

SOCIETY OF YOUNG NIGERIAN WRITERS

**ARTICLES, ESSAYS AND E-BOOKS ON DANIEL
OLORUNFEMI FAGUNWA**



Fagunwa's Igbo Olodumare Translated in U.S

The late legendary Yoruba novelist, Daniel Olorunfemi Fagunwa, virtually came alive again last month in the United States of America when Wole Oyenusi's translation: *The Forest of the Almighty*, of Fagunwa's *Igbo Olodumare* was published by I-Proclaim, an imprint of Dorrance Publishing of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and launched into the Internet. Oyenusi, an ex-student of Professor Wole Soyinka at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, who is also an English Lecturer at the University's Centre for Distance Learning, Badagry Study Centre, in an interview with newsmen, commended African writers like Soyinka, Achebe, Ngugi and others for their excellent artistry, but chided them for what he termed their "Negritudinal cultural rabbleroising".

Oyenusi was of the opinion that these three writers especially are culpable for their lack of objectivity and aesthetic distance in their portrayal of Christianity, unlike Fagunwa who exploited his artistry to celebrate Christian ideals. Oyenusi, who was one of the guests invited by the Fagunwa Foundation for this year's edition of the annual Fagunwa Memorial Lecture, at the University of Lagos, further disclosed that he has also translated *Adiitu Olodunmare*, another Fagunwa's work for his great admiration of Fagunwa's person and the universality of the themes his creative works. He said the two translations would be formally launched in Nigeria at the next memorial lecture in 2011.