

In Memorial of William Bento, June 2015, United States of America.

William Bento, the Netherlands, October 1997

In times like these

***human hearts weep and lament
with every good reason to do so;***

Yet it is just in times like these

***we should learn to open our hearts
offer love as a sacrament -***

For you see, there are more

***reasons to do this
then there are reasons not to do it.***

Yes, in times like these

***I pray for floods of love
to pour into the wounds of human hearts,***

And that in this divine intervention

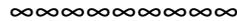
***the bitter salty tears
become sweet pearls of wisdom
setting in the soul
and making it once again whole.***

It was October 1997 in the Netherlands.

Then and there the first Worldwide Conference for Anthroposophical Psychotherapy took place, called: "***Psychotherapy and Humanity's struggle to endure***". From all over the world they had come, as though gathering in Noah's Ark before the Great Flood - clinical psychologists, psychotherapists, medical doctors, psychiatrists, paediatricians - you name it. They came from Australia, from Chile and Brazil, from the Philippines and Israel, from Norway and Sweden, from Denmark and the United Kingdom, from Germany and Switzerland, from Hungary and Czechoslovakia, from Belgium and The United States of America, from towns and villages all over the place, making up for around 300 professionals. The Medical Section of the Goetheanum was present in the person of the Head of the Section, Michaela Glöckler MD, and an extra number of people flocked together to attend the public lectures of the keynote speakers.

William Bento was one of the twelve keynote speakers; one of the very few anthroposophical psychotherapists in the United States he was. Intellectually outstanding, daring, courageous, inventive, original and profoundly engaged to the mission of bringing Anthroposophy into the academic world of professionalism. He envisaged the task which Rudolf Steiner asked from all professionals: the "Erweiterung", or "Broadening and deepening academic knowledge through of anthroposophical spirit-knowledge". Bento's contribution paid tribute to Steiner's challenging request, and therefore it had the surprising title of "***Redeeming the DSM IV¹ from the standpoint of anthroposophical psychotherapy***".

Through his comprehensive knowledge of anthroposophy and broad vision on modern life global problems, he gave a full picture of all preliminaries required to enable a professional psychotherapist to step aboard of an *anthroposophical approach* to his profession.



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William Bento was deeply dedicated to redeem humanity from the depths of sorrow in which it finds itself, as he was fully aware of the Threshold situation of mankind in the 20th Century. Carved in his spirit and soul were all the sufferings of mankind, all the spirit helping powers of the cosmos. William and his earth mission were impressively congruent. He lived like Dag Hammarskjöld ², living the Highest Mystery of Live, knowing that He was to fulfil the Pledge for which He had been chosen. And we are grateful having witnessed his so precious mission.

For Europe William Bento was a courageous builder of bridges, overcoming the differences that usually separate people and continents. He had that powerful quality which is a signature of the "I" of the human being: he valued what was valuable in all human beings, in all colleagues worldwide.

To our most dear colleague William Bento we want to dedicate in deep gratitude, and in the conviction that his acquired earth-knowledge will be of profound help in the spiritual world, the words of Rudolf Steiner regarding the Threshold:

"The one who strives towards the super- sensible world strives to meet the Guardian of the Threshold. But to meet this Guardian of the Threshold is not such a simple thing as having a dreamy Imagination... The meeting with the Guardian of the Threshold is a tragedy, a life struggle in regard to all concepts of knowledge, to all laws of Knowledge, and in regards to all connections of man with the spiritual world..... these life catastrophes must occur when one wishes to meet the Guardian of the Threshold".
(Rudolf Steiner, in GA 181, 6-8-1918).

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¹ DSM IV : the Academic Diagnostic-Statistical Manual IV th. Version, edited by the Association for Psychiatry in America, worldwide in use to diagnose psychiatric illnesses.

² ² VÄGMÄRKEN - Spiritual Diary of Dag Hammarskjöld, General Secretary of the United Nations, Combating against global violence, died in 1961.