



Eulogy to Cedric

Cedric, can you hear me? As dad said last Sunday «You may already swing a lot with the angels.». Can you turn down the music for a few moments? I would like to talk to you with people who have joined us today to talk about you.

Rather than to discuss your hardships (a first heart surgery, my blindness you never accepted, the death of mom you had overcome with exemplary behavior before your second heart surgery), I'd like to mention less visible and more personal topics.

With this in mind, I thought it would be nice to share part of the e-mail you sent me last year on August 2nd.

You wrote:

“Jerome,

A new day begins. I am enticed but resist quite easily in a way.

I am overwhelmed at nothing and already in primary then in high school I was worried.

In the boarding school, the coin of one Franc (FF) to phone was the first thing I required before leaving home.

By now it’s different. They are my anxieties that lead me to the irreversible!!!” (...)

“I tremble incredibly in every situation and loose all my means. Then the one too more drink comes to calm me down and help me... Followed by the skid!!!”

Cedric, these few lines invite us to reflect on our differences. You remind us that all disabilities are not necessarily openly observable. There are some serious handicaps we must understand without judging people.

We must beware of hasty judgements. For example this famous phrase: «He has everything to be happy.». You know how much that phrase always annoyed me. Material conditions and logical reasonings can’t define happiness.

I go back to your text.

“When I look at all your achievements, I don’t feel shabby but it reassures me. A little bit although, not enough as you can see.

This morning at 6AM I was already in panic but it wasn’t worth the trouble. I succeeded, the accounting of the vineyard stock is perfect.»

Cedric, you can leave us without feeling inferior. People who love you know how intelligent you are. You are also a very knowledgable person as I used to tell you.

Last part of your text:

I still feel too shameful to call you but be sure I Love you with a cap to the «L».

See you soon.

YOUR BROTHER WHO LOVES YOU!!! MAYBE, NOT ENOUGH!!!!!»

Cedric, you can join mom, being free and quiet. I know you really love me.

I will do my best to make you proud of your «nounousse» as you used to call me sometimes. I hope your great sensitivity, generosity and kindness will be honored there and nobody will take advantages of them.

It’s time for me to leave you. I hear you telling me that you’d like to listen to Jimmy Hendrix, the Who or any of those music bands you know perfectly.

I love you very firmly, dad and me love you very strongly.