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BEREAVEMENT AND PERSONAL CHANGE

by

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Department of the Australian
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fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of Master of Arts
in Psychological Counselling.

1976

David Durie
David Durie.

This work is my own composition
and all sources have been
acknowledged.

. . . I will not hold back
these mad cries of misery, so long as I live.
For who . . . who that thought right
would believe there were suitable comforting
words for me?
Forbear, forbear, my comforters.
These ills of mine shall be called cureless
and never shall I give over my sorrow,
and the number of my dirges none shall tell.

Sophocles: Electra

Ay, go to the grave of buried love and
meditate! There settle the account with thy
conscience for every past benefit unrequited -
every past endearment unregarded, of that
departed being, who can never, never, never
return to be soothed by thy contrition!

Washington Irving: Rural Funerals

Man by suffering shall learn.
So the heart of him, again
Aching with remembered pain,
Bleeds and sleepeth not, until
Wisdom comes against his will.

Aeschylus: Agamemnon

CONTENTS.

	<u>Page.</u>
I MOURNING AND GRIEF.	
Definitions of 'mourning' and 'grief' as used by Freud and Freudians; and by Bowlby and other contemporary authors. The Psycho-analytic and medical approach to symptomatology. A note on 'bereavement' associated with loss other than that of death.	1
II THE WORK OF MOURNING.	10
Freud's formulation; the pain of mourning. Clarification by Helene Deutsch and Melanie Klein.	
III GRIEF WORK.	25
Lindemann's study and his use of the term "Grief Work".	
IV SEPARATION TRAUMA.	39
The influence of Bowlby's studies of maternal deprivation and his interpretation of separation anxiety. The link between infantile experiences and later development. Separation as "protest" as defined by Robertson. Bereavement as an expression of separation anxiety and 'protest'.	
V AFFECTIONAL BONDING AND SEPARATION ANXIETY.	45
Examination of some theoretical considerations of Bowlby and others about the instinctual basis of affectional bonding as seen in humans and other species of birds and mammals. Freud's understanding of separation anxiety, mourning work and the experience of the pain of grief, with some comments on Bowlby's re-interpretation of these concepts.	
VI THREE PHASES OF MOURNING.	53
An examination of Bowlby's analysis of mourning derived from his theory of instinctual behaviour in affectional bonding and separation. A defect of his theory is in seeing the first phase of mourning as an expression of an instinctive urge to find the lost object; another is his inability	

CONTENTS.

Page.

to comprehend in his theory the evidence of Deutsch about "absence of grief". An advantage in his theory is his understanding of grief feelings as the subjective reflection of the disorganization of behaviour. These, he says, have an adaptive function leading to a tendency to re-organize in order to minimize the pain and survive.

VII ADAPTATION AND CHANGE. 65

An examination of recent psychoanalytic theorising about the nature of the change taking place in therapy with the bereaved.

VIII SEPARATION AND SEARCHING. 79

Consideration of the evidence which led Parkes to develop his idea that the basis of mourning behaviour is the biologically derived instinctual response of "searching" for a lost love object.

IX FIVE FACES OF GRIEF. 90

An examination of Parkes' theory of grief as a process by which the bereaved person frees himself from compulsive searching and from the pain of the frustration consequent on a fruitless search. The defect in this view is his doctrinaire approach to the evidence. A strength is his appreciation of the need for the bereaved person to gain a new identity.

X THE TASK OF SEVERANCE. 102

Interpersonal relationships and self-constructs. The self as a system of interpersonal structures. Bereavement as a partial loss of self-image. The usefulness of Schein's model of the processes of change. The process of change in the task of severance.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY. 132