



About the author:

Born on January 12, 1988, in Jacqueville, Ivory Coast, Philippe Tiémassa-Grey belongs to a generation of African authors for whom literature is not only a vocation but also a responsibility. He discovered the power of words and their healing potential at a very early age. He began writing at the age of ten and has never stopped since.

In 2013, his talent and rigor led him to collaborate with the offices of First Lady Dominique Ouattara on projects combining culture, youth, and social action. In 2017, the pan-African media outlet Financial Afrik ranked him among the continent's influential young figures, highlighting his dual role as an intellectual and a committed activist.

But it is above all in poetry that Philippe Tiémassa-Grey finds his true voice. A voice rooted in Ivorian and African memory, but turned towards the universal. His writing combines spirituality, symbolism, and introspection — it speaks to the soul more than to reason. In him, the figure of the poet joins that of the ferryman: the one who connects the visible and invisible worlds, the one who makes words a path to elevation.

“To write is to elevate oneself, but it is also to elevate others.”

This maxim, which can be glimpsed between the lines, could sum up his entire project as an author: to restore language to its mission of enlightenment.

About the work:

With Safaola – Spiritual Elevation, Philippe Tiémassa-Grey has created a unique work that transcends the simple poetic

experience. At the crossroads between manifesto and prayer, the collection offers a meditation on the human condition, on the possibility of reinventing oneself despite adversity, and on the invisible force that connects beings beyond borders.

The word Safaola, born from the author's imagination, acts as a magic key. It does not refer to anything known, but evokes everything from an inner place. Through this lexical invention, Tiémassa-Grey proposes a new language, freed from the categories of the French language and those of the world. It is a way of opening poetry to another syntax of the soul.

Through dense, sometimes incantatory verses, the poet navigates between sensual realism and metaphysics. His texts evoke love, pain, loss, transcendence, but also the memory of peoples and transmission. Safaola becomes an itinerary: that of a being who seeks to understand the meaning of the visible in the light of the invisible.

We sense the tension between two poles: the wounds of the world and the desire for elevation. Where some see a mystical collection, others will read a treatise on resilience. Philippe Tiémassa-Grey does not preach: he questions, he shares an intimate experience, that of a man who uses words as a tool for survival and reconciliation.

Far from formalism, his poetry is sensual, inhabited, sometimes burning. We find in it the breath of an African generation writing from the other side of the journey — that of uprooting, of reinvented faith, of rediscovered beauty.

Safaola – Spiritual Elevation is therefore not just a book: it is a passage. A space where the reader, in turn, confronts his own heights and his own abysses.

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