



Zahav Books

Yoram Kaufmann

1939-2009

Yoram Kaufmann recently died after a battle with pancreatic cancer. There are really no words to adequately describe the space Yoram occupied in the lives of so many. As a close friend and colleague recently said, “When you would ask him a question, you knew that the fires had already been stoked and sometimes, days later, he would often respond in a manner that could only be described as profound. He knew so much. He cared so much. And, most importantly, he loved so much.” Yoram was a highly gifted analyst and teacher who was passionately devoted to his students, patients, colleagues, friends and family. He rose to the top of his profession and made a significant contribution to the C. G. Jung Institute of New York and the broader mental health community. Indeed, his work is already beginning to receive international attention. His brilliance and unique background as an Israeli immigrant, a physicist, a clinical psychologist and an accomplished musician, helped him carve out his own unique orientation towards the psyche. His recently published book, *The Way of the Image: The Orientational Approach to the Psyche* captures his novel approach and gave him so much joy and pleasure when it was handed to him one week before he died. He used his uncanny intuitive ability to find the meaning of dreams and had a profound respect for the depths and complexity of the human psyche. Two of his famous and often repeated mantras that emanated from his unique orientational approach were “bow to the image” and above all “trust the psyche”. Supervisees found him to be a stickler for detail demanding deep penetration into every aspect of clinical work. Consistently challenging candidates to hone their skills in precision and repeatedly warning them against sloppy interpretation, he offered a rich and exciting teaching style to those who were able to tolerate his high demands for excellence. As a result, he was a deeply admired and beloved teacher to many. At the same time, he was passionately invested in the world around him. Towards the very last hours of his life, he was still more focused on thinking about others than himself. He thought about humanity, about his beloved wife, his patients, his students, his friends, his dogs and his garden. He was a man who lived a good and just life.

Yoram Kaufmann earned graduate degrees in theoretical physics from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a clinical psychology degree from Bar-Ilan University. He immigrated from Israeli in 1967 to earn a doctoral degree in clinical psychology at New York

University while simultaneously earning his diploma as a Jungian analyst from the C. G. Jung Institute of New York. Graduating in 1972, he became a training analyst, supervisor and faculty member at the Institute for almost 35 years. Until close to the end of his life, he maintained private practices in both New York and New Jersey. Yoram was a highly diversified, deeply sensitive man who loved classical music. He formally studied voice for a number of years. In addition to analytical psychology, he also spent much of his adult life studying practical ways to improve health and was an expert in healing supplements which he generously offered to others.

As Yoram's student and supervisee for several years, I feel privileged to have experienced the exceptional gifts of this remarkable man. He was one of those rare teachers who offers deep learning if you were willing to withstand his scrutiny. And it was always obvious to me that behind his well maintained professional boundaries was a deeply kind, sensitive and passionate man who loved what he did and wanted those who followed in his footsteps to be as outstanding as he was. He is already greatly missed by many but his contributions to Jungian work will live on in those who knew him. Many years later, I still sometimes hear his deep voice saying to me, "bow to the image" or "trust the psyche." And as a colleague and close friend recently said, "This part of his life is over, yet so much of him remains. If only there was a whisper that could let him know how much we have loved him, appreciated what he gave to the world and stand in deep reverence for his life and work."

Thank you, Yoram. You made a difference.