

PRESENTING

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THE FIRST STEP



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THE STORY OF THE HUMMINGBIRD IS ABOUT THIS HUGE FOREST BEING CONSUMED BY AN UNSTOPPABLE FIRE. THE ANIMALS IN THE FOREST FELT VERY OVERWHELMED AND POWERLESS AS THEY WATCHED THEIR BEAUTIFUL FOREST BURN TO ASHES. ALL BUT ONE LITTLE HUMMINGBIRD DECIDED TO TAKE ACTION.

THE HUMMINGBIRD EXCLAIMED, "I'M GOING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE FIRE!" SO THE HUMMINGBIRD FLEW TO THE NEAREST STREAM AND CARRIED A DROP OF WATER IN ITS TINY BEAK. THE HUMMINGBIRD FLEW OVER THE STREAM REPEATEDLY, UP AND DOWN, BACK AND FORTH, DROPPING EACH DROP OF WATER ONTO THE FLAMES AS FAST AS IT COULD.

ALL OF THE OTHER ANIMALS, LIKE THE ELEPHANT WITH ITS BIG TRUNK THAT COULD CARRY OVER MUCH MORE WATER, STOOD THERE HELPLESS AND DOUBTFUL. THEY SAID TO THE HUMMINGBIRD, "YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE? YOU ARE TOO LITTLE. THIS FIRE IS TOO BIG. YOUR WINGS ARE TOO LITTLE AND YOUR BEAK IS SO SMALL THAT YOU CAN ONLY BRING A SMALL DROP OF WATER AT A TIME."

AS THEY CONTINUED DISCOURAGING THE HUMMINGBIRD, IT TURNED TO THEM WITHOUT HESITATION AND TOLD THEM, "I AM DOING THE BEST I CAN. AND THAT TO ME IS WHAT ALL OF US SHOULD DO."

WE SHOULD ALL STRIVE TO BE LIKE THE HUMMINGBIRD. OUR EFFORTS MAY BE INSIGNIFICANT IN THE BIG PICTURE, BUT I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T WANT TO BE LIKE THE ANIMALS WATCHING THEIR HOME GO DOWN THE DRAIN. I WILL BE A HUMMINGBIRD, AND I WILL ALWAYS DO THE BEST I CAN.

PROFESSOR WANGARI MAATHAI

I GREW UP IN A RURAL VILLAGE IN GATUNDU, CENTRAL KENYA. IT WAS PARTIALLY IN AN URBAN SLUM, SURROUNDED BY TEA PLANTATIONS A SMALL RIVER GORGE WHERE WE WOULD GATHER OUR WATER, AND AN AVOCADO TREE THAT MY MOTHER AND I TOOK CARE OF TOGETHER.

MY GREATEST CHALLENGE WAS ADJUSTING TO LIFE AFTER A MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE INCIDENT AFFECTED MY LONG-TERM ABILITY TO WALK. MY PARENTS AND I HAD A HUGE STRUGGLE AHEAD OF US, BUT FORTUNATELY, THEY WERE WILLING TO MAKE THE NECESSARY SACRIFICES TO ENSURE THAT I LIVED A NORMAL LIFE.



I WAS, AND STILL AM, DEEPLY INFLUENCED BY MY MOTHER. I SAW MY MOTHER REALLY FIGHTING FOR ME AND ENCOURAGING ME TO GO TO SCHOOL. IN FACT, SHE ACTUALLY USED TO TAKE ME TO SCHOOL DAILY ON HER BACK.



I RECALL THE VERY
FIRST DAY I JOINED
PRIMARY SCHOOL.

AFTER
MY MOTHER
DROPPED ME OFF,
I WAS SURROUNDED
BY HUNDREDS OF
STUDENTS WANTING
TO SEE AND TOUCH
MY BRACE. IT WAS VERY
EMBARRASSING FOR ME.

THE TURNING POINT IN MY LIFE WAS
WHEN I ATTENDED JOYTOWN SPECIAL
SCHOOL. BEING AROUND THESE KIDS
WHO WERE GOING THROUGH WHAT I
WAS GOING THROUGH SPARKED A
PASSION WITHIN ME THAT I NEVER
KNEW I HAD. JOYTOWN STILL HOLDS
A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART.



I SAW MANY OF
THESE KIDS
AROUND ME
THAT NEEDED
A VOICE.
THIS IS WHY I
CONTINUE TO
CAMPAIGN FOR
DISABILITY
AND HUMAN
RIGHTS ISSUES.

I KNEW I HAD
TO DO
SOMETHING
EXTRAORDINARY...



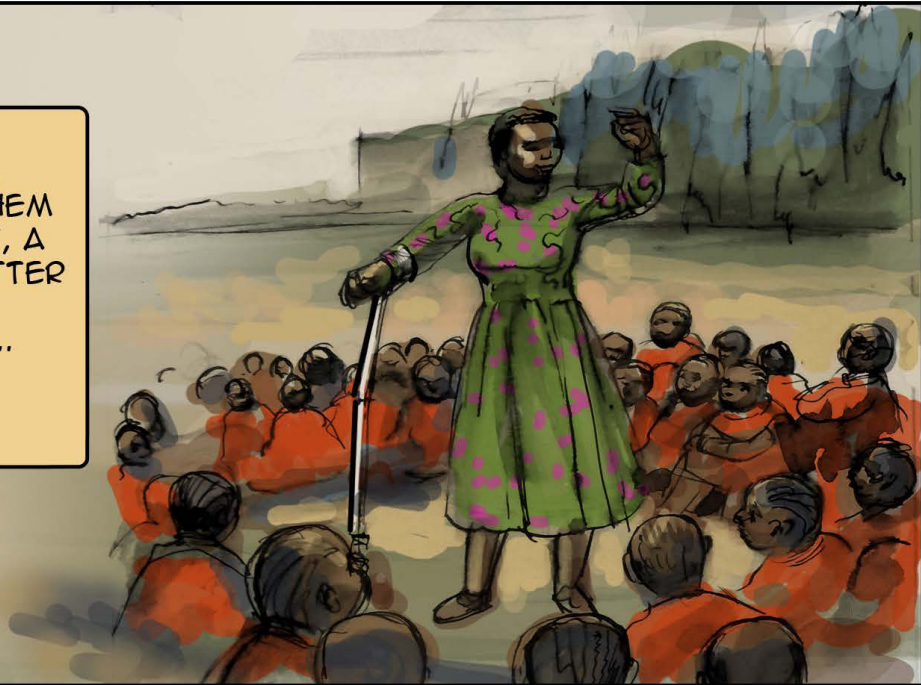


IN SEPTEMBER 2014,
I STARTED A TREK TO CLIMB
MOUNT LONGONOT (A 13.5KM HIKE)
IN ORDER TO RAISE
FUNDS FOR KENYAN CHILDREN WITH
VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS.

MY GOAL WAS TO ADVOCATE FOR
THE RIGHTS OF YOUNG GIRLS WITH
DISABILITIES TO HAVE ACCESS TO
A PROPER EDUCATION.

I AM THE FIRST PHYSICALLY
DISABLED WOMAN TO COMPLETE
THIS VENTURE.

I HOPE THAT MY EFFORTS WILL
INSPIRE OTHERS AND SHOW THEM
THAT WITH THE RIGHT SUPPORT, A
YOUNG WOMAN CAN LIVE A BETTER
AND PRODUCTIVE LIFE AND BE
AN AGENT OF SOCIAL CHANGE...
NO MATTER WHAT THEIR
CIRCUMSTANCES ARE.



MY NAME IS
HANNAH WANJA MAINA.
I AM 24 YEARS OLD.
I AM FROM NAIROBI, KENYA.
I AM A GLOBAL YOUTH
AMBASSADOR FOR A WORLD AT
SCHOOL, A GLOBAL MOVEMENT
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WORKING
TOGETHER TO GET EVERY CHILD
IN TO SCHOOL.

I AM A HUMMINGBIRD.