
EDITORIAL: IN HONOR OF CARL

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This edition of the Forum is dedicated in memory of Carl R. Rogers.

I found my self feeling scandalized that I read of his death in a short article by Daniel Goleman on the back page of some section of Oregon's largest newspaper, while it didn't make the paper at all in the smaller community where I live. To me, his passing should have been front page news on every newspaper in America. When the history of 20th century psychotherapy in America is written surely Freud, Rogers, and Perls will be three of the first names mentioned.

But, more than for his historical significance, Carl will be remembered for his great heart, for being a human being in the best tradition. I remember a fellow I knew who gravitated toward heavy duty, confrontational methods of doing therapy who had studied with Carl directly. He tells the story of walking across campus with Carl one day. He said, "All of a sudden it struck me what a truly great, compassionate man he was -- and how I just wasn't built that way." So, he felt he would have to let Carl follow his methods of decency and respect while he would

keep going the way of confrontation and challenge.

It is too bad this person decided non-violent methods needed to be less effective than the ones he was used to. It was easy, of course, to ridicule some of the students of non-directive therapy, but Carl himself was a master therapist. In hakomi, we honor him as one of our spiritual elders. He was the first to really promote the faith that the wisdom was within the client, the same faith that hakomi promotes today. Kurtz has developed many methods that go beyond reflective listening so that hakomi therapists sometimes appear much more active than client-centered therapists. But, all the hakomi methods participate in the non-violence, respect for inner wisdom, and protection of the heart that characterized Carl's work.

This edition of the Forum has a number of medical-technical articles in it, including one on the Q-Sort technique that Rogers was identified with. Even through the technicalities one can discern the appreciation and respect for humanness that Carl Rogers will be so rightly remembered for.