

A SELECTION OF FUNERAL REFLECTIONS

SHE IS GONE

*You can shed tears that she is gone
Or you can smile because she has lived*

*You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left*

*Your heart can be empty because you can't see her
Or you can be full of the love that you shared*

*You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday*

*You can remember her and only that she is gone
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on*

*You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what she would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.*

David Harkins

REMEMBER ME

*To the living, I am gone,
To the sorrowful, I will never return,
To the angry, I was cheated,
But to the happy, I am at peace,
And to the faithful, I have never left.*

*I cannot speak, but I can listen.
I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.
So as you stand upon a shore gazing at a beautiful sea,
As you look upon a flower and admire its simplicity,
Remember me.*

*Remember me in your heart:
Your thoughts, and your memories,*

*Of the times we loved,
The times we cried,
The times we fought,
The times we laughed.
For if you always think of me, I will never have gone.*

Margaret Mead

DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE AND WEEP

*Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn's rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there. I did not die.*

Mary Frye

LET ME GO

*When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me
I want no rites in a gloom filled room
Why cry for a soul set free?*

*Miss me a little, but not for long
And not with your head bowed low
Remember the love that once we shared
Miss me, but let me go.*

*For this is a journey we all must take
And each must go alone.*

*It's all part of the master plan
A step on the road to home.*

*When you are lonely and sick at heart
Go to the friends we know.
Laugh at all the things we used to do
Miss me, but let me go.*

Christina Rossetti

COME WITH ME

*God saw you getting tired
And a cure was not to be
So He put His arms around you
And whispered 'Come with Me.'*

*With tearful eyes
We watched you suffer
And saw you fade away,
Although we loved you dearly
We could not make you stay.*

*A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands at rest,
God broke our hearts to prove
He only takes the best.*

*It's lonesome here without you,
We miss you more each day,
Life doesn't seem the same
Since you've gone away.*

*When days are sad and lonely
And everything goes wrong,
we seem to hear you whisper
'Cheer up and carry on.'*

*Each time we see your picture,
You seem to smile and say
'Don't cry, I'm in God's keeping
We'll meet again someday.'*

*You never said 'I'm leaving',
You never said goodbye,
You were gone before we knew it,
And only God knew why.*

*A million times we needed you,
A million times we cried,
If love alone could have saved you,
You never would have died.*

*In life we loved you dearly,
In death we love you still,
In our hearts you hold a place,
That no one could ever fill.*

*It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day God took you home.*

Rhonda Braswell

ALL IS WELL

*Death is nothing at all,
I have only slipped into the next room
I am I and you are you
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.
Call me by my old familiar name,*

*Speak to me in the easy way which you always used
Put no difference in your tone,
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow
Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.*

*Let my name be ever the household word that it always was,
Let it be spoken without effect, without the trace of shadow on it.
Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was, there is unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?*

*I am waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near,
Just around the corner.
All is well.*

Henry Scott Holland

I AM FREE

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call,
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day, to laugh,
To love, to work or play.
Tasks undone must stay that way
I've found that peace at the close of the day.*

*If parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savoured much
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and share with me,
God wants me now, He set me free.*

Shannon Lee Moseley