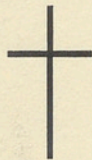


Nekr  
K  
102



ROBERT FREDERICK KASPAR



Nehr K 102

SPEECHES  
AT THE FUNERAL  
OF  
ROBERT FREDERICK KASPAR

born February 12th 1913 in Huntington, L.I.  
died September 2nd 1955 in Zurich, Switzerland

Monday, September 5th 1955  
at the crematorium in Zurich

6 80-0460  
Wills, Frei  
Kilchberg

Ms. K. 112

SPRUCHES  
AT THE FUNERAL

OF

ROBERT FREDERICK KASPAR

born February 12th 1913 in Huntington, L.I.  
died September 2nd 1952 in Zurich, Switzerland

Monday, September 5th 1952  
at the crematorium in Zurich



Organ

Fugue "Jesu, meine Freude"  
by Johann Gottfried Walther (1496-1570)

played by Alfred Ryffel  
organist of the Zwinglikirche

Introductory Words

by the Reverend Hans Métraux

Hark! One says, "Call!"  
And I said, "What shall I call?  
All flesh is as grass,  
And all its beauty is like the flower of  
the field.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
When the breath of the Lord blows upon it." -  
"Truly the people is grass -  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
But the Word of our God shall stand forever."  
And the Word became flesh and lived amongst  
us, and we saw the honour God had given  
Him, such honour as an only son receives  
from his father, full of grace and truth.  
Our sorrow, which is temporal and easy to  
bear, brings us an eternal glory, to us  
who look not upon the visible, but on the  
invisible. For what is visible, is temp-  
oral; but what is invisible, is eternal.

Amen

M o t e t

by Hans Georg Nägeli  
Words by Matthias Claudius

Sung by Chambre XXIV of  
the Männerchor Zurich  
conducted by Max Graf

\*

Dearly beloved,

Almighty God, the Lord of our life, has called  
into eternity

Robert Kaspar

of Thun, aged 42 years, 6 months and 18 days.

His next of kin thank you who are here to  
accompany him, as is the Christian custom, to his  
funeral. They thank you also for all the kindness  
which you showed the dear departed in his long and  
painful illness, especially his doctors and the  
nurses of the hospital where he spent the last months  
of his life. May the merciful God give us comfort  
in this hour of sorrow.

Amen

## BIOGRAPHY

read by the Reverend Hans Métraux

This biography was put at our disposal by his family.

Robert Frederick Kaspar was born on February 12th, 1913, at Huntington, Long Island, in the State of New York, the eldest son of Werner Kaspar of Thun, and of Jeanne, née Rauch, of Mulhouse, in Alsace. He grew up in Canada and in Detroit in the United States.

Having successfully completed High School in Detroit, where he had distinguished himself both scholastically and as an ice hockey player and golfer, he came to Switzerland at the age of 19, at the wish of his childless uncle, Hans Kaspar, and entered his uncle's prospering business.

After the tragic death of his uncle, Robert gave the firmest moral support to the widowed Mrs. Kaspar. He quickly became a trusted assistant in the business, becoming plant manager.

In the Swiss Army he served first in the 15th Mountain Regiment, later in the staff of the 11th Mountain Brigade as aide to the Brigadier with the rank of first lieutenant.

Robert Kaspar was of reserved and rather solitary character. He spent his leisure in his family circle in reading and playing golf, a game of which he was an enthusiast. He always kept in touch with America and with his family there. His frequent journeys to his mother's home near Detroit were amongst his greatest pleasures.

He gave the appearance of an extremely strong and healthy man. In the last two years he suffered from indispositions which, however, did not appear serious at the time. His condition grew worse at the beginning of February this year. Two operations were unsuccessful. He bore his painful illness with patience and courage, until on the 2nd of September he closed his eyes forever.

The presence of his mother and brother who had come from America, the devoted care of his aunt, the great affection shown by his friends, were some consolation in his last months.

\*

Mr. Sigg will now speak about the professional activities of the deceased, and Mr. Imholz will then speak in the name of the employees of the firm.



Speech by Mr. S i g g  
manager of the firm

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my painful but unavoidable task to bid farewell to our dear departed friend, both in the name of the management of the firm and in my own. This farewell is also an expression of gratitude for his two decades of service in the business of his aunt, Mrs. Kaspar.

He entered the firm in the lifetime of Hans Kaspar. Under his guidance he started at the bottom. This was sometimes difficult for the rather shy young man who, no doubt, suffered occasionally from homesickness. At this time he received maternal comfort from his aunt.

The heroic death of Hans Kaspar, twenty years ago, was a disaster for the firm and especially for Mrs. Kaspar. At this difficult time Robert felt strongly the responsibility of consoling and assisting her. His main regret must have been that he was not then sufficiently trained to take a leading position. For that reason his aunt sent him to Germany and Denmark, where the manufacturing of margarine was already of an extremely high standard, to complete his technical education. If these studies were rather too short, it was because Robert felt that he was needed at home. Thus in the course of those years before and after the death of Hans Kaspar, the peculiar and yet so natural circumstance developed, that Mrs. Kaspar had a son and Robert a second mother. Let me add at once that his love for

his real mother in America was in no way lessened by this.

His studies abroad and his many years' cooperation with the previous plant manager enabled Mr. Kaspar to take over the plant management himself in 1941 to the great joy of his aunt. It was the time of shortages of raw materials, of substitute products, a time which demanded extraordinary efforts on the plant manager's part.

At the same time he was performing his military service as a reliable officer of a mountain brigade.

After the end of the war in 1945, the problems of reconversion to normal conditions had to be solved. As soon as possible it was necessary to receive information on technical developments in the most important countries. The most obvious way to do this was for Mr. Kaspar to make his long desired visit to the United States, which he had not seen for nearly fifteen years. Those who saw him then know with what great and joyful anticipation he set out.

He came back with many new ideas. The information on developments in the production of foodstuffs was extremely valuable. It helped us to diversify our production program. This would have been impossible without his wide view of new developments abroad.

His most cherished trip to America was surely the one in 1952. His aunt accompanied him and he was able to show her his family and his America.

Since Mr. Kaspar took over the plant management the buildings of the firm have several times been altered and enlarged. The construction work was done

under his supervision. The most important reconstruction together with the renewal of the plant took place in 1954. Although he was already dissatisfied with the state of his health, he bore the added work and responsibility in his characteristic way. He would have been unhappy if relieved even of a part of his duties. The new building was ready, the new machines in operation, when his illness began to prevent Mr. Kaspar from working. All the sacrifices he made, all the medical and personal care which his aunt, and his mother and brother who had come from America provided, were of no avail against this dread disease. We have watched his agony at close quarters. None of us have ever seen him impatient, complaining, much less in despair. For a large part this was surely due to the devoted attention of his two mothers who, during the five months of his illness, spent a great part of each day at his bedside.

Mr. Kaspar was a strongly introverted man, with few but consuming interest. Amongst these the most important was his aunt's business. Its problems, on which he held strong opinions, were always his biggest concern. Because of his strong opinions, it was not always easy to discuss such problems with him. But -I want to say it here- he felt it necessary, already at the beginning of his illness, to ask forgiveness, for he feared to have sometimes caused pain.

Yes, it is painful, not his words however, but his silence. During his entire illness Mr. Kaspar continued to hope for another trip to America so strongly that his seat in the plane had to remain reserved till the end. It is understandable that his mother and brother will carry back his ashes to their

and his country, for his longing for America increased in the past few years.

For us here, but especially for our dear Mrs. Kaspar, this causes yet more pain. But Mrs. Kaspar knows that all of us who are joined to her in kinship, in friendship and great respect, will try to assist her. May the thought be consoling to her that the new building will always be a worthy monument to Robert's achievements.

Dear Robert, in farewell receive not only our thanks, but also our promise that we shall serve the enterprise to which you applied yourself for so many years, faithfully and with all our strength. And may you rest in peace.

\*

Speech by Mr. Imholz

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In consternation we workmen stand before the coffin of our most respected manager, Mr. Robert Kaspar. When on Friday we received the news of the death of Mr. Kaspar, we all stopped work and everyone of us stood in thought. We could not believe that Mr. Kaspar would not come back to us, for we had all learnt in these years to esteem and respect him.

In his directions he always found the right word for each one, so that he never spoke unjustly or in anger. For us workmen the decease of Mr. Kaspar is in every way a great and painful loss.

In the name of all the workmen, I wish to express our sincere sorrow to the family, and to assure them that Mr. Kaspar will always remain as a shining example in our memory.

\*

Cello

played by Julius Bächli  
with organ accompaniment

Sarabande

by Johann Ernst Gaillard (1687-1749)

Sermon and Funeral Speech  
by the Reverend Hans Métraux

Dear bereaved family,

In deep sorrow we are gathered round the coffin of this well loved young man, who, as a son and as a nephew, as a friend and as a business executive, leaves behind him an extraordinarily painful void. With the prophet we cry: "Lo! It was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; and Thou hast held me back from the pit of destruction, for Thou hast cast all my sins behind Thy back." (Isiah 38,17)

In these days sorrow threatens to engulf you. We all think first of the widow, now completely alone, in whose house her nephew spent the greater part of his life. He came at the age of nineteen, and in the twentythree years that followed he poured out all he had of ardor and ability, of devoted love and consideration from an inexhaustible inner source. When twenty years ago, the childless widow lost her husband, who sacrificed his life to save a child from the swollen waters of the Aare, the presence of Robert helped to soften and later to console her sorrow.

How beautiful were the years in which Robert Kaspar, as a son, found a second home in her house. In all our sorrow that this ended so suddenly and, in our minds, too early, let us not forget how blessed were these twenty-three years. In our memories these years continue to live and awaken again and again feelings of gratitude that they were so radiantly rich. For all of you, a great gift! Surely it will help you to bear this heavy loss, if you recall what great gifts you received in this man.

We think, too, of the inconsolable mother, herself already a widow, who came from the United States four months ago to comfort her eldest son in his sickness. In these painful months he longed for home, for the sunny lakeshore where he hoped to recover from his illness. His hopes and ours were in vain. And yet the word of the prophet is true: "It was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; and Thou hast held me back from the pit of destruction, for Thou hast cast all my sins behind Thy back." For this painful, apparently hopeless time of sickness became for Robert a time of special blessedness. For in this time the living Lord came to him so personally that he found solace and inner peace in his Word. Yes, the Lord accepted him, that he find not destruction. No, his soul was revived, so that death was for him no disaster, no ending of his own plans but an entering into the joy of his Lord. It was a blessed time of most intimate community of faith, in which mother and son found consolation in the word of God. That stillness of the heart, that peace which is higher than all reason unfolded among them.

These thoughts are perhaps foreign to our worldly minds. And yet the ultimate judgement that can be pronounced on a man's life, is whether he found the way to God. Then it is not a lost, but a fulfilled and triumphant life. With discretion and few words, but with inner strength and security, Robert Kaspar learnt this and understood it anew on his sickbed, and found a living faith in his Lord and Saviour. How enriched we are to know of such strength and security in a situation in which nothing external and human can help. So let us take as the text for

this hour of parting the Word of the Lord: "I am the resurrection and the life, who believes in me shall have eternal life, though they die. And who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe in this?" So spoke Jesus to Martha, the sister of Lazarus.

For there are two ways of seeing our life: One, so to speak, a two-dimensional view, considers only this life and sees everything collapse with death. We modern men have accustomed ourselves to this way of looking at things. We have excluded death from our thoughts, without solving the problem of death. When it comes upon us, we are helpless and lost, but Jesus Christ came into this world to tell us of a third dimension, of the paternal House of God whither he preceded us to prepare us a home. He who realizes this lives quite otherwise, completely calm and consoled, because he knows that all apparent dying cannot rob him of this promise. This gave our beloved Robert Kaspar strength and peace in his darkest hours. In the midst of bodily decay this spiritual enrichment took place, so that to-day we are able to speak not only of painful dying but also of eternal life.

If we penetrate further into this way of thinking, life becomes doubly beautiful. Then the problem of death is no longer unsolved, as an immovable shadow over all our deeds. Rather, we know that nothing, no apparent dying can tear us out of the hand of our Lord and Master. Then we are no longer alone and deserted on the road that no man can travel with us. Because He travels with us the darkness of death is no longer gaping emptiness, no longer a black abyss, but rather a shining gate to eternal life, then the terrors of death are conquered, then we can



agree with the apostle with firmness and certainty:  
"Death is swallowed up in victory. Death where is thy sting? Hell where is thy victory? Thanks be to God who gave us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

In this knowledge Robert Kaspar awaited his physical dissolution. This gave him that wonderful peace and security which left no room for fearful doubts. This created with you who are nearest to him that unseparable communion that joins you with him across the grave. When one of our dearest departs thus for the imperishable heavenly world, he is not lost for us, but has only preceded us. And if we open our sorrowful heart to this world of God, and the eternal light begins to shine into our earthly lives then the Lord has really accepted our soul that it perish not. And then the memory of our brother's early death works for our salvation. Thus the Lord desires to lead us who mourn this death to holy and blessed paths. If we look at the rich record of this specially blessed life in the immense perspective of eternity, then we are aided too, because in the midst of deepest sorrow the Lord appears to us, merciful and comforting. Let us open our hearts to Him with confidence that He help us and give us out of His fullness grace everlasting.

Amen

Hymn

sung by the Chambre XXIV  
of the Männerchor Zurich  
conducted by Max Graf

"Hymne an die Nacht"

by Ludwig van Beethoven

\*

Since it has pleased the Lord of life and death to call our brother out of this life, we commend him to the mercy of our God and Father and say in confident hope:

"None of us lives only to himself, and none of us dies only to himself; if we live we are responsible to Him; so whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In His great mercy He has caused us to be born anew to a life of hope through Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, and to an imperishable, unsullied, and unfading inheritance, which is kept safe for you in Heaven."

"What no eye has seen and no ear has heard, what has entered into no man's heart, that is what God has prepared for those who love him."

The Lord to whom you belong in life and in death, give you eternal peace, and His light shine for you.

Amen

## Prayer

Lord, our God. Thus we bring Thee the sacrifice which Thou demandest of us, and bow ourselves to Thy holy will which has separated us. Let us now in this sad hour of parting feel that Thou dost not abandon us, and that the dear departed also is in Thy hand and will remain there forever. Lead us through darkness and misery and through the unquiet and temptations of life. Let us walk in certainty and not forget our eternal goal. Lead us at last through the gate of death into our eternal home, where there is no parting, and where all our yearning and hopes are fulfilled.

Our Father Which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those  
that trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
And the power and the glory  
For ever and ever.

Amen

May the Lord bless us and watch over us. May  
His light shine on us and may He be merciful to us  
and give us His peace.

\*

Organ

Toccata in C-minor

by Johann Sebastian Bach

\*