

Best of friends!
Entirely for you alone.

*Paris ce 3 julliet*³
 1778

Mourn with me, my friend! – This was the saddest day of my life – I am writing this at 2 o'clock at night⁴ – I must tell you, sir, [5] my mother, my dear mother is no more! – God has called her to himself – he wanted to have her, I saw that clearly – accordingly I have surrendered myself to the will of God – he had given her to me, he could also take her from me. Just imagine all the disquiet, fears and worries for her that I have stood up to this fortnight⁵ – she was unconscious as she died – [10] snuffed out like a light. 3 days ago she confessed, received communion, and was given holy unction – – but in the last 3 days she was constantly delirious, but today, at 21 minutes after 5, the final throes started, at which point she at once lost all feeling and all her senses – I pressed her hand, spoke to her – but she did not see me, and felt nothing [15] – she lay that way until she departed, namely after 5 hours, at 21 minutes past 10 o'clock in the evening. There was no-one present except myself, a good friend of ours⁶ |: my father knows him |: Herr Haina,⁷ and the woman who served as watcher⁸ – I cannot possibly describe the whole of the illness to you today – I am of the opinion that she had to die – God wanted to have it so. [20] In the meantime I ask you for nothing other than this act of friendship: that you prepare my poor father very gently for this sad news – I have written to him with this same post – but saying only that she is gravely ill – then I will simply wait for an answer – so that I can take my course from it. May God give him strength and courage! – My friend! – I received my consolation not now, but a good while ago! – [25] By the special grace of God I have borne everything with steadfastness and equanimity. As the calamity came so near, I asked God for only 2 things, namely a felicitous hour of death for my mother, and then strength and courage for me – and our kind God heard my prayer and granted me both acts of grace in the fullest measure. [30] I therefore beg you, best of friends, save my father for me, instil courage in him so that he does not take it so very grievously and hard when he finally hears the worst. I commend my sister to you, too, from the bottom of my heart – indeed, go to them straight away, I beg you – do not say anything to them yet about her death, but simply prepare them for it – [35] do what you wish – use all means – only do what is necessary so that I can be at peace – and so that I do not perchance have to expect another misfortune. – Save my dear father, and my dear sister, for me. Give me a reply at once, I beg you. – *Adieu*, I am, sir, your

most obedient, most grateful servant,
 Wolfgang Amadè Mozart.

[40]

To make sure:

¹ BD: Original lost, *olim* ISM. Facsimile ISM; Copy c. 1850; NissenB.

² BD: Abbé Franz Joseph Johann Nepomuk Bullinger (1744-1810), Jesuit, private tutor, friend of the Mozart family in Salzburg, where he seems to have arrived between 1774 and 1776. House tutor to Count [Graf] Leopold Ferdinand Arco, later to Count [Graf] Sigmund (“Sigerl”) Lodron. Mozart called him “his best of all friends” (cf. Nos. 0331/5; 0459/1).

³ = “Paris, 3rd July”.

⁴ BD: On 4th July, 1778.

⁵ BD: The fatal illness must apparently have started subsequent to the letting of blood on 11th June.

⁶ BD: From the Grand Journey in 1764.

⁷ BD: Probably Franz Joseph (François-Joseph) Haina (1720-1780), born near Prague, husband of the music publisher Gertrude Haina, nee Brockmüller: they were the first publishers of KV 179 (189a); 180 (173c); 254; 309 (284b); 310 (300d); 311 (284c); 354 (299a), cf. No. 617/66-68. Horn player to Baron Bagge, later trumpeter in royal service. Friend of Mozart in Paris in 1778, especially during the last days of his mother's life. Cf. No. 0084/18.

⁸ BD: Live-in attendant. She received a ring from Mozart for her services (cf. No. 510/98-99).

*Rue du gros chenet
vis à vis celle du croissant
à l'hôtel des quatre
[45] fils aimont.⁹*

⁹ = “Rue Gros Chenet opposite the house of the crescent at the hotel of the four sons of Aymon.” Mozart had written out the address and checked the house number in No. 0440/117-118.