“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”
— Matthew 5:8

Abigail Yohannes



Today, we gather with heavy hearts to honor and remember a beautiful life — Abigail Yohannes.

Abigail was born in 2004 in Washington, D.C., the beloved and only child of her parents, Gelila Mussie and Yohannes Kumsa. She was their joy, pride, and greatest blessing. When she was just one year old, her family moved to Atlanta, where she grew up surrounded by love, care, and hopes for a bright future.

From a very young age, Abigail revealed her kind, gentle, and remarkably bright spirit. She began reading at just two years old, and from that moment, her love for learning and academic excellence shone brightly. Bookstores like Barnes & Noble became her favorite places, where she spent hours exploring classics, history, and fiction—often using her own allowance to grow her collection. She read with intention, marking pages with notes and reflections, and keeping a book review for each one to capture her thoughts, insights, and passion. Her pre-K teacher was amazed she could already read, and one of her father’s fondest memories is of Abigail quietly sneaking books at night, unable to put them down. From elementary school through high school, she consistently earned straight A+’s, a reflection of both her dedication and joy for learning.

Abigail began her formal education at Lovin Elementary School in Lawrenceville and continued on to McConnell Middle School and Archer High School, where she thrived academically and socially. During high school, she also gave her time to her faith community, teaching Sunday school. She was deeply loved at church by everyone—from grandparents to toddlers—drawn to her warmth, patience, and gentle spirit.

Her dedication and brilliance carried her into higher education. After graduating high school with outstanding results, Abigail was accepted into several universities, including Cornell, Rice, Emory, Duke, and others here in Georgia. She chose Duke University, where she majored in Sociology with a minor in Creative Writing. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Delta, the Sociology Honors Society, and served as Treasurer of DESTA, the Ethiopian Student Association. She also contributed to Black Student Alliance outreach, giving her time and leadership to foster community and connection.

Abigail cherished her college experience. One of her favorite memories was a trip to Washington, D.C., and the friendships she formed—many of which remained close and meaningful throughout her life. She looked forward to continuing to nurture these connections and helping others feel welcomed and supported.

Abigail was not only intelligent—she was deeply kind. She cared for her parents, her family, and her close friends with all her heart. She had a warm smile, loved to give hugs, and brought a comforting presence wherever she went. Her love for her mother was boundless; her eyes would always find her, following her with quiet admiration, wonder, and a devotion that spoke volumes without a word. She carried herself with grace and integrity, never causing her parents worry, and was a loyal, faithful friend. She stood firmly in her values, advocating for equality, peace, and justice. She championed fairness, inclusion, and dignity, and advocated for acceptance for all, no matter who they are or whom they love.

Beyond academics, Abigail lived a vibrant and joyful life. Her favorite color was baby blue. She enjoyed reality television—especially Love Island—as well as drama and historical genres. She found comfort in simple pleasures like chocolate and chips, and took pride in her love for Ethiopian cuisine, especially kitfo.

Her hobbies reflected her thoughtful and creative spirit—reading, writing, and playing the piano. She often joked that if you asked her about a book she had read, she would launch into an unstoppable and passionate discussion. She was incredibly organized, keeping a detailed diary of her daily routines, filled with color, creativity, and care. She also found joy in music, playing percussion and drums in her high school band, and took pride in her school community.

Looking ahead, Abigail had planned to pursue her PhD to study sociology—another testament to her brilliance and her commitment to making a difference in the world.

Abigail was in her fourth year—so close to finishing, so close to stepping into the next chapter of her life—when she passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Easter. There are no words to fully capture this loss.

As an only child, Abigail was the heart of her family. Today, her parents are deeply heartbroken. Their loss is immeasurable, and we stand beside them in love and support during this painful time.

Though Abigail’s life was far too short, it was filled with meaning and impact. She showed us what it means to be kind, to work hard, to love deeply, and to dream with purpose. She lived a life of curiosity, compassion, and quiet strength—touching everyone around her in lasting ways.

We will always remember her — her smile, her brilliance, her gentle spirit, and the love she gave so freely. May she rest in eternal peace, held forever in God’s love.

I will leave you with this scripture from Job:

“The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” — Job 1:21

In this time of sorrow, may Gelila and Yohanes feel God’s comforting presence surrounding them, filling their hearts with strength, peace, and hope. “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” — Psalm 34:18

May they rest in the assurance that God’s love holds them, sustains them, and carries them forward through their grief.

የአቢጋኤል ዮሐንስ የሕይወት ታሪክና መታሰቢያ
“ልባቸው ንጹሕ የሆኑ ብፁዓን ናቸው፥ እግዚአብሔርን ያዩታልና።” — ማቴዎስ 5፥8

ዛሬ እዚህ የተሰበሰብነው በከባድ ሐዘን ውስጥ ሆነን የውድ ልጃችንን፣ የአቢጋኤል ዮሐንስን ውብና አርአያነት ያለው ሕይወት ለመዘከር ነው።
አቢጋኤል እ.ኤ.አ. በSeptember 29 2004 በዋሽንግተን ዲሲ ተወለደች። ለወላጆቿ ለወይዘሮ ገሊላ ሙሴና ለአቶ ዮሐንስ ኩምሳ ብቸኛና ተወዳጅ ልጃቸው ነበረች። ለቤተሰቧ የደስታቸው ምንጭ፣ የኩራታቸው መሠረትና ታላቅ በረከታቸው ነበረች። ገና የአንድ ዓመት ሕፃን እያለች ወደ አትላንታ ከቤተሰቧ ጋር በሰራ ምክንያት ተዘዋወሩ፣ በዚያም በፍቅርና በእንክብካቤ፣ ለታላቅ ዓላማ ታጭታ አደገች።

አቢጋኤል ገና ከለጋነቷ ጀምሮ ገር፣ ደግና ብሩህ አእምሮ ያላት ልጅ መሆኗን አስመስክራለች። ገና በሁለት ዓመቷ ማንበብ የጀመረች ሲሆን፣ ከዚያን ጊዜ ጀምሮ ለትምህርትና ለዕውቀት ያላት ፍቅር በጉልህ ይታይ ነበር። እንደ ባርነስ ኤንድ ኖብል (Barnes and Noble) ያሉ መጻሕፍት መደብሮች የእሷ ተመራጭ ስፍራዎች ነበሩ። እንዲሁም በታሪክ፣ በሥነ-ጽሑፍና በልቦለድ መጻሕፍት ዓለም ውስጥ ሰጥማ ትውል ነበር። የምታነበው በዘፈቀደ ሳይሆን በዓላማ ነበር፤ የራሷን ትዝብትና ጥልቅ ሐሳብ በገጾቹ ላይ ታሰፍር ነበር። የPre-K መምህራን ገና በለጋ ዕድሜዋ ያላትን የማንበብ ብቃት እያዩ ይደነቁ ነበር። አባቷ ካሉት የማይረሱ ትዝታዎች አንዱ፣ አቢጋኤል ከመጻሕፍት ፍቅር የተነሳ በPre-k ልጆች nap ሲያድርጉ እሷ በድብቅ ተነስታ መፅሀፍ እንደምታነብ ያስታውሳሉ። ምታገኘውን gift allowance ሁሉ መፅሀፍ በመግዛት ነው የምታጠፋው፡ይህ በትምህርት ላይ ያላት ትጋት በአንደኛና በሁለተኛ ደረጃ ትምህርቷ በሙሉ በከፍተኛ ውጤት (Straight A+) እንድታጠናቅቅ አስችሏታል።

አቢጋኤል መደበኛ ትምህርቷን በሎቪን(Lovin) አንደኛ ደረጃ ጀምራ በማክኮኔል (McConnell) መካከለኛና በአርቸር (Archer)ሁለተኛ ደረጃ ትምህርት ቤቶች በላቀ ውጤት ተከታትላለች። ከትምህርቷ ጎን ለጎንም በቤተክርስቲያን የሰንበት ትምህርት ቤት መምህርት በመሆን ታገለግል ነበር። አዛውንቱ፣ ወጣቱና ሕፃኑ ሁሉ በደግነቷና በረጋው መንፈሷ ይወዷት ነበር። ይህ ታላቅ ብቃቷ ወደ ከፍተኛ ትምህርት መራት። እንደ ኮርኔል፣(Cornell) ራይስ (Rise)፣ ኤሞሪና (Emory)ዱክ (Duke)ባሉ ታዋቂ ዩኒቨርሲቲዎች ተቀባይነት አግኝታ ነበር። እሷ ግን የዱክ ዩኒቨርሲቲን (Duke University) በመምረጥ በሶሺዮሎጂ (Sociology) የመጀመሪያ ዲግሪዋን እንዲሁም በፈጠራ ፅሁፍ (Creative Writing) ማይነር ትምህርቷን እይተከታተለች ነበር። በዩኒቨርሲቲው ቆይታዋ በኢትዮጵያውያን ተማሪዎች ማህበር (DESTA) እና በጥቁር ተማሪዎች ጥምረት ውስጥ መሪ በመሆን ታገለግል ነበር።
አቢጋኤል የኮሌጅ ቆይታዋንና በዚያ የመሠረተቻቸውን ጠንካራ ጓደኝነቶች እጅግ ትወድ ነበር። በተለይም ከጓደኞቿ ጋር ወደ ዋሽንግተን ዲሲ ያደረገችው ጉዞ የማይረሳ ትዝታዋ ነበር።

አቢጋኤል ዕውቀት ብቻ ሳይሆን ሰብአዊነትም የተረፋት ልጅ ነበረች። ለወላጆቿ፣ ለቤተሰቧና ለጓደኞቿ ያላት ፍቅር ወደር የለውም። ሁልጊዜም ሞቅ ያለ ፈገግታና አጽናኝ ፈገግታዋ የማይረሳ ነው። ለእናቷ ያላት ፍቅር ልዩ ነበር፤ አይኖቿ ሁልጊዜ እናቷን በአድናቆትና ማየት ነው ። በእውነትም በወላጆቿ በሥነ-ምግባር የታነጸችና የታመነች ጓደኛ ነበረች። ለእኩልነት፣ ለፍትሕና ለሰው ልጆች ክብር የቆመች የሰላም ተሟጋች ነበረች።

ከመደበኛ ትምህርት ባሻገር፣ አቢጋኤል በደስታ የተሞላ ሕይወት ነበራት። ተወዳጅ ቀለሟ "ቤቢ ብሉ" (baby - blue)ነው፣ ፣ እንዲሁም የሀገሯን ምግብ በተለይም ክትፎን ትወድ ነበር። በትርፍ ጊዜዋ መጻሕፍት ማንበብ፣ መጻፍና ፒያኖ መጫወት የነፍሷ ምግብ ነበሩ። በሥርዓት የተመራ ሕይወት ነበራት፤ የዕለት ተዕለት ተግባሯን በቀለምና በፈጠራ በዳየሪዋ (dairy) ላይ ታሰፍር ነበር።
ለወደፊቱም በሶሺዮሎጂ የዶክትሬት ዲግሪዋን (PhD) የመቀጠል ታላቅ ዕቅድ ነበራት። አቢጋኤል አራተኛ ዓመት ተማሪ ሆና፣ አዲስ የሕይወት ምዕራፍ ለመጀመር ጥቂት ሲቀራት፣ ባልታሰበ ሁኔታ የሆሳና ዕለት ከዚህ ዓለም በሞት ተለየችን። ይህንን ሐዘን ለመግለጽ ቃላት አቅም የላቸውም።

አቢጋኤል ለወላጆቿ ብቸኛ ልጅና የቤታቸው ብርሃን ነበረች። ዛሬ ወላጆቿ ልባቸው በሐዘን ተሰብሯል። ጉዳታቸው እጅግ ጥልቅ ነው፤ እኛም በዚህ መሪር ወቅት በፍቅርና በጸሎት ከጎናቸው እንቆማለን።
የአቢጋኤል ዕድሜ አጭር ቢሆንም፣ በታላቅ ትርጉም የተሞላ ነበር። ደግነትን፣ ትጋትንና ጥልቅ ፍቅርን በተግባር አሳይታናለች። በዙሪያዋ ያሉትን ሁሉ በመልካምነቷ ነክታለች።

ሁልጊዜም በፈገግታዋ፣ በብልህነቷና በደግነቷ እናስታውሳታለን። ነፍሷ በእግዚአብሔር እቅፍ ውስጥ በዘላለም ሰላም ትረፍ።

በመጨረሻም በኢዮብ መጽሐፍ ውስጥ በሚገኘው ቃል አሰናብታችኋለሁ፦
“እግዚአብሔር ሰጠ፥ እግዚአብሔርም ነሣ፤ የእግዚአብሔር ስም የተባረከ ይሁን።” — ኢዮብ 1፥21

በዚህ የሐዘን ወቅት፣ እግዚአብሔር ለገሊላና ለዮሐንስ እንዲሁም ለመላው ቤተሰቡ እና ወዳጆች መጽናናትንና ሰላምን ይስጣቸው።

“እግዚአብሔር ልባቸው ለተሰበረ ቅርብ ነው፥ መንፈሳቸው የተሰበረውንም ያድናቸዋል።” — መዝሙር 34፥18

የእግዚአብሔር ፍቅር ይደግፋችሁ፣ ያጽናናችሁ። አሜን።

“The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” — Job 1:21

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” — Matthew 5:8



Abby, you will be missed; you are forever in our hearts.