

In Memoriam
Steven Paul Dohrmann
Our Dear Brother and Most Beloved Friend
September 16, 1955 – November 2, 2004

Opening Remarks

Nowhere are the blessings of Spiritualism more evident than in the bringing of comfort and help in these times. Indeed, the only possible message of comfort for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one is the truth of the continuity of life beyond the change of death and the certainty of the unbroken link with those on earth.

The gloom, which, in the past, has been associated with death, has been due to ignorance concerning the afterlife. We know that physical life on earth is but one of countless states of experience, and though the flesh may separate us in these present conditions, there is no separation of spirit. We believe that death is but a gateway, leading into a freer and happier life, and that spirit return is God's gift by which all spheres of life are linked in service together.

We cannot, in our limited human condition, escape the sadness that bereavement brings, but as we raise our thoughts to the glory of the heavenly life so the veil grows thinner. The truth of the co-operation and companionship of dear ones in the spirit world with those in the physical body becomes more clearly seen and felt.

It is in this spirit that this service is given.

Call to Worship

During this sacred time we wish to honor Steven Dohrmann with the highest appreciation we can send him. We believe that he is aware of this gathering and that it serves in its own way to be the ritual of commencement which concludes this incarnation.

The Charge

Dearly beloved Father-Mother God, we are met together here today to celebrate the passing into a higher life of Steven Dohrmann. It is but natural that we who have known and loved him should regret his departure from among us, but on this occasion it is our duty to think not of ourselves, but of him. Therefore must we endeavor to lay aside the thought of our personal loss and dwell only upon his great gain.

Let us remember that this physical life is but part of the greater life, and when each has accomplished their mission on earth they are called to continue that mission in a higher sphere. We give thanks for the knowledge of that continuing life, where there is neither death, nor pain, nor weeping. The physical body dies, yes, but that which inhabits the physical body

– the soul, the spirit – never dies. And our loved one was not just that physical body that has died, his real self, his soul, his spirit lives on.
Let us pray.

Prayer

Divine Father-Mother God, receive our prayer for Steven Dohrmann. Receive him into Thy world everlasting. Bless him with inner peace, with trust and new dedication. May good attend every step our loved one shall take in Thy kingdom. May man and woman, guide, teacher, angel and Master bless him with their companioning. Enable him to realize our love and devotion, and to have faith with us in eventual reunion in the higher dimensions. This we ask in Thy name. Amen

Scripture

Spiritualism believes that all religions are viable paths to Divinity and that all sacred books have value. Since Steven had such a great interest in mantras and Eastern thought, I have selected the scripture for this service from the Bhagavad-Gita, translated as the Song Celestial by Sir Edward Arnold.

“The soul which is not moved,
The soul that with a strong and constant calm
Takes sorrow and joy indifferently,
Lives in the life undying!
That which is can never cease to be; that which is not will not exist.
To see this truth of both is theirs who part essence from accident,
Substance from shadow...
Never the spirit was born, the spirit shall cease to be never.
Never was time it was not, End and Beginning are dreams!
Birthless and deathless and changeless remaineth the spirit forever.

Death hath not touched it at all, dead though the house of it seems!
Nay, but as when one layeth his outworn robes away,
And, taking new ones, sayeth, “These will I wear to-day!”
So putteth by the spirit lightly its garb of flesh,
And passeth to inherit a residence afresh.”

Eulogy

Today we honor the graduation of Steven Dohrmann from this earthly school to the higher hall of learning in the world of God. Whatever it was that our friend was learning in the third dimensional world, the all-wise Divine Benefactor knew that his cycle of learning in this age had ended and now he has earned a well-deserved respite from earthly duties or lessons.

As is true of all humankind, our friend was a pupil in the school of earth. This one we love believed in a higher existence and life everlasting. He shall now reside in an environment of beauty, peace, refreshment and adventure. For some time he will enjoy the welcome association of persons and relatives with whom he had ties. There will be period of uninterrupted contemplation and periods of travel, and later of absorbing creativity and higher learning.

After a long period has passed, the desire to return to the outer world to serve, to overcome, and to attain further development as only earth can provide, will draw the soul to the formation of a new body in a set of new circumstances. He will yearn to apply some of the instruction received in the Halls of Learning and the Schools of Wisdom. When he returns to the outer life it will supply him with the means of forming himself into a finer and more accomplished individual than he has ever heretofore been.

This is not Steven's first separation from those he knew and loved. There have been many reunions and separations from loved ones both in the outer and the inner worlds of experience. Love is the magnet which will draw souls who have loved one another together time after time. With each succeeding reunion souls have more in unfoldment and skills to share with one another.

And Steven had much to share:

Of Steven's accomplishments, one of his greatest was the constant expression of loving kindness and forgiveness that he extended towards others. During the nine years that he was my friend, not once did I hear him say a negative thing about anyone or any situation. When others were upset he was always the calm voice reminding everyone to be loving. Frequently with his familiar pat on a shoulder or arm he would bring us back to a peaceful space. With his gentle, non-judgmental approach Steven was continually elevating the mind and spirit of all those who knew him. He was a member of several organizations and gave freely of his energy to help them grow. He was a Seventh Degree Astarian, continuing to study and travel with them. He made pilgrimages to sacred places on earth and always brought back new experiences and insights to share with others. He was a founding member of Circle of Light Independent Spiritualist Church, giving many hours of work to form its constitution and by-laws over the course of a year and a half of active participation. He has been the treasurer for the church since its inception. He has been a very dear friend and brother to all of us.

Life is not only inexhaustible, but it is also eternal. With added experience and deepened consecration, living becomes more refined, wise, and purposeful. Eventually the earth will have nothing more to teach the children of men, so their grades here will be completed. Realizing the truth that life is continuous, we do not release Steven into death, but into a state of fuller, freer, and richer consciousness and being. Our love and prayers will frequently ascend to our friend. We have been separated for only a temporary period. Let us prepare for our happy and interesting reunion.

The Angel of Transition has visited our friend and released him from a limited state into a wider and higher dimension of being. Death has robed Steven in a new garment – a body of greater beauty – a form of enduring strength. The veil that hangs between the three-dimensional world and the fourth dimension, into which Steven has journeyed, is very thin to those who live an unselfish spiritual life. Any inability to see Steven as he now appears is due entirely to our limited sense and human viewpoints. Our loved one has been freed from his earthly vehicle. And as he speaks to us from across the planes of consciousness he tells us of his joyfulness and of the unspeakable wonders he feels in being nearer the Presence of God.

There is no death. Steven has experienced but a change. He lives and serves more widely and powerfully now than he had ever done in this world. And throughout his pilgrimage in that larger dimension where his spirit finds refuge, he has been attuned to us because love spans worlds and unites those who think and dream about one another.

Benediction

Until we meet again, dear brother and most beloved friend, may your blessings be multiplied. Where you now are, we too shall someday be. Take with you our love and faith in reunion, and wherever you journey, remember we are blessing you, sending you love, and living to be more worthy of your watchful assistance. Our spirit calls to you, “Lo, I am with you always.” Into God’s love you are lovingly released. In God life, your renewal and fulfillment unfold. In the name of the Divine Benefactor we so speak. So Mote It Be. Amen.

Delivered by Reverend Deborah Ann Bourbon, R.N.
In loving memory of Steven Paul Dohrmann
Memorial Service November 7, 2004

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