

Abstract

Relationship and death-experience is the theme of this dissertation. I aim to research and discuss how relationship and death-experience mutually affect one another. I hope to find this work contributing to an improved facilitation of the therapeutic relationship in grief and end of life counselling. Whether we believe that we grieve and/or die alone or supported, guided by others according to our relational patterns, death-experience is as fundamental to our humanness as living. The enormity and all-encompassing nature of death, similar to other existential questions or callings, by its nature reaches into the unknown and unfathomable. Whether one experiences our lack of control as a blessing or a curse, I would like to note the significance of our relationships in the way we accept the 'human condition' with response-ability to the existential callings, such as death-experience (Frankl, 1946). Humanness and human connection are essential in our experience with death where we cannot win but can offer a good fight by not facing it alone.