

Acknowledgements

An African child does not belong to his/her parents alone but also to the community. I Am who I am today because I have been blessed to interact with people who have inspired, supported and nourished my wellbeing through kindness and generosity in various aspects. To my supervisors Dr. Kathy Kuman and Dr. Ron Clarke; to Dr. Travis Pickering, Professor Lyn Wadley, Professor Phillip Tobias, Dr. Mike Raath; to members of Wits University; to people of South Africa; to friends whom I have met and shared with from all over the world; to my community; my country Kenya; and to my family, I am eternally grateful.

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I didn't twitch when it thundered
I didn't wither when it scorched
Nor did stormy winds and hail break my back
For you stood by me.

I call you *Mūrũ wa Maitũ* (my brother)
For you walked with me
The warriors' path
I call you *Mwarĩ wa Maitũ* (my sister)
For you danced with me
The warriors' dance

I toss the magical bones
I beckon the gods of *Kĩrĩnyaga*
I implore the benevolent spirit of *Giakagĩna*
To shower blessing upon your households

Go forth and strong my brother
Spear the clouds and let it rain
Fly high and mighty my sister
Bring the star and illuminate the path

Go South to the valley of a thousand hills
Go North to the African Jungle
Go East for wild animals and cool waters
Go West for fruit trees and flowers
Go into the open world and conquer.

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