

● *Onye wetara oji wetara ndụ*

He who brings kola brings life.

BRIDGING WORLDS

Two grammars of trust, one DFIR career.

JEREMIAH ONYEMA

DFIR THREAT HUNTER

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P A R T I

The Crossing

Nigeria. Berlin. NinjaOne. The gaps between the bullet points.

THE SHAPE, NOT THE RESUME

Before

2020

2020-2023

2024

2025-now

Nigeria.
Engineering degree.

Berlin.
Master's begins.

Three internships.

First full-time
security role.

NinjaOne.
DFIR threat hunter.

Everything I'm about to tell you happened in the gaps between those bullet points.



THE FIRST WEEKS

“

I started explaining everything twice.

Once for the question.

Once for the accent.

A culture rewrites you in tiny ways before you realize it's happening.
The skill is learning to tell which rewrites are harmless — and which aren't.



WHAT THE YEARS LOOKED LIKE

2020 – 2023

DAY TIME

Master's classes. Second language. Second country.

EVENINGS & WEEKENDS

Security certifications. Paid for myself. A field I had no formal background in.

NIGHTS

Manual jobs, factory shifts.

First real security role: age 31. No plan B. No network. I made it. I would do it again.

PART II

The Grammar

What I was actually navigating — once I had words for it.



THE FRAME

Two grammars of trust.

WHERE I COME FROM

Confidence is restraint.

Speak after you've heard.

Disagree sideways. Protect the speaker.

Directness without warmth = aggression.

WHERE I WORK NOW

Confidence is coherence.

Speak so they know you're thinking.

Disagree in the room. Respect the topic.

Warmth without directness = avoidance.

Both are theories of how trust gets built. Neither is wrong. They just don't translate.



A SMALL CONFESSION

For my first months,
I thought every German meeting
was on the verge of an argument.

Different operating systems. Same task.

Neither of us was hearing the other's grammar.

THE WORD THAT CHANGED

Community → *Marketplace*

WATCHED LIKE FAMILY

Everyone wins together.

Silence = “I disagree,
and I'm protecting you. We'll talk later.”

Questions are just questions.

WATCHED LIKE PRICED

Visibility is the currency.

Silence = you agreed.

Questions get classified. The classification follows
you.

Nobody called it a marketplace. They called it visibility, team positioning, career progression.

Same thing.



DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS, DIFFERENT DEFAULTS

Speed vs. Depth

WESTERN CORPORATE IT

Ship fast. Iterate.

Assumes cheap retries.
Velocity is virtue.
Rework is part of the plan.

WHERE I COME FROM

Do it right the first time.

Power might cut.
The retry might never come.
Thoroughness is respect.

Most of the friction you see on your team isn't disagreement. It's mistranslation.

PART III

The Cost

What the translation work actually takes from you.

THE ARC

An arc you'll see on your team.

MONTH ONE

I was the CEO
of every meeting.

MONTH FOUR

I forgot how to say
“how are you?”

If someone on your team just moved here from anywhere — they're somewhere on this arc.



THE LINE

Assimilation
up to that point
was adaptation.

Past that point,
it was erasure.



A PROVERB FROM HOME

*Mberede nyiri dike,
mana mberede ka eji ama dike.*

Surprises defeat a hero. But the same surprises make a hero.

The thing that almost broke me is the same thing that taught me what I actually know.

Two things, same arc.



T A K E A W A Y S · 1 O F 2

If you're a junior trying to break in.

- 01** Your background is a feature.
- 02** Slow is not weak.
- 03** Find one person who'll speak for you in rooms you're not in.



T A K E A W A Y S · 2 O F 2

If you mentor or work alongside.

- 01** Your defaults are a dialect.
- 02** Mistranslation before malice. Every time.
- 03** The translation work you don't see is real labor.



THE BRIDGE

A green bridge

That's what I've been for the last six years.

Tired sometimes. Worth it.

Onye wetara oji wetara ndu. Thank you for receiving the kola.



STAY IN TOUCH

Jeremiah Onyema

Security Engineer (DFIR Threat Hunter) · NinjaOne

linkedin.com/in/jeremiahonyema

Reach out if any of this resonated, or if you're walking your own crossing.