

Remembering the Life of

Phynix Shale Rodel

December 3, 1997 December 12, 2019

Visitation

Anderson Funeral Home

Alexandria, Minnesota

Saturday, December 21, 2019

2:00 – 6:00 PM

Burial

Kinkead Cemetery

Alexandria, Minnesota



When great trees fall,
rocks on distant hills shutter,
lions hunker down in tall grasses,
and even elephants lumber after safety.

When great trees fall in forests,
small things recoil into silence,
their senses eroded beyond fear.

When great souls die, the air around us becomes light, rare,
sterile.
We breathe briefly.
Our eyes briefly see with a hurtful clarity.
Our memory suddenly sharpened, examines, gnaws on kind
words left unsaid, promised walks never taken.

Great souls die and our reality, bound to them, takes leave of us.
Our souls, dependent upon their nurture, now shrink, wizened.
Our minds, formed and informed by their radiance, fall away.
We are not so much maddened as reduced to the unutterable
ignorance of dark, cold caves.

And when great souls die, after a period peace blooms, slowly
and always irregularly.
Spaces fill with a kind of soothing electric vibration.
Our senses restored, never to be the same, whisper to us.
They existed. They existed. We can be.
Be and be better. For they existed.

Phynix Shale Rodel, 22, passed away suddenly on Thursday, December 12th in the loving embrace of his family at St Luke's Medical Center in Duluth, Minnesota.

Phynix was born on December 3rd, 1997 in Grand Forks, North Dakota to Leslie Weekley and Jacob Rodel. Growing up, he lived in both Grand Forks and Alexandria before moving to Duluth in 2013. Phynix attended Duluth East High School with near perfect grades and during his senior year, he attended the University of MN Duluth Post-Secondary. He graduated from Duluth East High School in 2016. Phynix attended UMD for a couple of years and majored in Biochemistry with hopes of going into the medical research field.

In his free time, Phynix loved snowboarding, camping, and spending time exploring the outdoors up the shore in Duluth. Phynix also had a passion for music and enjoyed going to music festivals and concerts. Phynix's love of good food, smoothies and sweet tea will be remembered fondly by his family and friends.

Phynix also loved spending time with his family. He looked forward to the yearly family reunions, family camping trips, and spending time with his family in Grand Forks. A couple of Phynix's most memorable trips were a snowboarding trip to Montana with his dad and a family vacation to Mexico.

While he was living in Duluth, Phynix was employed at Grandma's Sports Garden and most recently The Hills where he was a youth counselor. Phynix loved working with the kids there and could really relate to the struggles that they were going through.

Although only 22 years old at the time of his death, Phynix affected many people in his lifetime. He had so many friends that adored him. His infectious laugh, goofy faces, and shenanigans will always be remembered with a smile. He had the kindest heart and would always put friends and family before anything else.

Phynix recently became a dog dad when he adopted his dog Bart from a local animal shelter. Bart was his best friend and never left his side. He has a funny and goofy personality, just like his dad.

Despite his many passions and having a gift of bringing so much love to people around him, deep inside he was suffering in the darkness privately battling a deep inexplicable pain. Phynix finally succumbed to the silent illness of addiction. At this time, we must come together, laugh, and embrace for Phynix's sake. He would have wanted it that way.