

HURRAY OUR OWN SOCRATES IS NINETY YEARS OLD!
THIS IS A BRIEF TRIBUTE TO THE GREAT NONAGENARIAN, HORII G.A. AGWO
By Ogonnia Nwachi

In my writings of yore, including the ones published by the "immortal" Afikpo Today Magazine; about this greatest Ehugbo man of our 21st Century history, I had glowingly juxtaposed his legendary personality with that of many great philosophers of old, including Roman Statesman and Orator, Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 – 43 BC); who carved niches for themselves in their existential trajectory and planted their immortality in the hearts of men who understand and appreciate what it means to be unanimously reckoned as an epitome and bastion of knowledge and wisdom. Today is the turn of Socrates!

Socrates was an ancient Greek philosopher who lived in Athens in the 5th Century BCE. A legendary figure even in his own time, he was admired by his followers for his integrity, his self-mastery, his profound philosophical insight and his great argumentative skills. Socrates was the first Greek philosopher to seriously explore the questions of ethics. His subsequent course of ancient philosophy was so great that the cosmologically oriented philosophers who generally preceded him are conventionally referred to as the "Pre-Socratics" (Source: Goggle).

Now, reference the antonomasia in my glorious caption. The nexus and contiguity of the encapsulated qualities of Socrates and that of Horii Agwo stand out in awesome epiphany; integrity, self-mastery, profound philosophical insights and great augmentative skills. I challenge anyone to flaw these realisms with facts and figures.

Horii Agwo is Ninety years old today. This is a man who dedicates his entire life and existence to selfless services to his community, town, state and nation. There is no area of development you won't find his magnificent 'octopal' tentacles doing the needful. In leadership, he has an unbeaten and unbeatable records of integrity. In education, he bestrides its pinnacle like a colossus. In Afikpo culture, tradition and customs; Horii Agwo is phenomenal. In religion, he demystifies English bible etymologies and reduces the complexities in the Holy Writ to Ehugbo dialectical ease of comprehension. He represents many positives that are woven in an excellent whole. When *Afikpo Today* held sway as an exceptional informative magazine in our clime, Horii Agwo held the candles of the way of life of Nd' Ehugbo in every edition, holding every reader spell bound with his mastery of Ehugbo diction and indeed his unprecedented erudition by exploiting his definitive insight of a native son. It was in *Afikpo Today* that he got me highly inspired with his perfect application of words and his breathtaking coinage of English expressions. I never expected less from a genius whose genius was further sharpened in our prestigious Ivory Tower by the likes of Prof. Chinua Achebe of blessed memory.

Horii Agwo has just ten years ahead to hit the centenary and he is not looking old. He isn't looking frail either. He is hale, hearty and fit as fiddle. These are rarities, particularly in the Nigeria of today where young men are daily catapulted to the looks of a *Methuselah* by reckless lifestyles. Like Hercules in Roman mythology; Horii Agwo has completed the "12 heroic labours" and like Apollos, I dare proclaim him immortal.

Hero, nonagenarian and patriarch of the Agwo dynasty, I celebrate you and all you represent at 90 and always. As men and women of goodwill join the pomp of your birthday, may God continue His guidance and protection of you even as He grants you more years of healthy living and fruitful contributions to nation – building.

We should not wait for our heroes to die before we eulogize them.
Congratulations, our living legend!

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