

Elisabeth M. Bolduc

## Jonathan and Peter

I remember the morning Peter came downstairs noticeably shaking — the phone in his outstretched hand, he was scarcely intelligible. Susan Lowe was calling from Durham to say that Jonathan had died suddenly the previous evening. I took the phone from Peter, and talked with Susan. We ended the conversation with the promise to be in close touch. Peter and I were shattered.

Jonathan's death ended a special friendship between two men who were very different philosophically, but who shared certain values and characteristics. Their wives continue to be friends: I am not a philosopher, but with the help of Susan, I think I can piece together what made Peter and Jonathan care for each other the way they did.

Jonathan (and Susan) and Peter began their friendship in 1994, while the three — having attended a philosophy conference in Salzburg — chatted during a long layover in a lounge in Amsterdam airport. That was when the two came to know each other as people, and not just as philosophers; Jonathan and Peter had met before, but only briefly and professionally. After the Amsterdam chat, subsequent philosophical meetings led to discussions of family and other issues, as well as visits in Durham by Peter, and in South Bend by Jonathan and Susan. When Peter was awarded an honorary degree at St. Andrews, the Lowes were present. Their wives grew closer, as did their blonde daughters. Jonathan's illness in 2013 was worrisome, and Peter arranged to visit Durham and Jonathan that fall, while giving papers in the UK. Tragically and sadly, Jonathan's death came in January of 2014.

What bound these two men in such a special friendship? First and foremost, Jonathan and Peter respected the love and dedication each other had for philosophy, and specifically metaphysics. In Susan's and my view, they were linked through being men of great philosophical integrity. Although they were also both kind people, when the quality of work was involved, they could not — and I mean **COULD** not — compromise. Further was their shared championing of those who did good work, and their giving of time to philosophers from countries where academic freedom was limited. They knew their encouragement was important; being in the profession, in their view, required that.

Grounding their shared integrity were other qualities that linked these introverted metaphysicians: wide-ranging interests, above average intelligence, and a high value on relationships — especially family. Jonathan and Peter could talk about almost any topic — literature, science — and enjoy themselves immensely.

That they also both loved their families and friends deeply was a quality they valued in each other.

I miss Jonathan, and Peter misses Jonathan, and we are joyful to count Susan among our dearest friends. Peter knows — and Susan and I know — that real friendship is most precious, and something to be valued, and treasured, and remembered.