

Saturday, May 30, 2009
Apollo Prytaneion

Minister's Introduction *Graylin Ross:*

Dear Friends, on this day made blessed we pause briefly to gather in loving presence to honor, celebrate and give great thanks for the life of our departed beloved friend, Raffaell Lucidi.

We here now give thanks to this man, we pour forth our gratitude to this true friend, brother, husband, laborer and worthy comrade to us all.

May we now respectfully stand in prolonged silent presence.

Minister's Comment *Graylin Ross:*

Although Raffaell spent most of his life with us in the company of a few very close friends his energy and influence has spilled over into the greater body of our school. All those who encountered Raffaell even if it was but for a moment could not ignore his passion for enjoying what life had to offer in that moment.

His passing has deeply pierced each of us and thus momentarily parted this veil of life allowing another fleeting glimpse of that which we seek to be truest, and most enduring. Let us be reminded that the Gods have also granted to each of us lives of only a certain length and opportunity...numbered breaths to return the divine embrace.

At this time we wish to share with you a letter written by Raffaell to our beloved Teacher dated May 11 2009 less than two weeks before his death.

Dear Robert,

Now I know that the path, the narrow gate, will be through death; so, I am working on using the maximum of my time to be prepared for this holy moment. What I am experiencing now is an extreme situation for anyone to face, but I feel so lucky that it happens now, after being so many years in this School. Where else could I be, in which better place, when I am surrounded by so many friends who have risen to such a high level of being that I can verify day after day.

Yes, the School is really a success and I want to thank you to have given us this opportunity, for bringing Influence C to us. It is not only a gift, it is a miracle. There is no price for that, except eternal life. I want to apologize if I had sometimes some doubts toward you; now, I trust you completely. Whatever will happen, I realize that being 27 years in the School was a right choice. I am also lucky to be with a beautiful and adorable wife who is a marvelous, sincere student.

I feel really well, and I know that you do not worry about me. I send you all my love.
Raffaell

Poetry *Agnes Laurent/Joanna Mortensen*

Sortie de l'cean qui roule, la foule...
Out of the rolling ocean, the crowd...Walt Whitman

Music Anicca Bat-Adam, Flute; Marina Swales, Piano.
J.S.Bach : "Ave Maria"

Eulogy Joep Jilesen: From Armelle for Raffaell, my dear companion.

He was born "Jean –Pierre" and he left this world "Raffaell". Raffaell's father, grandfather, and grand-grandfather were military men. His father was an officer in the French army and died in the Vietnam War; he was honoured as a hero by the French nation. Raffaell was five years old.

When he turned seven he was sent to a religious boarding school where the rigid rules and points-of-view were hard to bear and where he was constantly punished for being too active. He then promised himself to always have the courage to do what he felt was right, even if he had to go against the opinions of others. And he kept his word; he always followed his heart.

Raffaell admired his father but saw the absurdity of his death and choose a different path. After earning his architecture diploma, he began to travel all over the world in search of an answer to his questions about society and life. He lived in Santa Barbara, in Brazil, in French Guyana, in Spain. He was looking for real friends and for genuine loving relationships.

He became a knight, a knight for the Truth, a knight for friendship and love. He had the courage, the nobility of heart and the generosity of a knight. He fought all his life, and until his last breath, for Truth and for Consciousness. He has been a true Lover, a lover of life, a lover of people, a lover of Truth. Raffaell's heart was pure and open. He was a giver and he gave love to all who approached him.

He was almost dying from disease and disappointment in Brazil in 1980 when he read Ouspensky's *In search of the Miraculous*. This was life-changing; he returned to Paris, meeting and joining the School in 1982. With his characteristic enthusiasm, Raffaell threw himself into the Work and the School; his commitment to both continued to deepen for the rest of his life.

In 1994, with Alan Schwartzberg, Raffaell was central to the emotional impulse to start the Nice Centre and served as director there for two years. He was, for eleven years, at the heart of the Centre, always ready to host visitors, hold meetings, and help. An outstanding chef, Raffaell shared his talents as he shared his life; his couscous, crepes, and sushi were perennial entrees to friendship, as was his conversation.

Raffaell sacrificed his career and his family in order to be in the School; he accepted the suffering that separation from his beloved daughter brought as the price of being at Apollo and close to Robert. He left his much-loved Nice and his dear family home and

sold everything he had there in France to come to Apollo; he worked so hard to be able to be with his friends at Apollo.

Raffaell had an incredible love for all human beings; he forgave very quickly all emotional frictions and was always ready to give his friendship again. He was a loyal friend, a loyal husband and a loyal student. He always supported the Teacher, as a knight would do for his king. He wrote:

*What else rather than love could be the best companion for life?
Love is the key; without love, we cannot drive our soul.*

For Raffaell, kindness was also a key. He longed for people to be more lovingly attentive to each other, and knew that without love and kindness all work on oneself is useless. His incredible positivity and enthusiasm drove him forward in the most difficult situations and he would always say:

Be confident. and Do not worry, it is going to work.

For the last several months, he had to endure more and more instinctive pain but he never complained; he embraced terrible frictions with an incredible patience. All the doctors and nurses he met remember his big smile and kindness. He wrote in his notebook:

Confronted with cancer there is only one solution: at each moment and everywhere, to love life. Working with C influence, patience has become my way of life.

Two weeks before he passed away, he insisted on attending a reception with Robert; that day he achieved a special understanding which completely changed his state for the following weeks. We were asking for a miracle for him, so that he could save his life, and the miracle happened, but in a quite different way than we were expecting: Raffaell received the understanding he had been searching for all his life, his being was filled with a deep and complete certainty that all that he had done in his life was right and that being in the School was the best thing that could have happened to him.

Raffaell was not afraid to die; he felt that the soul would not be individual any more, it would become part of a greater Whole where there would be no more separation and identity. That is why he was not afraid to lose his limited self and that is why he was taking care of others even more than himself. He knew that the “me myself” had no chance to escape death.

He entered a deep sleep and slid softly into an eternal life on Sunday May 24th at 6:55 A.M., smiling, his face so serene. He was at peace with himself and could move on to the next journey. He had wanted to thank his friends for their help and had started to write a letter that he did not have time to send:

*In order to thank my friends for their help, I wish to tell them this personal message:
In order to resist emotionally and confront this terrible sickness, what helps me most is the understanding that it is more than necessary to have a feeling of urgency and/or irrevocability:*

1) to not give even one second a place to self pity

- 2) *to work constantly on the non- expression of negative emotions,
because I feel in me immediately and very strongly the result of this action
either in a positive way or in a negative way.*

If one could have, like me, this feeling of urgency, but without being face to face with a heavy disease, it would allow each of us to reach an extremely quicker evolution. It was what Mr. Gurdjieff was saying when he stated that we had to work as if one was going to die soon.

Thank you Raffaell, you have been a wonderful companion, lover, and friend, and you helped me to go through life in a way I could never have done by myself alone. You go ahead, as usual, with courage and joy and you show us the way. You are a noble man and a noble soul.

From Hafiz:

*We are people who need to love because
Love is the soul's life;
Love is simply creation's greatest joy.*

Music Sharon Shelton:
Spiritual: "Glory" (First verse)

Poetry Joanna Mortensen
Now is the Time...
Hafiz

Minister's reading:

In Psalm 90 it is written:

We spend our years as a tale that is told.
The days of our years are threescore years and ten;
And if by reason of strength they be fourscore years,
Yet is their length labor and sorrow;
For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.
So teach us to number our days,
That we may apply our hearts unto wisdom...

Minister:

Dear Friends, at this time we invite everyone, who wishes to follow us to the Cemetery to complete our final farewell to Raffaell.

Thank you.