

# Lasting Experiences of Awakened States

Raymond Bart Vespe

Raymond Vespe, Ph.D., was an Associate Professor in the Integral Counseling Psychology Program at the California Institute of Integral Studies and Director of the Integral Counseling Center. He worked in a variety of inpatient and outpatient clinical facilities and as a licensed counselor in private practice. He has published four books integrating ancient Chinese Taoist wisdom, psychotherapeutic practice, and spiritual development.

I first met Ralph in the early 1970s when we were fellow faculty members of the California Institute of Asian Studies (later renamed the California Institute of Integral Studies) (CIIS). When he was Academic Dean, he supervised my Clinical Directorship of the Integral Counseling Center of CIIS. In addition to these collegial relationships, I assisted Ralph in some of his shamanic plant medicine circle groups as a “sitter,” as well as directly participating sometimes myself.

I had both professional and personal relationships with Ralph, the essence of which can simply be described as profoundly transformative and life-changing, for which I am deeply grateful. It was through Ralph’s being, initiating, facilitating, and guiding that I enjoyed numerous realizations of the oneness of the universe and humanity and of an unconditional love that resolved most of my psychological issues and opened the Way to lasting experiences of awakened and transcendent states of Being and Consciousness and of the nature and evolution of my Human Soul. I am grateful for his incalculable contribution to making this lifetime a meaningful and fulfilling one for me and for those individual human beings with whom I am connected and love.