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Something usually seemed to be happening inside me when I was with Suzuki Roshi. That something included what seemed like telepathy as well. When I would sit zazen with him at Tassajara sometimes during his talk his voice felt as if it was simultaneously arising from a speaker in the core of my body. There was no separation between the energy and meaning of his utterances and what seemed then like a primordial soul space within me. A magic "is-ness" and still "nothing special". It was a special delight to experience such an enormous alignment, it then seemed, and for it to be wholly unaffected by overt self-generation. I'd just been for a long time within the Esalen world and one could always feel the springs in the cannon they were about to shoot you out of..The emptiness promise of Zen was true and awakening might be not merely psycho-emotional ecstasy.

Sitting with Roshi's wife the first time after his passing carried forward the reams of previous inner experience. Walking kin-hin by her in the Zendo I was inextricably thrown into the most complete experience of grief I've had in this life..which took place as if upon an inner astral plane largely unknown to me..without superficial body expression..and then when I next passed her that session my back seemed to straighten and I felt filled with courage.. honor/acceptance seemed well transmitted completely experienced without an outer flicker noticeable to me.

I always thought it was peculiar that Bob Walter and I should be the primary grunts working with the gas powered winch to pull Roshi's headstone from the valley floor to the lip of his gravesite. There were others who'd had a hand in it to be sure..getting it to the bottom of the hill and the final push over the top and setting it in place..No doubt many hands..All the time we were doing it, from the vantage point of recall today, I seem to remember love and humor. Most often I feel lots of things at once..For that task that moment my path was simple..

Ned Hoke

Thanks for your time recently. It is amusing and pleasant to hear of you now and again..publically and privately.

Perhaps the thoughts on the reverse of this page fit alongside others. Not having a formal organizational relationship either with Roshi or Zen Center may forbid my comments to any usefulness and that is not a problem for me, nor was it a problem for me then..I am cheered by Thich's comment.. "We don't need more Buddhists, we need more Buddhas"

Looking back there are so many stories
I remain grateful he proved to me it was manly to love and live an actual present utterly full with emptiness..

