

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Enduring Bonds

Philosophers, theologians, poets and sages throughout the ages attest to the belief that there is a higher purpose and meaning to pain and, if its mystery can be unlocked, there exists beyond it a wondrous beauty and opportunity for growth. Likewise they do not attach a great stigma or fear to death or indeed see it as the end of being, but rather as a doorway to a new realm of conscious, spiritual existence where the departed can love, care for and guide the lives and destinies of their loved ones.

One of the most influential theologians of the 20th century, German-born Jesuit Karl Rahner reflects upon the continuing bonds we have with those who have died:

The great mistake of many people – among them, even pious persons – is to imagine that those whom death has taken, leave us. They do not leave us. They remain! Where are they? In darkness? Oh, no! It is we who are in darkness. We do not see them, but they see us. Their eyes, radiant with glory, are fixed upon our eyes full of tears. Oh, infinite consolation! Though invisible to us, our dead are not absent.

I have often reflected upon the surest comfort for those who mourn.

It is this: a firm faith in the real and continual presence of our loved ones; it is the clear and penetrating conviction that death has not destroyed them, nor carried them away. They are not even absent, but living near to us, transfigured: having lost, in their glorious change, no delicacy of their soul, no tenderness of their hearts, nor especial preference in their affection. On the contrary, they have, in depth and fervour of devotion, grown larger a hundredfold.

Death is, for the good, a translation into light, into power, into love. Those who on earth were only ordinary Christians become perfect... those who were good become sublime.



*“Death does not end
our story.
Death does not end
our relationships”*

*“To love someone is to
say: You will never
die! Human love, even
this side of eternity, has
that kind of power”*



*“Grief is the form love
takes when we lose
someone we love”*

*“I wanted to spend the
rest of my life with you;
but instead I am deeply
honored knowing that
you spent the rest of
your life with me”*

Camille Marcoette