Farewell, farewell

My friends I smile and  
Bid you goodbye.  
No, shed no tears  
For I need them not  
All I need is your smile.  
If you feel sad  
Do think of me  
For that’s what I’ll like.  
When you live in the hearts  
Of those you love  
Remember then  
You never die.  
**Rabindranath Tagore**

**Finding You in Beauty**

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 life.  
--Walter Rinder

**Mourner's Kaddish**

Exalted and hallowed be God's great name

in the world which God created, according to plan.

May God's majesty be revealed in the days of our lifetime

and the life of all Israel -- speedily, imminently, to which we say Amen.

Blessed be God's great name to all eternity.

Blessed, praised, honoured, exalted, extolled, glorified, adored, and lauded

be the name of the Holy Blessed One, beyond all earthly words and songs of blessing,

praise, and comfort. To which we say Amen.

May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life, for us and all Israel,

to which we say Amen.

May the One who creates harmony on high, bring peace to us and to all Israel.

To which we say Amen.

**Reference: Muslim 2/663.**

O Allah, forgive him and have mercy on him and give him strength and pardon him. Be generous to him and cause his entrance to be wide and wash him with water and snow and hail. Cleanse him of his transgressions as white cloth is cleansed of stains. Give him an abode better than his home, and a family better than his family and a wife better than his wife. Take him into Paradise and protect him from the punishment of the grave [and from the punishment of Hell-fire].

**Prayer for Comfort in Loss - Agnostic**

Show me the path to comfort, the way to acceptance,

loss has visited my life, and I have been devastated,

my hopes and beliefs have been challenged

sadness waits for me at every turn.

May I see beyond the pain, beyond loss,

moving beyond the sadness that now engulfs me,

I am beginning to heal and accept that the loss is real.

Bless my spirit with hope and understanding,

help me to know that all lives contain sorrow,

accepting that my life is blessed, even in loss.

Comfort comes to me now, as I begin to accept,

time is beginning to heal me, slowly and gently,

a soft smile is preparing to cross my lips.

Bless me now, as I accept, grieve, and heal.

**Blessing of Time Granted**

I am ever grateful for the gift of more time.

I thought my time was over, my days complete,

then a miracle came and my time was extended.

Choices await my wise use of this precious time,

may I ever be grateful for the time and use it well,

aware that each new day is a gift to be treasured,

each new experience is an unexpected blessing,

may I use them carefully, wisely and well,

using part of my time to love, laugh & feel joy.

I have new chances to expand my awareness,

to grow my spirit in compassion and understanding.

Bless this day, this hour, this minute, this moment.

I am ever grateful for the gift of more time.

**He is Gone**

You can shed tears that he is gone

Or you can smile because he has lived

You can close your eyes and pray that he will come back

Or you can open your eyes and see all he has left

Your heart can be empty because you can't see him

Or you can be full of the love 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 his and only that he is gone

Or you can cherish his memory and let it live on

You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back

Or you can do what he would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on

Because I have loved life, I shall have no sorrow to die.

I have sent up my gladness on wings, to be lost in the blue of the sky

I have run and leaped with the rain, I have taken the wind to my breast.

My cheek like a drowsy child to the face of the earth I have pressed

Because I have loved life, I shall have no sorrow to die.

I have kissed young Love on the lips, I have heard his song to the end.

I have struck my hand like a seal in the loyal hand of a friend.

I have known the peace of heaven, the comfort of work done well.

I have longed for death in the darkness and risen alive out of hell.

Because I have loved life, I shall have no sorrow to die.

I give a share of my soul to world where my course is run.

I know that another shall finish the task I must leave undone.

I know that no flower, nor flint was in vain on the path I trod.

as one looks on a face through a window, through life I have looked on God.

Because I have loved life, I shall have no sorrow to die.

You didn't die just recently,

You died some time ago.

Although your body stayed a while,

And didn't really know.

For you had got Alzheimer’s,

You failed to comprehend.

Your body went on living.

But your mind had reached its end.

So we've already said, "Goodbye",

To the person that we knew.

The person that we truly loved,

The person that was, "You".

And so we meet again today,

To toast your bodies end.

For it was true and faithful,

Until right at the end.

And so, when we remember,

We'll think of all the rest.

We'll concentrate on earlier,

And remember all the best.

For in the real scheme of things,

Your illness wasn't long.

Compared to all the happiness,

You brought your whole life long.

We think of you as yesterday,

When you were fit and well.

And when we're asked about you,

It's those things that we'll tell.

And so we meet in 'membrane,

Of a mind so fit and true.

We're here to pay our last respects

To say that, "We love you".

**Do Not Ask Me to Remember – poem about Dementia**

Do not ask me to remember,

Don’t try to make me understand,

Let me rest and know you’re with me,

Kiss my cheek and hold my hand.

I’m confused beyond your concept,

I am sad and sick and lost.

All I know is that I need you

To be with me at all cost.

Do not lose your patience with me,

Do not scold or curse or cry.

I can’t help the way I’m acting,

Can’t be different though I try.

Just remember that I need you,

That the best of me is gone,

Please don’t fail to stand beside me,

Love me ’til my life is done.

– Owen Darnell