

Dear Editor:

I'm writing to you about the concern of the desecration of the sacred hallow we call—a cemetery. In this letter, it contains a little rant that applies to all cemeteries, not just the one in Madrid. This is no means a point of the finger of blame. Just a means of raising awareness of the disrespectfulness that happens, and is happening, on the grounds we deem to be holy.

When walking into a cemetery, it is not about you, the living; it is about those who have moved on to the other side. It is a place of resting, a place of peace, a place of comfort—a place where those who have lived can be remembered by those on the earthen plane.

When one sees flowers, real or fake, on or around a headstone, it is not a job, whether paid from a cemetery board or not, for someone to take them down, in fact, leave them up where they respectfully be, unless replacing them with fresh/new ones. Who knows, those flowers may be the same flowers that a fond memory once happened, or they may be the only thing the family could afford for their passed on spouse, sibling, brother, sister, mother, father, whatever the connection may be to the burial site.

By saying a cemetery looks “gaudy” due to faded flowers, it's not about the look of the flower, but what the flower implies—the mourning, the acceptance, and the love that is present after death. If the flowers have been at the site for a long time, possibly faded, and not have been switched out, swap them out for newer ones, replace them. Do not leave the site undecorated. In fact there are a bunch of undecorated graves.

Take into consideration the possibility of the family, or whomever, that may have passed on themselves and obviously cannot make it to the cemetery to replace them. On the other hand, think of the possibility that the family may have forgotten, or does not care, about the person buried to even show, or take the time to replace, or put up flowers in that matter. One can easily get flowers through garage sales around the neighborhood or buy a collection and place them on the sites so no grave is unloved. This would help to make the cemetery less “gaudy.”

The flower in its sheer simplicity means a lot more than what it is acknowledged to be. It's a simple token of love that bandages the wounds of death's icy sting. It coddles and nurtures the time lost between friends, family, and lovers. By removing flowers from a site, we, the living, are destroying a metaphysical tie between someone who had to sit and watch someone close to them be buried into the ground, knowing that they will never be able to see them—in the flesh.

Sincerely,

A person who visits his
father's grave often –
Bert Earl Ogg