

# *Celebration of Life*



*Isaiab Forman -Bey*

DECEMBER 2, 1941 – OCTOBER 13, 2023

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023

**CELEBRATION: 12 P.M.**

JOSHEPH H. BROWN, JR. FUNERAL HOME  
2140 N. FULTON AVENUE  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND





# Order of Service

## *Drum & Dance Processional*

### *Libation*

Bro. Kumasi Sangowuyi Ifagbeni

### *Welcome & Opening Prayer*

Reverend Dr. Heber Brown III, Rev. Bernette L. Jones

### *Reading from Holy Texts*

Holy Quran, Surah 2:153-157 Brother Elliott Muhammad  
Testament, Isaiah 54:17 Stevanie Williams

### *Musical Selection*

"Universal Chant," WombWork Productions

### *Poetic Tribute*

Jalynn Harris

### *Music/Dance Tribute*

"I Need You Now" sung by Mike Thomas  
Dancer: Amber J. Merrick

### *Words of Comfort*

Imam Abdul Salaam Muhammad

### *Remarks*

Rev. Avon Bellamy

Rev. Daki Napata

Mama Rashida Forman-Bey

### *Slide Show*

### *Poetic Tribute*

K-Love the Poet

### *Musical Selection*

"Redemption Song" sung by

Maimouna Youssef, Stevanie Williams & Christian Harris

### *Obituary*

Marilyn Forman

### *Eulogy*

Reverend Dr. Heber Brown III

### *Closing Prayer*

Imam Abdul Salaam Muhammad

### *Drum & Dance Tribute*

## Obituary

Isaiah Forman-Bey, son of the late Eugene James and Rogenia Forman was born December 2, 1941 in Raleigh, North Carolina. He began his ascension into the realm of the ancestors on October 13, 2023. One of thirteen children and affectionately known as "Ike," he was raised in the towns of Camden and Bethune, Kershaw County, South Carolina. He attended Carver School in South Carolina and he was then a member of Canty Hill Baptist Church.

For much of his youth, he traveled back & forth to Baltimore to visit his extended family. He and his family worked as sharecroppers, picking cotton on various farms in South Carolina and it was difficult and unjust. Yet, he appreciated the beauty of growing up in this God given natural environment, a place he often said he wished his children could have experienced. The vibrant, green grass, the trees, running in the woods with no shoes, the farm animals, homegrown fruits and vegetables, the lakes, rivers, the love and support of family were the foundation that rooted him.

During what is known as "the great migration," his family, like other African American families seeking a better means to provide for their families, moved North and settled in Baltimore. They eventually moved to Brewer Street near Pennsylvania Avenue. Isaiah loved the Avenue! He would often tell stories of Mom Theresa's restaurant and Chrizon's barbershop, Albert's pool hall, New Albert Hall and The Royal Theatre. Yes, at The Royal Theater he would view live performances of James Brown, the Supremes, The Temptations, The Four Tops, the Royallettes, the Marvlettes and many more!

He loved to play the guitar and taught others to play. He was also an athlete. He lifted weights and was a runner who ran 13 miles a day, competing in many 5k and 10k races and completing the Marine Corp marathon at the age of 45. He was a member of a running club known as "the Harbor City Striders."

Isaiah was a family man who loved his children. Each of his children held a special place in his heart. Each one of his children believed that they were his favorite! He was the proud father of 13 children: Gina, Patricia, Michael, Robin, Isaiah Jr. Wesley, Osayim (James), Janice, Yanu, Ika, Omari, and Folasshade. The past 40 years was spent with his wife and life partner, Rashida aka Mama Rashida. Together they raised their children, spent time with family and friends, always loving and guiding the youth of the "village" to strive for greatness.

Brother Isaiah made deep lasting connections with others. He worked as a truck driver for the City of Baltimore in the Construction department, retiring in 2003 after 35 years of service. He was so well loved by so many of his co-workers that after he

retired, many of his co-workers still kept in touch, calling him on the phone and frequently taking him out to lunch and dinner. He took advantage of every opportunity to connect with friends. One of his joys was attending the "Avenue Reunion." Every year he and wife Mama Rashida would have loads of fun laughing and talking with friends, many who had been his friends since childhood. Even when he was not mobile anymore he would have his cellphone, calling and answering the call of others to keep in touch with family and friends. Brother Isaiah always promoted love of family. He truly loved his family and encouraged others to show that they loved their families as well. He had his own biological children who adored him, his nieces and nephews that he loved dearly, and a plethora of bonus sons and daughters who claimed him as their own. He loved his children but his absolute joy was his grandchildren; they held an extra special place in his heart.

Brother Isaiah, or Baba Isaiah (as he is known in the cultural community), was a man's man full of integrity, truth, honesty, loyalty, caring, compassion, and love. He loved God, his family and his community. In the late 1980s he joined the Moorish Science Temple of America and later became a committed follower of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, always supporting the work of the Nation of Islam under the leadership of the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan. He loved "The Minister" and whenever someone would ride anywhere with him they would hear CDs and tapes of Minister Louis Farrakhan. He would travel all over the country to wherever the Minister was speaking. Brother Isaiah encouraged and promoted the teachings of the Nation of Islam. He was a Muslim in his spiritual walk; yet he respected all faiths. He walked his spiritual talk. He helped people in need. He was a listening ear to someone in need of advice. He generously gave of his time and wisdom to all in need. Giving great advice to young, old, and in between. He would tell you some things you wanted to hear and some things you did not. His goal was to always inspire others to be their best. You could always hear him say, "Put it up your sleeve and take it with you when you leave Black Man!" He ended each conversation with "Peace and Love. As Salaam Alaikum."

He is preceded in death by five children: Isaiah Forman, Patricia Forman-Simms, Isaiah Forman, Jr., Wesley Carter, and Osayim (James) Carter. He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife, Rashida Forman Bey; his sister Janie Johnson (Clarence); one sister in law, Margaret Forman; eight children, Gina Harris, Michael Forman (Marilyn), Robin Fenwick (Michael), Janice Brooks (Bradford), Yanu Amani Bey (Meysha), Ika Forman, Omari Bey, and Folasshade Forman Bey; grandchildren Brandon, Jamal, Akem, Jordan, Justin, Jalyyn Jessica, Aleisha, Bradford, Brittany, Amun, Khalig, Fela'Ade, Aatrah, Yamaad, Ahsaad, Masadah, Tencarta, Yvette, Jamie, Michael Jr., Wesley, Brenda, Sad'a, Jermaine, Jay, Shawnta, Isaiah III, Isabella, Jaxson, Quentin, Makai, and Emmanuel; daughters-in-law Michelle, Shirley, Shay; and a host of great grands, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

*With Love We Release  
By Lami Mataka*

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As our hold on you weakens, we can feel the grasping fingertips of those on the other side waiting for you;  
Our need to keep you is almost as strong as their need to enstool you.  
We are your entourage and we have come to sing the rhythm & blues of your life

To wrap a lion's mane around your handsome face  
To drape a panther's skin over your shoulders and  
an ankh over your heart

For you there will be no Rest in Peace but a beautiful Reign in Power  
That's why the fingers from the other side are so anxious to touch you,  
embrace you

And pull you into the ancestral bootcamp of ethereal justice.  
Forgive us for our resistance  
For our reluctance to let you go, one of the finest examples of  
Black manhood that many of us have ever seen.

Please pardon the selfishness in us  
That wants you to stay and continue to give of yourself  
All the way down to the fine granules of your being

As our hold on you weakens  
We can feel the strength in the fingers grabbing from the other side  
What do you call a man who is wanted by those on both sides of time?  
What do you call a man  
To whom being Black and being a man were indivisible.  
We call him Brother Isaiah



*I can never die.  
.. Still waters  
run deep.  
~Bro. Isaiah  
Forman-Bey*





### *Acknowledgements*

The Family of Isaiah Forman-Bey expresses their sincere gratitude for all acts of kindness and the beautiful expressions of love rendered during our hours of bereavement. May the blessings of Allah and peace rest upon you in abundance.

### *Repast*

Repast will immediately follow the service at 3121 Walbrook Ave.  
Baltimore, MD 21216

### *Ascension Ceremony*

Please save the date for his 40-day Ascension Ceremony  
Saturday, November 18, 2023, at 3 p.m.  
at WombWork, 3121 Walbrook Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21216

