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TRIBUTE TO THE LOVE OF MY LIFE

My dearest husband, odá fôn mwén. I am still unable to come to terms with the fact that you are gone! Hosa My Love, this wasn't the plan we had o! It is still like a dream to me, my dearest husband, this pain is unbearable.

Babe!!! This wasn't what we discussed. It was never meant to end this way. You were never meant to leave so suddenly at this age. We had discussed growing old together, watching the children grow and surrounded by so many grandchildren; but death, O death, came like a thief and snatched you away from it all. My heart is torn! It surely hurts! This journey of 23 years just ended like that? Hmmmmmm!

From our humble beginning, we traversed the journey of life, birthing children, supporting you as you followed your passion. You worked hard and believed in pursuing growth and perfection, and this guided everything you lived for. It endeared you to many, amongst other great qualities so unique to you. I watched you keenly as you toiled, the late night meetings and the challenges you took on. You were tenacious and unwavering in your faith, relentless in your quest for success. These and many qualities were the tools you pursued everything in life with. I watched you grow and evolve into the giant you became in your career, as your businesses flourished and you boldly took a stand to display your love for culture, people and country.

My dear, should I talk about your large heart? Hosa! You were generous to a fault. Your love for, and dedication to your family and your children was second to none and you played your role as a husband impeccably. Oh! How I die inside a thousand times, burning with pain my dear husband. How do I go through this life knowing you are gone? How? It is inexplicable, honestly! It happened so fast and still feels like a mirage.

My dear, you loved so selflessly and you taught me how to do the same. In your role as a husband, you nurtured me to become the woman that I am today. You gave me all the support I needed to stand. You taught me how to become a wife, a mother, and a responsible woman to my society.

Hosa, you're gone and all that's left is nothing but memories, so much which leads me to silence and tears. I miss your arms, your voice, your laughter, your smiles and your gentle reassuring words in those moments when things seem gloomy and insurmountable. Your scent and aura still fill our home and I find it difficult to let go. Oh my sweet and dear husband, how do I continue this journey? I stumbled on these words and they just jumped at me:

"I sit alone now in the darkness of despair. I cry my silent tears. My heart is broken into a million tiny pieces. The silence is deafening to my ears."

This is just my state right now, dear! Family and friends have condoled with us through their presence, prayers and many encouraging words. For all these, I am most grateful but the despair of the unknown future without you lingers in my mind. As I look forward, I take solace in the God whom you had faith in and held unto till your final breath, knowing that He will help me, your children and the entire family and loved ones. Captain, thank you for the love you showed me. Thank you for the large heart you shared with me and everyone so generously. Most importantly, thank you for the love and dedication you had for all the children.

Adieu My Love, till we meet to part no more...

Okhien edó kpá, Okhien edó kpá, nô yaémwéñ né hî mwén!!! Odòmwén nú wá!!!

Your loving wife

Nosa Igiehon Hosa Okunbo