

AF447 – JOURNÉE DU SOUVENIR, 1^{ER} JUIN 2019

AF447 – REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY, 1ST JUNE 2019

Discours d'Anne Rigail

(Translation of Anne Rigail's speech read in French)

Ladies and gentlemen, families and friends,

Your presence here today, despite the passage of time, shows just how intact the memory of our lost loved-ones remains.

Since the tragedy, whose sad anniversary has brought us together every year for the past 10 years, how many times have our thoughts led us to those who are no longer here?

This terrible air disaster took the lives of 228 people, including your families, friends and colleagues.

Today, we remember that terrible morning of June 1, 2009, the anguish waiting for news, the slim hope of a miracle, and then the awful news, when we realized that all hope was lost.

When we think about these dramatic circumstances, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's words resonate with particular meaning: *"we had hope, then the hours passed and little by little, it got late. We had to accept that our colleagues would not return, that they would rest forever in the South Atlantic whose sky they had so often crossed."*

And as in 'Wind, Sand and Stars', as the hours passed, we too had to accept that AF 447 would never return. Since then, you have shown great personal courage and dignity in overcoming the loss of your family, friends or colleagues.

I hope that the great solidarity created between all of you and the Air France teams has helped you to find the necessary strength to face this challenge.

Today, we gather once again in front of this memorial, where the names of those we loved are engraved in stone, in homage to their memory. It is with great emotion that we will listen to them being read out.

We also share this day with the families who are gathered at the memorial in Rio, identical to this one, on Two Brothers hill.

As for those who were unable to join us, I know that they are with us in spirit at this commemoration ceremony today.

Dear families, while we have a duty to assist and care for you, we also have a duty to promise never to relax the efforts made over the years to improve air transport safety.

Much has been done in this field, which is at the heart of our company's priorities. But we know that there is still work to be done and that we must constantly strive for improvement, accepting no compromises.

This effort requires humility, transparency and exemplary standards.

Dear Minister, this is an imperative that we share with both the civil aviation services and the global aviation community, with which we are working closely together.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear families, I would like to renew our commitment to flight safety on behalf of Air France and in memory of those lost on flight AF 447.

Thank you.

Instructions

(Arnold Crompton)

(Traduction du texte lu en anglais / allemand)

Lorsque je serai passé au-delà de l'aventure de la vie,
allez dans un endroit agréable et souvenez-vous de moi
avec des mots de tous les jours, anciens et nouveaux.
Ayez une larme si vous le souhaitez,
mais laissez vite venir un sourire,
car j'ai aimé le rire de la vie.
Ne vous attardez pas trop longtemps aux solennités.

Allez manger et parler, et quand vous le pouvez,
suivez un sentier forestier,
escaladez une haute montagne,
marchez le long d'un littoral sauvage,
pensez à un livre qui interroge votre âme.

Servez-vous de vos mains un jour ensoleillé
pour faire quelque chose de beau
ou pour soulager quelqu'un.

Même si vous ne prononcez pas mon nom,
et qu'aucun souvenir de moi ne vous traverse l'esprit,
je serai avec vous,
car tout ceci a été la réalité de ma vie.

Et lorsque vous serez face à l'angoisse,
marchant seul avec courage
et choisissant votre chemin de justice,
je serai près de vous.
Car J'ai suivi les vallées,
et franchi les sommets de la vie.

Tomorrow, at dawn...

(Victor Hugo)

(Text read in French by the French Association)

Tomorrow, at dawn, in the hour when the countryside
appears in shades of white,
I will leave. You see, I know that you are waiting for me.
I will go by the forest, I will go by the mountain,
I cannot stay far from you any longer.

I will walk with my eyes fixed on my thoughts,
Without seeing anything outside, nor hearing any noise,
Alone, unknown, back bowed, hands crossed,
Sad, and the day for me will be like the night.

I will not look at the golden hues of nightfall,
Nor the faraway boats sailing towards Harfleur,
And when I arrive, I will put on your tomb,
A bouquet of green holly and heather in bloom.

The shadow of angels

(Isaac Lerutan, 2009)

(Text read in French by Air France)

I will cross cities
I will take your voice with me
I will search for the fire in the sky
And the wind in our sails
When the shadow of the clouds
Unmasks our breath
We will fly away in peace
Via the paths of fate
And our lost dreams
Will avoid the abyss
To then sweep up
The trace of those we have lost
I will cross cities
I will take your voice with me
I will search for the fire in the sky
And the wind in our sails
A star comes to rest
When an angel falls asleep....