

Anna Vigh

In Memoriam

Monday, December 26, 2011

Minister's Introduction at the gazebo

We have come together to both renew and to seal our connection to our beloved friend, Anna Vigh, by placing a memorial for her here, in the Apollo Cemetery.

In remembering Anna, let us remember her in the context of the profound play that was gifted to her, and remember that – in its essence – her play is our own:

The moment C Influence first touched Anna – the first moment C Influence touch each one of us – the true significance of life is revealed: the transformation of a play, lovingly crafted and guided by the Gods for a divine purpose.

Let us stand and honor her with our silent presence.

(Silence)

Thank-you.

Reading: Vera

Rumi

The one to whom is unveiled the mystery of love
Exists no longer, but is annihilated in love.

Place before the sun a burning candle,
See how its shining disappears before those lights:

The candle exists no longer, is transfigured into Light.
There are no more signs of it;
itself becomes a Sign

In memoriam

This is a happy occasion. As well as the happiness that we find when we are present together, there is another happiness too; that of remembering Anna with no sense of loss. Distilled now is this moment of recognizing her, who was once here and has departed. The Soul travels onward.

Anna died ten years ago, on Easter Friday. Her ashes were scattered in a cemetery in Budapest. Her funeral was attended by the students in the center, and by students traveling through Europe at that time. Here at Apollo, there was a small memorial service for the students who knew her during her five-month stay. They did not know that she was so ill. When she first learned of her cancer, she quickly made plans to come to Apollo and to meet her Teacher. She was not very visible at Apollo and kept her illness mostly to herself. When Robert found out that she was ill, he offered to pay for her medical expenses but she graciously refused.

Anna spent only three years of her life in the School, five months of that time here at Apollo, but she lived it to the full. She enjoyed life. 'There is only one moment,' she said, 'and it is not the length of life that matters, but the quality of living and being.' She was an essential part of her tiny center, sharing, eager to learn, generous in love and happy in her jovial cooking. She hosted many visitors in her apartment, taking them to the wonderful thermal baths, cafes and classical concerts that she enjoyed so much herself.

To her daughter Vera, she was the mother she would have wished her for herself, full of genuine, selfless love, gentle, trusting, a loving and wise best friend.

She returned to Budapest from Apollo for the last few months of her life. In the last two weeks, her inner transformation became visible to see. Her friends could tell that all fear was gone. A student who came to visit began asking questions, but she silenced her with a touch on

her forehead. The last day, when Vera and friends took her home from the hospital, her presence was palpable.

Robert reminded us recently of Anna, and that she had said, 'Death is always closer than we think'.

Her ashes are scattered. But her soul is gathered, ready for the road ahead. The Soul travels; forever alive, forever forward.

Music: Luca Bonvini

Trumpet piece.

Students move to the Memorial Stone

Minister:

Anna's is the first remembrance plaque on this new Memorial Stone. May this act of establishing her presence here at Apollo mirror establishing her more definitely in our hearts.

And may our remembrance of Anna open us more fully to each other, while there is time; to more quickly, more generously and more deeply invite one another into the sacred internal space we all share.