

## **Professor Takao Oda, M.D.**

1939 – 2007

Professor Doctor Takao Oda was born on April 21, 1939 in the city of Kochi on the Japanese island of Shikoku. On May 11, 2007, he died unexpectedly at his home in the city of Ryugasaki near Tokyo. He was 68 years old.

Dr. Oda was a psychiatrist (M.D., 1969), a Jungian Analyst (Certified, 1984), a professor of clinical psychology at Toyo Eiwa University in Yokohama and Tokyo, a member of the International Association for Analytical Psychology (IAAP), the International Society for Sandplay Therapy (ISST), and a Founding Member of the Japan Association for Sandplay Therapists (JAST). His contributions to the field of clinical psychology are greatly valued and have their foundations in his continuous introspective exploration and his capacious spirit.

Dr. Oda's *tsuya* (wake) and *sogi* (funeral service), celebrated in the ancient Japanese Shinto tradition, commemorated his life and its milestones. As the celebrants chanted his life story in the archaic Japanese language of the tradition, unfamiliar English words appeared. Names such as Zurich, Jung, and Switzerland were seamlessly woven into the Shinto text. In keeping with the way he lived, the tale of his life eulogized his integration of the Eastern and Western, traditional and modern, personal and transpersonal, and interior and external aspects of his being. The Shinto celebrant often referred to him as Oda Takao *no Mikoto* to indicate that he had left this relative world and was now walking, with the Shinto Kami (deities), in the world of Spirit.

Dr. Oda leaves behind his wife Sumi, and their two sons, Taro and Kunihiko. He is also survived by, and survives in, many colleagues, past and present students, analysts, family members, and friends who will miss his presence here, but who wish him joy on his evolving journey of awareness.

Sherry Renmu Shepherd