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TRIBUTE TO A GENTLE MAN

Adieu Uncle IG!! Adieu Ette!!!

I called you Uncle Ig; I also called you Ette; you were a jolly good fellow, a gentleman and a very peaceful fellow.

You were a man of moderate tendencies in your indulgencies except when it came to eating Ube na Oka; yes corn (boiled or better still roasted) was irresistible to Uncle Ig; he would make me "travel" to ensure he ate some whenever he came to Nigeria and it didn't matter whether the grain was in season or not, he will make you remember the place under the Mende Bridge in Maryland where the women somehow managed to have all season corn; Uncle Ig also liked the good life and general merriment; he was a good guy to have around when you make merry; but he was also very careful not to ever over indulge, he was moderation epitomized.

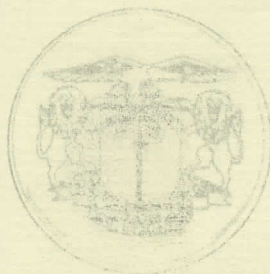
I remember Uncle Ig's passion for fashion as I found in him a kindred spirit and his adaptability to "wait" for me while I indulged in endless unmasculine shopping was admirable; sometimes he complained that I wasted too much time; but by the time I come for the next summer vacation, he would have discovered another shopping spot or town or mall or emporium for our usual escapade and we would take off to the place, no matter how distant. Uncle Ig was a fantastic driver but sometimes we would get lost in the twists and turns of New Jersey and would spend 50% of our time "looking" for how to get to the shop. He and I had fun.

I remember Uncle Ig for his kindness and good heartedness; I also remember him for being 100% a Biafran. Uncle Ig longed for a Biafra where all things would work well and "our people" would not be oppressed; he desired a corruption free Nigeria and an environment where fair and free competition would be the order of the day; he was a proud Abiriba man and even a prouder Igbo man.

He liked the perfume I gave him every year "Insurrection" and said mine was the original as they managed to sell him the fake one all the time, so he looked forward to my annual gift of the "original"

Ette my man, adieu and fare you well.

Omezimba Chibuzo N. Ziggy Azike, KSC
Life Bencher



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