

Love and Death

A Testimonial by Georgia Marvin

I met Ron at a moment in my adult life when love and death became my twin stars. Having fallen in love with one of Ron's students, Jeff Chernove, I was introduced to Ron's wisdom during one of the gatherings in Ashland, Oregon, where advanced students were being supervised by Ron and Donna Martin. An innocent, I volunteered to be a client, my first experience with Hakomi from that perspective. We were in a practice session with Ron coaching and as he often did when he saw the potency of the moment, he took over the session.

I was in love and I was in grief because Jeff had just been diagnosed with metastatic melanoma, a disease that can kill quickly. As Ron sat in front of me on the floor, bent forward and peering over his glasses, he said to me, "You don't have to worry about that right now." In that moment I was in the presence of wisdom; I felt the space open and in a waking vision, I was in a circle of spiritual elders and I understood that I was in grief too early. I saw clearly that I had love in front of me and there was not a moment of this precious life to waste. I am enormously grateful for those twelve years that we spent in a true adventure of loving my beautiful man. Jeff died in my arms twelve years later and grief swept into my life. I have learned to welcome grief like an old friend, visiting me over and over again.

One other amazing thing that happened during that first session with Ron: he began to talk to me about his life's work, Hakomi, and he paused, again looking deeply into me, and said, "Maybe you already know what your life's work is." I truly did not know in that moment. However, he invited me to study with him and as he did with so many of his students, he invited me into his life's work. Twenty-five years later, I carry forward his life's work and his legacy, without effort, with an abiding respect for him and his commitment to our human beingness. I am forever grateful for his guidance and his trust. He will always be one of my wisdom teachers.