 10:00 A.m clocked-pah! And Alpha was in his compound accompanied with two friends. Rosemary peeped at the visitors through the window and was all smiles on her face. Alpha was not her visitor this time but her parents. She had done her primary role and that was it; Inviting Alpha to her home.

Mr Mwaniki ushered the guests to the sitting room and Grace offered a prayer in which she thanked God for being good all the time despite their human weakness in English. Mr. Mwaniki preferred Kiswahili as the Lingua-Franca of the day.

After five minutes or so, Grace retreated to the kitchen and Mr. Mwaniki excused himself for a short break to buy something from a shop that was a short distance away. This was the most opportune time for Rosemary to take action. She literally ran to the sitting room to greet Alpha and the other two guests, Mark and Deno. She hugged Alpha as Mark and Deno approvingly applauded the duo. Mr. Mwaniki did not come back immediately as he had promised. Even Grace was not in a hurry to get out of the kitchen. She enjoyed the laughters coming from her daughter Rosemary through the sitting room though she could not tell the genesis of it at all.

Finally, Mr. Mwaniki came back with a crate of soft drinks parked in his car boot. Rosemary rushed out to help her father carry the crate to the kitchen. Her mother confirmed that she had finished boiling eggs and asked rosemary to add butter to the slices of bread.

The visitors were served with hot tea, soft drinks, buttered bread and sweet bananas. All at the same time. Rosemary retreated to her room and kept wondering whether everything could go well. She prayed that nothing goes wrong.

After taking the the 10 O'clock tea that was treated as breakfast, Mark, one of the guests stood up and thanked Mr and

Mrs Mwaniki for their hearty welcome even though they had come to steal!

Mr and Mrs Mwaniki, “You will have to excuse us. We have come to steal but not your cows for we have enough of them from where we have come from. We have come to steal one of your daughters!” Mark pronounced himself gently but firmly before posing a question. ‘What is your take, Sir and Madam?’

Mr. Mwaniki was the first to respond: He coughed to clear his throat and pronounced himself, “my good visitors, thank you for coming to my home today. If you came to steal then I will ask you to leave; But if you came to declare your seriousness with my daughter Rosemary then we can talk” laughter took centre stage in the sitting room. Mark took the floor again and re-pronounced himself again, “forgive me for saying that we came here to steal. We are here to tell you, sir, that one of us, Alpha to be specific wants to marry your daughter Rosemary. Not to steal!” More laughter in the sitting room could be heard.

It was Mwaniki’s time to respond and he had this to say, “Well-spoken but can I know whether Alpha has a mouth and tongue. There was more laughter.”

Alpha stood up and said: “I have a mouth and tongue. Above all I have a loving heart. I love your daughter and request for your parental consent for marriage Over the same”, before taking his chair.

All this time, Rosemary was eavesdropping from the next room. Mr Mwaniki stood up to speak and said, “well, well, well I get your point but let me hear what the mother to Rosemary has to say: Grace, the mother to Grace stood up and took her time to say a word. “Welcome to our home. Rosemary is my last born and I’m not ready to part her to anybody. Not at this time! I have already lost my left arm and I’m not ready to loose my right arm. That will mean I will remain an amputee for the rest of my life!” Rosemary Almost shouted ‘Stop’ from her hideout when her mother finally said. “Who Am I to stop two grownups in love?” Rosemary jumped up and rushed out of her hideout. My only request is to hear from the horse’s mouth. Let us hear what Rosemary has to say. She called Rosemary to the sitting room.

Rosemary: - “My dear visitors, Dad and mum. I want to be very clear. I love Alpha.... He is the man of my life. But I want him to prove that he loves me too. I therefore put conditions. He must be ready to tie the knot with me through a church wedding and meet our customary obligations. In which case he must appreciate me by paying mandatory dowry! I don’t want to be a laughing stock in this village. That is all I can say.”

Alpha stood up and asked permission to respond. “Permission granted” Mr Mwaniki responded. Alpha cleared his throat with a cough and said “ I repeat myself. I love Rosemary. No amount of dowry obligation will stop me from taking her to be my life partner. Only death can separate us if I win this battle. Last but not least I want to thank Rosemary for standing with me at this critical moment. This battle has to be won.” He took his chair.

Mr. Mwaniki stood up and once more thanked Alpha and his friends for paying them a visit. He showered his daughter with praises for being an exemplary child in his home. He defended the absence of Rosemary's siblings and disclosed that they were held up in town in doing final shopping for zippy's wedding which was around the corner. He also praised his wife Grace for being a wonderful mother. Above all, he singled out her declaration that she was not ready to be a stumbling block between two love birds. He concluded his remarks by concurring with his wife Grace that he had no opposition to their present and future plans in their journey of love." This short speech invited clapping that almost tore the ceiling of the sitting room. "May God's will be done," he concluded to more and more clapping that followed.

At this juncture, Mark and Deno opened their wallets and gave Mr and Mrs Mwaniki an enveloped gift and requested to leave. Mrs Mwaniki gave a prayer and Rosemary was asked to see off the visitors.

Mr and Mrs Mwaniki opened their enveloped gifts to quench their curiosity. Woh! Each had been given a Cheque of One Hundred thousand shilings. They could not believe their eyes.

Mr. Mwaniki looked at his wife Grace and remarked, "Imagine this is a mere visiting gift, Alpha is a good man. Sit with our daughter and ask her not to do anything unbecoming that can sink the boat." "I will do that my husband. Be lest assured." Grace responded in kind.

Grace was always a serious mother. She called Rosemary to her room for a candid discussion. They talked in low tones for hours and all Grace wanted was whether she had any misgivings about their relationship. Rosemary was clear and to the point. None mum, except the whispers I hear from friends that people from County 045 can be temperamental and.....eh eh can run at night. That is my only worry at the moment. Grace held her by hand and advised her never to entertain gossips or any stereotypes about other people or families. “Do you understand me?” “Yes mum, I do,” Rosemary answered her mum. “When are you planning to marry him?” Even tomorrow! She let off her hand and went straight to her husband Mr Mwaniki. “My dear, our daughter loves Alpha but we must guard against detractors. They might sink the boat!” “Do you know any?” Mwaniki asked her. “Not at all”, Grace answered him; but Rosemary has confided to me that gossips have already started to discourage her. Either they are driven by jealous or outright malice. Whichever the case, we must be on the lookout. They agreed. The same same gossips went to Alpha and advised him to be careful with Mwaniki whom they accused of being a fautian! Some kind of illuminati. Indeed, there is no union of marriage even in its formative stages without challenges.

Zippy’s wedding was a big success; a precursor of what was in the offing. Alpha’s wedding! A month later Alpha announced his wedding day after paying mandatory dowry that included live cows, goats and a calabash of honey not to mention hard cash.

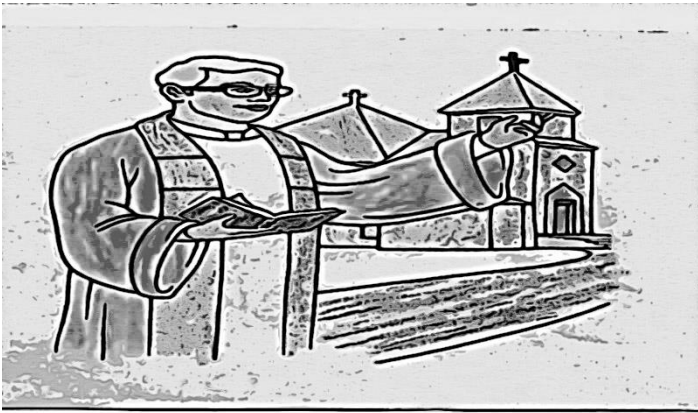
On the material day, Rosemary was elegantly and gorgeously dressed than ever. Alpha and his troupe were equally dressed in uniform suits. A sea of humanity thronged to Alpha's home to Grace the occasion. By nature, Alpha loved simplicity and humility but on this occasion, Alpha went one extra mile to make the occasion atleast a special occasion.

The most crucial moment was when the presiding priest asked whether there was anybody opposed to the marital union between Alpha and Rosemary. There was none except a stork that landed on the roof of the church inviting murmurs and excitement. Speeches were given but the most outstanding advisory speech was that of the presiding priest, Father Ocampo, an invitee far from his Parish at Ushago who based his admonition on excerpts from the book of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

- “1. There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
2. A time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
  3. A time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,
  4. A time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
  5. A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
  6. A time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,

7. A time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
8. A time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.”

He loudly told the congregation that marriage was a sacred union between two individuals. He also cited that marriage built on a Christian foundation and fountains of knowledge could always overcome any secular challenges.



---

*FATHER OCAMPO AT ALPHA' S WEDDING.*

When the hour of leaving church to Alpha's home came, Mr Mwaniki was seen smiling and waving but Grace was the exact opposite. She was crying! She could not believe that her two beautiful and gracious daughters – Zippy and now Rosemary had left her to start and extend family genealogy in distant territories.

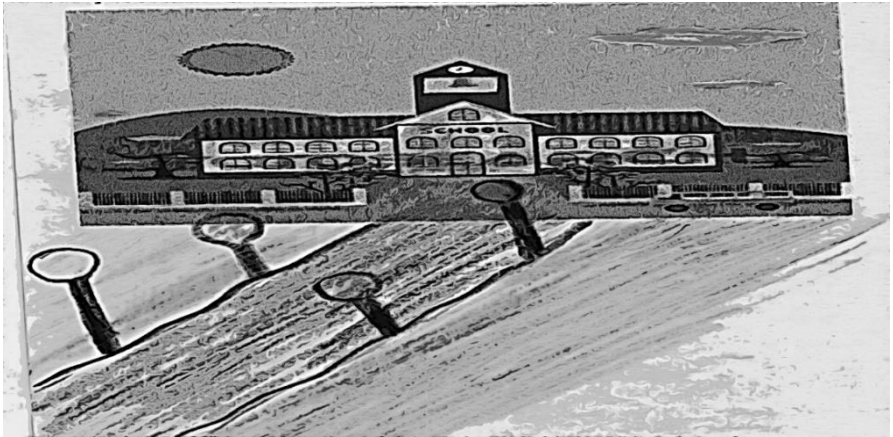
Her cries were drowned by dancing and ululating men and women; Girls and boys. Interestingly she ended up in singing and dancing than any other mother in the congregation! At Ushago, Alpha became and remained a game changer. He remained focused and always in touch with his neighbors. It didn't take him long to realize that the villagers of Ushago lacked a good school, a modern hospital and a caring centre for the elderly. He decided to develop the three facilities.

He contracted professionals who carried out feasibility studies and did architectural designs for the same. A Chinese firm won the tender. The firm had offered the lowest and presumably the cheapest bid. But there was an unexpected problem. Land! Alpha approached his people of Ushago to give him land to develop a school, a hospital and a caring centre for the elderly. He was surprised at their response. They gave him more than he had bargained for. There was no time to waste. Work had to start immediately. Building materials were assembled. Electricity was connected and fencing was done.

The Chinese can work. Within six months a community centre for the elderly was complete. Next to the centre was a sprouting modern hospital complex.

Alpha was a workaholic entrepreneur. He never entertained busybodies on his time of duty. Within one year both the caring centre were complete and equipped with basic necessities and managed by clinicians and nurses. He registered the entities as Ushago community centre and Ushago Community Hospital.

Despite these achievements within a short span of time, Alpha was far from the point of satisfaction. He really wanted a school, a modern school. A British firm won the tender to build a school with a modern Library, playing field and swimming pool. Within one year, all these were actualized. A modern school was up at Ushago. It was a boys' school.



***USHAGO BOYS HIGH SCHOOL-ALPHA'S  
PROJECT***

Rosemary was not happy. She nagged Alpha to build a similar school for girls, Alpha agreed. The following year, a modern girls' school but in another Locality was up. Rosemary resigned from the government to head the school. She loved her new role

as principal of the school and did everything to raise the academic performance of the school.

Ushago had now three Secondary Schools and two primary schools. These were Kilo Secondary, where Alpha alias “Eagle” schooled; Cave boys private Sec school initiated by Alpha; Cave Ushago girls initiated by Rosemary Alpha and finally Karo Primary School where Alpha alias ‘Computer’ schooled before joining Kilo Secondary School.

When Phires, sister to Alpha graduated, she almost became idle and jobless although she had done very well at university attaining First class honours in double mathematics with a bias in topology and space mathematics. A rare course undertaken by a rare female student.



---

***CAVE USHAGO GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL***

Alpha and Rosemary noticed that there was a big gap between pupils joining their institutions of learning from public

schools and realized the need to start a primary school to widen their catchment horizon.

A new primary private school was started by Alpha and placed under the tutelage of Phires. She was overjoyed by her new role as principal and manager of Cave primary school.

In order to safeguard the school's assets from fire and burglary, Phires decided to insure the school assets from fire and general burglary. She placed an advert over the same in one of the local dailies and Kanon insurance was the first to respond. The company was given a date and Lo! On the material day Ramon turned up to underwrite the premium cover for Cave Primary School on behalf of the company.

Ramon and Phires had not met for the last four years but each recalled vividly the last day they met when he and Mark delivered an open Cheque to Alpha worthy millions of dollars. At the end of the day, Ramon invited Phires for Lunch and Phires agreed. They were to meet the following weekend. Phires was punctual but even Ramon was not late. They arrived at Roselin Hotel almost the same time. Phires the first to notice Ramon when he was checking whether he had shut the doors to his car properly.

Phires went to Ramon's side and parted him on the shoulders. "I'm sorry for being late", Ramon politely told her. "No, you aren't; we arrived at the same time", phires told him. Together they entered into the Hotel and sat at one corner opposite to one another.

Phires picked the Menu diary and placed an order of roasted chicken and chips. Ramon asked for the same but added two sodas. One for phires and the other for himself.

The waiter did not take long in serving them. But before his arrival, Ramon had asked her whether she was still single. Phires teasingly told him that she was still single but betrothed!

After the lunch, Ramon asked her whether she was serious in her answer and Phires answered him with a laughter but eventually opened her heart and told him that she was single and ‘hated’ men! When Ramon asked her to defend her statement, she smiled and kept laughing and asked him to come up with another topic.

At the end of their lunch, Ramon cleared the bill and bade one another goodbye after exchanging their telephone numbers. That evening, Phires texted Ramon and thanked him for taking her out for lunch. Ramon responded by calling her. They talked for almost an hour. This trend became more regular and intimate. They ended up in becoming lovebirds. No one knows who winked first but that is another story for another day.

Ramon proposed marriage and Phires agreed. Parental consent was sought and granted. Wedding bells were audible in the social media, press, T.v and Radios. Ramon wanted a classic wedding but Phires moderated it to a modesty one. Anyona, Kerubo and Alpha were elated.

After their wedding, Phires resigned as the Principal and joined Ramon at Kanon Insurance. Alpha experienced difficulties in replacing her but with the help of Rosemary, she hired a suitable replacement. The new Principal Madam Ruth Kalenda did not disappoint. She was an all-round leader. She got along well with pupils, parents, stakeholders and the government. Alpha was very proud of her.

Ushago became a centre of academic excellence; thanks to Alpha's foresight and investment. All of them had a serene learning environment. Year in, year out they were the top schools in National examinations. Enrollment in the two schools shot up progressively. Anyona family became the talk of the day in every corner of County 045.

The elderly, youth, men and women wished they had ten Alphas in the County.

In the fourth year of his private entrepreneurship, Alpha put up a news centre for the destitute, homeless people and those with disabilities. He was now an employer, a worker and a leader in his own right.

## CHAPTER 5

### ALPHA JOINS POLITICS



---

#### ***ALPHA AT A POLITICAL RALLY***

County 045 had seven parliamentary constituencies. Each constituency had an average of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand registered voters but Ushago was overcrowded with more than three hundred thousand voters who had been attracted by the educational and social amenities of development initiated by Alpha. The electoral commission decided to constitutionally review the constituency boundaries as a result of a new constituency was carved from Ushago Constituency and was named Ushago Meli Meli constituency. The political class was excited at the prospects of this new development.

Four candidates including Alpha offered their candidature to represent the people of Ushago Meli Meli in parliament. They all presented their papers and were cleared by the electoral commission. Campaigns started in earnest. For security reasons, all candidates were to share a common platform in selling their political agenda to the electorate.

Some of the candidates had nothing to offer a part from tearing into the personal life of other candidates and to praise themselves. They were clanists at worst and villagers at best. Complete idiots I dare say.

One of the candidates was narcissistic and choreographed with a dummy tummy personality who had a nasty habit of farting whenever he stood up to speak. He annoyed many and was jeered whenever and wherever he appeared to address the electorate.

Alpha was the exact opposite. He was wildly cheered whenever he went to meet voters. Young and old danced for him praising him for bringing development to Ushago. On the eve of the voting day, it was quite clear that Alpha was the guy of the moment. He won ushago Meli Meli constituency by landslide with over two hundred thousand votes which translated to over 98 percent victory. None of his competitors scored anything near 100 votes. After this resounding victory, Alpha spent the subsequent leisure time in interacting with the electorate wanting to know their real problems. It was during this time of consultations that Alpha discovered that his people of Ushago MeliMeli had a myriad problem ranging from jigger menace to hunger and from hunger to joblessness and

homelessness. From lack of piped water to electricity. He vowed to tackle some of them immediately.

The jigger menace became his priority when he discovered that they had disabled the poorest members of the society. He bought pesticides and started the anti-jigger campaign. Within one year there were no jiggers in Ushago Meli Meli.

Alpha tackled unemployment by way of encouraging youths to start small businesses to support themselves. He personally helped many to secure soft-loans from Micro – finances and banks at low interest. He encouraged the women folk to form groups and secure group loans to help them start business like poultry and pig rearing and others to venture into horticulture and fish farming. Ushago MeliMeli soon became a constituency where laziness and laxity were treated as a crime.

Alpha's main interest and emphasis in development agenda lay in education. He traversed every part of Ushago MeliMeli to ensure that children had enrolled in school and above all, to ensure that there was 100% transition of schooling from Primary to secondary and from secondary to tertiary and University. He reminded his audience in all his public address that people and society can only change through education.

He implored the youth not to be wayward and irresponsible. He admonished them that the only way they could be teachers, doctors, lawyers, accountants name them it is to pursue the path of knowledge through the process of education. Many took him seriously and soon Ushago Meli Meli became the Kingpin of well-

schooled and knowledgeable professionals. Through sheer hard work and passion for leadership, he was able to transform his constituents into a productive and self-reliant people ahead of their counterparts. Whenever benchmarking and evaluation of real development was carried out in Ushago Meli Meli constituency was always number one.

A second election was held after five years. Alpha was in the ballot to defend his seat including the infamous Puruguku;

Puruguku the hoity-Loity

Puruguku the inciter

Puruguku the fool

Puruguku the ugly

Puruguku the insensitive

Puruguku the obnoxious

In the previous election he had scored less than on hundred votes. Eighty-Seven only to be precise. As usual all candidates were given a common platform before being allowed each to go their way in hunting for votes. This time there were three aspirants only. Puruguku, Tramp and Alpha. Puruguku was the first to speak. In his speech he accused Alpha of being a foreigner and disabled. Obviously, he was pointing at Alpha's left shorter hand. His speech offended many. He was jeered but the guy was unrepentant. Hurling insults was his specialist. To add salt to injury. He accused Alpha's wife Rosemary of being a daughter of a fautian; Mr. Mwaniki from

Kirinyaga. This was too much to bear to some staunch followers of Alpha. Some young men picked a surface to ground missile and hurled it at Puruguku and hit him on the jaw with a thud. Puruguku fell down like a mugumo tree. Alpha denounced vehemently the ugly head of violence that had occurred. The meeting ended in disarray. An ambulance was called by the police and Puruguku the obnoxious was rushed to hospital. Things turned for the worst and he was transferred to south Africa for specialized treatment. He recovered and after six weeks, he could eat and speak. In his first press conference, Puruguku accused Alpha of hiring police officers to harass him and his supporters. An obvious lie. He demanded the election to be postponed.

The other candidate Tramp was the second to speak and his speech was not any better. He accused Alpha of being a sojourner and claimed openly that he was the only genuine son of the soil and therefore rightfully entitled to represent them in parliament. He poured toxic vitriol and incited members of his clan that Alpha had imported voters from as far as Kirinyaga and it was their duty to reject the entire electoral process. He accused Alpha of being a finished product of European imperialism out to exploit the masses. He praised himself as a disciple of KarlMarx and declared war against the Church and capitalists whom he accused of exploiting the downtrodden masses. This narrative did not resonate well with voters but somehow some of his hoi polloi bought it. They told their intoxicated supporters whose political temperature had reached octave high that a Journey of one thousand Kilometres even of rebellion must start with one step ahead at some point. Seeds of

discord were defiantly and deliberately planted through incitement by those who had sensed defeat.

Nevertheless, elections were held as scheduled and once again Alpha won resoundingly. Puruguku and Tramp refused to admit defeat. They rushed to court to Challenge the election outcome but unfortunately their pleas were dismissed. Alpha was announced as the lawfully elected member of parliament of Ushago Meli Meli with a resounding victory.

Puruguku and Tramp formed a dangerous movement of defeatists. Their argument though baseless was given audience by disgruntled elements and they were growing in numbers per day as the sun sets from the East and dawns to the West.

Those who followed the narrative that elections were not free and fair became octave high and politically toxic. Puruguku and Tramp became very happy when they discovered that their lies had started to sell after all. Jobless youths blindly joined their movement. A movement of destruction. They were given bhang, heroin and ethanol daily. Some were heard claiming that money was not a problem; how to spend the money was the problem!

Majority of these busy bodies going by the title ‘youth’ hailed from well to do families of society. It was not clear why they had chosen this kind of life. alive of self-destruction by becoming drug and Alcoholic addicts. Indeed, the saying that goes, “good feathers do not make good birds” remains truthful as ever.

Another five years of constructive politicking under the tutelage of Alpha was witnessed in Ushago Meli Meli. Peace and tranquility prevailed despite Puruguku and Tramp's efforts to spoil the oases of peace and development. A serene political environment in the midst of political agitation, chaos and upheavals in other constituencies in many parts of the country.

After judicious observation and wide consultation, Alpha decided not to tenure his candidature for the fourth time. He also decided to be apolitical. Puruguku and Tramp became front runners in the looming 4th election in Ushago Meli Meli.

Puruguku and Tramp became overnight rivals and enemies. They bashed one another in public and when the elections were finally held, Tramp defeated Puruguku.

Tramp was some kind of a maniac. He asked farmers to uproot coffee and tea because according to him, the cash crops had never changed their livelihood. He also asked his constituents not to pay tax and electricity bills claiming that they were basic needs and the government had a duty to provide them with these basic needs.

His school of thought in law was in bad taste by and large. He boasted that as a law maker, he could sponsor a bill in parliament to improve the national constitution. While in Parliament, he was known to suffer from enigma and permanent sore throat. Yet outside parliament, he was a stinging maverick. He argued openly that laws were made by human beings and could be amended and broken by human beings. Tramp's agitation alarmed the state and statutory authorities.

His final straw was when he asked members of the public to buy machetes and defend themselves from what he collectively called “exploiters and stressors.” He was arrested, arraigned in court and sentenced to imprisonment as by the law established! He died in prison after two days only!

A new electoral date was advertised by the electoral commission to fill the vacancy left behind by Tramp in Ushago Meli meli following his death. Puruguku as usual had started to campaign. He nevertheless remained the most insensitive and hated person in Ushago Meli Meli. In the circumstances, the people of Ushago Meli Meli cried to Alpha to change his mind and declare his candidature. Even Father Ocampo who was aging asked him to listen to the people’s cries. Alpha obliged and declared his candidature. This change of heart resonated well with the people of Ushago Meli Meli. They danced in the streets, in alleys, in the fields and markets praising Alpha with some carrying placards castigating Puruguku. “Death to Puruguku.” His blood pressure rose rapidly. Doctors were unable to bring it under control. He passed on.

Once more Alpha sailed to parliament unopposed. He started his legislature duties on a soar note. Ushago Meli Meli had lost two of its well-known personalities. He had nothing personal against them. He formed two burial committees to oversee the burial of the two interesting sons of Ushago; Tramp and Puruguku. The two were given a decent and befitting send off. Either during burial days people develop short memories or they pretend not to know what they actually know. Tramp and Puruguku were praised as great fighters. The other side of the coin was treated as immaterial and

that is the paradox of human nature and behavior when it comes to eulogies in Ushago. You are a well-known thief; you will be praised. If you are looking for people with short memories, just cross over to ushago; the land of simultaneous contradictions and paradoxes.

At National level, things politically speaking were fluid. The political big wigs of the day claimed victory each. A sense of fear and confusion reigned supreme. Each party had millions of diehard followers separated by a thin line of numerical superiority which gave the winning party a small margin of victory but which the losing party declared as tyranny of numbers.

The constitution allowed any dissatisfied party to go to court for redress, but the courts were declared by the opposition as being opaque, corrupt, incompetent and manipulative. A body language of war was evident all over. Fellow countrymen stopped to see one another as fellow countrymen. A political volcano had erupted with the flowing lava from fissures sending a sea of humanity to safer havens from its rage of fire, anger and frustration.

This time the volcano had a human face. Gangs of tribal terrorists were formed and even organized to kill, maim, rape, displace and do all manner of evils which they did with impunity.

Those who ran to the forest were not safe. The forest had poisonous serpents and wild animals. Human mobility came to a standstill. Food insecurity became a major problem.

At Ushago Meli Meli, the situation was relatively calm. Alpha made frantic efforts to secure food for internal refugees but in vain. He rang Father Ocampo who was well connected internationally. The international community responded positively. Enough food was to be shipped but there were problems to be handled before the food could reach the many empty stomachs and yearning mouths. Insecurity and logistics in terms of transportation and locating the hideouts of the dying masses were major obstacles.

The elderly hobbled to churches hoping to be secure but the marauding gangs baying for the blood of tribe A or C continued unabated. They did not spare even those who had taken refuge in churches.

The old, young, disabled were attacked without a quom. Many perished.

In the midst of all these ugly developments, Alpha was appointed State Minister in charge of internal security. He received the news over the Radio. Even before he could fathom the implication of this appointment, a police helicopter landed in his compound and took him to the government headquarters where he was sworn in and delegated ministerial powers.

Alpha was a smart and swift thinker. He held an ad hoc meeting with police commanders and together they mapped the Country into restive and calm spots. He commanded the police commanders to do everything within their powers and jurisdiction to bring down the ugly head of upheavals and tribal cleansing.

Police commanders surprised him. Within two weeks there were no gangs of terror. They had disappeared to the unknown. Peace and tranquility were restored. But the problem of shelter posed a serious problem.

Schools were opened but quite a good number of pupils had been displaced and, in some cases, had lost their parents. It also turned out that among those who had been displaced or killed were teachers. The education sector was badly affected.

In some farmlands, there were wandering cows which belonged to nobody. Some had meandered for over three months and could not trace their homes. Neither could the owners trace them.

Across the fields, there were scattered skulls of human beings and domestic animals. Vultures had increased in number and were hovering the sky wishing that the inhuman tragedy does not come to an end soon.

The African pythons had increased in volume and looked like Burmese pythons. Hyenas were seen hauling and dancing and looked pretty frisky at the expense of traumatized sea of humanity. The end result was heart breaking and devastating. There were skulls, skeletons and rotting carcasses that could scare even a serial killer. Nyika which was once an oasis of peace had become a massive nazi camp and even beyond a nazi camp overnight. Human love and trust had evaporated to the abyss and replaced with raging fire of hatred. The lioness had become lazy in hunting speedy antelopes with so many hobbling and

wandering elderly human beings around who had given up the right to live and were in their daily prayer calling God to take them because they had lost:

Their homes

Their children

Their granaries

Their happiness

Their economy

Their sweat

Everything

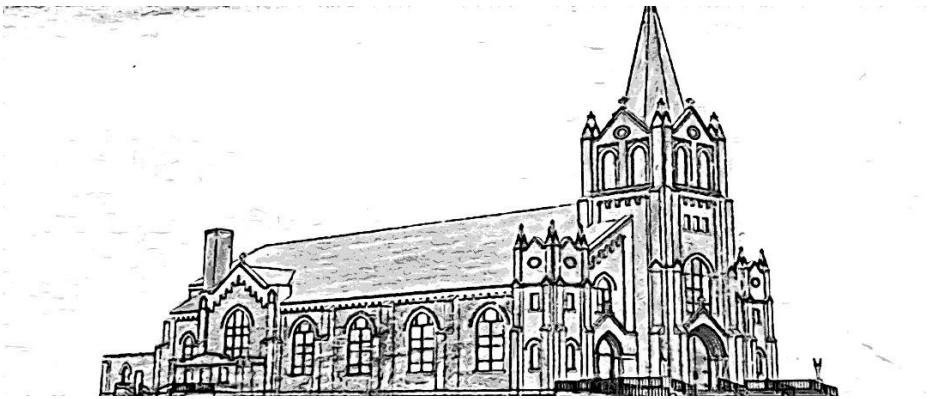
Only heaven could make a difference and they had come to concur with Jim Reeves who sang that, ‘this world is not my home.’ Many died of hunger.

In their first meeting, Alpha disclosed that his mentor Father Ocampo of Ushago Meli Meli had sought help and three overseas ships heavily loaded with wheat and maize were about to dock. He further disclosed that the food was a donation but the church did not have logistical capacity to secure and distribute it to the needy. The minister for Agriculture could not believe his ears. Alpha asked the minister for Agriculture to take over the donation and distribute it to the hungry poor.

The minister accepted the offer and he in turn contacted the highest office of the land who in turn asked the air force section

of the army to drop ‘food bombs’ packed in small sacks to the starving masses in tent camps. The exercise was successfully and professionally executed. Law and order were restored and the looming hunger was nipped in the nick of time. Thanks to the internet connectivity of Father Ocampo and the international Charity NGOs- Non-Governmental Organizations.

When peace and tranquility finally prevailed throughout the Country, Father Ocampo rang Alpha who was now a state minister and confided to him that his age of retirement had come and he wished to live in Ushago community Centre for the elderly if the papal and cardinal authorities of file and rank could grant his request. Alpha was lost for words but accepted his request. Father Ocampo became a daily visitor to the centre and left for his Parish home but only after sharing spiritual nourishment with the elderly.



---

**FATHER OCAMPO'S PARISH RESIDENCE**

---

His request to join the Ushago Community Centre for the elderly upon retirement remained a pipe dream. The Papal and Cardinal authorities refused to accent to his retirement request.

As Minister for Internal Security, Alpha started an anti-terror police squad. This squad also doubled with the anti-narcotic squad to deal with drug barons who were on police radar as the main financiers of terrorism. Recruits of the squad were sent to Israel, America, and Britain where they underwent sophisticated training that was needless to say, absolutely necessary to combat crime of this magnitude.

Members of the media and the press in particular loved Alpha. He was almost always on the front cover saying ‘this’ or doing ‘that’. Media can be sensational. The press men bombarded their readers with the story of Alpha and made him a household personality. They analyzed his statements which were in most cases judicious as opposed to scurrilous and petty statements that came from some of his peer mates. Alpha became very popular unlike some of his political class who approached issues with the mouth, Alpha approached issues with the brain. One of his popular phraseology was that, ‘helping is not rocket science but civility.’

Open your heart to people and start marveling how accommodative and understanding they can be. Alpha opened his heart to the nation and within no time the entire nation reciprocated to him with smiles. Under his ministerial tutelage, criminals disappeared to thin air. He picked a few hardcore

criminals; rehabilitated them and employed them as police officers! What happened next was very interesting. They hunted their former colleagues in crime like vermin and this brought crime to an end.

He opened a centre for anti-crime in which criminals were rehabilitated and given a new lease of life. Some became successive businessmen and women of admirable and acceptable character in society. Even prison warders visited the centre to learn new tricks of rehabilitation. The human panel beating was a huge success. Criminals were re-invented.

At Ushago Meli Meli, Alpha had solid support. A youngman who tried to demean Alpha with slurs was given a dog's beating by members of the public and was asked to leave and live outside the constituency. Another youngman made a slur against Alpha in a bus and the other passengers refused to travel in the bus with the youngman. The bus conductor had no choice but to drop the youngman to the beaming smiles from the other passengers.

Alpha's political star rose rapidly. His popularity was inscribed in granite rock in all sectors of society. The press loved selling his noble ideas and public servants were comfortable with his well calculated steps in doing things.

The ruling party hierarchy noticed his leadership credentials and elevated him to second in command. Everybody including Facebook maniacs and even sadists sensationally cheered his appointment. Members of the fourth estate were in particular

vocal about his appointment and poured all manner of praise in their editorials.

Alpha was a forthright political figure who hated corruption. He had invested wisely in stock exchange markets and in bank shares. The dividends he got from New York stock exchange alone was enough to sustain the entire cabinet for two years without him feeling a pinch.

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **MERCHANTS OF POWER**

Merchants of power were not happy with the transparent manner in which he was doing government business. He axed many and cut their cartels from sucking public coffers. The cartel called Alpha all sorts of bad names. They went underground and started bashing wars. Their big gun was anchored in unfounded rumours which they spread to toxic levels. Seeds of discord were effectively and maliciously planted in society against Alpha.

They even called him a foreigner. The media became divided about Alpha. Yellow journalists emerged and questioned Alpha's real nationality and biological parenthood. Die-hards of Alpha stuck to their guns and questioned the sudden change of heart about his roots. They loudly wondered how a foreigner could master local languages and geography thoroughly as Alpha did.

The party honchos and mandarins opposed to Alpha could hear none except themselves. They coined and sold dies about Alpha without an iota of shame. They were heartless but powerful individuals. Innuendos was their card game.

Alpha refused to play their card of innuendos and malice. He restrained himself from hitting back but occasionally he could remind his nemesis that the days of liars stand at forty.

To convince the public, these players and manufacturers of abashing lies claimed that they had evidence that Alpha was

receiving money from abroad with intent to take over power unconstitutionally.

The stalwarts of the ruling party decided to deal with ‘Alpha menace once and for all. Those who had credible evidence were asked to complete the same and forward it to the National secretariat for corrective action.

A meeting comprising party big wigs with power to fire erratic party members was hurriedly convened. Alpha was not invited but all his colleagues in the cabinet attended the meeting. The Agenda of the meeting was (I) Alpha and A.O.B

The chairperson of the meeting called for incriminatory evidence against Alpha if any and the minister for treasury tabled confidential documents from central bank showing deposit of millions of dollars to Alpha’s accounts. The deposits were actually authentic. The meeting was hurriedly closed with Alpha’s political nemesis beaming with confidence that they had enough and credible evidence against him.

Alpha was summoned to appear before the disciplinary party committee without failure.

He complied. At the meeting, he was given bank documents from America, Arab Countries and South Africa indicating being in receipt of millions of dollars and was asked to explain under what circumstances he was receiving such big sum of money in foreign currency which amounted to money laundering against Nyika’s fiscal policy.

Alpha almost laughed at the tabled accusations but chose not to. He eloquently explained that indeed the deposits were in his favour and from his 'wise investments'. He threatened to sue the bank that had disclosed his bank accounts confidentiality. The gang became scared. He finally told them that the payments were in two instalments to two different accounts. One as his interest earning and another for tax compliance. The meeting ended with his enemies crest fallen.

Meantime the media reportage was sensational but pro Alpha. Supporters of alpha in big cities and at Ushago held demonstrations against the party hierarchy. The merchants of power within the party re-summoned Alpha with fresh accusations. This time they accused him of failing to make tax returns in time and for being not tax compliant. During day time, they pretended to be friends but at night they were witch hunters.

The allegations levelled against him were scurrilous and frivolous. Pedantic and sadistic prosecutors were fronted in court to fix Alpha. Alpha hired smart attorneys to defend him. The hearing judge was a very respected judge. He asked the prosecution to prove their case beyond any reasonable doubt which they could not. On the other hand Alpha's attorneys produced audited tax remittances to the state and asked the court to dismiss the allegations against their disciplined client. They argued that accusations against their client was a fishing expedition and a nullity in law.

At the end of the day, the judge dismissed the case and ordered the state to meet the cost of the case and fined the state for filing a case without merit. The court further directed that Alpha not to pay any tax until the state shows compliance of court orders. To put more weight to the court ruling, the court censored the state from making any appeal over the matter.

Crest fallen, the prosecutors retreated and soon blame games took centre stage in their offices. X blamed Y and Y blamed X and Z in a cul-de-sac manner.

Dissatisfied and annoyed by the judge's ruling, the political musketeers opposed to Alpha decided to have him killed! They agreed to meet in Kuni forest that was only a few metres from mende beach. By this time Alpha had suspected that some of his colleagues in the cabinet were involved in these proxy wars against him. He chose silence as the best weapon against them. He pretended not to know anything sinister against him from those who were supposed to be comrades in arms in matters of National importance.

Alpha found himself wading in dirty water and mud. He was certainly soaked and drenched but not beaten. He applied for leave of absence for one month which was granted. His deputy was asked to be in charge of his ministerial duties.

While Alpha was off duty, the enemies of state from within and without reactivated and re-ignited sporadic wars of terror. The police and army were asked to be vigilant than ever before. They were put on a war footing situation for Twenty-Four hours.

This was done by the inner circle command mandarins. The police and army squads were organized in platoon units with orders to resort to the express use of the gun power in silencing the terrorists whenever and wherever they were spotted.

The meeting in Kuni Forest was secretly arranged. Twelve out of fourteen members of the cabinet attended. Their agenda was how to contain Alpha. They agreed to eliminate him from society. The meeting ended around 10P.m at night.

The lights of their Prado cars was switched on and the forest was unusually luminated. Not very far from the rendezvous, an anti-terror squad noticed the unusual lights in the forest coming from the headlights of the cars. They went into action. Bullets started to fly. After thirty minutes the boys in uniform started to count the number of enemy vehicles they had destroyed. A total of twelve cars bearing local number plates were on fire and ten bodies shot dead were retrieved from the burning cars. The police and army headquarters were signaled of the successful operation.

Members of the media and press got wind of the major score against terrorists and rushed to the scene to capture what they loved doing best. Capturing events that make news for their editorial rooms.

An ad hoc meeting was convened by the highest constitutional authority to look into the matter. Two cabinet ministers were missing. This caused more alarm. The army was dispatched to the scene of confrontation to comb the area with a view of capturing or killing the perpetrators of the crime. They

failed to capture any terrorists. Instead, they were able to rescue the two missing ministers with bullet wounds. They were flown to the nearest hospital with the help of cobra military helicopters. Sleuths were also dispatched to take statements from the ministers. The two had agreed to speak the truth about their plot to bring down Alpha. They put all the blame on Hon Mafisi, the minister for treasury for the tragedy and treachery. When it became clear that they were in the forest illegally and secretly and voluntarily, they were transferred to an exclusive military medical facility.

An order came from above ordering all National flags to be flown at half mast for a week.

The sleuths submitted their findings and put the death of the ministers as a case of their own making. The report exonerated the anti-terrorist squad from any blame. The report reiterated that Kuni forest was a restricted forest and therefore out of bounds for all unauthorized persons. The report was treated as classified information and kept as such.

The two ministers recovered and the testimony they gave about what took them to Kuni forest could worry even Napoleon of the French revolution. They were cautioned to be cautious and even quiet about the whole plot to assassinate Dr. Alpha but one of them went ballistic about it in style spilling the beans and every secret about the plot was now in public domain. The nation was left a back and agape.

Mr. Ponda Ponda the former minister for Agriculture claimed to have seen the light and was now a born-again Christian. His confessions left many of his audiences in total disbelief and dismay.

He confessed everything and blamed honorable Mafisi for the plot. He asked for forgiveness here on earth and in heaven and members of the media and more especially the paparazzi and investigative journalists followed his tongue almost to his bedroom for more of his vomiting.

The editorial guys were quick to defend their reportage. They argued that it was impossible to know the truth and report the truth as it were then but now that the Pandora box has been opened, it was only fair and logical for the matter to be re-looked a fresh as a case of treachery and not terror to the bottom of the matter.

Alpha convened another ad hoc Cabinet meeting to discuss the emerging evidence but to the cabinet's dismay the two survivors passed on the same day leaving everybody wondering whether Honorable Ponda Ponda's confessions were authentic and true.

Dr Alpha decreed the matter as risky to national security and urged all citizens including members of the 4<sup>th</sup> estate not to dwell much on the subject matter. He indulged the people of Nyika Republic to forgive but not to forget as dwelling on the subject could not put food on the table for their families. Many agreed with him.

The first to discover that the killed terrorists were not terrorists were members of the editorial board. After looking at the photo pictures of the slain terrorists the editorial honchos were too alarmed to tell the story as it were. They changed the narrative and reported the opposite! “Ten members of the cabinet captured and killed by terrorists”, is what they reported. The nation was thrown into a frenzy of mourning.

Meantime at Ushago, Alpha was in constant touch with the highest party authorities over the matter and was too lost for words to say anything. He found it hard that he had lost his Cabinet colleagues. He nevertheless asked his acting counterpart for internal security to do whatever it takes to defend the people from any terrorist attacks from any quarters, anytime anywhere on Nyikan soil. The guy was in darkness!

The twelve ministers were given a state burial. The nation mourned them as heroes and not as villains. The public was in darkness and had been hoodwinked!

The forest was innocent and the terrorists even more innocent. Atleast the forest had covered the slain ministers unknowingly but the terrorists were not there except in a coined narrative. Thanks to the press and sleuths. Poor Alpha! He knew nothing about all these leaking and trickling information.

After the state burial of the twelve ministers, Alpha continued with his off-duty holiday. He loved working at Ushago, where he repainted all primary and secondary schools raising his political popularity a notch higher.

A Cabinet reshuffle was undertaken and Alpha found himself in charge of a new docket. The minister for education. The ministry had myriad problems that ranged from lack of enough capital to manpower. But he was up to the task. He encouraged universities to try as much as possible to be self – reliant in some sectors of their operations and to rely on the government support where it was absolutely inevitable and necessary.

At secondary level he encouraged inter school co-operation and healthy competition. Alpha liked leading by example. He was minister for education but the managerial heads he was either interacting with or sometimes addressing were academic giants. He did not admire this scenario. He decided to enroll for a P.H.D degree in one of the universities in public relations. After walking through thin and thick Alpha presented his thesis; defended the same and passed.

### **REFORMIST DR. ALPHA**

Alpha had mutated from ‘Computer’ to Eagle and now to ‘Doc’. At first, he thought the P.H.D degree could give him consummate respect only for him to learn that the P.H.D also meant something else.

A part from inviting jealousy and unnecessary gossip. Some busy bodies called the P.H.D as an acronym that stood for  
PULL HIM DOWN!

OR

PULL HER DOWN

**But some cynics even go as far as calling it ‘permanent head damage.’** Inferring that P.H.D holders read a lot and thus tax their brains heavily. Yet all P.H.D holders are the privy of corporate institutions and the intellectual kingpins in society who keep institutions of higher learning from decaying by way of providing essential services.

At university, heads of departments seemed to be victims of this acronym perhaps that is the reason why it was hatched in the first place!

## **CHAPTER 7**

### **NEW FACES – NEW NATION**

Nyika Republic had a constitution. The highest office holder was the Chairperson of the ruling party. The centre of power was located in Kinda –the capital city of Nyika Republic. The other two arms of the government were supposed to be the Judiciary and the Legislature but in reality, they did not exist except in name. The executive Chairman of the ruling party had absolute powers over all other sectors of the government.

The Nyika Republic was structured in such a manner that all people were supposed to be equal but the reality on the ground was that some people were treated as being more equal than others.

As fate could have it, Alpha was elevated to the position of the ruling Party Chairman. The church, the universal suffrage and even party members were happy with his political elevation. Some local newspapers even described his rise to the highest office on the land as:- the rise and rise of Alpha.

Alpha initiated several changes in his leadership. He allowed freedom of speech and encouraged competitive democracy. Members of the 4<sup>th</sup>estate welcomed the changes with open arms. For the first time in history, people with dissenting views could express themselves without fear. They even had the right to demonstrate against the authority. The right to associate was granted, recognized and respected. The people of Nyika

Republic enjoyed these freedoms and liberties unabated. A transparent judiciary was established. The Judiciary passed laws that were good for the people and society at large. Nyika Republic rose from a state of ambiguity and secrecy to an open society. Working hours for workers were benchmarked to the international conventions. Retirement age was subject to lawful regulations but was largely tailored to meet the aspirations of the youths. Drug dealings were banned and the moral fabric of society was strengthened through laws, regulations and proper parental guidance.

After five years of party Chairmanship Alpha changed Nyika Republic tremendously. The movement of people and goods was encouraged to spur economic growth through a chain of business that linked well with local and international tourism. People were free to use wheelbarrows, carts, tuk tuks and taxis in their business transactions without any obstruction from any quarters.

He reduced the retirement age from sixty years to fifty-five years. This move alone gave unemployed youths opportunity to secure jobs. Trainees in various cadres of professionalism did not have to rot and idle at home doing nothing after graduating from universities and tertiary institutions.

Dr. Alpha also realized that many youths who were ripe for marriage were not marrying because of economic hardships and laxity. He introduced singlehood tax for bachelors and spinsters. At the same time, he introduced spouse allowance for all married couples for the first five years of marriage. The youths of Nyika

Republic were very excited with these social inducements. Many married and got married to avoid singlehood tax and above all to access spouse allowance and ended in becoming responsible and useful members of society.

Despite being the number one worker in Kinda Republic, Dr Alpha did not forget his roots. He was always in touch with his parents at Ushago village. His aging parents Anyona- and Kerubo were happy with him and his achievements but were not happy over one thing. Lack of a grandchild from Alpha and Rosemary.

Anyona and Kerubo were no ordinary folks in Ushago. Kerubo the mother to Dr Alpha wanted to consult ‘their’ soothsayer but how this could be accomplished was a major problem.

They lived a very different lifestyle. A V.I.P lifestyle. In a palatial home guarded by soldiers. Besides they did not want their son Alpha and Father Ocampo to know that they had connections with the secular gods, which could gravely demean their status in society.

Kerubo refused to be defeated. She called for her daughter Phires and disclosed everything about their previous visits to a traditional soothsayer who lived in exclusivity in a Kaya Forest with a difficult terrain.

Phires was taken a back at her parent’s disclosure that Alpha’s life was guided by gods! She offered to help them reach the soothsayer. She requested her brother to allow her parents to

visit her for atleast one day. Dr Alpha granted the request. Both Kerubo and Anyona were driven to Ramon's home who by then was in South Africa for business.

Phires asked her parents to dress like casual workers and the two understood the reason for doing so.

That night, she drove them to the nearest point of the Kaya Forest in a dilapidated car accompanied with some two hired guards. The hired guards were to take care of the car fixed with fake number plates. They walked slowly and cautiously along the zig zag path to the soothsayer and reached safely. The soothsayer had not slept. He even surprised them that he was waiting for their arrival! A medium had forewarned him of their coming! He even told them the gods were happy with Alpha and very soon he could be blessed with children! He asked Anyona and Kerubo to ask Dr. Alpha to slaughter a spotless goat and invite not more than five trusted visitors only to enjoy the fresh of the goat. He surprised them even more when he asked them not to pay anything for the services. He disclosed to them that the gods could reveal a sacred secret to Alpha as soon as he does what the gods want to be done. 'Leave in peace', he begged of them.

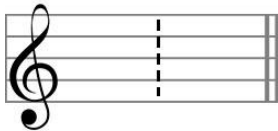
They left with Phires psychologically scared. They reached their dilapidated car and drove back home. Phires paid the hired guards handsomely and left them in a dark alley. The guards smiled all the way to their homes. They were just rabbles who loved leisure and adventure.

The following day Phires bought two spotless goats and gave them to her parents as a gift. She drove them dressed in new clothes up to their palatial home before returning to her marital home.

On the way, Phires saw some business women hawking water melons. She stopped to buy some. Little did she know that she was going to cause a scene. One of the women recognized her and shouted her name and the entire market went crazy with dance and ululation. An instant song was composed in her praise.

Phires whom we have been  
looking for!

Today we have found her!



Phires who went far away!  
Today we have found her!

Phires is our own daughter!  
Today we have found her!

Phires ....the sister to our  
son Alpha!  
Today we have found her!

They banged her car singing and dancing praising her and her brother Dr. Alpha. She became a captive. She video called Dr. Alpha and her video call went through. Dr. Alpha was moved to tears by the love demonstrated by the hawking women. Phires was given security and each of the women was given some substantial good money by Dr. Alpha through Phires. Dr. Alpha promised to build an hawking shade for them and this was done the next day! Phires was interested in buying two watermelons which she did and left. She promised to come back for more next time.

Dr. Alpha came home the following weekend. He paid the cost of the hawker's shade and promised to promote such kiosks to safeguard the sellers from the tropical sun and rain through his personal assistant from his personal account. He was a man of his word. He did exactly that as he had promised.

While resting in his private home with his wife Rosemary and parents Dr. Alpha loved being a down to earth man. His parents sought an audience with him in one of his boardrooms with a fire furnace. One of the chefs was asked to roast a mushroom and maize for him. He enjoyed the stuff.

It was at this point in time that Kerubo came up with their Agenda. Dr. Alpha and Rosemary almost suspected the agenda. Kerubo moved closer to, his son, Dr. Alpha and wanted to whisper something to him but Alpha stopped her. "Mum, just be open about whatever you want to tell me "Dr Alpha begged of her.

“My son”, Kerubo started her speech. “There is something we want you to know, that we and only we –I mean your father and I only know about you. This time we want to share the information with you.” Kerubo went on with her speech. “Please take everything we shall tell you today seriously.” Kerubo pleaded with their son Dr. Alpha.

“When you saw the light of the sun, we noted that your left hand was shorter. When you grew teeth, the upper teeth came out first against the traditional norm. We got scared and consulted a soothsayer who is still alive. The soothsayer told us that you are no ordinary child but a sacred child and you will remain as such till your final day on earth. When you got that terrible accident, we consulted the soothsayer again who smiled and told us that the gods were happy with us and soon we could be blessed sequentially without telling us the finer details. Indeed, it is thereafter that we were blessed with your sister Phires and next your return from the wild world. You will agree with me that the riches of a man is counted in the number and character of his children and family at large. No doubt we live well, but we are starving of one thing. A grandchild. I know children come from God. About four days ago, we were forced by this starvation to consult the soothsayer again. We were helped by your sister Phires to reach the soothsayer. We never wanted anybody to see us. We even feared the paparazzi, so we had to do this discreetly. To cut the story short, the soothsayer asked us to ask you to offer a sacrifice to the gods as a thanks giving. Do not fear Father Ocampo. The sacrifice will not sacrifice your friendship with him.

The spotless goat you are seeing was bought by Phires and given to your father to fulfil the gods' demands. Think about it son. The soothsayer, after talking to a medium promised that Rosemary's womb could be blessed immediately once this godly condition is actualized. We love you son. Please do as requested", Kerubo paused. "One more thing son, make sure that the people who will enjoy the fresh of the goat shall not exceed five. This condition was given to us." Kerubo concluded her speech.

## **CHAPTER 8**

### **ALPHA AT PAINS**

The hired rabbles squandered the money they were given and decided to look for more. Unfortunately, they did not know the home of the lady who had hired them. One of them was thoughtful. He suggested they trace her from the women who had sold watermelons to her at the market. A noble idea, they agreed. The next day they went to the market where the watermelons were being sold and pretended that they wanted to buy some. The thoughtful drunkard changed the idea of buying to being appreciated! ‘‘We are the ones who brought the visitor who bought your watermelon, gave you some cash and now look you have a shade!’’ Mapengo pleaded. On hearing this, the women hawkers received them warmly and gave them one watermelon each for free.

Thoughtful Mapengo came up with another idea. ‘‘We could love to give the lady these gifts you have given us but we don’t know where to get her. She only hired us on that day to accompany her. Can you help us with her phone number or her office line?’’ Mapengo pleaded. ‘‘Just go to San City and ask for Kanon Insurance Company Headquarters. Phires is no ordinary lady. You will get her’’, one of the women told them. They left smiling. Now they had her name and her working place.

Raising fare to San City was another riddle but Mapengo was always a quick thinker. They went back to their home and

approached a shopkeeper for help. Her name was Sarah. “Please Madam Sarah, give us fare that can take to San City and you can keep the watermelons as security.” Sarah agreed to buy the watermelons instead and gave them enough cash to take them to San City. Soon they were at the gates of Kanon Insurance.

They asked the sentry guards to allow them meet Phires. They were instead referred to Ramon. Ramon called Phires to hear them jointly.

Phires had already told her husband about her visit to Kaya Forest with her parents accompanied with the two guards who were hired and handed over to her by a broker.

“Gentlemen! I’m Ramon and she is phires my wife”, Ramon broke the silence. “What can we do for you?” Ramon asked the two visitors.

“Sir, Madam, we have come for your help. We assisted your lady in a cold night and she can confirm that. Sir, we have come to ask whether your good lady can add us something. Yes, she paid us; but it was not enough! The night was cold. That is why we are here!”

Ramon realized that the two had come to blackmail Phires. There was no time to waste. He called the police who arrested the two drundards before they could cause a scene.

Phires became apprehensive but Ramon asked her not to be scary. Mapengo and Juda were taken to the nearest police station and were charged of extortion. They were charged in court, found

guilty and imprisoned for five years each. After serving two years they were released from prison by a decreed pardon as part of the reforms initiated by Dr. Alpha for minor offences.

Dr. Alpha, was no ordinary person. He was the Chief Executive Officer of Kinda Republic, now being asked to skin a goat to appease the gods. Not the God of his religion but the gods of his traditional culture. He was tempted to turn down the request but his love for Rosemary, childlessness condition and absolute obedience to his parents and more especially his mum begged him not to. He grudgingly humbled himself and obliged; took a knife and slaughtered the goat and invited Father

Ocampo, his aide-in-chief, father, mother and Rosemary for this special occasion.



### ***ALPHA'S NEW HOME***

His chefs were very good in roasting meat. They thoroughly enjoyed the bites of the roasted meat and Ugali. Poor Father Ocampo was not aware that the meat was a sacrifice. He would have declined the invitation.

After one month only, Rosemary started to complain of stomach upsets. In the third month it was confirmed by her Doctor that she was pregnant! She was overjoyed! Unfortunately for her the stomach upsets continued unabated. She was put on special screening on the Seventh month and it was confirmed that she was expecting triplets- two boys and one girl.



---

*ANYONA AND KERUBO'S NEW HOME*

## THE PAPARAZZI AND ROSEMARY

Rosemary like any mother was proud of the pregnancy she was carrying. But the paparazzi had their own sensational ideas. They took over one thousand photos of her pregnancy. They snapped her in church, in supermarkets, in hospital clinics, in swimming pools, at the roadsides and this forced her to be exclusive in her lifestyle. Love tabloids were awash with some of these photos hitherto unknown to her. Some of the photos taken without her consent triggered tears on her cheeks. She cursed them and even hated them but still controlled herself and recognized that they were part of sensational journalism.



---

*THE PAPARAZZI*

Alpha supported her and consoled her whenever the paparazzi pushed her private life to low levels. Alpha was her best friend and never regretted accepting his hand of love. Occasionally her mum could call her to find out how she was getting on in her new home. When she became expectant, Grace, her mother offered to be her extra maid!

To save Rosemary from press harassment Alpha suggested to Rosemary to lead a monk's life in the palace. At the end of the day, Rosemary gave birth to triplets. The first male child to come out was named Mwaniki Junior. The second to come out was again a male and he was named Anyona junior and the third was named GG which stood for Gracious Grace. Rosemary withdrew from all public engagements to attend to her triplets with abundant love.

If you didn't know, you had better know that even the state CEOs are human beings. Dr. Alpha locked himself in a room and danced himself silly when he received the news about his triplets in the pipeline!

The press in Nyika were once more at their screaming. This time about the first lady Rosemary, Alpha and her triplets. They were joined by the Paparazzi fellows in Kinda Republic who were either crazy or atleast crazy with Dr. Alpha. All the local dailies screamed in their headlines about Dr. Alpha's babies. The headlines had an immediate impact. They prompted pomp and dance for Alpha; Dance for Rosemary and dance for the triplets throughout Ushago.

## **ALPHA INITIATES MORE REFORMS**

In Ushago, Mong'ina and Nyamoita were two notorious and feared FGM village experts. Parliament had already legislated against this practice but because of cultural upbringing, the practice was firmly rooted in the people's hearts and mind that a girl who had not faced Mong'ina or Nyamoita's knife was not and could never be rife for marriage. A fallacy to say the least.

Alpha decided to weed out the practice once and for all. Orders to stump out the vice from above were given and were to be implemented to the letter. The orders also stated clearly that the two notorious FGM experts were to be uprooted from Ushago and be placed in another society that abhorred the practice. Since the practice was done in the month of December, Mong'ina and Nyamoita found themselves guests of the state in police cells before being transferred elsewhere in the month of November and December.

This move did not auger well with some lawyers. They sued the state, Mong'ina and Nyamoita were released but lost their business for that year and the problem continued unabated. Alpha was determined to bring the menace to an end. He re-strategized, approached the church to fight the vice. The church agreed to preach against the practice in all their church services. This method became fruitful. Teachers were asked to teach against the practice but this method did not have any serious impact. Female circumcision was reduced but still remained rife. The police force ratio to citizens was: one police officer to one

thousand citizens and naturally stumping the practice through the numerically inferior number of police officers remained a tall order.

To weed out the problem Alpha came up with mobile symposiums in which the supposed girls to undergo the practice were oriented and schooled on the dangers posed to them by the female genital mutilation. The peoples' attitude and perception were given a new lease of life. The mindset was changed. The practice was uprooted and the girls of Ushago were emancipated from one of the most backward practices and crime against the girl child. Men also seemed to be attracted to girls who were not circumcised for marriage. When this became a norm, the anti-Female Genital Mutilation that started in Ushago MeliMeli spread to every corner of Nyika Republic and the war was won gradually and completely.

A new generation free from FGM, grew up in Nyika undisturbed, happy and proudly proclaimed themselves as Alpha's products as opposed to traditional products.

## **NYIKAN ECONOMY**

Nyika's economy was a mixed economy of Agricultural products and manufactured goods. Agriculture played the key role in providing food security. Alpha's government gave farmers incentives like free seeds, free seminars and free fertilizer. This strategy guaranteed the country with enough food production and

surplus for export. Maize was the staple food followed by wheat and rice. These three were always readily available and in plenty. The population of Nyika stood at forty-five million and none went hungry.

It had a two-digit annual GDP. Her neighbours especially Eastern Republic coveted her economic performance. Every Citizen was a worker. Supermarkets and malls were filled to full capacity with fresh fruits and roots like water melons, lemons, oranges, passion fruits, sweet bananas, Irish and English potatoes, cereals and flour all the time. Nyikan economy sharply contrasted that of its neighbours who were in sporadic and incessant clan wars. Nyika was admirable and attractive to tourists who loved its flora and fauna. Tourism was a major foreign exchange earner and direct and indirect employer which resonated well to Nyika's hospitality network.

## **CHAPTER 9**

### **ARMY VERSES ARMY**

The scenario of food in abundance and surplus changed abruptly in the last session of Alpha's National Chairmanship. The media was the first to blow the whistle by reporting that desert locusts had been spotted in the neighbouring countries. Even before the printed word could reach and touch everyone, the unwelcome guests invaded Nyika in their millions. They were voracious. They moved in swarms and landed in swarms destroying every green leaf, shrub and tree they could reach. The locals called them Nyangweso. Here was an enemy that could not be contained by a conventional army. Something had to be done and be seen to be done. Pharmaceutical companies were asked to produce more than normal insecticides.

Farmers were supplied with these insecticides to spray the locusts. Unfortunately for them, the desert locusts behaved like a celestial army. They could fly in the air most of the day and land in the evening only to eat everything on the ground and migrate elsewhere.

Alpha ordered the helicopter airborne battalion to spray the locusts with insecticides and save the crops and the environment. The helicopter airborne battalion was part of the Nyika main Air force. The pilots engaged in spraying the desert locusts did a highly skilled job. The locust menace was contained. While doing their sorties, some of the pilots lost direction and attacked the

locusts inside the Eastern Republic. The Eastern neighbour became furious. They accused Nyika of blatant invasion. Alpha dispatched his top diplomat to calm the looming crisis but the diplomat was denied landing rights. The press in the Eastern neighbour was incitive and rooting for war.



---

### ***SWARM OF LOCUSTS***

Alpha called his Eastern counterpart but was not given a hearing. However, a scanty text was sent to his office which demanded an apology for invading the sovereignty of the Eastern Republic!

Alpha contacted a friendly country to contact the top brass leadership of the Eastern Republic for a meeting but this request was also turned down.

The Eastern Republic became increasingly war-like in their Radio messages and propaganda. This war- like utterances alarmed Alpha. He cautiously put the armed forces of the Republic of Nyika on a war footing. A total force of one hundred and twenty thousand soldiers were put on thorough military combat Martial. The general citizens were asked to donate blood. Over one million bags of blood were donated and banked –just in five days.

One Saturday morning, the Eastern neighbour attacked Nyika. The Eastern army overran the police posts along the common border like lightning. An unexpected war had knocked at the doors of Nyika Republict unexpectedly.

### **TEN DAYS OF WAR.**

Alpha went to National Radio and asked all citizens to move away from all roads leading to Eastern Province. He also ordered total closure of schools in the Eastern region. The police were asked to protect citizens and property where possible.

The enemy force moved rapidly capturing towns and almost the entire Eastern Province by the fourth day. They attacked with light tanks and artillery and destroyed property almost at will.



---

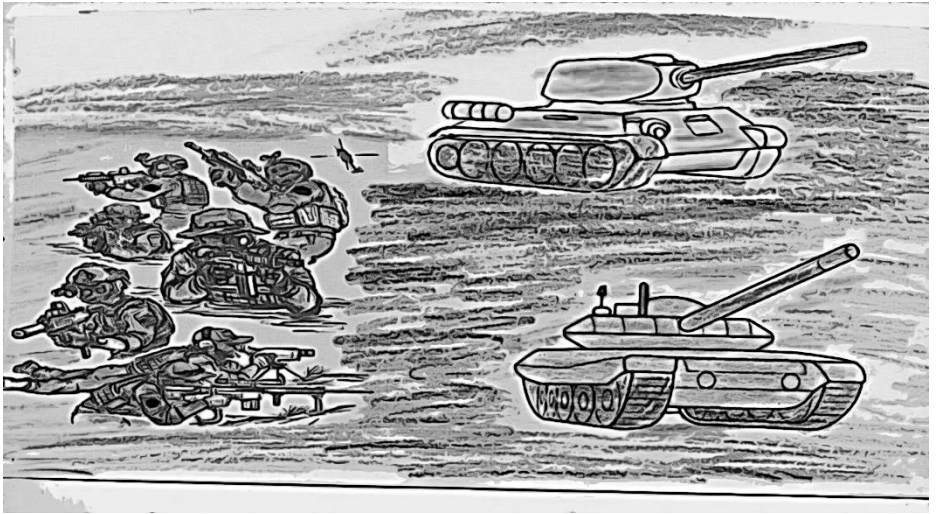
***ALPHA ADDRESSING NYIKANS THROUGH MEDIA***

---

Alpha convened a meeting with his service commanders who surprised him. The army commanders assured him that the enemy could be repulsed within the shortest time possible but the repulsion could have to be done professionally.

General Ibrahim who led the repulsive force was a very intelligent commander. He allowed the enemy force to move deep

into Nyika territory. This they did and were wildly cheered by their local press as a great force.



---

### ***NYIKAN ARMY READY TO DEFEND***

Instead of attacking them directly General Ibrahim ordered the air force to ‘wear down’ the invading force through bombing. He also asked Nyika’s Eastern brigade force to approach the enemy through a semi-circle combat approach. Three such semi-circle combat forces were formed at the end of the day. On the Seventh day, the enemy force was surrounded and cut off from the supply of water, petrol and food rations.

The air force Pilots of Nyika were directed to bomb land and not the invading armies to minimize casualties and deaths.

After forty-Eight hours of no supplies the commander of the invading force capitulated by raising a white flag. A total of Forty thousand soldiers, five hundred trucks and dozens of army accessories were captured. Interestingly, no Nyika soldier was lost in this ugly and unfortunate war of ten days.

Feeding the invasion force became a burden to the Nyika army. The country was experiencing a food crisis following the locusts' menace.

Alpha became tough with his Eastern counterpart. He refused to surrender the captured soldiers till his Eastern counterpart reached and signed a memorandum of understanding with the Republic of Nyika and meet war reparation.

The Eastern Republic was led by a military junta with general Mullah Mullah as the head of the junta. Crestfallen, he jetted to Kinda, the capital of Nyika and was warmly received with his team of army commanders.

Alpha convinced the visiting junta army officers from Eastern Republic that Nyika had no territorial rapacity against any of its neighbours. Nyika air force had only crossed into their territory by mistake in the process of spraying locusts.

The visiting junta agreed to repatriate their captured soldiers as civilians. The captured war machinery were to remain in Nyika. They also agreed to meet the cost of reconstructing the destroyed police posts, private property, markets, towns and bridges.

The soldiers were to be flown back home by a neutral airline through the Red Cross office. The two countries also agreed to meet once every year to review their MOU (Memorandum of Understanding).

In their next meeting Alpha ruled out any next war reparation on the part of Eastern Republic and instead asked for an open border to allow free trade and movement of people. The two countries cultivated good rapport and intimate relationship. He encouraged the military junta to relinquish power to civilian rule and allow democracy to take shape in their country. The military junta agreed and a civilian transitional government was formed. General Mullah Mullah resigned from the army and declared his candidature on a democratic forum through the Eastern Democratic Party (EDP) with a hammer as it's party symbol.

He was a popular figure within the army ranks and the general franchise. He won the first democratic general election in the Eastern Republic resoundingly.

In Nyika, the war brought into fore new schools of thought and perception. For decades the plight of street urchins were given a big berth in government programmes. They were viewed as a social nuisance and good for nothing rascals. University students were also perceived as troublesome but indispensable in society. The ten days war changed all this kind of stereotype thinking.

When the ministry of defense called for blood donation, the street urchins were the first volunteers. They literally raced to the blood donation centres in droves singing war and nationalistic songs.

University students were the second to respond and were very angry. Some wanted to be given guns to join the army in the war front. They demonstrated daily against the invasion and demanded to be recruited into the army to liberate their mother land from blatant invasion. The media were very vocal and evoked the general folks with toxic nationalistic emotions. Every Nyikan became a defender in spirit of Nyika's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The third volunteers were peasants who like university students wanted to join the army with their traditional clubs to defend the nation from the unexpected external aggression.

The dummy tummy shenanigans were last. Some donated blood and even paid media to cover them over TV for their wonderful nationalistic gesture.

The war opened Alpha's eyes. Immediately after the war, he went full throttle to rehabilitate the street urchins. Those who were physically strong were integrated into the army as cleaners. Those who were young were sent to boarding schools. Some were attached to families for corrective fosterhood. At the end of the day, the street urchin menace was put into the dustbin of history in Nyika Republic.

Alpha's popularity hit sky high. Every citizen of Nyika was a worker and therefore productive and contributive to the national kit of development through obligatory taxes.

Parliament passed very many good laws. Many legal minds were hired as magistrates to dispense justice. Nyika became an oasis of peace in global interactions. It shined in sports and sometimes surprised many in defeating giants.

Many folks sought citizenship of Nyika because of its fame, gorgeous and fabulous lifestyle. Thanks to the reforms initiated and implemented by the incredible Alpha. The man who refused to pity himself for his disability and surmountable challenges in life.

A new nation with a new face was born. A nation led by the incredible Alpha. Wonders never cease. Atleast not in Ushago, Nyika Republic.

**\*\*\*THE END\*\*\***

## GLOSSARY

- F.G.M** - Female Genital Mutilation
- P.H.D** - Dr. of Philosophy
- C.E.O** - Chief Executive Officer
- Barubaru** - Kiswahili term for youths.
- Mazee** - Kiswahili word for comrade
- Fautian** - A person who loves money and power
- Illuminati** - The Love of Money and evil wealth.
- Lingua –Franca-** Any widely used language for communication  
e.g. Kiswahili in East Africa.
- Mlika Mwizi-** A phone of a very low cost for the poor with a touch.