

***Tomas Vieira***  
***~ the Teacher, the Student and the Man***  
by Stacy Sully



Discipline, humor, gentleness, patience, decisive, loving, willing, innocent, present, and focused. These are but words that point to the character of a man who used *every* moment of his day for awakening. Just words I know, but for Tomas they represented a depth of commitment that required a steadfast devotion. This discipline became his sacred tool for engaging only what is Real and saw him through days where it would have been easier just to give up or fall victim to “poor me.” Instead, he challenged each and every thought that was *not* of God. I wondered at times if these saintly qualities might eventually be worn down by the sheer weight of his situation, but at no time did he waiver or ‘flinch’ as he liked to call it, from his open and spacious embrace of truth. He loved to refer to his state as “hiding out in the open,” nothing to fear, nothing to hide from. He knew his safety lay in his total and complete transparency. The spirit in him was radiant, joyful, and playful. The man in him never complained or moaned or regretted his situation, quite the contrary for he knew it was imbued with divine love and perfect for his awakening. I watched as he greeted each day with joy and immense gratitude for God’s love and the beauty of being alive and able to serve in whatever capacity that appeared to be.

If anything was difficult for him, it was the acceptance that his capacity to serve in the way he had been accustomed, had changed. His service developed into a deep appreciation of going within and recognizing his true nature and limitless heart. He was devoted to meditating at least once a day often 2 and 3 times. Through his direct experiences with Oneness and his deep inner connection with Jesus, he received profound insights and teachings daily. He loved to share and give, these were the gifts he gave to others and ultimately to himself. I recall him sharing one of his direct experiences: “In an instant I saw the absolute power of gentleness and therefore, the futility and desperation of any act *other* than Love. I realized that in that moment, if the world glimpsed for an instant that innocence and gentleness - all conflict would be over.”

He lived every day as a healthy, active and compassionate man, never allowing the seeming appearance of illness to sway his conviction to the ONE Life, the ONE Power that is LOVE. When it was difficult and the ego challenged him, he would close his eyes and become quietly reflective and rest. You could feel as he righted himself, then he would open his eyes smiling and ask “what’s for dessert?” and there would be a lightness around him that was palpable.

Our family meditations grew deeper and deeper with full presence in the stillness of the heart. With each passage of letting go, he witnessed his ego self deconstructing at an accelerated rate. He would often times say to me, “I am scared and excited all at once.” His vulnerability shone brighter and brighter as the days went on and his love for truth colored each and every moment.

To say he will be missed is an understatement. What will not be missed and is undeniable, is the Love and the Truth that stands in his place. His genuine love of his brothers and sisters will be a constant reminder of what is Real. “Today let me honor the ONE Life, ONE Power, and the ONE Love everywhere I go, in everyone I meet and in every action I take,” this was a favorite daily affirmation.

**Note:** Stacy Sully, is Tomas’ great “love.” She loved, healed, and cared for Tomas these last few months with Rikki and Nouk, while sharing the profound joy’s of a blessed and holy relationship. And so the above writing, while penned by Stacy, is a message from all three of us, Stacy, Rikki and Nouk.





## Hugh Prather

*A Course in Miracles* author and advocate **Hugh Prather** (1938-2010) died at his home in his hot tub Tucson, Arizona, this past November 15, 2010. Hugh was the author of the best selling *Notes to Myself*. First published 1970 *Notes to Myself* sold over 5 million copies and was translated into 10 languages. Along with his wife Gayle, he wrote an additional 16 books. Hugh drew heavily on the teaching of *A Course in Miracles*, Christian language and themes. He was, for a time, minister of “The Dispensable Church.” Hugh emphasized the importance of gentleness, forgiveness, and loyalty. He was a columnist for Miracle Distributions newsletter the *Holy Encounter* and a regular featured speaker at Miracles Distributions annual conferences.



## Kellie R. Love

Kellie R. Love entered eternity on December 11, 2010 after a brief illness. He made his transition in the same gentle, peaceful way that he lived, by the side of loved ones and supported by the prayers of many. Kellie played many roles during his lifetime: father, radio broadcaster, organ repairman, psychologist, seasonal Santa, and interfaith minister. The role he enjoyed most during the past 35 years was as a student and teacher of *A Course in Miracles*. Kellie was known to millions as “the Voice of the Course” for making the first audio recording of the Course in 1984. Kellie is survived by his daughters, Carolyn Homra and Theresa Brantley; his partner of 16 years, Marcia Spray, and her daughter, Laura Spray. A memorial service will be held in Chapel Hill, N.C., on February 19th as part of the Janis Foundation's 35th Anniversary reunion.

