



The Legacy of Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross

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Abstract

Elisabeth Kübler-Ross (EKR) was among the most important psychiatrists of the twentieth century. Current media reports on her legacy are often misrepresentative of her many contributions to a wide field within the medical world. Speaker, Ken Ross discusses the historical context of his mother's inspirations and guiding principles that lead her to the field of end-of-life (EOL). Elisabeth Kübler-Ross' seminal 1969 work, *On Death and Dying*, opened the door to understanding individuals' emotional experiences with serious illness and dying. This year marks the 50th anniversary of this seminal book. A review of the how the grief theory has come to dominate the medical worlds perspective of grief theory in this last half century. Further, the Five Stages of Grief™ has now been adopted to explain not only loss related to death but all sorts of loss including: divorce, job changes, and all major life changes. This recent adaption of the stage theory is known as well as the "Kübler-Ross Change Curve". Audience members will expect to gain a better understanding of Kübler-Ross' techniques and approaches to the dying. Discussions will include: hospice, palliative care, bioethics, and others. Many individuals working in EOL have a distorted conception of the Five Stages of Grief™. Ross will explain EKR's corrected and more comprehensive description of the stages of grief including more than ten stages she reported fifty years ago. Last, the speaker will discuss what it was like to take care of this famous caretaker for the last nine years of her life. The Elisabeth Kübler-Ross Foundation currently continues the work of this ground-breaking pioneer in Europe, Asia, and Latin America. A short description of the Foundations effects around the world will be described.

Biography

Ken Ross is the son of Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross (deceased), who was the pioneering legend in hospice, bereavement and palliative care education originally in the United States and then world-wide. He was also a noted author of 23 books in 36 languages about palliative care, hospices, death and dying. He wrote the original book called "On Death and Dying" listing the "5 Stages of Dying" which is presently in its 50th year of printing, in 27 languages. He has been instrumental in his Mother's vast canon of works, now being held at Stanford University. Stanford will publish 2 new books on Dr. Kübler-Ross including producing a documentary and a full day Grand Rounds presentation on December 2nd including providing course work to Stanford University students regarding palliative and specifically end of life care..

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