

Today, now the mysteries are being renewed, the relationship with the dead has changed. It must be founded on the freedom of the living. Nothing compels the living to seek out the dead. The consciousness of present day man which awakens through the senses, becomes empty when their impressions are withheld and memory fades away. Longing hollows the soul. Thinking consumes it. In his relationship with the departed, he who is left behind, if he not to lose himself, must become an active giver instead of a receiver. But it is just the nothingness to which he sees himself exposed which enables him to give of his own being, out of the fullness of his ego. Love alone is capable of this, love which is won on earth and which has freed itself from the body. It is founded on the good, which one has selected in clear consciousness.

But, for the dead, what is – good? That which corresponds with his development. To give him the good means: to enter lovingly into his path of evolution. One does this when, in one's own soul, one follows his path to the spirit. As soon as he has crossed the threshold, the one who has died sees his life's tableau. He sees his deeds, feelings and thoughts from the vantage point of his ego which passes through deaths and births. He strides' backward through his past lives, ordering it according to his eternal individuality which is preparing a future life on earth.'

Albert Steffen

The Poet and the Dead