



# Readings, Verses & Poems

*for a Funeral or Memorial Service*

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## **Readings and Poem**

Including a reading in the ceremony is a beautiful way to express our feelings, evoke a memory and offer comfort to those who are grieving.

It's also a nice way to involve other family members or friends who may wish to contribute to the ceremony.

Deciding on the right reading can be overwhelming, but at the end of the day, it really just comes down to how that reading made you feel.

Does it trigger memories of them, does it communicate the emotions you are feeling, and is it appropriate to both the mourners and to the person who will be reading it?

Over the years I have collected many different verses and poems which you will find in this booklet.

Feel free to choose one of these, modify them, or you may provide your own reading, or write your own poem if you prefer.

As a celebrant, I always encourage other speakers at the funeral.

This may have already been covered by looking at who is doing the eulogy, however you can also include speakers who simply want to say some words of remembrance, or farewell, on the day.

It could also be someone who may wish to read a poem or a verse, that they or the family have chosen for the funeral.

Often people don't want to share their memories, as they are worried they will get too emotional, however they still feel like they would like to contribute to the ceremony in some way.

Asking them to choose and read a poem or verse can be a great way to do this.

Poems can be used at any point throughout the ceremony and I would usually wait until I see what the family have chosen before I decide where we will place it in the order of ceremony.

You may have a particular reading in mind, or the deceased may have even specified one that they wanted read.

# *Never Forgotten*

*- Author Unknown -*

You'll never be forgotten  
That simply can not be  
As long as I am living  
I'll carry you with me.

Safely tucked within my heart  
Your light will always shine;  
A glowing ember never stilled  
Throughout the end of time.

No matter what the future brings  
Or what may lie ahead,  
I know that you will walk with me  
Along the path I tread.

So rest my angel, be at peace  
And let your soul fly free.  
One day I'll join your glorious flight  
For all eternity.



# *Dear Friends I Go*

*- Author Unknown -*

Dear friends I go, but do not weep  
I've lived my life, so full and deep  
Throughout my life, I gave my best  
I earned my keep, I've earned my rest  
I never tried to be great or grand  
I tried to be a helping hand.

If I helped in a team, if I helped on my own  
It was more than repaid by  
good family and friends I've known.  
And If I went the extra mile,  
I did it with pleasure  
It was all worthwhile.

If I brightened your path, then let it be  
A small contribution  
from my loved ones and me,  
Now sadly I leave you and travel alone  
Through the mystic veil  
to the great unknown.  
With such beautiful memories  
that will forever be  
The way that I hope  
You'll remember me.

# *Remember Me*

- Antony Dowson -

Speak of me as you have always done.  
Remember the good times, laughter and fun.  
Share the happy memories we've made.  
Do not let them wither or fade.

I'll be with you in the summer's sun  
And when the winter's chill has come.  
I'll be the voice that whispers in the breeze.  
I'm peaceful now, put your mind at ease.

I've rested my eyes and gone to sleep, But memories we've shared are yours to keep.  
Sometimes our final days may be a test,  
But remember me when I was at my best.

Although things may not be the same  
Don't be afraid to use my name.  
Let your sorrow last for just a while.  
Comfort each other and try to smile.

I lived my life, I've known joy and fun.  
Live on now, make me proud  
Of what you'll become.

# *Butterfly Readings*

- Author Unknown -

## *No. 1*

A butterfly lights beside us like a sunbeam  
And for a brief moment its glory  
and beauty belong to our world.  
But then it flies again  
And though we wish it could have stayed...  
We feel lucky to have seen it.

## *No. 2*

Don't weep at my grave,  
for I am not there,  
I've a date with a butterfly  
to dance in the air.  
I'll be singing in the  
sunshine, wild and free  
playing tag with the wind  
while I am waiting for thee.

# *A Limb Has Fallen*

*- Author Unknown -*

A limb has fallen from the family  
tree I keep hearing a voice that says  
“Grieve not for me.”  
Remember the best times,  
the laughter the song,  
The good life I lived, while I was strong.  
Continue my heritage, I’m counting on you.  
Keep smiling and surely  
the sun will shine through.

My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest  
Remembering all, now I truly was blessed.  
Continue traditions, no matter how small  
Go on with your life,  
don’t just stare at the wall.  
I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin  
Until the day comes we’re together again.

# *Funeral Blues* *(Stop All the Clocks))*

- *W.H. Auden* -

Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,  
Prevent the dog from barking  
with a juicy bone,  
Silence the pianos and with muffled drum  
Bring out the coffin,  
let the mourners come.

Let aeroplanes circle, moaning overhead  
Scribbling on the sky the message  
“He is Dead.”  
Put crepe bows round the white necks of the public doves,  
Let the traffic policemen wear  
black cotton gloves.

He was my North, my South,  
my East and West,  
My working week and my Sunday rest,  
My noon, my midnight, my talk, my  
song; I thought that love would last  
forever:  
I was wrong.

The stars are not wanted now;  
put out every one,  
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun,  
Pour away the ocean  
and sweep up the woods;  
For nothing now can ever come to  
any good.

# *Life Well Lived*

- Author Unknown -

A life well lived is a precious gift  
of hope and strength and grace  
From someone who has made our world a  
brighter, better place.

It's filled with moments sweet and sad  
with smiles and sometimes tears  
with friendships formed and good times shared  
and laughter throughout the years.

A life well lived is a legacy  
of joy and pride and pleasure  
A living, lasting memory  
our grateful heart's will treasure.

# *If I Should Go*

- Joyce Grenfell -

If I should go before the rest of you  
Break not a flower nor inscribe a stone  
Nor when I'm gone speak in a Sunday voice  
But be the usual selves that I have known.  
Weep if you must, parting is hell  
But life goes on, so sing as  
well.

# *Life Must Go On*

- A Navaho Prayer -

Grieve for me, for I would grieve for you.  
Then brush away the sorrow and the tears  
Life is not over, but begins anew,  
With courage you must greet the coming years.

To live forever in the past is wrong;  
It can only cause you misery and pain.  
Dwell not on memories overlong,  
With others you must share and care again.

Reach out and comfort those who comfort you;  
Recall the years, but only for a while.  
Nurse not your loneliness; but live again.  
Forget not. Remember with a smile.



## *A Silent Tear*

- Gaynor Llewellyn -

Just close your eyes and you will see  
All the memories that you have of me  
Just sit and relax and you will find  
I'm really still there inside your  
mind

Don't cry for me now I'm gone  
For I am in the land of song  
There is no pain, there is no fear  
So dry away that silent tear

Don't think of me in the dark and cold  
For here I am, no longer old  
I'm in that place that's filled with love  
Known to you all, as "UP ABOVE"

## *I Hope You Live Louder*

- Maris Donnelly -

I hope you laugh more  
I hope you sing at the top of your lungs.  
I hope you drive with the windows down and let the wind rustle through your hair.  
I hope you hug.  
I hope you kiss.

I hope you surround yourself with people who make you feel alive.  
I hope you become the type of person that brings good energy wherever you go, and the type of  
person people want to be around.

I hope you speak what's on your mind,  
that you raise your voice for injustice,  
that you tell others that you love them,  
instead of waiting until it's too late.

I hope you live louder, shine brighter,  
From this moment on.

## *The Tide Recedes*

*- by MD Hughes -*

The tide recedes but leaves behind  
bright seashells on the sand.  
The sun goes down but gentle warmth  
still lingers on the land.  
The music stops and yet it echoes  
on in sweet refrains.  
For every joy that passes  
something beautiful remains.

## *Funeral Reading*

*- Author unknown -*

A ship sails and I stand watching till she fades on the horizon  
and someone at my side says ....  
She is gone.  
Gone where?  
Gone from my sight, that is all.  
She is just as large now  
as when I last saw her.  
Her diminished size and total loss from my sight is in me, not in her.  
And just at that moment,  
when someone at my side says she is gone,  
there are others who are watching her coming over their horizon  
and other voices take up a glad shout -  
Here she comes!  
That is what dying is.  
An horizon and just the limit of our sight.

## *Her Journey's Just Begun*

*- Author Unknown -*

Don't think of her as gone away  
her journey's just begun...  
Life holds so many facets,  
this earth is only one.

Just think of her as resting  
from the sorrows and the tears, in  
a place of warmth and comfort  
where there are no days or years.

Think how she must be wishing  
that we could know today,  
how nothing but our sadness  
can really pass away.

And think of her as living  
in the hearts of those she touched,  
for nothing loved is ever lost  
and she was loved so much.

# *I Heard Your Voice in the Wind Today*

*- Author Unknown -*

I heard your voice in the wind today  
and I turned to see your face;  
The warmth of the wind caressed me  
as I stood silently in place.

I felt your touch in the sun today  
as its warmth filled the sky;  
I closed my eyes for your embrace  
and my spirit soared high.

I saw your eyes in the window pane  
as I watched the falling rain;  
It seemed as each raindrop fell  
it quietly said your name.

I held you close in my heart today  
it made me feel complete;  
You may have died...but you are not gone  
you will always be a part of me.

As long as the sun shines...  
the wind blows...  
the rain falls...  
You will live on inside of me forever  
for that is all my heart knows.

## *Miss Me - But Let Me Go*

*- Edgar A Guest -*

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 too long  
And not with your head bowed low.  
Remember the love that we once shared  
Miss me - but let me go.

For this is a journey that we all must take  
And each must go alone.  
It's all a part of the Master's plan  
A step on the road to home.

So when you are lonely and sick of heart  
Go to the friends we know  
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds.  
Miss Me - But Let me Go!

## *Native American Blessing*

*- Chief Dan George -*

May the stars carry your sadness away  
May the flowers fill your heart with beauty  
May hope forever wipe away your tears  
And, above all, may silence make you strong.

# *I Know, My Love, The Time Has Come*

*- Author Unknown -*

I know, my love, the time has come  
To finally let you go.  
I know you're gone, I must move on  
To walk this lonely road.  
And yet it seems you're still with me  
Each movement that I make -  
A guiding light, still burning bright  
With each step that I take.

I can't forget, I won't regret  
The moments that we shared.  
Your gentle face, the loving ways  
That showed how much you cared.  
Right from the start, you touched my heart,  
You opened up my eyes.  
You helped me see what I could be,  
That I could reach the skies.

Now I still find you're on my mind,  
Though you're so far away.  
I know it's wrong, I can't hold on,  
It's time to find my way -  
Without your love to lift me up,  
Sometimes it's hard to face.  
But in my dreams you're still with me,  
A part I can't erase.

With each new day, it doesn't fade,  
It's lonely with you gone.  
Memories keep haunting me,  
And yet I must move on.  
Perhaps in time someday I'll find  
It doesn't hurt so much.  
But I know now without a doubt,  
I won't forget your love.



# *Butterfly Kisses*

*- John F Connor -*

Don't cry for me,  
please don't be sad  
Hold on to the memories  
of the times we both had  
Don't dwell on dark thoughts,  
hold on right to your wishes  
Sending you hugs  
and butterfly kisses.

I walk beside you  
I am there all day long  
I am right here  
but you think I am gone.  
You don't see me  
but I can see you  
What ever the problems  
I will help you get through.

I am the wind in your hair  
the sand in your toes  
Butterfly kisses  
that you feel on your nose  
I am with you at sunrise  
and at sunset  
That you can not see me  
is my one regret.

I sit right right beside you  
when you are sad  
As you look through the photos  
of times we both had  
I watch you sleeping  
I hold you so tight  
Before I go  
I kiss you goodnight.

I will watch over you  
from Heaven above  
Forever you will be  
my one true love  
Hold on to your dreams  
and all your wishes.  
Sending you hugs  
and butterfly kisses.

# *I'm Still Here*

- Author Unknown -

Friends, please don't mourn for me  
I'm still here, though you don't see.  
I'm right by your side each night and day  
And within your heart I long to stay.

My body is gone but I'm always near.  
I'm everything you feel, see or hear.  
My spirit is free, but I'll never depart  
As long as you keep me alive in your heart.

I'll never wander out of your sight-  
I'm the brightest star on a summer night.  
I'll never be beyond your reach-  
I'm the warm moist sand  
when you're at the beach.

I'm the colourful leaves  
when Autumn's around  
And the pure white snow  
that blankets the ground.  
I'm the beautiful flowers  
of which you're so fond,  
The clear cool water  
in a quiet pond.

I'm the first bright blossom  
you'll see in the spring,  
The first warm raindrop  
that April will bring.  
I'm the first ray of light  
when the sun starts to shine,  
And you'll see that the face  
in the moon is mine.

When you start thinking  
there's no one to love you,  
You can talk to me  
through the Lord above you.  
I'll whisper my answer  
through the leaves on the trees,  
And you'll feel my presence  
in the soft summer breeze.

I'm the hot salty tears  
that flow when you weep  
And the beautiful dreams  
that come while you sleep.  
I'm the smile you see  
on a baby's face.  
Just look for me, friend,  
I'm every place!

# *Looking Back*

*- Edgar A Guest -*

I might have been rich if I'd wanted the gold  
instead of the friendships I've made.  
I might have had fame if I'd sought for renown  
in the hours when I purposely played.

Now I'm standing today on the far edge of life,  
and I'm just looking backward to see  
What I've done with the years and the days  
that were mine,  
and all that has happened to me.

I haven't built much of a fortune  
to leave to those who shall carry my name,  
And nothing I've done shall entitle me now  
to a place on the tablets of fame.

But I've loved the great sky and its spaces of blue;  
I've lived with the birds and the trees;  
I've turned from the splendour of  
silver and gold  
to share in such pleasures as these.

I've given my time to the children who came;  
together we've romped and we've played,  
And I wouldn't exchange the glad hours spent with them  
for the money that I might have made.

I chose to be known and be loved by the few,  
and was deaf to the plaudits of men;  
And I'd make the same choice should the chance come to me  
to live my life over again.

I've lived with my friends and I've shared in their joys,  
known sorrow with all of its tears;  
I have harvested much from my acres of life,  
though some say I've squandered my years.

For much that is fine has been mine to enjoy,  
and I think I have lived to my best,  
And I have no regret, as I'm nearing the end,  
for the gold that I might have possessed.

# *Memories in the Heart*

- Author Unknown -

Feel no guilt in laughter,  
she knows how much you care  
Feel no sorrow in a smile  
that she's not here to share  
You cannot grieve forever,  
she would not want you to  
She'd hope that you can carry on,  
the way you always do

So talk about the good times and  
the ways you showed you cared  
The days you spent together,  
all the happiness you shared  
Let memories surround you.  
A word someone may say  
Will suddenly recapture  
a time, an hour, a day

That brings her back as clearly  
as though she were still here  
And fills you with the feelings  
that she is always near  
For if you keep these moments,  
you will never be apart  
And she will live forever  
locked safe within your heart

# *The Memory of Me*

- Author Unknown -

I'd like the memory of me  
to be a happy one.  
I'd like to leave an after glow  
of smiles when life is done.

I'd like to leave an echo  
whispering softly down the ways,  
Of happy times and laughing times  
and bright and sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those who grieve,  
to dry before the sun  
As you recall the happy memories  
that I leave when life is done.

# *They Are Not Dead*

- Author Unknown -

They are not dead  
Who leave us this great heritage of remembering joy

They still live in our hearts  
In the happiness we knew,  
in the dreams we shared.

They still breathe,  
In the lingering fragrance,  
windblown from their favourite flowers.

They still smile in the moonlight's silver  
And laugh in the sunlight's sparkling  
gold.

They still speak  
In the echoes of the words we've heard them say, again and again.

They still move  
In the rhythm of waving grasses,  
in the dance of the tossing branches.

They are not dead!

# *When I Must Leave You*

- Helen Steiner Rice -

When I must leave you for a little while  
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears  
And hug your sorrow to you through the years  
But start out bravely with a gallant smile;  
And for my sake and in my name  
live on and do all things the same.

Feed not your loneliness on empty days,  
But fill each waking hour in useful ways,  
Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer  
And I in turn will comfort you and hold you near;  
And never, never be afraid to die,  
For I am waiting for you in the sky!

# *What Will Matter*

*- Michael Josephson -*

Ready or not,  
some day it will all come to an end.  
There will be no more sunrises,  
no minutes, hours or days.  
All the things you collected,  
whether treasured or forgotten,  
will pass to someone else.  
Your wealth, fame and temporal power  
will shrivel to irrelevance.  
It will not matter what you owned  
or what you were owed.  
Your grudges, resentments, frustrations and jealousies will finally disappear.  
So too, your hopes, ambitions, plans  
and to-do lists will expire.  
The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away.  
It won't matter where you came from or what side of the tracks you lived on at the end.  
It won't matter whether you were beautiful  
or brilliant.  
Even your gender and skin colour will be irrelevant.

So what will matter?  
How will the value of your days be measured?

What will matter is not what you bought but  
what you built,  
not what you got but what you gave.  
What will matter is not your success  
but your significance.  
What will matter is not what you learned but  
what you taught.

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage or sacrifice  
that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example.

What will matter is not your competence  
but your character.

What will matter is not how many people you knew, but how many will feel a lasting loss when  
you're gone.

What will matter is not your memories  
but the memories of those who loved you.

What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom and for what.  
Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident.

It's not a matter of circumstance  
but of choice.

Choose to live a life that matte



# *When Tomorrow Starts Without Me*

- Author Unknown -

When tomorrow starts without me  
and I'm not there to see;  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes  
all filled with tears for me.  
I wish so much you wouldn't cry  
the way you did today  
While thinking of the many things  
we didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me  
as much as I love you  
And each time that you think of me,  
I know you'll miss me too.  
But when tomorrow starts without me  
please try to understand,  
That an angel came and called my name  
and took me by the hand.

She said my place was ready  
in heaven far above;  
And that I'd have to leave behind,  
all those I dearly love.  
So when tomorrow starts without me,  
don't think we're far apart  
For every time you think of me,  
I'm right here in your heart.

# ***You Meant So Much***

*- Cassie Mitchell -*

You meant so much to all of us  
You were special and that's no lie  
You brightened up the darkest day  
And the cloudiest sky.

Your smile alone warmed hearts  
Your laugh was like music to hear  
I would give absolutely  
anything  
To have you well and standing near.

Not a second passes  
When you're not on our mind  
Your love we will never forget  
The hurt will ease in time.

Many tears I have seen and cried  
They have all poured out like rain  
But I know that you are happy now  
And no longer in any pain.

# *Finding You in Beauty*

- Walter Rinder -

The rays of light filtered through  
The sentinels of trees this morning.  
I sat in the garden and contemplated.

The serenity and beauty  
Of my feelings and surroundings  
Completely captivated me.

I thought of you.

I discovered you tucked away  
In the shadows of the trees.

Then, rediscovered you  
In the smiles of the flowers  
As the sun penetrated their petals  
In the rhythm of the leaves  
Falling in the garden

In the freedom of the birds  
As they fly searching as you  
do.

I'm very happy to have found you,

Now you will never leave me

For I will always find you in the beauty of  
lif

# *Our Lives Go On Without You*

*- Author Unknown -*

Our lives go on without you  
But nothing is the same  
We have to hide our heartache  
When someone speaks your name.

Sad are the hearts that love you  
Silents are the tears that fall  
Living without you  
Is the hardest part of all.

You did so many things for us  
Your heart was so kind and true  
And when we needed someone  
We could always count on you.

The special years will not return  
When we are all together  
But with the love that's in our hearts  
You walk with us forever.

# *Where Do They Go To?*

*- Author Unknown -*

Where do they go to,  
the people who leave?  
Are they around us,  
in the cool evening breeze?  
Do they still hear us,  
and watch us each day?  
I'd like you to think of them  
with us that way.

Where do they go to,  
when no longer here?  
I think that they stay with us,  
calming our fear.

Loving us always,  
holding our hands  
Walking beside us,  
on grass or on sand.

Where do they go to?  
Well it's my belief  
They watch us and help us  
to cope with our grief.  
They comfort and stay with us,  
through each of our days.

Guiding us always  
through life's mortal maze.

# *As Parting Goes*

*- James Whitcomb Riley -*

What delightful hosts are  
they - Life and love!  
Lingeringly I turn away,  
This late hour, yet glad enough they have not withheld from me their high hospitality.  
So, with face lit with  
delight And all gratitude, I  
stay  
Yet to press their hands and say,  
"Thanks. So fine a time! Good night."

# *When Great Trees Fall*

*by Maya Angelo*

When great trees fall,  
rocks on distant hills shudder,  
lions hunker down in tall grasses,  
and even elephants lumber after safety.

When great trees fall in forests,  
small things recoil into silence,  
their senses eroded beyond fear.

When great souls die,  
the air around us becomes light, rare, sterile.  
We breathe, briefly.  
Our eyes, briefly, see with a hurtful clarity.  
Our memory, suddenly sharpened,  
examines, gnaws on kind words unsaid,  
promised walks never taken.

Great souls die and our reality, bound to them, takes leave of us.  
Our souls, dependent upon their nurture, now shrink, wizened. Our  
minds, formed and informed by their radiance, fall away.  
We are not so much maddened, as reduced to the unutterable ignorance of dark, cold caves.

And when great souls die,  
after a period peace blooms,  
slowly and always  
irregularly.  
Spaces fill with a kind of soothing electric vibration.  
Our senses, restored, never to be the same, whispers to us.  
They existed... They existed...  
We can be. Be and be better.  
For they existed



# *A Gardener's Last Wish*

*- Joyce Fothergill -*

Don't carry me off  
in a brass handled coffin  
With a wreath on my chest,  
I won't be at rest.

There's nothing much worse  
than a ride in a hearse  
To a hole in the ground  
with just strangers around.

No! Bury me deep  
in the compost heap Or  
pop me right under  
a nice floribunda.

Its really much wiser  
to be come fertiliser  
Then I can grow roses  
as I decomposes.

## *The Fisherman's Prayer*

I pray that I may live to fish...  
Until my dying day.  
And when it comes to  
my last cast,  
I then most humbly pray:  
When in the Lord's great  
landing net  
And peacefully asleep  
That in His mercy I be  
judged  
Big enough to keep.

# *Prayer of Passing*

- Anara Solray -

Know that everything you do and everything you have done  
has been a contribution to The Whole.  
Bless-ed be who you are.

When the time comes for your Eternal Spirit to leave this Earthly body ...  
Your wings will unfurl, the breath of the wind will uplift you,  
and you will be born anew without effort.  
For where you are going there is no pain,  
no fear, no heartache.  
There is only love.

You will breathe one last breath while your spirit occupies your physical body, and with the next  
in-breath you will breathe a breath of great Light.  
You will feel more love than you have known for a long, long time.  
For you are going Home.

In the turning of the seasons, the love within your heart, the love of your being has expanded into  
fullness and now settles in peace to rest.  
In the dawn of ages, your spirit has celebrated your essence which,  
once again, is to be made new.  
In the flowing of the rivers, know beyond a doubt of doubts the truth  
that your spirit is truly one with the Divine Whole.  
One Heart ... One Mind ... One Spirit ... One.

You are the blessing. You are the peace. You are the love.  
You are the Light within the holiness.  
You are the Flight within the freedom.  
You are the Essence in the centre of the blossom.  
This is who you are, and much, much more.  
Much, much more.

# *On Death*

- *Kahil Gibran* -

You would know the secret of death.  
But how shall you find it unless you seek it in the heart of life?  
The owl whose night-bound eyes are blind unto the day  
cannot unveil the mystery of light.  
If you would indeed behold the spirit of death,  
open your heart wide unto the body of life.  
For life and death are one,  
even as the river and the sea are one.

In the depth of your hopes and desires  
lies your silent knowledge of the beyond;  
And like seeds dreaming beneath the snow, your heart dreams of spring.  
Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gate to eternity.  
Your fear of death is but the trembling of the shepherd  
when he stands before the king whose hand is to be laid upon him in honour.  
Is the shepherd not joyful beneath his trembling,  
that he shall wear the mark of the king?  
Yet is he not more mindful of his trembling?

For what is it to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt into the sun?  
And what is it to cease breathing, but to free the breath from its restless tides, that it may rise and  
expand and seek God unencumbered?

Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing.  
And when you have reached the mountain top,  
then you shall begin to climb.  
And when the earth shall claim your limbs,  
then shall you truly dance.

# *On Joy and Sorrow*

- *Kahil Gibran* -

Then a woman said  
Speak to us of Joy and Sorrow.

And he answered:

Your joy is your sorrow unmasked.

And the selfsame well from which your laughter rises was often times filled with your tears.

And how else can it be?

The deeper that sorrow carves into your being, the more joy you can contain.

Is not the cup that holds your wine the very cup that was burned in the potter's oven?

And is not the lute that soothes your spirit, the  
very wood that was hollowed with knives?

When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given  
you sorrow that is giving you joy.

When you are sorrowful, look again in your heart and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for  
that which has been your delight.

Some of you say "Joy is greater than sorrow," and others say "Nay, sorrow is the greater."

But I say unto you, they are inseparable.

Together they come, and when one sits alone with you at your board, remember that the other is  
asleep upon your bed.

Verily you are suspended like scales between your sorrow and your joy.

Only when you are empty are you at standstill and balanced.

When the treasure-keeper lifts you to weigh his gold and his silver, needs must your joy or your  
sorrow rise or fall.

# *God's Garden*

*- Author Unknown -*

God looked around his garden  
And he found an empty place  
He then looked down upon the earth  
And saw your tired face

He put his arms around you  
And lifted you to rest  
God's garden must be beautiful  
As he only takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering  
He knew you were in pain  
He knew you'd never, ever  
Get well on earth again.

He saw the road was getting rough  
And the hills were hard to climb  
So he closed your weary eyelids  
And whispered "Peace be thine."

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



## *He Only Takes The Best*

- Therese Pearman -

God saw you getting tired,  
And a cure was not to be.  
So he put his arms around you,  
And whispered "Come to me".

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

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

## *A Place To Rest*

- Author Unknown -

God looked down on your body,  
So tired from hanging on,  
From a life that was overwhelming you,  
And wanted back His son.  
So he took away the air you breathe,  
And gave you what was best,  
A place to be at peace,  
A final place to rest

## *A Lifetime Wish*

*- Author Unknown -*

If I could have a lifetime  
wish, A dream that would come  
true,  
I'd pray to God with all my heart  
for yesterday and you.

A thousand words can't bring you back;  
I know because I've tried.  
And neither will a million tears,  
I know because I've cried.

You left behind my broken heart,  
And happy memories too.  
I never wanted memories,  
I only wanted you."

## *In Our Hearts*

*- Author Unknown -*

We thought of you with love today  
But that is nothing new  
We thought about you yesterday  
And days before that too

We think of you in silence  
We often speak your name  
Now all we have are memories  
And your picture in a frame

Your memory is our keepsake  
With which we'll never part  
God has you in his keeping  
We have you in our hearts.

# *I Only Wanted You*

- Author Unknown -

They say memories are golden  
well maybe that is true.  
I never wanted memories  
I only wanted you

A million times we needed you,  
a million times we've cried.  
If love alone could have saved you  
you never would have died.

In life I loved you dearly,  
In death I love you still.  
In my heart you hold a place  
no one could ever fill.

If tears could build a stairway  
and heartache make a lane,  
I'd walk the path to heaven  
and bring you back again.

Our family chain is broken,  
and nothing seems the same.  
But as God calls us one by one,  
the chain will link again.

# *A Grief Blessing*

May the sun bring you new energy by day  
bringing light into the darkness of your soul.  
May the moon softly restore you by night  
bathing you in the glow of restful sleep and peaceful dreams.  
May the rain wash away your worries  
and cleanse the hurt that sits in your heart.  
May the breeze blow new strength into your being  
and may you believe in the courage of yourself.  
May you walk gently through the world  
keeping your loved one with you always,  
Knowing that you are never parted in the beating of your heart.

# *Life Is a Journey*

- Rabbi Alvin Fine -

Birth is a beginning  
And death a destination  
And life is a journey:  
From childhood to maturity  
And youth to age;  
From innocence to awareness  
And ignorance to knowing;  
From foolishness to discretion  
And then perhaps to wisdom.  
From weakness to strength or  
From strength to weakness  
And often back again;  
From health to sickness,  
And we pray to health again.  
From offence to forgiveness,  
From loneliness to love,  
From joy to gratitude,  
From pain to compassion,  
From grief to understanding,  
From fear to faith.  
From defeat to defeat to defeat  
Until, not looking backwards or ahead,  
We see that victory lies not  
At some high point along the way  
But in having made the journey  
Step by step,  
A sacred pilgrimage.  
Birth is a beginning  
And death a destination  
And life is a journey.

# *Death Is Not the End*

- Peter Tatchell -

Death is not the end  
But the beginning of a metamorphosis.  
For matter is never destroyed  
Only transformed  
And rearranged –  
Often more perfectly.  
Witness how in the moment of a caterpillar's death  
The beauty of the butterfly is born  
And released from the prison of the cocoon  
It flies free.

# *The Dash*

- Linda Ellis -

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend.  
He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning - to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the second with tears  
But he said what mattered most of all, was the dash between those years.

For the dash represents all the time  
that he/she spent alive on earth  
And now only those who loved him/her,  
know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own;  
the cars, the house, the cash.  
What matters is how we live and loved  
when we're living out our dash.

If we could just slow down enough  
to consider what's true and what is real  
And always try to understand  
the way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger  
and show appreciation more  
And love the people in our lives  
like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and  
more often wear a smile Remember  
that this special dash might only  
last a while.

So when you're eulogy's being read  
with your life's action to rehash  
Will you be pleased with what there's to say  
About how you spent your dash?

# ***Not, How Did He Die? But How Did He Live?***

*- Author Unknown -*

Not how did he die,  
but how did he live?  
Not what did he gain,  
but what did he give?

These are the units  
to measure the worth  
Of a man as man,  
regardless of birth.

Not what was his church,  
nor what was his creed?  
But had he befriended  
those really in need?

Was he ever ready,  
with word of good cheer.  
To bring back a smile,  
to banish a tear?

Not what did the sketch  
in the newspaper say,  
But how many were sorry  
when he passed away.

# ***SHE IS GONE (HE IS GONE)***

*- Author David Harkins-*

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.

# ***REMEMBER ME*** - Margaret Mead

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.  
of me, I will never have gone.

## ***DON'T CRY FOR ME*** Anon

Don't cry for me now I have died, for I'm still here I'm by your side,  
My body's gone but my soul is here, please don't shed another tear,  
I am still here I'm all around, only my body lies in the ground.  
I am the snowflake that kisses your nose, I am the frost, that nips your toes.  
I am the sun, bringing you light, I am the star, shining so bright.  
I am the rain, refreshing the earth, I am the laughter, I am the mirth.  
I am the bird, up in the sky,  
I am the cloud, that's drifting by.  
I am the thoughts, inside your head,  
While I'm still there, I can't be dead.



# ***DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE AND WEEP***

Mary Frye

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.

# **LET ME GO -**

Christina Rossetti

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.

# *ANGEL*

Rhonda Braswell

Tear drops, slow and steady, The pain so real and true, God took another angel, And that angel, dear, was you.

Angel wings, upon the clouds, Your body softly sleeps, Hush now little angel, No more tears you have to weep.

Little prayers are sent to you, The short life you led; Your family will never forget you, So rest your little head.

I know God will look after you, Now you are truly alive, Your spirit soars beyond the moon, Your legacy will survive.

You're beautiful, you're endless, Now stretch your wings and fly, You're loved by so many, It will never be goodbye.

Close your pretty eyes, No more tears, just go and rest, Let your soul lie peacefully, We know you did your best.

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.