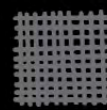




NANA OSAFO ASOMANI



1941 - 2020









His Journey

*A hero is someone who has given his life or her life
to something bigger than oneself.*

*The man who has confidence in himself,
gains the confidence of others.*



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ADINKRAHENE

Symbol of greatness, charisma and leadership.



Life Story

Biography of

THE LATE NANA OSAFO ASOMANI

Worthy [wise] persons deserve to be called so because they are not carried away by the eight winds: prosperity, decline, disgrace, honor, praise, censure, suffering, and pleasure. They are neither elated by prosperity nor grieved by decline. The heavenly gods will surely protect one who is unbending before the eight winds. *(Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin)*

EARLY LIFE

Nana Osafo Asomani (née) Joseph Asomani was born on 3rd February 1941 in Twenedurase, Kwahu to the late Opanin Kwadwo Asomani and Madam Afua Foriwaa (Afua Attaa). He was the first of ten children of Madam Afua Foriwaa. His early and formative years were spent with his grandmother at Adensua, Kwahu.

Kwadwo Asomani started his early school years in Twenedurase, Kwahu but his father knowing the potential of his son moved him to Krobo Odumase to continue his education at Bana Hill boarding school. On completion, he continued at Kpando Technical School.

After graduating from Kpando, he worked with Metaloplastica in Accra. As a promising young man, he gained the Government of Ghana scholarship to Japan as a trainee to study cotton spinning technique.

He arrived in Japan in May 1964 to commence his training. During his training, he met Mr. Suguru Fujimoto, a textile engineer who was a member of the overseas technical co-operation agency.

TIME TO TRAVEL

In 1965, Mr. Fujimoto, the textile engineer came to Ghana to help establish a textile factory in Tema. There was a reunion since Mr. Asomani was also a staff member at the textile training center in Tema. Mr. Fujimoto who was a practicing Soka Gakkai member introduced Mr. Asomani to Nichiren Daishonin Buddhism.

By 1968 when Mr. Fujimoto was leaving Ghana, more than forty people had been introduced to this Buddhism. Mr. Fujimoto on leaving Ghana decided to take Mr. Asomani along if he could raise his own money for the trip. The young man then sold all his belongings and made the trip to Japan.

On 21st August 1968, Mr. Asomani was the first pilgrim from Africa to visit the Head Temple at Taiseki-ji, Japan. Mr. Fujimoto introduced him to President Daisaku Ikeda. President Ikeda then encouraged Mr. Asomani to return to his country and continue the propagation of this religion and this challenge he accepted.

EARLY BUDDHIST ACTIVITIES & MARRIAGE LIFE

Mr. Asomani singlehandedly embarked upon the propagation of this teaching on his return to Ghana with a renewed determination. He travelled the length and breadth of the country to lay the foundation of this religion i.e. Accra, Tema, Kumasi, Kpando, Ho, Takoradi, Sunyani, Mim, Tamale, Kintampo and several other places. Due to his untiring effort, NSG was finally registered under the Trustee's Act.

In February 1974, Mr. Asomani got married to Hiromi Uchida, a Japanese woman from Saitama Prefecture. They had two children, Yoko and Koichi who are currently resident in Japan. Mr. Asomani later remarried in 1989 to Ama Asomani (née) Ama Twum with whom he also had two children, McOmari Asomani and Nana Ofori-Atta Asomani.

In 1975 with a membership of over 1000, Mr. Asomani did not limit his propagation to Ghana alone. His efforts took him to Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Togo, Nigeria, Cameroun and far away Kenya where he greatly assisted to lay the foundation for the propagation of Buddhism in these countries. All these he did from his

meagre salary as a textile instructor since he was not been paid by SGI.

Mr. Asomani resigned from his place of work to become a full time General Director. His determination to establish this humanistic philosophy in Ghana and Africa saw the construction of the first community center (Kaikan) at Dansoman, Accra.

Regional and all national activities were conducted at this center. The kaikan marked the presence of Buddhism in Ghana, a philosophy completely foreign to our culture.

In his bid to make people understand the philosophy, Mr. Asomani with the assistance from the late Vincent Asiseh introduced a program on GTV called **CONTEMPLATION** which discussed the Buddhist view of life among many others.

Mr. Asomani's conviction about this Buddhism was so huge that he started study activities and training for the youth which he organized in his private residence or sometimes took members out of Accra.

There were a number of cultural festivals held at various centers all in the bid to introduce Buddhism as a way of life to the Ghanaian populace.

THE SECOND PHASE OF BUDDHIST ACTIVITIES

In 1996, there was a need for a Buddhist temple to be constructed.

Mr. Asomani once again had to champion this course when the Head temple under the leadership of the 67th

High Priest Nikken Shonin made funds available for this purpose.

Mr. Asomani very characteristic of him, was so committed and focused that within a short time a temple was constructed under his sincere supervision. The **Sen Myo Zan Hokejji Temple** was opened on 21st February 1998. The late High Priest in appreciation wrote a personal letter to Mr. Asomani to thank him.

The history of Buddhism in Ghana and Africa cannot be written without the mention of Joseph Asomani since he was the torch bearer of Kosen Rufu – the propagation of Buddhism.

TRADITIONAL AND FAMILY LIFE

In August 1991, Mr. Asomani was enstooled as the Benkumhene of Pepease, Kwahu with the stool name as **Nana Osafo Asomani**. This position and responsibility he treasured till his death.

Nana Asomani took to serious cocoa farming when he retired from his vigorous Buddhist activities.

As Benkumhene of Pepease, Nana Asomani's determination was to serve his town folks based on the Buddhist understanding of life. This he did by the manner in which he interacted with his immediate and extended family members. As a mark of his respect for his ancestors and the stool he occupied, Nana tried to reconstruct the 'nkonwafie'. A storey building was under construction

to achieve this purpose until his untimely demise.

Nana Asomani never showed off as a chief since he believed chieftaincy was a position of service to his people and not to lord it over his town folks as the status quo.

Nana Asomani was a man of wisdom, a man of great humility, a man of great compassion, - an expression of what he believed in.

Nana, you were a role model to many, you had a lot of secret admirers. You were a man of peace whenever there was a discord, you never took sides!

Barima beye bi! Rome was not built by one man.

Odupon kɛsɛɛ bi atutu!

Damirifa Due! Due ne amanehunu.



*Put your heart, mind and soul into even your smallest act.
This is the secret of success.*



CRANE BIRD

Symbol of peace, purity, wisdom, fidelity, prosperity and longevity.





At Bana Hill Boarding School, Krobo Odumase



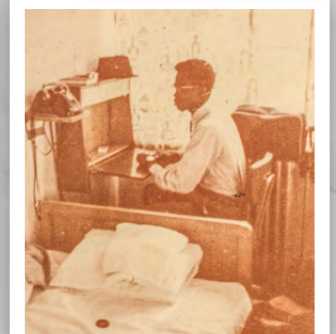
In a handshake with the Ghana Ambassador to Japan



*Student
Life*

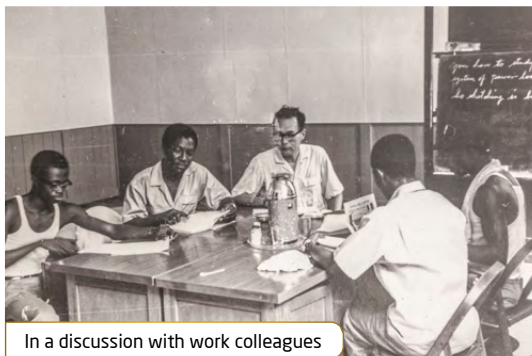


In the company of colleague students

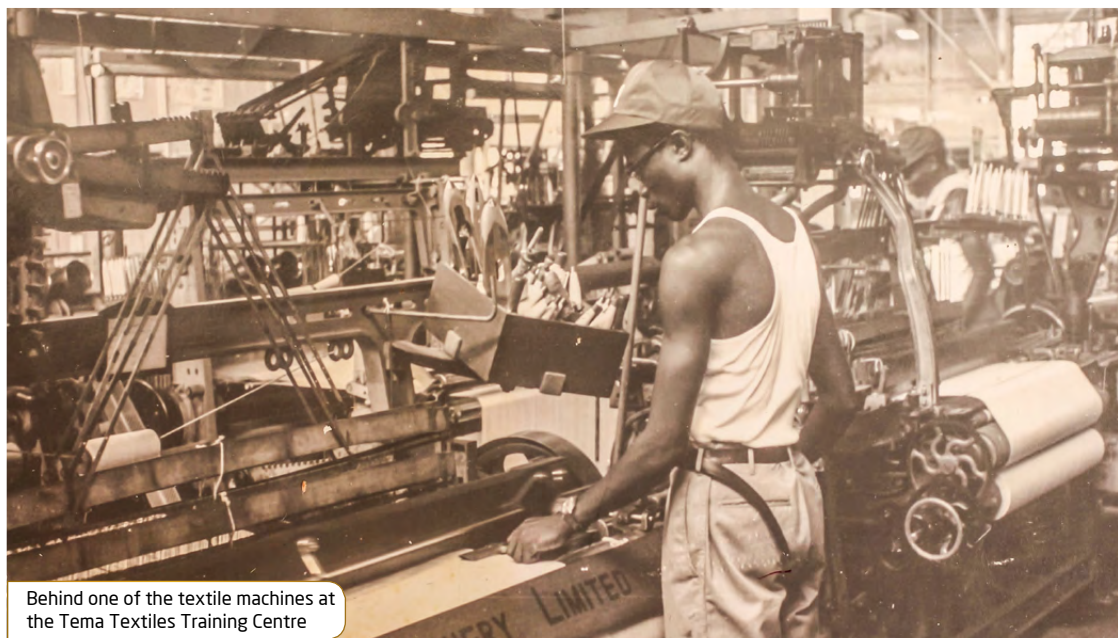




Work Life



In a discussion with work colleagues



Behind one of the textile machines at the Tema Textiles Training Centre



In a pose with his mentor, Suguru Fujimoto



People are like stained glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only by the light from within.



First encounter with President Ikeda in 1968



Addressing a meeting in Japan



Buddhist Activities



In a pose with Mr. Minai and some Buddhist members



The first black pilgrim at the head temple in Japan in 1968



In a pose with his first shakubuku, Mr. Thomas Somuah



Introducing Buddhism to General Kutu Acheampong

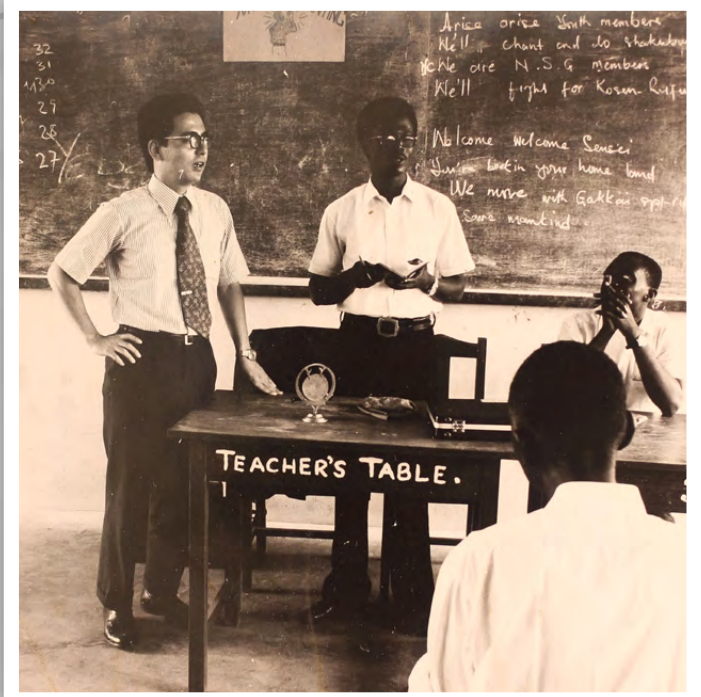


A cultural performance at Taiseki-ji, Japan





In a pose with Hiromi and their two children





Buddhist activities in Tamale



Buddhist activities in Kumasi



Buddhist activities in Accra



A pose with members on his arrival from Japan in 1973



Chanting at the Kaikan



Leading a Buddhist meeting at the Snapps School





Leading a chanting session at the Kaikan



One of his trips to Japan



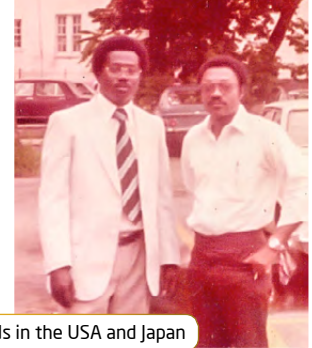
In a pose with Togo and Nigeria leaders at the time



Happy moments with Togo leader



A visit to Buddhist members in the Ivory Coast



In the company of friends in the USA and Japan



Interaction with Lagos members





*To accept is easy; to continue is difficult. But Buddhahood lies in continuing faith.
Those who embrace this sutra should be prepared to meet difficulties.*

The Difficulty of Sustaining Faith, MWND, Vol. I, p. 127

Letter of appreciation from the 67th High Priest
THANKING NANA OSAFO ASOMANI
for the timely completion of the Senmyozan Hokkeji Temple.



謹啓
今般闡明山法華寺落慶
入佛法要に當り御伺いする為
諸準備と重ねておりましたが
止むを得ない理由のため本當
に残念ながら私は欠席いたし
ます
尾林海外部長を私の名代として
派遣いたします
よろしく御諒承下さい
アソマニ様外皆様の信行倍増
と御健康を心よりお祈りいた
します

1st part of Appreciation Letter

いつの日かお目にかかれることを
三寶尊に祈念し奉ります
恐々頓首
平成十年二月七日
日蓮正宗 管長 日顯
總本山 法主
ガナ國
日蓮正宗信徒代表
アソマニ様
外信徒御一同様

2nd part of Appreciation Letter



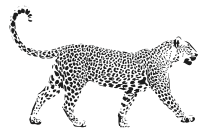
In the company of Rev. Dojo Yoshida, the first resident chief priest during the opening of the *Sen Myo Zan Hokejji Temple*.







It is not titles that honour men, but men that honour titles.



LEOPARD

The Leopard is the totem of the Bretuo Clan. Bretuos are found mainly in Adansi Ayaase, Mampong, Adankranya, Amofo, Asiwa, and Afigyaase/Effiduase.

Chieftancy



In a pose with Nana Asiedu Boateng, the man who introduced him to Pepeace to be enstooled as Benkumhene. (Sosonomansase Bretuo Clan)





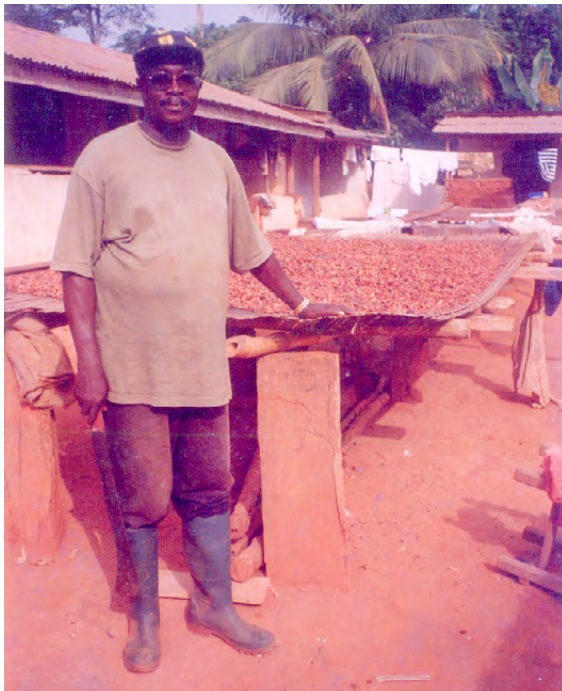


The "Nkonwafie" under reconstruction

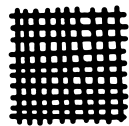
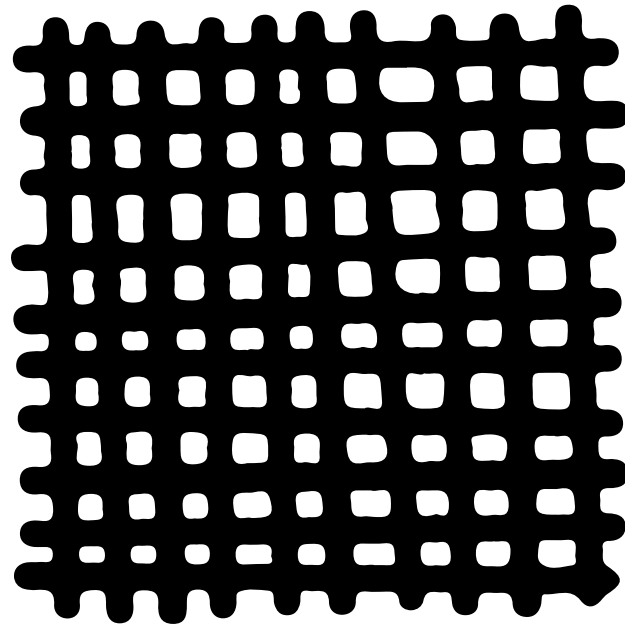
Gallery











KETE PA
Symbol of good marriage.

Tribute to My beloved husband KWADWO ASOMANI

6 ...Suffer what there is to suffer, enjoy what there is to enjoy. Regard both suffering and joy as facts of life and continue chanting Nam Myoho Renge Kyo, no matter what happens. Then you will experience boundless joy from the law. 9
Happiness in this world (MWND Vol 1. Page 161)

Sunday 19th April, 2020 would remain a dark day for the rest of my journey in this world.

Kwadwo, though you were not well, I least expected your departure to be so sudden.

Though I am in extreme grief, I pause to console myself that you were a great husband and a father to my two young men.

Kwadwo, you were not only a husband, you were a friend, my life partner and a mentor.

Your constant encouragement and guidance to me to be strong in the face of adversity has made me what I am today. You admonished me not to complain about issues but to accept them as reality. You encouraged me to develop wisdom and the capacity to deal with reality, so who can step into your shoes as a mentor and

a guardian? 'Odupon bi atutu ampa'. The tree that gave me shade and protection is gone.

Your depth of wisdom and knowledge about worldly affairs made me sync very well with you whenever there was a discourse.

I am forever going to miss our night long philosophical discourse which made us sometimes forget that the clock was ticking.

In your twilight years, you always encouraged me to try as much as possible to base my thinking, deeds and actions on the causal law.

My 31 years of marriage to you was never a mistake as it sought to be from the beginning because of age difference. You were a husband par excellence.

Our relationship saw you play many roles as a father,

brother, uncle, counsellor and a gossip partner. A man once asked whether we ever disagreed on issues. I responded by saying that we did disagree sometimes, but with respect.

Kwadwo, your good nature and respect for everyone endeared you so much to my extended family, both maternal and paternal side.

Odupon bi atutu ampa!

I remember when we got married, my father remarked that he knew, his daughter was safe with Nana Asomani. - 'Asew papa bi kɔ akura'.

Like a bird, one of my wings is broken as a result of your death, but I know that, with the mentoring you gave me whilst alive, I can always grow the broken wing and soar even higher.

With your two families, both Ghana and Japan, you have written your name on rocks not in the sand.

The family would continue to pray for your earliest repose.

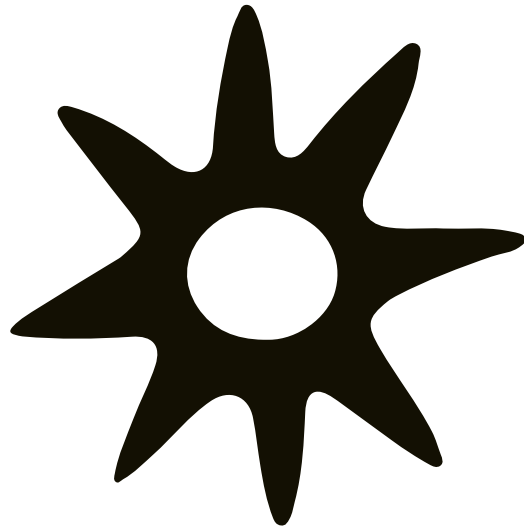
We are forever going to miss you.

Damirifa Due! Barima Ba Damirifa Due.









NSOROMMA
Symbol of guardianship.

"Agya Papa bi Ko Fie"

TRIBUTE FROM CHILDREN

6 **What tribute do you give a man whose life was a tribute; what tribute can best capture the sorrow and anxiety that we feel. We feel lost, confused, depleted because we have lost our compass** 9

Our father was no ordinary man and most of those who knew him and loved him attest to this. Loving, courageous, compassionate, full of zest for life, passionate....these are just some of the words that have been used by friends and family to describe him. To us, Dada was one man who was an embodiment of hardwork, courage, honesty, discipline, wisdom and integrity amidst all circumstances.

As we were growing up, Dada played a very important role in helping us not merely with our outer life, but our inner lives as well. He was very philosophical in his thought and tried to instill in us his own seeking nature. He shaped our outlook about life and guided us through with his love, care, admonishments and wise counsel.

Leading by example, Dada always tried to imbibe in us his core values of hard work, honesty, sincerity, good judgment, courage, integrity and humility. He was always there as a confidant and friend, and eager to listen to our stories. He guided us gently, when we faltered, cheered

us over our achievements and held us when we needed his loving, reassuring touch.

The nature and frequency of his words and encouragements stayed the same irrespective of our age and imbued in our lives a deep sense of security and confidence in more ways that we knew or realized.

To us, he was never just a doting father but also a wonderful friend who we could confide in and laugh with. He had this child-like curiosity in him and an insatiable desire to live and enjoy life to the fullest, which was infectious.

The other remarkable trait about our father was that, if he could not add on anything positive to a person's life, he was also in no way to cause pain to that person either. He saw service to humanity as the rent he paid for living and this he truly exhibited in all facets of his life. He was also an eternal optimist and his optimism even at the most adverse times, was not only astonishing but also exemplary.

As a Buddhist, he lived and made the practice of Buddhism reflect in his daily life, and always told us the best form of shakubuku was through your deeds, actions, thoughts and words. This humanistic philosophy gave him a broader look and perspective about life. Dada always told us that our attitudes and beliefs regarding death have a great influence on our approach to life. He was fearless and courageous in whatever endeavor he set himself out to embark upon.

We the children believe that, there is perhaps no greater grief than being parted from a loved one by death. And though we know with the surest certainty that our time here is limited and that no one can escape the impermanence of life, this does little to prepare us for the shock of death or to help us approach our own inevitable separation from this world.

However, Buddhism teaches us that, we should not shrink from the fact of death but squarely confront it. Our contemporary culture has been described as one that seeks to avoid and deny the fundamental question of our mortality. It is the awareness of death, however, that compels us to examine our lives and to seek to live meaningfully. Death enables us to treasure life; it awakens us to the preciousness of each shared moment. In the struggle to navigate the sorrow of death, we can forge a radiant treasure of fortitude in the depths of our being. Through that struggle, we become more aware of the dignity of life and more readily able to empathize with the suffering of others.

Life and death are two phases of a continuum. Life does not begin at birth nor end at death. Everything in the universe—from invisible microbes in the air we breathe to great swirling galaxies—passes through these phases. Our individual lives are part of this great cosmic rhythm. Dada as we affectionately called him, looked at life from these points of view anytime we engaged with him on philosophical lines and he asked us questions like;

What is the purpose of life?

What is the meaning of existence?

What is happiness and a fulfilled life?

Why are we born?

Why must we die?

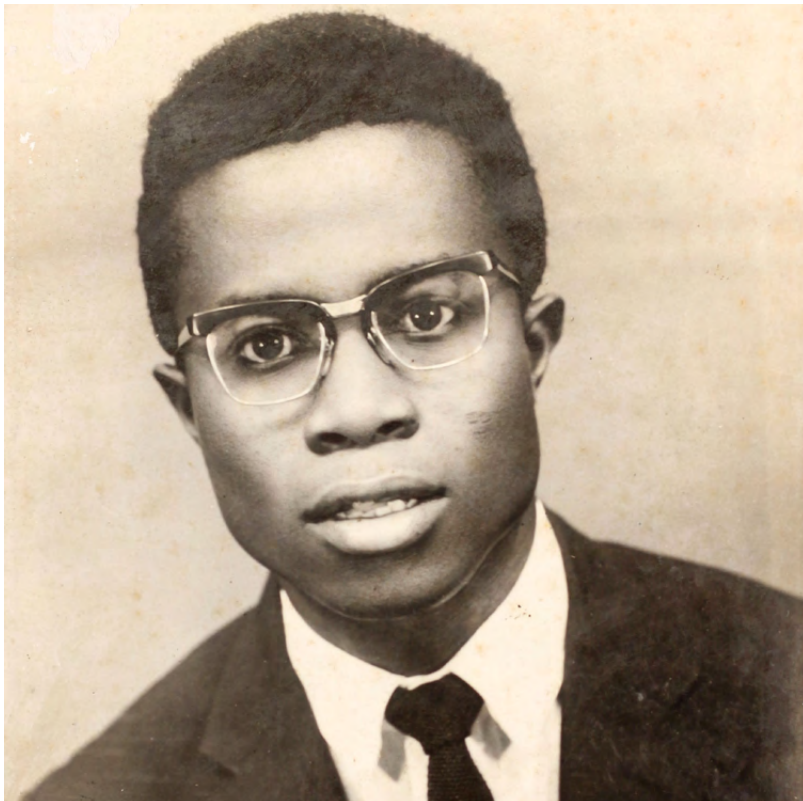
All these profound questions he asked us led us to have a rich and contributive view about life which we cannot thank him enough for.

When we look at our father's life, we understand the meaning of sincerity, compassion, courage and humility, for he was always brimming with these qualities. Our father was truly a man of few words but an embodiment of greatness wherever he found himself. He was a peacemaker, a man free at heart and mind and he never judged people based on how others perceived them. Even those who wronged him in various ways, he sought ways to understand them and get along with them. This was something truly remarkable about our ol'man.

Yoko, Koichi, Kwabena and Nana will like to say a VERY BIG THANK YOU for being the best dad and you will always be! Your name "Asomani" and legacy is something we will always protect, cherish, and hold in high esteem.

Journey well Dada. Journey well Jack Toronto. Journey well GD. Journey well Kwadwo Asomani.

We pray for your earliest repose and we know you are smiling at us atop Eagle Peak.



Tribute to Dada

YOKO SOUDA



My father was a man who had a smile that lit up the sky. He always had warm words of advice, but he would say things as they were. This was my father.

My father was no ordinary man. He was an important man to many people, both in faith and in society.

I am the first child and only daughter of my father, and I have become who I am because of my father. I inherited many of his good characteristics, along with his strong personality.

I'm very grateful to be his child.



Tribute to Dada (Jack Toronto)

KOICHI UCHIDA-ASOMANI



It is easy to have parents but very difficult to encounter the Lotus Sutra now if you disobey the words of a parent, one who is easy to come by and follow a friend of the Lotus Sutra, one who can be rarely be encountered. You will not only be able to attain Buddhahood but will also be able to lead to enlightenment the parents whom you disobeyed.

Three Obstacles and Four Devils (MWND Vol. II P.290)

wish I could see you one more time, walking towards me saying, "HEY, JACK TORONTO" for me to respond, "HI MAN".

But I know that is impossible, I will hear your voice no more or see that wonderful smile of yours no more.

You were a great inspiration to many and you touched many lives as General director of Soka Gakkai and Nichiren Shoshu, as a chief to your people in Kwahu and most importantly as a father to us your children (Yoko, Koichi, Kwabena and Nana). You will forever be remembered and will always be an inspiration for me.

They say great men are never forgotten and you will never be forgotten.

Rest G.D, rest Nana, rest Dada and rest Jack Toronto

I love you.

Tribute to Dada **McOMARI ASOMANI**



A father is neither an anchor to hold you back nor a sail to take you there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way. That was exactly who Dada was, he always made it known to us his children that the best form of guidance he could ever give us is laying down the basic principles

of life upon which we can build our own brick.

Dada's life, his influence, his energy is inextricably linked to mine and I now take comfort in that. I take comfort in knowing that Dada is smiling atop Eagle Peak.

What is the measure of a man? Is it the amount of money he has? The possessions he owns and the power he holds? Is it the professional success he has achieved over the years?

I don't believe it is any of these things. The true measure of a man is how much love he gives; how selflessly he shares whatever he can to help others; how consistently he lifts up those around him with a kind word, a funny joke, a compliment, a humble ear or the very shoes off his feet. By this measure, Dada was immeasurable.

My Dad, Nana Osafo Asomani, will forever be in my heart until the day it stops beating. And I am grateful that I am becoming a more fully realized human being, a more caring, compassionate, and empathetic person because of

my Dad. The pain of losing my Dad will perhaps never leave me. I imagine it will ease with time as I process and get through it. I lost my Dad. But only in body, not in spirit. This is by far the most painful and heart-ripping and life-altering experience I've endured.

But I do my best to remain grateful and comforted knowing how much my beloved Dad positively affected the lives of others. He was the most sincerely altruistic person I have ever known with no attachment to material things.

Dada was very meticulous, disciplined, time conscious, a good planner, organized and amongst everything ahead of his times.

My Dad left an impact on every person he met, even strangers.

The love my Dad spread on this Earth continues to grow and will live on, and that is the ultimate measure of any human being.

I will always remember you Dada because there will never be another one to replace you in my heart. My Father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it.

I am going to miss your Sunday morning Goshu discussions with us. Your early morning New Year's meeting with the family to always discuss the way forward. I am going to miss how we teased and laughed at you amongst a host of others. I am happy I fought for you during your last moments with all my body, soul and might. Thank you for being a wonderful father. ***I love you, Dada. Now and forever more.***

Tribute to Dada **NANA OFORI-ATTA ASOMANI**



There is a quote that goes, 'The worst distance between two people is misunderstanding'. Being misunderstood is something I believed we shared in common aside you being my father. In various aspect of your life, your non-conformist ideologies and sheer passion for what you believed in set you apart from others and was often misread for something entirely different. However, in true Nana Asomani's fashion, you always proved your worth and created lasting value. In your private life, faith and family, you did this countless number of times till your last breath.

As your youngest son, I experienced you at a time you had retired from the rigorous activities that characterized your youth. However, you were still filled with the same energy even in your daily activities and whatever you did. Your stand-alone spirit was evident in everything you did for yourself, family and the wider world.

As my dad, I shared some moments with you in my life I would not experience with anyone else until I also leave this earth. At some point, I was your 'walking stick' as I followed you to places be it family events, personal activities or farming related. During these times, I observed and studied how in all these aspects of life you exhibited courage, resilience, compassion and you were well respected by all. These characteristics you showed were qualities I want to apply in my life with regards to everything I do.

Your departure from this earth is not an end but a transition into a higher spiritual echelon. Although you left at a very difficult time in my life personally, you would not want me to be heartbroken and sad but move on stronger than I was before. Your impact on the world will forever be immortalized in ink and in the hearts and minds of the people your life touched. You will be dearly missed but know your legacy lives on with me.

Thank you for everything Dada, your last born, Nana.





Gratitude Poem from Children

To feel gratitude to one's parents sounds like a trivial thing.
But this is the mark of true maturity and growth as a human being.
Those who always have a sense of appreciation and gratitude never reach an impasse in life.

Gratitude makes a person modest.

A sense of gratitude expands the heart.

People whose hearts are full of gratitude and appreciation are truly beautiful.

A humble heart is the wellspring of great growth and development.

As we look back over time

We find ourselves wondering

Did we remember to thank you enough

For all you have done for us?

For all the times you were by our sides

To help and support us

To celebrate our successes

To understand our problems

And accept our defeats?

Or for teaching us by your example,

The values of hard work, honesty, sincerity, good judgment,
courage and integrity?

We wonder if we ever thanked you

For the sacrifices you made.

To let us have the very best?

And for the simple things

Like laughter, smiles and times we shared?

If we have forgotten to show our

Gratitude enough for all the things you did,

We're thanking you now.

And we are hoping you knew all along,

How much you meant to us.



OBI NKA OBI

Symbol of peace & harmony

Tribute from

BROTHERS AND SISTERS

We are always saddened when death invades a family circle, and quite naturally so. In moments as these, when the valley of the shadows of death claims dearest ones we know, we run to our refuge - our shelter in each pain. It is with great sadness that we write this memorial for our brother Nana Osafo Asomani. We fondly called him 'Bra Kwadwo'. He embodied everything that is good and bright.

'Bra Kwadwo' was a firm and loving brother. At a very young age when he bought his first house, he gave it to his mother and we the siblings. For many years he provided shelter for us and our children without taking a penny. When our mum passed away, he stood in as our mum and the family head. He was a natural leader. Whenever there was a need for someone to lead, we will all naturally gravitate towards him. Even the extended family could rely on him. He was a unifier, and everyone knew that he would be fair and often put his own needs behind those of others. He took delight in helping others. 'Bra Kwadwo' was very helpful and a committed family man, keeping his own marital home as well as the extended family. He did that creditably. He helped

in whatever way possible, through thick or thin, rain or shine. He was never lacking making provision for our well-being, be it physically and emotionally and in all affairs.

All assignments that needed to be undertaken by the family, he stood in and punctually performed them without any procrastination. He was hardworking and very persevering in everything he did. No work was too hard, big or too difficult for him. He attended to every job and opportunity with diligence. He had a big heart and was liberal.

Difficult to accept the fact that you are gone and yet very real. Memories are what we hold very firm to. They come to mind time and again, reminding us of your good deeds and concern towards us. We love you, 'Bra Kwadwo'.

Da yie, nyame nfa wo kra nsie.



Special Tribute from **RAPHAEL OWUSU (BROTHER)**



Our life memories are usually an accumulation of our experiences with siblings, parents and friends. The loss of any member of these groups can be painful and emotional.

In Nana, I was lucky to have experienced all the three relationships with him, thus, making his loss even more emotionally overwhelming.

MY BROTHER

My relationship with Nana dates back to when I first started living with him in Tema as a young boy. He was a big brother who embodied all I wanted to be in the future. Unfortunately, he had to experience my mischievous and rebellious character first hand. Nana being Nana took it in his stride.

MY PARENT

Due to our mum being out of work in the early 80s, I had to rely on my siblings for support. Nana came to the rescue, becoming my guardian and a father figure, without his financial support, secondary education would have been extremely difficult for me.

MY FRIEND

As I grew older, and I became a man, he became more of a friend. A very good friend of mine once joked that, our relationship has become more like a “boyfriend and girlfriend”. Maybe it was a good observation, with Nana we used to have good conversations, laughter, the little teases and general conversations as well.

On our farming project, he was my advisor, he made it happen for me when I did not believe it could. He was my force of inspiration, my implementer, he was basically me, when I wasn’t there.

Most who come across him think he was down to earth in nature. I say that’s an understatement of his character. He was real. Simple. Wisdom was his forte. Non-judgmental. He loved. He was kind hearted. Sweet. Affectionate even when he tried to be firm. How can my family even forget his good cooking skills...

All these stages, all these experiences and memories I hold very dearly in my heart. Everything he taught me, and showed me I will honor him with. Today he is gone, but he lives on in my heart, I’ll always hear his laughter and his voice anytime I need advise and someone to lean on.

My Brother, my Father , My friend... Rest well.

Tribute from

SON-IN-LAW (KOUHEI SOUDA)



Dear Asomani San

I don't know what to say. I am really going to miss you.

I am so surprised to hear about your sudden passing.

Our thoughts are always with you and your family.

Please let me send my deepest sympathies to you.

May he rest in peace.

I send much love and many prayers to you.

僕らで約束していたのは、東京オリンピックの観戦でしたね。

遠い日のような気がしていましたが、すごく楽しみにしていました。

そして、ダダが活着ている間にガーナヘスカイと行きたかったです。

僕らにとっては大事なルーツの一つですもんね。

急なアクシデントによって、予期していない現実に深い悲しみと寂しさでいっぱいです。

今、改めて考えると、やはり後悔ばかりですね。残念でなりません。

ダダが日本に来なければ、陽子とも会うこともなかったと思いますし、日本とガーナの懸け橋になっていただきました。もっと、ダダが活着ている間にガーナに行って、ガーナについて知りたかったこともあります。

いつの間にか時間がたち、いつの間にか環境も変わっていき、

気が付いたら、どうしようもないこともありますね。

何があるかわからない今、残された人生、感謝して真面目に生きていきます。

本当にありがとうございます。ゆっくり休んでください。

Tribute from

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW (MARKETA UCHIDA-ASOMANI)



I first met my father in law 15 years ago when I started to date his oldest son Koichi. That time we had decided to travel to Ghana for his birthday and introduce me to his family. When he introduced me to his family, I was a bit nervous, but dada was generous, friendly, hospitable and talkative. When he smiled at me, I realized where Koichi got his smile from. He had a massive influence on Koichi's life.

Dada decided to take us to the village where he was a chief. I didn't know what to expect but I was excited. When we reached to our destination, I was amazed how everyone treated him. They prepared ceremony for him and my first impression was, that local residents respected him and admired him. When I saw him dancing

for the first time, I was amazed, what a good dancer he was. That was also for the first time he cooked for us a traditional Ghanaian meal and I can truly say that was one of the best meals I ever tasted.

I become his first daughter in law a few months later. I was very grateful when he attended our wedding in Czech.

He also visited us a few times in Tokyo and Okinawa where he had a chance to meet his 3 grandchildren Kiara, Sky and Liana. His last trip to Tokyo in 2015, he spent lots of nice times with his grandchildren especially with Kiara and Sky.

I wished he could live closer to us, so we could spend more time together. I deeply regret that our daughters (Kiara, Liana and Zaira) didn't know dada better than they do. We were planning to come next year for Dada's 80 years birthday celebration and that we could be all together. I'm very sad he wasn't able to meet our youngest daughter Zaira.

We have lost someone who is irreplaceable. His absence will be felt for the rest of our lives and our daughters' lives.

I'm grateful that dada was part of my life.

I didn't have a chance to say goodbye to Dada, but this is not truly goodbye, but see you later...

Tribute from Grandchildren



"Playing with Dada in the park" -Sky



Abstract drawing from 3year old Zaira

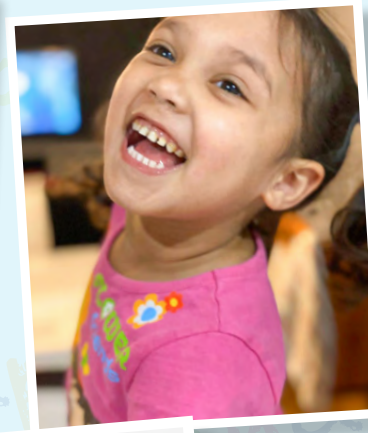


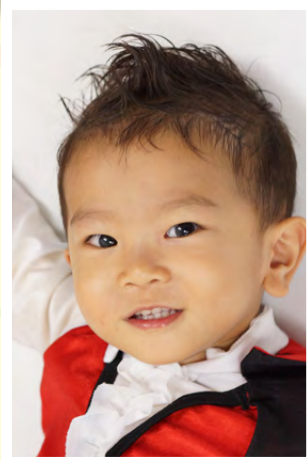
Liana's expression of love to Dada



"Dada is resting in beautiful sunset" -Kiara

Grandpa we are going to miss you
Thank you for always being nice to us
We all love you and are going to miss you
Rest in Peace in Heaven
Kiara





Tribute from

NEPHEWS AND NIECES

***This is the Way he
traveled to flee the world;***

***This is the Way he
traveled to return to the world.***

***I, too, come and go along this Sacred Path that bridges life and death
and traverses illusion.***

Ryokan

It is with collective sad hearts that we say goodbye to our leader and for many of us, the predominant male role model in our lives.

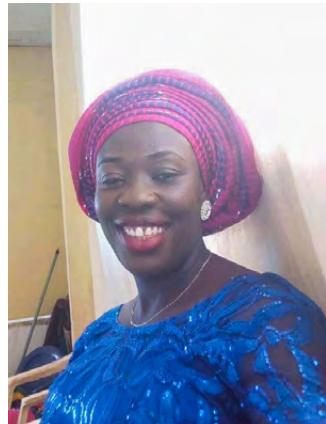
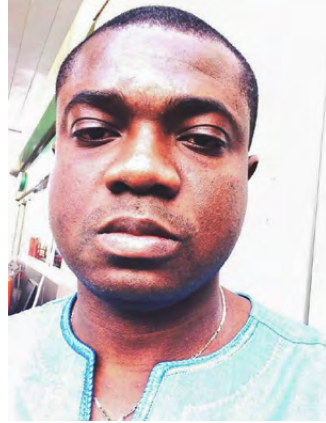
For us, Nana's exploits and achievements were representative of what was possible if we strived to better ourselves through education.

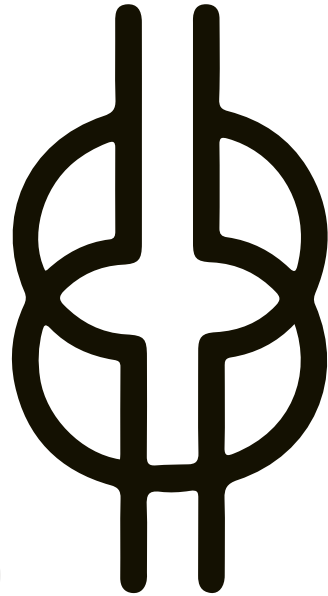
Nana's weekend visits to Maame, our grandmother, when he imparted advice, shared his experiences from world travels and occasional appearances on national television served as pure inspiration.

We admired his devotion to family, impartiality, strong sense of place in destiny and commitment to excellence.

As we grapple with the vacuum created by your loss, we will take consolation in the lessons and legacy you left behind through your children, grandchildren and our generation.

Rest peacefully Nana. May your soul rest in perfect peace.





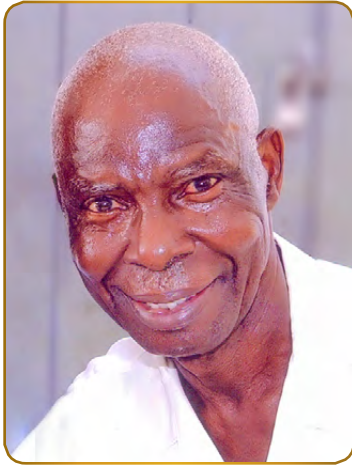
NYANSAPO

Symbol of wisdom, intelligence & ingenuity.

Tribute from

OPANIN EUGENE AMOA

SENIOR ELDER OF PEPEASE SOSONOMANSASE BRETUO FAMILY



“Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses. He sets the time for birth and the time for death, the time for planting and the time for pulling up. The time for killing and the time for healing, the time for tearing down and the time for building. He sets time for sorrow and time for joy.”
Eccl. 3:1-4 (GNB)

Saying goodbye to an acquaintance who is embarking on a journey that would last for about a year or two is always painful. Saying the same thing to someone dear to your heart is

more painful but for someone who was your companion, brother, intimate friend and a relative to say an everlasting goodbye to you is not only painful but heartbreaking. This is exactly my situation at the moment.

It is with a heavy heart and deep sense of sorrow and pain that I pay this tribute to my dear younger brother and friend Nana Osafo Asomani.

I have known Nana Osafo Asomani for about twenty-eight years after he had been installed as the Benkumhene of Pepease on 3rd August 1991. He was first introduced to me by Nana Asiedu Boateng, the Adontenhene of

Pepease as a relative from Twenedurase. I took that opportunity to interact and introduce myself better to him as he had come from Twenedurase to take up that position.

Instantly he decided to accord me that unique respect of an elder in the family from me he could learn a lot. As a result, throughout our encounters, he ensured that whenever I called him, he would respond ‘Opanyin’ with a mixture of respect, humour and seriousness that a true younger brother would accord his real senior brother.

We drew so close to each other and subsequently our relationship crossed over the ordinary relationship line onto a real family member. We were seen as brothers of the same mother.

Nana Osafo Asomani devoted his time to the service of Sosonomansase Bretuo. He was ever ready to serve the Abusua (clan) when and wherever duty called for

example at funerals and family meetings. In order to make his mark and show the love he had for the family, he decided to reconstruct the dilapidated family house at Adosoase where the Osafo stool is kept singlehandedly. A two storey building which is almost completed has therefore been put up.

Nana Osafo Asomani was kind, tolerant, impartial, sympathetic and patriotic. He always prayed for life and unity in the family.

Nana, your sudden departure has really created a great vacuum in my social life, one that will be very difficult to fill. I will surely miss you with all your attributes, honesty, generosity and a cheerful disposition and above all your love for the Sosonomansase Bretuo family.

The part you played in the celebration of my wife's 80th birthday and my own 80th and 90th birthdays and

the launching of my book titled 'From Subirianafoo to Pepease and Dansoman' will never be forgotten.

Nana you lived your life well and now you deserve a good rest.

Frepomaa Nana a wase fi Ayaase!

Boakyewaa Nana a wase fi Mampong

Opomaa Nana a wase fi Dadaso

Afua Ataa Ba Kwadwo Asomani

Sosonomansase Bretuo Dehye

Kwadwo Asomani, Onyame mfa wo kra nsie

Kwadwo, Da Yie!



Tribute from SENMYOZAN HOKKEJI TEMPLE

Nichiren Daishonin, the True Buddha wrote,

6 What joy to have been born in the Latter day of the Law and to have shared in the propagation of True Buddhism. How pitiful are those who though born in this life time cannot believe in the Lotus Sutra. 9

Nana Asomani, was the first Ghanaian who ever chanted **NAM MYOHO RENGE KYO** on October 12, 1965. The practice made a profound effect on his understanding of life that he decided to devote his life to the propagation of Buddhism in Ghana, with the prime objective of achieving prosperity and peace for our country and beyond.

Having taken this huge task upon himself, he set forth to establish a faith based organization of lay believers of Nichiren Shoshu Buddhism. With his sight firmly on the future, Nana devoted himself to training and developing leaders, particularly the youth. Soon the organization attracted many enthusiastic and dedicated members who spread Buddhism far and wide. True to his expectations, majority of those he helped to train and nurture are now at the forefront of activities of Nichiren Shoshu of Ghana.

In the Goshu, the Dragon Gate, the Daishonin wrote, **“Our desire is to share this blessing equally with all people and we together with them will attain Buddhahood”**. Overcoming setbacks and challenges, Nana Asomani pursued his cherished desire to establish Nichiren Shoshu faith firmly in Africa. Therefore, when the Nichiren Priesthood decided to establish the first Nichiren Shoshu Temple in Ghana, for the perpetuation

of the Buddhist faith in Africa, it fell on Nana to lead in its accomplishment.

At the ceremony to commemorate the opening of the Temple in Accra on 21st February 1998, the late 67th High Priest of Nichiren Shoshu, Nikken Shonin said the following of Nana Asomani, **“The establishment of this Hokkeji Temple is, indeed, a gift of magnanimous divine favour from the Three Treasures of the Buddhism of the Sowing. In particular, however, it is the result of the unwavering, strong determination of faith of Nana Asomani, the central figure of the laity here in Ghana, and all the lay believers with their pure faith who united together with Nana Asomani to make tremendous efforts towards the spread of the True Law in Ghana. I express my deepest respect for your endeavours”**.

The history of Nichiren Shoshu in Africa cannot be written without the recognition and acknowledgment of the pioneering efforts of Nana Asomani.

To the wife, children and the entire family, we express our deepest condolences.

We will continue to cherish his memory in our hearts as we continue to chant for his blissful repose.

Tribute from **THOMAS T. SOMUAH**

FORMER KOTO, ASHUZAN MYOSENJI TEMPLE, WASHINGTON, D.C.



The oak tree has fallen. Nana Joseph Asomani (NJA) stands shoulder to shoulder with the pioneers and luminaries in politics, government, and religion in Ghana's history.

He stood in the crossroads of the spread of Buddhism from its origin in the East to the new frontier in the West. In 1965, NJA became the first African to chant Nam Myoho Renge Kyo. When he experienced the power of the Mystic Law, he reached out to me. I was his first shakubuku and started practicing in 1966. Nana and I practiced under the strict guidance of Mr. Suguru

Fujimoto, a Japanese expatriate textile engineer.

The three of us had a united mission to sow the seeds of Buddhism throughout Africa. In August 1968, Mr. Fujimoto, NJA and I were determined to embark on a pilgrimage to the Head Temple in Taisekiji, Japan. As the deadline for arrival in Japan approached, NJA and Mr. Fujimoto had to leave me behind with stern encouragement to follow them. Undeterred, I left Ghana a few weeks later with a vow to make the pilgrimage; no matter how long it took.

The first leg of my journey was in Wiesbaden, Germany. While I was there, I received a postcard from NJA from Rome, Italy on his return from Japan. On the advice of overseas headquarter leaders, it was best for him to return to Ghana to resume the Buddhist activities. This was a game changer for NJA. He was entrusted with the responsibility of propagating True Buddhism in Ghana.

NJA was a born leader. He had a strong character and was extremely confident. More than that, he was a man of pure faith. Under his leadership, Nichiren Shoshu of Ghana (NSG) grew immensely. His monumental achievement was transitioning NSG's affiliation with the Head Temple. This culminated the completion of the first Nichiren Shoshu Temple in Africa. The young believers

he nurtured put their trust and faith in him. They are the powerful force driving NSG into the future.

A passage from Nichiren Daishonin's writing, the Goshō states: ***"If after the Buddha's passing, there are good men and good women, and one among them secretly preaches the entire Lotus Sutra or a phrase of it to even one other person, then you should know that this individual indeed is an envoy of Lord Sakayamuni."***

What I admired about him was his incredible sense of integrity and honesty. He was extraordinarily reliable and fiercely protective of what was entrusted to his care. He was generous and compassionate to a fault. He had the wonderful ability to relate to everyone, wealthy or poor, young or old. To me, this was the most beautiful aspect to his character.

Nana was full of vitality, which drew others to his personal charm and dynamism. He really loved life. In all his worldliness, he was like ***"the lotus plant in the pond that bore beautiful flowers."***

No affairs of life or work, are in any way, separate from the ultimate reality. It would be remiss if I did not mention Nana's assumption of his cultural and social role as an Elder in Pepease in the Kwahu traditional area. He cherished this title and performed the duties with traditional fervor.

Above and beyond, the qualities of a loving husband, proud father, and brother, his enduring legacy is NSG and whose members are known worldwide as ardent believers. The magnitude of his contribution to NSG is reflected in this Goshō passage: ***"The good fortune of the believer will not be burned by fire or washed away by water."*** Under the leadership of the priesthood and unity among the laity, NSG will stand as a beacon of Myōhō (mystic law) throughout the continent of Africa.

Farewell my brother, homeboy, and confidant. We are filled with grief and emptiness. You were the brightest star in our universe. We take solace and consolation in our fervent belief that in lifetime after lifetime, we will continue to meet and spread the law. You were a Bodhisattva of the Earth and a disciple of the True Buddha. May a thousand Buddhas extend their welcome and lead you to the land of eternally tranquil light where the Buddha resides.

Nana Joseph Asomani will be sorely missed but not forgotten.

Tribute from **DR. A. W. Q. BARNOR**

A PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO A MENTOR AND FRIEND



“ If the minds of living beings are impure, their land is also impure, but if their minds are pure so is their land. There are not two lands, pure or impure in themselves. The difference lies solely in the good or evil of our minds. ”

*‘On Attainment of Buddhahood In This Lifetime’
The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin, Vol 1*

GD, kpo, kpo, kpo, oh! There will always be persons who come into one’s life and unknowingly help shape that individual’s future, from the moment they meet and interact with each

other. Nana Asomani, you are a pivotal influence in my life. You are a mentor, a friend and a big brother. I will forever owe a deep debt of gratitude to you until eternity. A hearty thank you.

Yes, since we met over 45 years ago, I bear testimony today and pay tribute to you as a purveyor of your openness, warm heartedness and camaraderie. As a naïve nineteen year old University student, you laced my boiling, seeking mind with the opportunity to grow in faith as an editor of the Buddhist magazine, *‘The Rising Sun’* and later as a Youth leader. This display of bodhisattva

compassion allowed me to sample and authenticate your genuine push for establishing the foundations of Nichiren Shoshu Buddhism in Ghana. You had the knack to inspire, absorb the pain and tribulations of others, and share the material and spiritual gifts that you could offer. All who came in contact with you were touched by your sincerity, which extended beyond the Buddhist fraternity. After all, you introduced Nichiren Shoshu Buddhism into a land ripe and craving for a philosophy that could nourish pure minds, and quench the thirst for a true and better way of living. You brought the antidote to our daily life struggles to Ghana. Your irreplaceable deeds and dedication now live in the hearts and minds of many. I attest to and proclaim that the fusion of your subjective wisdom and the objective act of introducing Buddhism in this country was the highest manifestation of your compassionate nature; an affirmation of attaining Buddhahood in our lifetime. That wisdom is dearly cherished by me and others.

Yes, you are a General and a Director! In the decade of the 1970s I witnessed hundreds of youth and old alike

flock to your house in North Kaneshie, attend discussion meetings at Workers' College in Accra, and participate in Buddhist activities all over Ghana, Africa and beyond. I experienced the extraordinary energy and enthusiasm for life that you generated. We were all creating value in our lives and that of others, whilst facing our own tribulations with the sword of Buddhism. As Nichiren Daishonin says **"A sword is useless in the hands of a coward."** Nichiren Buddhism, our sword, forged our courage and continues to lift and sustain our spirits in the ups and downs of life. You led from the front. You exhibited that courage, that life force that has kept us going to this day. Your contribution to my success and others is unfathomable. We all thank you!

Yes, as I write this tribute in the midst of COVID-19 lockdown in London, I recall our meetings in the early 1990's in the same City of London. Weary from betrayal but holding your head high with dignity, you savoured our friendship and trust in the Gohonzon. I deeply felt your pain and tribulations of your Buddhist leadership in Ghana as you exhibited the **'never give up spirit'**. Your life story signifies and epitomises, for me, the utmost need for Ghanaians to stand up for and live by the truth of their lives, with Buddhism as their bedrock. Your foundational legacy in Buddhism can never be erased. Rest assured. It is etched in the hearts of the sincere. I salute you.

Yes, you lived out your mission to grow Nichiren Shoshu in Ghanaian lives and culture. You lamented about the pace of rooting the practice in our society and Africa but yet

remained hopeful about its propagation. Be rest assured GD, you have taught and fostered many Bodhisattvas who, keeping a determined mind, will continue your life's work to honour Nichiren Daishonin's aspiration of peace, harmony and prosperity of all. Your life's work vividly reminds us to be steadfast and not be swayed by the **'eight winds of prosperity, decline, disgrace, honour, praise, censure, suffering, and pleasure'**. As a mentor, you lived by Nichiren's adage: **'teach others to the best of your ability, even if it is only a sentence or phrase.'** My last post to you and your family on New Year's Day 2020 reads: **"Wishing you a new day and a better tomorrow to eternity. A genuine heart knows no regrets, just life lessons to spur you on."** To which you replied: **"I have not been well of late but I am pushing on."** And that's the spirit you always passed on to us!

Dearest GD, you are a great man. You did your best. My biggest regret is I never got to say goodbye to you, as I needed to travel to faraway lands for my medicals. I have learnt the lesson of never to be out of touch with reality and with good friends. I weep with JOY as we all:

Push On.

Push on Nana!

Push on in Eagle Peak.

Your mission on earth has ended!

We await your return to push on once again.

More and more chanting. Nam Myoho Renge Kyo.

Tribute from YUKIO YAMAGUCHI



故ジョセフ・アソマニ様

あなたの急逝の知らせを心からの悲しみをもって伺いました。心からご冥福を祈ります。あなたは、アフリカ広布の草創期から輝かしい舞台を切り開いてこられました。そんなあなたと、生涯忘れることのない数々の思い出を築かせていただいたことに心からの感謝を捧げます。今世での不思議なる邂逅は、私の生涯にわたる宝であります。

「死は次なる生への出発」と申します。次なる生においても、再び相まみえんことを希望します。アソマニさん、ありがとうございました。

山口 幸雄

Late Mr. Asomani, my dearest friend,

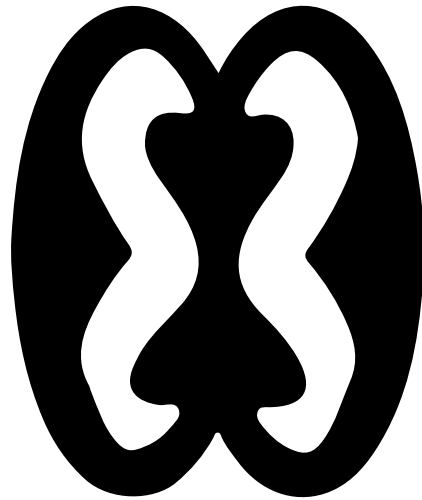
I learned the news of your sudden passing, with the deepest sorrow. From the bottom of my heart, I extend my sincere condolence to you and your beloved family.

You have poured yourself to lay a firm foundation of the peace and happiness in Africa based on the Buddhist philosophy since it started in Ghana. One day in 1971, we came to know each other and started to work together for the cause of peace and justice in Africa. You provided me lots of beautiful memories which absolutely remain forever in my heart. My mystic

encounter with you has been a treasure of my whole life. Asomani-san, thank you very much for everything you have done for the cause of bright future of Africa and happiness of the people, and FOR ME.

Nichiren Daishonin, a Buddhist Saint in Japan in 13th century, says, **"This death means a new start for your next life."** I hope I would like to meet you again in our next life. Thank you, Mr. Asomani, thank you so much.

**Sincerely yours,
Yukio Yamaguchi
Your friend**



NKONSONKONSON

Symbol of unity & human relations.

Tribute from **THE AFRIFA FAMILY**



The Afrifa family wishes with a heavy heart, so much sorrow, yet with a firm believe that our dad, uncle, friend and mentor is resting at Eagle Peak having discharged his duties creditable as a human being with compassion, love, warmth and wisdom during his time with us.

Nana Kwadwo Asomani commonly known to all endearing friends and family as General Director (GD) is going to be greatly missed by the entire Afrifa family at McCarthy Hill and beyond.

GD, as we all fondly called him was the best friend we had

known in our household. GD became the rock the entire Afrifa family led by our dearest husband and father relied heavily on for sound advice, guidance, companionship and leadership.

The Afrifa family with strong determination from our father, the late Lawyer Yaw Ahenkora Afrifa (we miss you dearly) joined the then Nichiren Shoshu Soka Gakkai International, a lay Buddhist organization in Ghana in 1984.

The organization blossomed and thrived with teaming people of happiness under the sound leadership of our dearest GD.

The headquarters of NSG-Soka Gakkai was a beauty and it is still a sight to behold. The numerous meetings and festivals we enjoyed with GD at Kaikan is forever engraved in our hearts.

The Afrifa family during the turbulent years of early 1980s, like every family in Ghana and the world at large longed for a sound philosophy of life to navigate those uncertain years in the early 1980s.

We found Buddhism through our late uncle of blessed memory, Dr Victor Osei Akwasi Afrifa in Italy in 1984. Uncle Osei Kwasi as we fondly called had only met the practice of Nichiren Daishonin Buddhism just a few months before jetting off to Ghana to spread the practice to us in Ghana.

.....

Uncle Osei Kwasi arrived in Ghana to find his brother, our father, the late Lawyer Yaw Ahenkora Afrifa in incarceration under the Rawlings regime. During the time of our father's incarceration not even our mother, Mrs. Felicia Adwoa Serwaa Afrifa was allowed a visit yet our uncle, the late Dr Osei Akwasi Afrifa was able to see and spend time with dad within a day of his arrival in Ghana.

Our faith in the Gohonzon, the Ultimate Object of Worship, started to emerge because the Afrifa believe Daimoku can definitely change poison into medicine. The achievement for our uncle to see our dad was testament and an actual proof of the power of Daimoku.

Uncle Osei Kwasi Afrifa shakubuku Lawyer Afrifa during his visit. He left with him the Gosho, the major writings of Nichiren Daishonin which is not a script easy to understand let alone put to practice.

The family at McCarthy Hill first heard the sound of the universe, Nam Myoho Renge Kyo in 1984 and what a beautiful sound it was!!

GD supported the entire Afrifa family led by Lawyer Afrifa to understand the practice of Nichiren Daishonin Buddhism. The family has uncountable actual proof to share to mankind.

GD in no uncertain times became a regular visitor to our noble home at McCarthy hill. We all listened to him, he readily answered our questions about the practice, he

supported our chanting and greatly contributed to the unyielding state of mind of each and every member of the Afrifa family at McCarthy Hill.

GD was a father, an uncle, a brother and a friend to all of us. We share all our family landmarks with him. From weddings to outdoorings, name ceremonies and funeral GD was ever present, sat next his bosom friend, our dad Lawyer Afrifa. Our mum confided in GD. The children will visit GD at his home for guidance.

GD, you left us just after the passing of your dear friend, our father Lawyer Afrifa. It is as if by design. You both shared jokes about death yet you both understood the four wheels of life. We are all born, grow old, get sick and die.

GD supported us to understand what death means, yet your passing has left a huge void which cannot be filled.

We will forever be grateful for the wonderful time we shared together in this short time on earth.

We will forever be grateful for your wonderful guidance and warmth.

We will miss your ever present smile.

We will forever join hands with the Asomani family in treasuring your golden memories.

GD, you are sat at Eagle Peak with our dearest Dad just as you both wish.

Tribute from **NANA YAW AFRIFA**



Oh GD
I miss you so so much
I need your guidance now more than ever.

I know you are sitting with all benevolent forces.

You have absolutely lived true to your word till the end. You excelled all the challenges with the 4 wheels of existence. You won with unshakable belief in the Mystic Law. This is evident everywhere you walked and talked.

GD, you used to call me Chum until you lost your best friend, my Dad! Then you resolved to calling me Yaw. A reminder of your bosom friend. You both exited this world of Mapo leaving emptiness, huge void and sadness however you have supported in bequeathing to us a philosophy unlike any other, a teaching, a belief and a road map to aid us in navigating to world of Mapo.

You are solely missed by me, Nana Yaw, in particular.

Words cannot express my aching heart and the longing to listen to your wise counselling especially in these confusing times. You always based your judgement using the strategy of The Lotus Sutra. We will listen to the Buddhas wise words and put them in to practice so that, one day we will join you at Eagle Peak.

Nam Myoho Renge Kyo

I miss you very much GD

Tribute from **MAAME DUFIE AFRIFA**



“Daimoku is the fundamental source of vitality. It is also, the way to solve one’s actual problem. Through Daimoku, one can acquire a profound and respect worthy way of life, surpassing all things in this life.”

I have lost my father again.

Nana Asomani was my father’s best friend.

He stuck closest than a brother.

I grew up knowing that he was my second father.

GD as we affectionately called him, was “THE” pillar that supported our whole family!

His death has not only been a huge loss but has also created a vacuum that suffocates me every time I think of him.

At eight years old, standing in the most beautiful building I had ever seen, (Kaikan) I gave out the above recitation.

Its meaning.....completely oblivious to me.

The audience applauded beautifully as GD walked up to me, shook my little hand and whispered, “that was eloquent”.

Not only did I find out the meaning of the word eloquent, but I also perfected my eloquence.

My life's most challenging and best moments has had GD in the centre of it, for he was always next to my dad.

His heart, so warm and kind, his ear, so soft and attentive, his tongue so gentle in correction, he always made time for me.

My first rice was boiled perfectly with my dad and GD. He taught me the Japanese way of boiling rice.

I tasted my first seaweed and sake in his home.

He was an epitome of an oriental gentleman.

GD, I await to perfect my chopsticks eating technique as we never made time to complete that. A sip of martini and a bowl of hot won ton soup will forever be a memory that I'll cherish.

I underwent a three-hour operation. On opening my eyes from anesthesia in a hospital recovery room, I could only see two strong men by my bedside pacing up and down, dubbing sweat off their faces and just chanting away.

My life hung in the balance, but I had hope for my two pillars stood right beside me. I waved; GD turned to my dad saying "Yaw..... Myoho".

GD, on leaving my bedside said..." we meet again in a year "

I met him again after a year and I handed him a baby boy.

I will forever remember and be grateful for their prayers that day.

Life was just becoming barely bearable after my dad's passing.

I had GD to rely on. The thought of knowing GD was there brought comfort to me.

I feel melancholy knowing that he has also left me.

One day, after my dad had recovered from a near death illness, I eavesdropped their conversation.

I heard dad saying "Kujo.... I almost died" GD replied saying "Yaw, old soldiers don't die they fade".

I'll take solace in knowing that you two are only fading out beside me, only to meet at the eagle peak where you will beckon all of us through.

I miss your laughter but most of all, I miss your voice with its resounding Daimoku.

Rest in peace GD, words are limiting in my expression of the void in my heart.

Rest in perfect peace.

Tribute from **JAN PLUTA**



Mr. Nana Osafo Asomani is the late father of my dear friend McOmari. I met Mr. Nana Osafo Asomani when I was visiting Ghana in 2018. During my stay, they generously welcomed me into their home. Their hospitality allowed me to experience the culture, history and nature in Ghana as one of their own.

Mr. Asomani once took us to his farm where I learned about the plantation of cocoa, the treasure of this country. On Sundays I attended the services in the temple with them. Everywhere we went together, I observed that he was highly respected and appreciated. I've seen him manage his estate with diligence and care. I've seen him confer with elders and I've seen him being paid respects after the Sunday service. Those were the signs of the leader in the community, a true chief of his people.

We had spent some evenings talking about our cultures and current affairs in our countries that are so different. It was very humbling learning from experiences of his long and fruitful life.

I remember Nana Osafo Asomani as the generous, warm man, with much love for his close ones, with much understanding for people regardless of their nationality, religion and social standing.

I give my condolences to the entire Asomani family - especially Mrs. Ama Asomani, my friend McOmari, his brother Nana and others that I've never met but are equally close to my heart in this difficult time.

kindest regards,

Jan Pluta

Krakow, Poland

Tribute from SIMON K. AMPADU



1 973 was a very challenging year in my life. I had graduated from High school and could not obtain admission to a regular 6th Form. I had encountered Nichiren Buddhism the previous year through an older man who assured me that I could transform my karma through its practice. I was desperate to make a change to prove everyone wrong that I was not a failure. This is how I met Mr. Joseph K. Asomani. He was the General Director of the Buddhist organization. At my first encounter with him at my District Leaders shop, he took a liking for me. He encouraged me that all is not lost. He told me to chant sincerely and applied myself to youth activities of the organization. He said if I made painstaking efforts to develop the organization in Ghana, my life will move in the same direction.

In 1979, I had the greatest shock of my life, I lost my mother. To my utmost surprise Mr. Asomani showed up at my mum's funeral and stayed till very late. I thought to myself, "*who am I to deserve this*". His genuine compassion for me was unconditional. Occasionally, after meetings he will look out for me, check on my development and give me guidance.

In 1981, I moved to the US to further my development in life. I had the great opportunity to be part of the African

dance in the Grand World Peace Cultural Festival in Chicago. President Daisaku Ikeda and several dignitaries including the Mayor of Chicago were present to witness "*The Dawn of Peace*" at the Rosemont Horizon. Once again, to my utmost surprise, Nana Asomani was there to congratulate me after our performance for representing Ghana and Africa on such a grand stage. He took me out to dinner that night.

I lost contact with Nana, for several years until I returned to settle in Ghana in 2012. Since then, I have visited Nana several time and dialogued with him on several topics including "***How to change corrupt attitude of Ghanaians and Africans***". He always reminded me that we have to develop our youth to guarantee true change in Africa.

On the morning of April 18, I called Nana and his wife picked up the call. *Why and what's going on?* She told me he was not well and had to be rushed to the Emergency at Korle-Bu. Next morning, April 19, I called to check up on him and Nana had taken his last breath in the wee hours of the morning. Wow, I could not get the chance to chat one more time.

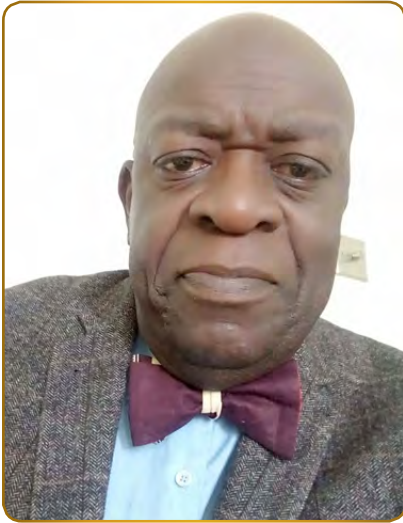
He taught me what sincere "*human to human*" relationship means. He taught me what it means to chant honest and sincere Daimoku in a deep resonant voice that comes from your heart.

My relationship with him continues because I will continue to apply what I learnt from him.

ASOMANI EULOGY

Meeting Kwadwo Asomani Changed my life.

TRIBUTE FROM JAMES TETTEH KOFI



There are turning points in everyone's life. They are moments in which one is at a crossroads often unsure which way to go, yet with a lot of consequences riding on taking the right decision and the right turn. I met Joseph Asomani at just such a time in my life. I'd grown up all my life abroad in the UK and had returned two years earlier in 1972 to attend university in Ghana. I'd been brought home against my wish following the death of my father and mother believed it was the best way for me to continue as she realised, I had virtually become a stranger to my own culture of birth. With places secured at two prestigious universities in the UK, it seemed I'd been robbed of a fun future with my old friends, being dragged as it seemed to me, back to a country I did not know well and had no plans for. This led to teenage

rebellion on my part and despite many of the privileges my mother gave me I showed no appreciation but rather demanded more of everything as if someone owed me for ruining what I then thought was a happy future in England.

That was the point I met Buddhism and started chanting. Even though I loved the philosophy I had many troubles settling into my own culture and family and had to decide this philosophy was the one for me. I was taken to Mr. Asomani by the young man who introduced me. Within ten minutes of speaking with him I knew I had to try this practice long term and resolved to do so. Within months while my uni results at Legon made a rapid turnaround for the better, the conflicts with my family rather got worse and I ended up leaving home. Mr Asomani invited me to live at the then centre of SGI Ghana in his apartment, and I did not know it then, but what I would learn there would create a solid base for the rest of my life. I lived there for a year with GD as we called him, and my life just galloped in leaps and bounds. I received a double promotion in the space of one year, a company car, which was unheard of for a new manager at the British Company that I worked, and found myself

.....

in the company of influential men through work without any effort on my part beyond hard work.

The growth of my life was all the result of the training I had from GD. Asomani was compassionate, supportive, and a wonderful teacher. He would take his time to instruct me at home in the Buddhist philosophy which I had a good intellectual grasp of. However, GD brought it to life with practical demonstration and actions he encouraged me to take. I was editor of the Rising Sun Magazine before it was taken over by a fellow member and the deputy Young Men's division leader. There were many nights we'd meet till late as young men working on the current edition. GD would always be there in the Kaikan encouraging us and staying up with us till the last member left. In my personal life he was always ready to listen to my questions. Sometimes he would listen patiently to my long-winded teenage arguments and stubborn headed often arrogant views. He never once lost his temper with me and used his wisdom to show me right from wrong, truth from falsehood. I can say that it was by his behaviour that he taught me what Buddhism was and the part it could play in my life and that of my nation. ***"The purpose of the Buddhas advent lay in his behaviour as a human being"***, it is said in the writings of Nichiren Daishonin. By his actions and behaviour GD gave me something to aspire to, a vision for mine and the life of my nation which over 40 years later, still burns strongly.

We were not related by blood yet were in every sense family. We were not of similar tribal background, yet we are of one human tribe. I speak English like an Englishman and GD was unashamedly Ghanaian in his manner and expression. Perhaps it was his confidence in himself as an African that helped me to find my way back to my ethnic and cultural roots. Tears fill my eyes as I write because the way he walked, his mannerisms, his pet phrases, his voice of chanting all flood back vividly to my mind. I cannot ever forget any of them. I am determined to live out my life in service to my fellow man and that is how I hope to repay the enormous debt of gratitude to Kwadwo Asomani, my beloved GD of old, my Friend, Leader, family and mystic senior brother. May he always rest in Peace. He is one person I plan to meet again and again in lifetime after lifetime.





Wise Sayings

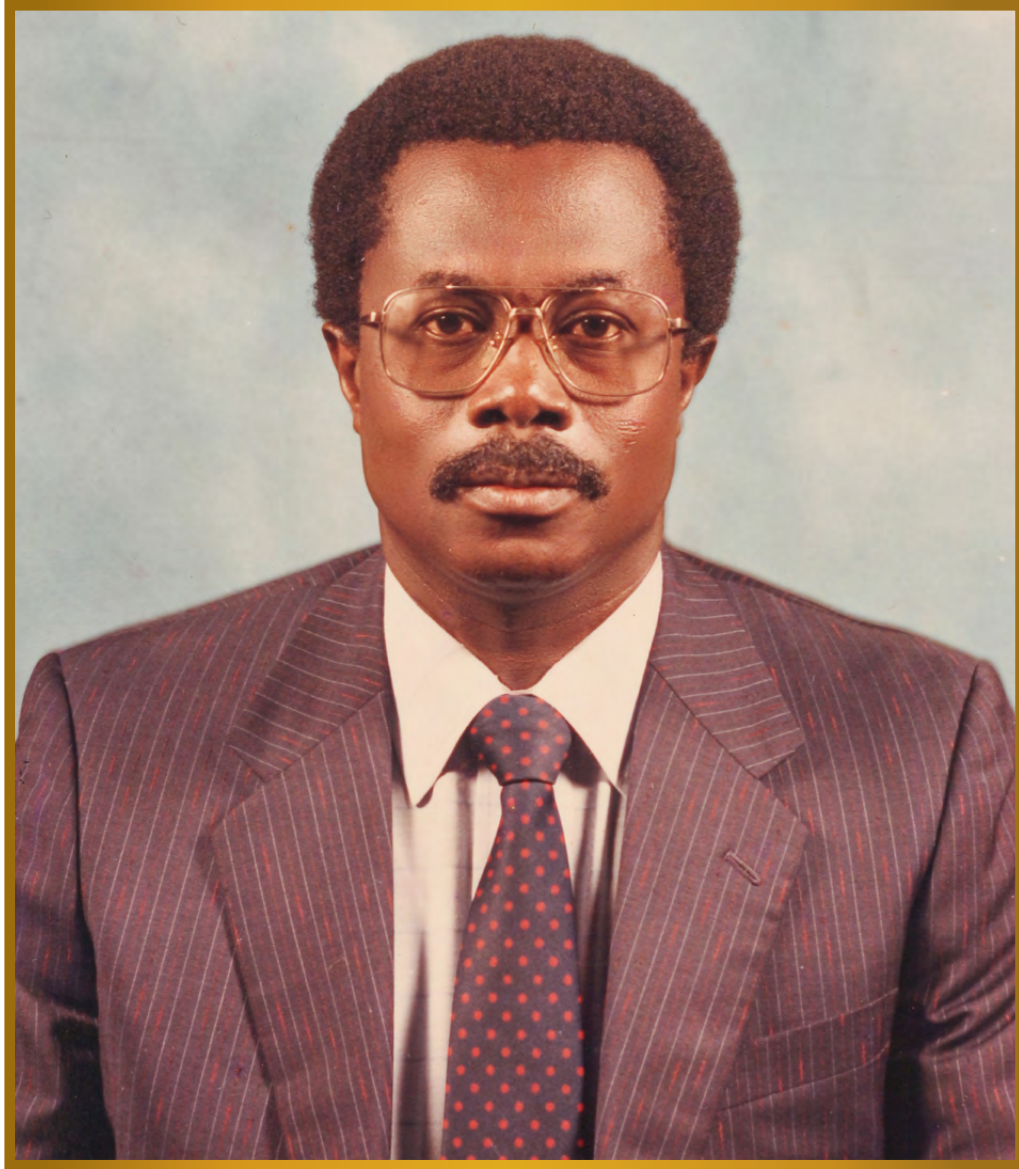
1 ∴ *Seek always to progress rather than to perfect.*

2 ∴ *Ring the bells that still can ring.
Forget your perfect offering.
There is a crack, a crack in everything.
That's how the lights gets in.*

3 ∴ *Great thoughts, discoveries, and inventions
have generally been nurtured in hardship,
often pondered over in sorrow
and established with difficulty.*

4 ∴ *One does not discard gold
because the bag holding it is dirty. One does not refuse to gather lotuses
because the water in which they grow is unclean.*

5 ∴ *Remember this- very little is needed to make a joyful life.
It is all in your way of thinking.*



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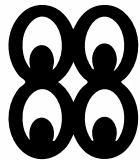


Adinkra Symbols



AKOFENA

Symbol of courage, valor and heroism.



MATE MASIE

Symbol of wisdom, knowledge and prudence.



AYA

Symbol of endurance and resourcefulness.



OKODEE MMOWERE

Symbol of strength, bravery and power.



DWENNIMMEN

Symbol of humility coupled with strength.



***79** tends to be tolerant rather than confrontational. Tolerance provides more opportunities to learn and confrontation tends to focus on only one thing, which closes the door on other opportunities.*

The energy the number 79 represents is perspective and astute. It is able to consult its inner wisdom and analyze problems to find viable solutions.

These are the characteristics Nana Osafo Asomani exhibited in all aspects of his life. Although he left us at age 79, its significance resonates with the life he lived.



Appreciation

Losing someone can be an emotionally traumatic experience. Traveling through the stages of grief can be painful and emotionally devastating. Your kindness during these difficult times meant a lot to the family and words alone cannot express how much we thank you for the expression of sympathy and all the help you provided during our moments of sorrow.

We are truly grateful for your support.

Concept by
The Asomani Family



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