

You can choose your afterlife by mario eric gamalinda

[Life](#), [Death](#)



Author Name: Mario Eric Gamalinda Age: 54 Birthday: Oct. 14, 1956

Birthplace: Manila School: UST and UP Occupation: Poet, fictionist, essayist

Currently lives in: New York City, USA Currently works at: Center for

Investigative Journalism Eric Gamalinda is a local fellow for poetry of the UP

ICW in 1983. He went to Great Britain to represent the Philippines in the

Cambridge International Writers' Conference in 1990. In 1991, he attended

the Hawthornden International Writers' Retreat in Scotland. Gamalinda got a

Rockefeller Foundation residency in Bellagio, Italy. He also participated in the

Japan International Cooperation Agency's Programme for the 21st century.

Other Works & Achievements - Fire Poem/Rain Poem (1976) - Lyrics From A

Dead Language (1991) - Zero Gravity (1999) —Asian American Literary

Award - Peripheral Vision (1992) - Planet Waves (1989) —National Book

Award - Confessions of a Volcano (1990) - The Empire of Memory (1992) - My

Sad Republic (1998) —Centennial Literary Prize - Anatomy of a Passionate

Derangement (One-act play, 1980) -1st prize, Gawad Palanca Award - Ara

Vos Prec (1985) —Gawad Palanca Award - Patria Y Muerte (1988) —Gawad

Palanca Award - Mourning and Weeping in this Valley of Tears (1988) —

Gawad Palanca Award - The Unbreakable Lightness of EDSA (1990) —Gawad

Palanca Award - Muerte del Anghel (1992) —Free Press Literary Awards

Selection " You Can Choose Your Afterlife," is found in Gamalinda's book,

Zero Gravity. The poem is based on the beliefs of the T'boli, an old

indigenous people living in South Cotabato in Southern Mindanao. The T'boli

afterlife has several destinations. The souls of murder victims and warriors

slain in battle will be celebrated in a bloodthirsty kingdom. To die by the

sword entails the people you left behind to mourn for your tragic death.

According to the T'boli beliefs, victims of drowning become citizens of the sea. They will be under the rule of Fon Muhin, a god they believe in. If you die due to sickness, you will get what you wish for, which is to be free from pain, however, they will sorely miss the people they have left behind. For people who commit suicide, their souls will never truly leave earth because they still have unresolved problems. They will always wonder what the people they left behind think of them for committing suicide. At the end of the poem, the speaker addresses a friend, real or created, who decided to take his own life. He doesn't know why Arne took his own life, but he's not going to spend the rest of his life trying to figure it out. These people will always wonder what the people they left behind think of them for committing suicide. Figures of Speech - Onomatopoeia They welcome you there with the tintinnabulation of copper bells - Apostrophe Arne, You didn't tell us why you wanted to go - Personification and the lamentation of bamboo violins and all night long a wounded sun hovers over your place of business