

IN LOVING MEMORY

Oluwo Fagbamila Philip Neimark

SEP 13, 1939

FEB 10, 2021



I am with you
from sunrise
to sunset
I will watch
over you from
heaven above

Oyeku Ogbe: Earth is the Marketplace - Heaven is Home

LIFE REFLECTIONS

Oluwo Fagbamila Philip Neimark

Philip John Neimark, born September 13, 1939 in Chicago, Illinois, United States. He was presided in death by his parents Mortimer William and Hortense (Peters) Neimark.

He attended the University Chicago, 1956–1958, Northwestern University, 1958–1959. He was awarded his Doctor in Business Management from Ricker College, Houlton, Maine, 1976.

Philip John Neimark's business career included being a partner with Rosenthal & Company, 1973–1977. Owner, principal Philip J. Neimark Investments, Miami, Florida, 1977–1979, Chicago, since 1979. President Neimark Finance Public Company, since 1985 and Croesus Associates, 1988–1990.

He has been listed as a noteworthy financial consultant, editor by Marquis Who's Who.



IFA LIFE REFLECTIONS

The first time Oluwo Phil encountered the path of Ifa was on his 30th birthday in 1969. His friends and second wife took him for a life path reading in Hialeah, Florida. This one reading changed the course of his life forever as it helped him to avert untimely death.

A year later many of the things told to him during his life path divination were happening and he had to find out more. The Oluwo received his warriors, initiated into his guardian Orisa Obatala and also later received other Orisa. His quest for finding the source of Santeria and Lukumi was very passionate.

In 1982 Olorisa Philip Neimark was divinely inspired to start the first Ifa 501 (c)(3) non-profit in the United States, the Ifa Foundation International. At this same time, he and his new wife Vassa were also building their life and dreams together.

In 1987 he was ordained as a Babalawo in the Lukumi Tradition by Oluwo Hector Rodriguez in Chicago. He was given the name Fagmamilia and the path of OgundaBede.

He received additional knowledge of the Traditional IFA philosophy and was elevated to Oluwo through the Lineage of Oluwo Dr. Afolabi Adeyemi Epega, 1989.

Oluwo Phil then went on to teach Ifa as an Instructor at the Omega Institute, 1994 and Esalen Institute, 1994. Bringing the message of Ifa Philosophy to healers and students present at the lectures.

OLUWO FAGBAMILA'S IFA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Initiated all 4 of his children into the path of Ifa.
- Initiated his 5 Grandchildren into the path of Ifa.
- Enjoyed a 40-year marriage with his loving wife, Nana Iyanifa Vassa and together they built the Sacred Orisa Gardens and Initiated people who came from across the globe.
- Founded the first Ifa 501 (c)(3) in the U.S. in 1982
- Began the first open share Ifa website on the website www.ifafoundation.org from his Osborne computer! (now with over 1 million visitors)
- Created the first public Orisa Gardens in the U.S.
- Divined and wrote the weekly Ifascope readings for the public every week for over 20 years.
- Also performed the monthly Icofa readings for the public each month for over 20 years as well.
- He wrote 6 influential books on Ifa.
- In 1990, The Sacred Ifa Oracle was released, by Oluwo Dr. Afolabi Epega and Oluwo Philip J. Neimark
- Also in 1990, The Way of the Orisa was released.
- Later on, in the 90's he published 3 more books: The Matrix of Ifa, The Orisha Today: No More Fear, and The Orisha Today: What you never thought you would hear.
- He created over several hundred YouTube and Vimeo teaching videos
- Not to mention the thousands of initiations, ceremonies, and rituals he performed in his 50 years of Ifa-ing and spreading the word of Ifa to the world.

IFA LIFE REFLECTIONS OF OLUWO FAGBAMILA



Babalawo and author divining the text



IFA LIFE REFLECTIONS OF OLUWO FAGBAMILA



OLUWO FAGBAMILA PHILIP J NEIMARK
ITUTO CEREMONY

March 14th, 2021

Ola Olu Sacred Orisa Gardens Crescent City Florida

Officiated by: Babalawo Ifagbemi Alejandro Rivera

&

Nana Iyanifa Vassa Neimark

12 Noon, Opening with ESU

1 P.M. EGBE

2 P.M. ANCESTORS

3 P.M. OYA

4 PM. OBATALA

5 P.M. ELA

There will be songs, traditional Ifa prayers, and video tributes throughout the ceremony.

The Ceremony Day will be available on the

Ifa Foundation's Facebook Live page

<https://www.Facebook.com/IfaFoundationInternational/live>

<https://www.Ifafoundation.org/the-Oluwos-Legacy>



Hi Dad,

You are without a doubt the greatest father anyone could ever hope to have. Your unconditional love made me who I am today. You were-and are- a truth seeker. Independent and open-minded you devoted your life to finding truth. With Ifa you found what you were looking for and you helped others do the same with your no-nonsense yet kind guidance, wisdom, and signature sense of humor. I will love you forever.
-Tanya H.

Thank you Oluwo for your energy for the words of wisdom you shared with me, thank you for digging deep inside yourself to be a part of my ceremonies, Thank you for initiating me into priesthood. I will always be grateful and walk-in Iwa-Pele, We are blessed to have met such a wonderful man and it's a bigger blessing to say he was our Oluwo. We have lost someone big in our community, Oluwo you will be forever in our hearts and forever in our prayers.
-Ifadero Ogundekun

My beloved brother, you inspired me to continue my education. Your wisdom is priceless. I will honor you and welcome you at my alter every day. Wiseman on post! Ache...
-Echu L.

On behalf of my temple Ile Ori Ogbe Egun and the I-Teach Love Institute, I want to uplift and honor the work of Awo and Baba Neimark. His voice and kindness forever reverberates in my heart and spirit. I thank him and you for all your fine work and the legacy you have given birth to. I know that He watches over you and us from his Egbe Orun. I lift his name with love and respect always.

*Condolences Offered with Love, Ibae T'Orun Chief Neimark!
With Foribale and Respect.*

-Iyanifa Ifalade TaShia Asanti

Alafia and so much Peace! First and foremost I want to say that Oluwo Philip Neimark was such a humble spirit my first encounter with Oluwo was when I first got initiated with my Guardian Orisha 5 years ago, I actually was able to meet him in person at his residence with Iya and he was so welcoming, along my journey his youtube videos has given me such insight and so much knowledge that I still go back and watch them still till this day, he signed my first book I purchased The Way of the Orisha and I will never forget his message, may orisha bring you the happiness and joy you seek, remember you may not always get what you want but what you need, Ase' those words I carry with me forever!

-Awo Sindy M.

Thank you for creating The Ifa Foundation. I came across it as I was preparing for initiation. Your words of clarity always grounded and comforted me and were a refuge in the chaotic iles that I had been a part of previously. Much gratitude for teaching folks what this path is truly about.

-Erika P.

Ashe! I thank you for opening my heart, eyes, and soul to IFA. I had been searching for so learn to find where I belong and what my heart truly yearned for. It was IWA PELE! Good character with unconditional love is what I have found and I thank you Oluwo! You inspire me to give this love back to the community and the universe! Today I continue the journey and will continue spreading unconditional love to all!

-Rachel O.

Phil, you had the greatest laugh, warmest smile, most generous heart, and an excellent sense of humor! I will always remember some of your last words to me during the Ori ceremony - "Don't waste it"! Rest In Peace, Phil.

-Patrick M.

*I received my life path reading from Oluwo Phil around January 2005. I had read *The Way of the Orisa* and had been reading every scrap of information on his websites. I was an avid follower of his websites and interacted with him on the Ifa College forums and sometimes would send him a question in an email. In January 2014 I finally met Phil face to face when I went to the retreat for my Ori Ceremony. When he arrived and saw me he said "come here and give me a proper hug". His writings and videos were a huge impact on my journey. I'm happy to have known him. I will end this note in classic Phil fashion by saying "Love and Blessings".*

-Ifabenle

*May your transition home be smooth. I am deeply grateful for your kindness, teaching, and guidance. Yours is an extraordinary far-sighted spirit that remains here. My initiation into Ifa changed me and the life of my family. My copy of *The Sacred Ifa Oracle* is torn and battered from the devoted study. And let me not forget hours and hours of joy and laughter in glorious Ola Olu in your company with Iya Vassa and children. Thank you, dear Philip.*

-Frances C.

Oluwo Phil, You are a true light.

-Olga C.

*A few things my Oluwo taught me along the way!
Oluwo Phil said to me, "There are things you just can't understand." And I believed him. And I stopped trying to figure out every single facet of the inner workings of Ifa and began to live it! One-third of the power of Ifa. When I started I literally ate all the words, pages of The way of the orisa. There it was on page 29: Ancestor worship is one-third of the power of Ifa. It requires no initiation, no conversion, no expense. It is something that everyone can do. It is a powerful tool for making positive and discernible changes in our lives. I have been doing the monthly rituals with my ancestors almost every month since 2000!*

-Nana Iya Ifajube Barbara P.

*Thank you for your friendship over the past 6 years.
Thank you for your love and kindness you show.
Thank you for opening your home to me.
I will always have warm thoughts of all the good times we spent together.*

You will be very missed.

-Oluwo Carl Ifajuyigbe

My first experience with you was the weekly Ifascope. It is my most enduring memory. I was amazed at the directness of your message. You did not sugarcoat. You did not cover your message with flowery, indirect phrasing. You called a spade a spade, and I loved you for it. If it was not for your direct, heartfelt, and powerful messages week after week, I would not have given Ifa a try. My experience with practitioners in the past had not been ... beneficial. You restored my trust and faith in Ifa with your consistency and truthfulness. For that, I am eternally grateful.

-Awo Camille Funlayo G.

Thank you so much for reminding me that genuine, caring, honest, and loving people still existed in the world of African spirituality. When my family and I first made the decision to come to the garden and meet with you all we had lost hope in Ifa practitioners. That first visit changed our lives for the best. You and Iya Vassa opened your home and lives to myself, my son and daughter. I so loved your bluntness, it spoke to my very own spirit. You were so wise beyond your years and I am forever grateful for the great spirits of the Universe for allowing us to make that connection. I will forever, hold you dearly in my heart. I know you are still watching over us and we thank you for that! Sun re o Baba! Ni ife re nigbagbogbo

-Elizabeth E.

Oluwo 'Fagbamila, Philip Neimark, thank you for your embrace, guidance, mentoring & sincerity. Your compassion, determination & strength of character were an inspiration to me and many others. I fondly remember the many conversations we shared in the more than two decades of friendship. I am honored and privileged to have stood in your presence.

Your legacy lives on through the Ifá Foundation and the many lives you touched.

May your spirit continue to rise and merge with the ever-expansive consciousness of Olodumare.

-Chief Otun Owo Ifaraba

Alaafia Oluwo Phil. Aboru Aboye. Thank you for everything. Because of your work, many people, regardless of gender and race, are now able to tap into the matrix of Ifa. As you make your journey back to Orun, we are reminded that we need to make the most out of our time here on Earth by fulfilling our destiny, as you have done with yours. Thank you for your teachings and your messages. When I first met you at Ola Olu, you signed my Sacred Ifa Oracle book with the message, "May you remain joyous." I took that message and have applied it to everything I do. Joy has become the foundation of my life and my work. E seun pupo. Ifa seun O. Sun re O.

-Awo Ifatobi

One of the hardest love notes I've ever had to write. I know it's not goodbye and that you will be forever accessible to me. One of my most profound conversations with you was when you asked me, "What in the heck are you afraid of? Are you afraid you'll succeed? There is nothing to fear, especially success! ", as you rubbed Ozzie's head. Thank you for being the voice I needed, opening your home to me, showing me a different side of Ifa, and creating a Fearless Ile of Warriors.

I love you Oluwo!

-Olosun Dawn Omilade

Aboru, Aboye, Abosise!

Oluwo Phil,

Your commanding presence, power, wisdom, knowledge, and experience was balanced by your kindness, gentleness, generosity, and goodness. I have so much respect and love for you Godfather and I thank you for all you have done for me personally, for my spiritual family, and for the world and universe at large. You have done so much for so many, and we are forever grateful. Ase'.

--Ifa Gunwa;, Hollywood, Omo Obatala

~Acknowledgments~

The family of Oluwo Fagbamila Philip J. Neimark is grateful for all the prayers, acts of comfort, and kindness extended to our family during this time.

Adupe Ati Ifa Gbe Wa O!

UNTIL NEXT TIME, LOVE & BLESSINGS

-OLUWO PHIL

