

ADIEU PETER

FUNERAL SERVICE OF PETER BISHOP

APOLLO THEATRON

MARCH 29th, 2003

INTRODUCTION

In loving presence, we gather to honor and to celebrate the life and the journey of one pilgrim soul, one we have known and loved as Peter Bishop.

Always, we will remember his blessed role and, now, we wish to tenderly release him.

Let us use the focus of this occasion, these very moments, to deepen the elusive comprehension of our own life's brevity . . . for every degree that the illusion of our own physical permanence is penetrated, to that same degree, that in us which is real and is lasting emerges.

Let us stand for a moment of silent presence.



Epictetus wrote:

Remember that you are an actor in a drama, of such a kind as the author pleases to make it. If short, of a short one; if long, of a long one. If it is his pleasure you should act a poor man, a cripple, a governor, or a private person, see that you act it naturally. For this is your business, to act well the character assigned you; to choose it is another's.



MUSICAL INTERLUDE: Carolien and Motoshi



EULOGY: Steven D



MUSICAL INTERLUDE: Motoshi and Elizabeth



READING by John Graham: "Darest thou now O soul," by Walt Whitman

Darest thou now O soul,
Walk out with me toward the unknown region,
Where neither ground is for the feet nor any path to follow?
No map there, nor guide,
Nor voice sounding, nor touch of human hand,
Nor face with blooming flesh, nor lips, nor eyes, are in that land.
I know it not O soul,
Nor dost thou, all is a blank before us,
All waits undream'd of in that region, that inaccessible land.
Till when the ties loosen,
All but the ties eternal, Time and Space,
Nor darkness, gravitation, sense, nor any bounds bounding us.
Then we burst forth, we float,
In Time and Space O soul, prepared for them,
Equal, equipt at last, (O joy! O fruit of all!) them to fulfil O soul.



CLOSE:

May we each succeed in the transformation of our loss and gain, thereby, the sacred state of acceptance.

Let us go on now, and continue to honor our beloved Peter and the Gods with renewed and vivid appreciation for the gifts of life and friendship that are yet allotted to each of us.