



The two hearts touching was Sunnie's basic way of presenting inbetweenness to people. The two hearts are connected spiritually. In the cosmos everything is connected spiritually and in time and space it can be experienced when love is co-constituted.

CROSS CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING OF INBETWEENNESS

What got me thinking and enhanced my understanding of inbetweenness was when Chaimae El Rawi accepted me even though I do not speak Arabic language.

After teaching so many courses on Diversity I came to realize certain themes that have existed prior to my understanding such as respect and tolerance. These themes have to be embodied not merely talked about. Even though one does not speak and understand all languages this does not mean we cannot participate because we are already connected.

Sunnie (1942-2002) my wife of thirty-four years presented inbetweenness to show the connectedness of it all. My number one colleague Omar Alattas studied with her and has helped develop it. It can be seen in the connectedness of two hearts and in the cosmos itself in that everything is connected. We are all human beings and each culture is an inexhaustible richness.

When Sunnie passed it was Arabic speaking people that helped me more than my own culture. This helped me understand the richness of culture. With this understanding a teacher comes to understand if you are a teacher you are here to help. Sunnie was fond of saying “each culture exists in its own right as does each person.” This I live.

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Translated in Arabic by Omar Alattas