



Dear brothers & sisters,

It's with a deep sense of regret that I'm here in construction of this address, dedication and tribute to our dear departed brother Anthony, instead of being there to personally address you all on this very special occasion.

It is universally understood, without exception, that in this current world, virtually all things are furnished with a beginning followed by an inevitable end. Needless to say, this hard reality is an inevitability that none of us will or can escape. It is my honest opinion, that one of the most sobering statistics known to man, is the fact that 1 in every 1 of us will eventually die.

Despite the fact that we are all reconciled to this bitter reality, we (nevertheless) are invariably afflicted with an immense sense of lost and profound pain and sadness, especially when an exceptionally beautiful, unique and special person like Tony does depart. These sentiments are held not only by me but almost certainly each and every one of you.

Given the reality that life is not perpetual and therefore must eventually end, I passionately believe that living and enjoying our lives to the fullest, displaying a sense of honesty, humanity and humility toward each other is indeed be a very smart way of spending our relatively short time here. Brothers and sisters believe you me, in those respects; you wouldn't find anyone smarter than Tony.

As most of you are no doubt aware, Tony spent practically all his adult life as a helper, teacher, educator and advisor to all of those, who were privileged to know or come into contact with him, not only in the UK and his native Barbados but also in many a distant land. The fruits of his labour and dedication to all of us ere still here and will remain so, for many a decade to come. Let me give you just one example of such.

I first met Tony 39 years ago in London when I attended an audition in the hope of joining a soul band which he then led. They were called Tony-C and the Crescents. Only about 4months prior to this meeting, I had purchased a set of drums because as a young kid, I had the desire to one day play in a band and hopefully even go on to become a professional musician. At this point in time, an associate of mine informed me about a group which was looking for a drummer. That happened to be Tony's group. Thanks to the effort of my friend who arranged everything, off I foolishly went for an audition with the band.

I used the term "foolishly" because I knew nothing about Tony and his group and even less about playing the drums, remember that I had purchased them only 4 months previously. It therefore didn't require the brain power of Albert Einstein to work out that it takes a little longer than 4 months to learn how to play a musical instrument. Clearly, everyone knew this, except YOU KNOW WHO but I was soon about to find out.

As the musicians began to tune their instruments in preparation for my audition, just listening to them tuning up was enough to tell me that I was in the wrong place at a very wrong time. These guys were galaxies ahead of me in their ability as musicians. As we began to play SORRY!! As they began to play, I entered the song in a frightened and nervous

state on the wrong side of the beat and with a rhythm that not even I did understand.

At the end of the song (which was also became the end of the audition), the manager was in the middle of the rehearsal room with a map of England frantically trying to find the quickest route to the cliffs of Dover in an effort to drop me off as a penalty for having wasted their time. It was painfully and embarrassingly obvious that I had walked into a situation, which was musically far too big for me to handle. As I mentioned before, I had only purchased my drums just a few months previously and was no further than the very beginning stage of trying to find out how to play them.

Suddenly, there I was, in the middle of an audition with a group of professional standard musicians who clearly knew what they were doing, whilst I on the other hand had no idea what I was doing there. I was particularly impressed with Tonys' immense ability as a guitar player, along with his very classy and stylist vocal delivery.

In contrast, there was me in the background ,who played and sounded like a recently arrived Martian from outer space equipped with 2 left hands and feet. Even a couple of the band members were laughing in disbelief. A few days after the audition, I saw a Mickey Mouse cartoon on television, part of which featured him playing the drums. I beg each and every one of you to believe me when I tell you that Mickey Mouse's performance and ability and in that cartoon, was far superior to that of mine at the audition.

As the audition grounded to a premature halt, (just one song)I made an effort to apologise to the entire band for having wasted their precious time.

At this precise moment, I was about to receive one of the very biggest shocks I have ever experienced during the course of my entire lifetime. As the band leader, Tony turned to the rest of the members and simply said," Fellows, this kid is only a beginner but he is clearly eager to become a good drummer and in my opinion, with a continued level of interest and dedication, he will in future go on to become a musician of worth". Incredibly, he then went on to insist that I should there and

then be instated as the drummer with the band, even though with a lot to learn.

At that very embarrassing and degrading moment in my life, this incredible man was able to see something in me that even I did not recognise. That kind, generous and heart felt decision of his 39 long years ago, turned out to be a decision which would go on to have a huge and far reaching impact on my life, even to this very day. Fortunately, I was a very quick learner and with his constant help, advice and influence (plus some very hard work), I eventually became a much improved drummer which eventually allowed me to make various important inroads into the music industry.

That incredible and unexpected decision of our now departed brother, heralded the beginning of a musical career which has taken me on several tours around the world, along with numerous worldwide television and recording studio appearances with several major acts such as THE BEE GEES, ANITA BAKER, GEORGE MICHAEL, THE POP GROUP WHAM, THE POINTER SISTERS, TOM JONES, GLORIA GAYNOR, LIONEL RICHIE, DONNA SUMMER, WOMACK AND WOMACK, AL JARREAU, SADE and TINA TURNER just to name but some. I have never conducted a television or news paper interview, nor given a speech, without the inclusion of a huge mention and thank you to this now departed beautiful friend and human being, who eventually became a brother to me that my mother never gave birth to.

Anthony if by any miracle you are monitoring this address, there's no need for me to remind you that Similar to the example of the start you gave me at the beginning of my musical career, you have similarly dedicated a very large part of your life helping and being there for others when ever they needed you. You have imparted a great deal of knowledge, education information and advice to countless people from singular individuals to the largest and most prestigious of international political and social groups and organisations.

You have fought tirelessly in your distinguished track record of championing the awareness of black consciousness and the various aspects of our long and difficult historical journey.

The variety, diversity, depth and awareness of your vast subject matter, coupled with the enthusiasm, conviction and sincerity with which you often spoke, will forever be etched into the hearts and minds of all those who were fortunate enough to know and be associated with you.

Needless to say, there are countless things about you, of which I'm exceptionally proud, not least of all the sincere love and friendship that we shared, the profound respect we accorded each other, the way in which ever since that first meeting all those years ago in London you evolved into that bigger brother that I never originally did have, and most incredible of all -in 39 long years of friendship- never once did we ever experience a dispute of any kind or even exchange a single heated word. To all listeners, that must sound quite incredible but it's certainly true.

My dear brother, you were -and will always be- an inspiration to me and to countless others. Your lack of any personal negativity (even in the most adverse of situations) always did set you apart from most. On my final 10 day visit to see you in Barbados, I visited you on each of those days at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and never once did you complain about your plight. Even in your darkest hour and with your life slowly evaporating, there was no room within you for that kind of sentiment.

Dear Tony, thank you for being the very best friend anyone could ever have wished for, thanks for your incessant love, care, support and guidance, thanks for your incomparable humanity kindness and inner beauty, thanks for your incredible leadership and its numerous associated built in qualities, thank you for all the amazing fun we often shared. In reality, there are so many thanks due to you which (unfortunately), the limitation of time will simply preclude me from mentioning them all. It's therefore more expedient for me to just simply say "THANK YOU FOR BEING YOU".

Brothers and sisters it's now one year since Anthony physically said "GOODBYE" to us. For me -and no doubt all of you- the then sadness of his passing has subsequently been replaced with a joyous sense of current and reflected celebration of the very fruitful life of a most beautiful person whose supreme example in many walks of life, will

forever be a source of inspiration and guidance to most of us for many a year to come.

Many thanks to all of you (Harry Cumberbatch and Tony Gill included), for your time, energy and hard work in arranging this vary special gathering for this very special brother.

Finally, I'm currently out on tour with Robin Gibb of the Bee Gees and consequently am unable to join you in celebration of Anthony's life. For this, I sincerely apologise to all of you. It's my sincere desire to join you all some time in the not too distant future during a similar such gathering.

**From Tony and me, thanks to you all for this very thoughtful tribute.
A fellow brother
Trevor Murrell**

Harry, The above photo which includes his daughter Chidi was the last we took together prior to his final stay in hospital.