

12-17 POEM: Last Will and Testament

By Dayniah Manderson

You're all here because I'm gone

I've taken my last breath,

Felt my heart's final beat,

Soul detached from body—

I hope I finally feel free.

You're all here

The most wonderful members of my village;

People who I've loved, those I've held near;

If I've neglected to tell you—

I love you.

Love has no description, so I'll spare myself the effort.

I've loved you all.

But, I had to go;

It was bound to happen.

My boundless spirit couldn't remain wheelchair bound;

Caged in a body—

I've done my time being a prisoner to the physical realm.

I fly—

It takes a village to raise a child, so I ask this of you.

Now that I'm gone,

Be the village that my beloved Akasha needs.

Be there to remind her that of all the things that mattered in my life,

She topped the list.

Describe to her how I moved any mountain that threatened to separate us

Share the stories about how much she enhanced every facet of my life,

Fortified areas of weakness,

Breathed hope into despair.

Don't forget to describe my smile as I told you of her brilliance, her beauty, her boundless potential

Be there to listen to her,

Validate her feelings,

Pull her away from the edge when this experience called life pushes her too far

And, when issues arise, as they are bound to,

Reinforce that every problem has a solution; it's a balance; approach the problem as you would a Rubik's cube

Tell her to remove the blinders of bias, don't be an ass, people will ride you, but only if you let them

Choose wisely

Reach out to her when she's too silent

Something might be wrong

She'll never initiate contact

She's just lost her best friend!

Give her space and time to mourn but don't leave her there;

Emphasize that I wouldn't like that.

Be there to help her when she needs someone

She shouldn't feel alone in this village
She should feel embraced, valued, and protected in this village
Protect her even from herself
And when she questions why I had to go
Explain to her that I was never meant to stay
I wouldn't have left had I the choice
Tell her that I've left the best parts of me within her
Remind her of when she was 16 and knew what I would respond before I said it;
She knew me that well, so tell her to listen for my voice speaking from her heart
I can never really leave; never truly die
Love her because I loved you
You're all here because I'm gone
So, please be there.