

MM — September Already from Puget Sound

Scattering Ashes at Sunset: A Moment

We tended to another scattering of ashes for a beach neighbor...
sunset time as we went out...

leaving luminaries floating candle lights into the night.

Friend Paul sang from the shore as we went...

Day is dying in the west...

Heav'n is touching earth with rest

Wait and worship while the night

Sets her evening lamps alight...

through all the sky:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,

Heaven and earth are full of Thee

Heaven and earth are praising Thee

O Lord most high."

His words faded into the dark as the boat went out...

sun had dropped beyond the mountains...

skies spreading living light over the dying day...

I couldn't hear whether Paul sang the third verse...

While the deepening shadows fall,

Heart of love enfolding all,

Through the glory and the grace

Of the stars that veil Thy face

Our hearts ascend.

Times of scattering of ashes on the water ask for silence...

not telling how to think or feel...

but I always feel that something is missing

when we think of loved one's last remains sinking

rather than rising.

Ashes represent only 10% of our bodily remains...

while 90% ascends!

leaving that small box of ashes behind.*

We return in sobered silence to the darkening shore...

a circle of embraces and moistened eyes...

walking on finely ground shells of fellow creatures

that came to life as miraculously as we did

living and leaving the world on which we walk.

Art Morgan, September 4, 2018

*Note: Physicist Carl Stagner, *"Your Atomic Self — The Invisible Elements that Connect you to Everything Else in the Universe"*

"Most of your atoms will drift off into the atmosphere...The emergent patterns of your life are immortal and your atoms will continue to exist in many forms for trillions of years."

He concludes: *"It is only here on earth that life as we know it currently exists. How amazing that we exist at all. As you finish the rest of the story of your life, may you share matter and energy ever more wisely and well with the universe."*