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Thanks giving day 1976

Dear

Eliot

I hope you are doing fine and family. I know you probably wonder where I am. I am still in the states studying. I went home a summer before last and found everybody alright including the landscape. Was happy to note Ngorongoro was still there and was the Serengeti and although that was a year ago I have confident they are still there. Before I went home I was afraid that by the time I go home I will find the landscape abused but found it there and beautiful as ever. I spend a month with my parent, a week with Mary Leahy in her new camp at Laitole. The rest of my holiday I travelled through East Africa. I succeeded to visit the coastline as I never did.

Literally speaking I didn't want to come back. Those plains and beaches of East Africa are very bewitching. Also I found disbelievably that I have changed. Many people accused me of being too Americanized. I was ashamed of myself more so because I thought I didn't. I knew the American environment will have impact on me but not to that extent.

I had a hard time getting along with Africans in cities but I got very well with my people like the Maasai. I am so proud I am a Maasai, but I am worried of to their future. Land utilization is radically changing in both countries which they occupy and land being what has sheltered and protected their culture if they lose it with by subtleties of modern bureaucracy, and even their culture will go. Completed my studies in Emerson College may last year am doing my masters degree in natural resources in the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, great place to such studies. Is very challenging lacking a science background. Thanks to my experience in the Serengeti and to the fact that I am a Maasai and has brought up with wild and domestic animals; or else

● it would have impossible. The Healey Foundation in Pasadena California has provided me money for this year. Will have to find money elsewhere because the course will take two years. Wrote them soon to explain the situation and I am waiting to hear from them.

ⁱⁿ Please write me and tell me of what you have been doing the past two years and at present. If I complete my studies here I will go to Africa to do my field work, there is a chance the New York Zoological Society will give me field money but that is still a long way. I ~~wrote them~~ wrote last year and had a chance to meet George Schaller and Peter Matthiessen. In fact through George I got the money from the present sponsors of the Healey Foundation. What ever happen to you elephant study plan forgive me for reminding you. Sam reading the book which you must have heard 'Among the elephants', very fascinating. Where about is Steven and wife. In case you see them give my love

Please write.
Always your Maasai friend

Tepilit Ole Saitoti
I have been using Ole Saitoti instead of Sam.