

SPEECH ON MOLLY'S death - Head by Benjamin because
was banned from attending her funeral B 3.1.14

I think the death of Molly struck like a sword across the hearts of every one of us. It was more than the usual sense of shock and loss at the death of someone we knew and loved; it was the shattering of a beautiful and complete family unit; and this has left a raw and terrible wound that will not easily be healed. With her death, a part of each one of us died as well.

This was not only because she was a very dear and valued friend to all who knew her; but because we needed Molly. She had the capacity more than anyone I have ever known ^{to} give of herself to others, ^{often} quietly, so modestly that ~~sometimes~~ one was unaware of the giving.

This was Molly's outstanding characteristic - her ability to serve others without ever putting anyone under an obligation to her. Whether it was in the unbounded hospitality of her home or in the innumerable tasks she undertook for others, she always would turn gratitude and thanks away so that nobody ever could feel beholden to her. Molly did more ~~things~~ for others with less fuss and ceremony than anyone I have ever known, not through a sense of duty, but through her profound belief in the interdependence of human beings, her respect for all people as individuals, the integrity of her ~~ideas~~ ideals.

Like many of us, Molly did not believe in life after death in the literal sense; but she believed in the indestructibility of all living things, in the constant growth and renewal of life. She believed that nothing is completely lost; whatever dies gives ~~way to new life, never the same but~~ ~~in a new way and on a new level.~~ In her children we see an extension of Molly; not a mere ~~repetition~~ ^{off} repetition of features or characteristics, but the development in ~~different~~ a different manner of all the features that ~~characterized~~ spelled out her character and her qualities. And not only in her children; something of Molly has been transferred to each of us who knew her well, and has become compounded into our own beings so that through our association with her and our love of her each one of us has gained.

That is why I think our grief and sense of loss at the death of Molly cannot be of the hopeless and destructive kind. It must never be wasteful or corrosive, but rather take the form of an ^{re}affirmation, an assertion of those positive values by which she lived. ~~She herself would be most impatient of grief, as though she would say - haven't you something more important to do?~~

X

It was to the death of the Molly Fischers of this world that Dylan Thomas wrote:

"And death shall have no dominion.

Dead men naked they shall be one

With the man in the wind and the west moon;

When their bones are picked clean and the clean bones gone.

They shall have stars at elbow and foot;

Though they go mad they shall be sane,

Though they sink through the sea they shall rise again;

~~Though they sink through the sea they shall rise again;~~

Though lovers be lost love shall not;

And death shall have no dominion.

Death shall have no dominion over ^{the} things of which she was compounded:
honesty, selflessness, fidelity, incorruptibility.

This is Molly's gift to us, and in the manner of our remembrance of her we shall make our ^{own} memorial to Molly.

* The very special quality of this woman is shown not just by the numbers of people here but by the diverse groups from which they ~~to~~ are drawn. They are the demonstration of her deep belief that apartheid is contrary to the spirit of man and that each one of us finds fulfilment not within a tight and isolated group but through our interdependence on ~~and~~ ~~our~~ others.

association with ^{our} ~~and~~

Despite all difficulties that exist today, ^{that} so many have come, ^{as} from such ~~many~~ widely different sections, is ~~an~~ ~~as~~ a tribute to her stranger far more than any that I could give. I know you have ~~as~~ ~~things~~

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