

Ana María Fernandez
1945 - 2015

Funeral Service

Saturday, February 6th, 2016

Minister's Introduction

On this fine February afternoon, we gather here to honor and celebrate the life of our beloved friend, Ana María Fernandez.

The light of the celestial firmament may be eclipsed for a time, but never extinguished. A star, climbing to its appointed height, cannot be hidden by the clouds. So to, with divine guidance, Ana María's spirit ascends above the mortal realm.

Let us stand and remember our friend Ana María in silent presence.

(Silence)

Thank you, please be seated.

Each student, through their being and their efforts, becomes part of our school's living tree. Each student raises the School, enriches our lives, and creates their true Self.

Our Teacher has said, 'Ascending souls finish their roles very well prepared, having received the presence allotted to them in this lifetime.'

As Ana María returns to the divine source, we too share the same passage; we too witness this greatest mystery of life.

Music: Faure's Pie Jesu with Justin McKay, Corrina Craigmill, Coral Pasternak

Reading: Graylin Ross, Nancy Leos Thiel

Know this, hear this:

Your home is not here, for you are an eagle, a jaguar;
you are a swan, a troupial; a companion and bird
of the Ever Present, the Ever Near.

This is merely your nest, you only hatch here;
you simply arrive, come forth, issue forth here on earth.

Here you burgeon, you blossom, you sprout.

Your actual home is beyond, the home of the Sun, in the sky:

You greet Him and He finds pleasure in you, the Shining One.

Sabe esto, escucha esto:

Tu casa no es aqui, tu eres un aguila, un jaguar, tu eres un cisne, un turpial, un companero y pajaro del presente eterno, del que esta siempre cerca.

Aqui es solo un nido, tu solo naces aqui; tu simplemente llegas, continuas tu camino, apareces aqui en la tierra.

Aqui tu brotas, floreces, creces.

Mi nina hermosa,

Tu verdadera casa esta en el mas alla, la casa del sol, en el cielo:

Tu lo saludas y el te encuentra con placer. El ser brillante.

Huehuetlatolli

Eulogy for Ana María Fernandez, Javier Gavito

Ana María had absolute certainty the Gods were guiding her life. She said: 'I feel liberated because I understand that the Gods do everything. I understand that we do not come into this world only to be daughters, sisters, wives, mothers, professionals, etc. No; we come here to awaken; only for that, to awaken.'

Ana María was born in Andalucía, Southern Spain. Because of the Spanish Civil War, the family moved to Mexico. It was in 1951 that Ana María, only six years old, began her journey; she had vivid memories of her doll and travelling on a big boat. She was very happy to come to a 'new World', with its tropical vegetation, exotic fruits and a warm weather.

She joined the Fellowship in 1988 in Mexico City. After eight years she moved to Monterrey to take a job. She bookmarked and soon found people interested in the Fourth Way. With the help of students from Mexico City, she organized prospective meetings. Soon after, she opened her beautiful house as a Teaching House, where the new students could enjoy the many cats she loved to have, as well as her turtle 'Marco Aurelio'. She was a great friend and guide to more than 20 students, who, in turn, have become pillars of the school.

In 2001, Ana María embarked on a new adventure. She travelled by bus for more than 20 hours, carrying 10 suitcases and boxes and opened the center in San Salvador. The students there gratefully remember her. They said: 'Ana María gave shape and meaning to our studies. She was a teacher and a friend.'

Many of us who knew Ana María are grateful. From the beginning of her time in the School, Ana María showed great consistency and valuation. She knew she had found the Way and her Teacher.

She understood the importance of 'Third Line' as part of her internal work. Ana María grew in the Work, serving others with no expectation of return; she had a pure pleasure in serving others, the School and her Teacher. She took the teaching to many Centers. She opened the Monterrey Center, supported students in Cuba, Honduras, Guatemala, sharing C Influence with whomever she met. Ana María was never one for intellectual discussions. She was there for anyone who could share her observations in the moment and to BE the Words.

There are many examples of her Being; even in moments of friction, she kept her steadfast gaze, while minor complaints became opportunities to solve and evolve together. Many times at center dinners, she would appear at the end of restoration to make sure the octave ended at a high level. She kept her life simple and frugal, kept her feet firmly on the ground.

She cultivated her inward love of beauty, teaching herself to become a professional in art restoration. For many years, she worked for a prestigious antique gallery in Mexico City. Our Teacher often asked for her help on special projects. She spent many hours at the Galleria, working on art restoration.

It was a frequent question; why was it so easy to be with Ana María and leave so emotionally refreshed? Because Ana María had that rare quality of being able to give herself to the moment, without demanding anything in return, without pretending to be anything she was not. She gently kept the space where two beings could share presence without distraction – truly a King of Hearts experience.

So we remember her deep gaze and her smile. That she was a balm to our efforts, and that by

remembering her, we too are refreshed. And for that, we are truly grateful.

Vivaldi's *Domine Deus* with Justin McKay, Corrina Craigmill, Coral Pasternak

Reading: Marilyn Driver

It happens all the time in Heaven.

And some day, it will begin to happen again on earth –

That men and women who are married,
And men and men who are Lovers,
And women and women who give each other Light,

Will get down on their knees and while so tenderly
Holding their lover's hand, with tears in their eyes,
Will sincerely speak, saying,

'My dear, how can I be more loving to you;
How can I be more kind?'

Hafiz

Minister's Conclusion:

A king of ancient times said, 'I am only a child, yet without ceasing, day and night, I act in harmony with heaven.' Ana María is now part of that light that beckons from above. She forms part of a new succession in the celestial world, made lovelier still because she bore her part.

Let Ana María's gentle and inspired mentoring of others help us in raising ourselves.

Let her steadfast pursuit of the highest inspire our giving to the School.

Let her love of beauty and of the Work bring us closer together.

Dear Ana María, we thank thee.

Candle ceremony

'Our body is just a shell, our soul will continue.'

Extinguish and light the candles.

Urn-bearer comes forward, lifts the urn and leads the procession from the hall.

At the Cemetery:

Minister's Introduction

Here in this sacred place, consecrated by those here present and those whose bodies lie here, we release Ana María to her and our true home, even as we return the remains of her body to the earth from where it sprung.

Reading: Guadalupe Estrella

What will the burial of my body be?
The pouring of a sacred cup of wine
Into the tender mouth of
The earth
And making
My dear sweet lover laugh
One more
Time.
Hafiz

Minister

The earth returns to the earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, yet we look toward eternal life.

Urn bearer puts urn in the grave.

Minister's Conclusion

Rabia said, 'Love comes from eternity, and returns into eternity'. A divine flame returns to its divine source. The circle of life is complete.

We only part so that we meet again.

Minister and family take rose petals and put them into the grave.

Let us bid farewell and then withdraw to the Festival Hall, to celebrate the gift of life yet allotted to each of us.

Rose-petals offered to the assembly.