When Great Trees Fall

by Maya Angelou

When great trees fall, rocks on distant hills shudder,
lions hunker down
in tall grasses, and even elephants lumber after safety.

When great trees fall in forests, small things recoil into
silence, their senses
eroded beyond fear.

When great souls die, the air around us becomes light,
rare, sterile. We breathe, briefly.
Our eyes, briefly, see with a hurtful clarity. Our
memory, suddenly sharpened,
examines, gnaws on kind words unsaid, promised walks
never taken.

Great souls die and our reality, bound to them, takes
leave of us. Our souls, dependent upon their nurture,
now shrink, wizened. Our minds, formed
and informed by their radiance, fall away. We are
not so much maddened as reduced to the unutterable
ignorance of dark, cold caves.

And when great souls die, after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always irregularly. Spaces fill with a kind
of soothing electric vibration. Our senses, restored,
never to be the same, whisper to us. They existed. They
existed. We can be. Be and be better. For they existed.

Flower Bearers

Family & Friends

Repast

New Beginnings Residential Facility

110 Hoke Street

Gadsden, Alabama 35903

Acknowledgement

We wish to express our sincere appreciation for the many acts of kindness, love, and support shown during our time of loss. Your prayers, visits, calls, messages, and comforting words have been a source of strength. Your care has helped lighten our sorrow, and we are truly grateful for the community that surrounds us.

The Family

Professional Services Entrusted To



Prestige Memorial
Funeral Home & Crematory
2412 Sansom Avenue
Gadsden, AL 35904
Phone:(256) 438-5506

"Nothing less than God's best as you celebrate the life of your loved one"

Celebration of Life



Iman Majid

SUNRISE	SUNSET
September 25, 1949	June 16, 2026

Saturday, June 27, 2026
12:00 PM

Prestige Memorial Funeral Home Chapel
2412 Samson Avenue
Gadsden, Alabama 35904

Ms. Paula Freeman, Officiating
Pastor Rachelle Milner, Officiating
Rev. Dr. Iman Jones, Officiating

OBITUARY

Iman "Running Man" Majid, 76, formerly known as Paul Edward Freeman, of Gadsden, Alabama, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, surrounded by his daughters.

Iman lived a life rooted in discipline, service, and care for others. He retired from Gadsden Tools after 21 years, where he painted machine parts. In retirement, he remained active by engaging in several entrepreneurial endeavors. A proud vegan for 51 years, he was deeply committed to health and wellness and encouraged others to care for themselves as well. He lived a deep spiritual life, upholding sacred principles that guided him to live a life of integrity, reconciliation, and kindness.

A dedicated marathon runner, he completed more than 65 marathons across the country. In Gadsden, he was widely known as someone who would help anyone in need. Whether providing transportation to appointments, cutting grass for friends and neighbors, or sharing health advice, Iman gave freely of his time and energy. He also participated in community health fairs and was recognized with numerous certificates of appreciation and honors.

Iman was also known for his signature style. Always "suga sharp," he took pride in his appearance and was always dressed to impress with distinguished integrity.

He leaves to cherish his memory his daughters, Paula Freeman (mother, Brenda Freeman), Rachelle Milner (mother, Dorothy Milner), and Imani Jones (mother, Gail McPherson) (Colin); grandchildren, Tyshon, Dominique, and Colin II; maternal siblings, Irvin Freeman, Anthony Freeman (Mechelle), Victor Freeman, Eric Freeman, and Nita (Kennedy); paternal siblings, Olaudah Majid (Eddie Laskey, Jr.) and Rachel (Laskey) Chapman; and a host of nieces, nephews, other family, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Ruby Freeman (Wilson); father, Eddie Laskey, Sr.; stepfather, Samuel Freeman; and sister, Sheila (Laskey) Nichols.

Iman was a man with a big heart who never met a stranger. Although we are sad that he is no longer with us, we celebrate the rich legacy that he left behind.

Precious Memories



ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional

Opening Remarks.....Pastor Rachelle Milner

Musical Selection.....Ransom Woodson

Poem.....Reverend Dr. Imani Jones

Reflections

Reading of Obituary.....Brandi Kennedy

Musical Selection.....Colin Jones

Acknowledgements.....Brenda Freeman

Eulogy.....Pastor Rachelle Milner
and Reverend Dr. Imani Jones

Slideshow Presentation

Family Unity Prayer.....Pastor Rachelle Milner

Recessional