

# QUEEN ELIZABETH II



On April 15, 2019, Notre Dame de Paris burnt, and the world was overtaken with emotions because, while France is its guardian, Notre Dame belongs to each of us.

Yesterday Queen Elizabeth II passed away and once again we are engulfed in emotion.

There is a great correlation between our reactions to the passing away of the Queen and the fire in the cathedral.

In certain ways the exceptionality of Queen Elizabeth II as a human being is at least in the same order of magnitude as the exceptionality of the cathedral as a monument. 70 years of reign in the XXth and XXIst centuries at human scale are probably at least as exceptional as 9 centuries for a monument. After all the pyramids of Egypt are 2 to 5 times older than Notre Dame. Nobody has ever, nor probably, will ever, reign 5 times longer than Elizabeth II.

Old buildings are not all monuments, old monuments are not all Notre Dame. What distinguishes Notre Dame is obviously its beauty, but also its majesty, centrality, symbolism, venerability. The same is true of the Queen. Not all heads of state, if any, are distinguished by their beauty, majesty, centrality, symbolism and it has been a long time since the Queen has unquestionably accessed the status of venerability.

When ancient oaks or cedars fall, special emotions arise. The fact they were landmarks made them ours, in some small way. The fact they were our oldest companions made us subconsciously hope they would always accompany us. We know this hope is fantasy and it brutally reminds us that nothing resists time, not even legends.

On September 8th, 2022, Elizabeth II passed away and the world is once again plunged in emotion because, while Elizabeth II was the Queen of the United Kingdom, she belongs to each of us.

