



H.E. Chevalier Josef Maria Gebel

19.02.1955 – 18.12.2021

Founding member of the Lazarus Union
Knight Grand Commander of the Knighthood of Honour of the Lazarus Union
Member of the chapter of the Knighthood of Honour of the Lazarus Union
Vice-president of the Corps Saint Lazarus Austria
Knight of the Order of Sank Joachim
bearer of national and international awards

***IT IS DETERMINED IN GOD'S COUNSEL
THAT ONE OF THE DEAREST THINGS ONE HAS
MUST DEPART ...***

High clergy!
Dear comrades! Dear comrades!
Honoured mourners!

This poem came to me the following night after I was shocked to learn that our Josef, our friend and our comrade, had suddenly and unexpectedly left us and was called away to the big army. I got up and wrote it down:

***IS IT SO STRANGE THEN, DEAR JOSEF,
THAT LIGHTS OF LIFE ALSO GO OUT?
IF THEY ARE BORROWED FOR A CERTAIN TIME
SO THEY MUST PASS AWAY !
THE ETERNAL LIGHT OF LIFE WILL SHINE FOR IT
EVEN IF IT IS ONLY A TINY SHINE.
FOR US - FOR CONSOLATION !
UNTIL WE ARE CALLED TO MEET AGAIN.***

I would like to give this comforting wisdom to all who mourn our dear Joseph. It shows us very clearly the circle of life, the fate, but also the hope that remains for us, that our earthly existence is only a short moment in the infinite circle of the universe and that there will be a reunion. I am firmly convinced of that!

Josef was a founding member of the Lazarus Union and held high and highest functions in the Lazarus Union and in the honorary knighthood of the Lazarus Union. But he was for me many years more than only a close co-worker in the Lazarus Union. He was above all a friend, advisor and patient listener. He was loyal, reliable and faithful. He was helpful, brave and understanding. He was an exemplary comrade, functionary and no stroke of fate (and he had to cope with several such strokes of fate in his life) could break his unshakeable optimism.

Josef leaves behind a gap that will be difficult to fill. But I am grateful to fate that it brought us both together and that I was able to experience many journeys together with Josef.

You, dear Josef, will live on in my heart!

I would like to sincerely thank all those who have given Josef their comradeship, friendship, love and respect. He deserved all of that, God knows!

With the death of a comrade, a friend, one loses many things, but never the time spent with him. We will need some strength to carry the inevitable in our memory!

The time has come for us to say goodbye to you for the time being, but I am convinced that we will meet again.

***For he who gives away, receives;
He who forgets himself finds;
He who forgives will be forgiven;
And he who dies, awakens to eternal life!
Amen!***

With the following piece of music your comrades of the Lazarus Union say goodbye to you. You always liked this music very much and so we want to listen to the "Bohemian Dream" together. Played by the music corps of the Lazarus Union. It shall accompany you as our last greeting on the last way here on earth and we remember you in love, friendship and respect. We will miss you very much!

Farewell dear Josef and hold your hand protectively over us!

Wolfgang Steinhardt