

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.
There shall be no more death nor sorrow nor crying
There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

Revelations 21:4

Dear Grand-Mamam,

A LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM AMBASSADOR GENEVIEVE APALOO

On that Wednesday 17th January, 2024, your golden heart stopped beating, and the host of angels rejoiced in heaven. For they were receiving back into their midst, one of their own sent to earth to leave an indelible mark in the lives of all who encountered her.

Grand-mamam, It has been 27 days since I last saw you. When we left you in the hospital at the dawn of 17th January 2024, we were all very optimistic of your imminent discharge so I did not join Kofi and Angela to go back to the hospital later in the morning. Of course, you were one of those people that one could very easily assume would be around forever. But truth be told, you have been ready to return to “Osu” to meet your maker for quite some time. Today that desire would be fulfilled.

Grand-mamam,

I am consoled by the knowledge that I said one last word of prayer for you before leaving you that fateful dawn. But did I ever tell you how grateful I am for your untiring support, prayers and encouragement?

Since I joined the family almost 3 decades ago, we have almost always lived together, from Awoshie, to Adjiringanor to Airport Hills, from Europe to Africa. Indeed, we have lived together for almost half of my life and my entire career life in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration. My joy was therefore complete on 26th January, 2022, when I presented the Letters by which the President of the Republic appointed me as Ghana’s Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Japan to you.



All my siblings, nephews and nieces considered you as their Mum and Grandma. Indeed, no conversation ended without the question posed: “how is Grandma”? You took all of us under your wings when we lost our parents some 15 years ago and stood by us through the ups and downs of life, whenever and wherever.

You were always on hand to assist in raising your grandchildren, Paa Eyram, Miss Rosa and the rest. I remember with fondness when you came to live with Kofi and I in Paris, France. When I gave birth to Eyram, you waited anxiously behind the door of the delivery room for news of his safe arrival. God being so good, that stressful moment was short as he popped out at the speed of light and was nicknamed “TGV”, after the French bullet train, by the doctors and nurses.



We travelled the length and breadth of France and many parts of Europe together. Your continued stay with us proved invaluable to Kofi and I, as it gave me the peace of mind to focus on my career. Whenever I was away for work, you took pride in telling Kofi and all the children that I had put you in charge, and nothing could change that for as long as I was away. Even in old age, you were there to look after the house and the children for me until God called you to eternal rest and glory.

In spite of your legendary strictness, our home was always a place of joy where all family and friends were welcomed with open hands and left with memorable stories, rich knowledge of history and a lesson or two to help them on in their lives. Kofi and I and all who understood and appreciated your high standards had no difficulty at all sharing your home and our home through our lives' journeys. Your example taught us to be strong at all times, aim for the best in all things, stand for the truth, avoid cutting corners and brook no nonsense.

My dear mother-in-law,

I am so proud and so honoured to have called you Mama. I could not take you to Japan with me because of the distance, but I thank God that I had the opportunity to come and spend these last few weeks with you. Your high spirits and delightful songs will continue to buoy us on. Your love, gracefulness, and motherly care will forever live on in our hearts.

Your prayers and blessings have sustained us. Never did I board a flight without your blessings. Now, it is my turn to pray for you as you embark on life's final journey: **Grand-maman, may Aakua Onidin (your grandmother), Awo Naana (your dear mother), your father and siblings, who have been beckoning you to join them over the last few years, welcome you with joy into the heavenly Kingdom - the New Jerusalem. Continue to rest in perfect peace until we meet and part no more, Grand-mamam.**

Go to **Osu** with this Irish Blessing:

*"May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

*May God be with you and bless you:
May you see your children's children.
May you be poor in misfortune,
rich in blessings.
May you know nothing but happiness
From this day forward.*

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home,
And may the land of a friend always be near.*

*May green be the grass you walk on,
May blue be the skies above you,
May pure be the joys that surround you,
May true be the hearts that love you."*