

Crossword C2 Travel C3

www.bellinghamherald.com



Moments with a Zen master

**To Shine One Corner
Of The World: Moments
With Shunryu Suzuki**
By David Chadwick
(Broadway Books), \$16.95,
144 pp.

Leave it to the spiritual leaders of the world to recognize the beauty of paradox. Letting go, go with the flow — how can these attitudes lead to enlightenment? Go ahead and try to answer this. What is the sound of one hand clapping?



**Ara
Taylor**

Conundrums that can't be answered may excite frustration, but there is a difference between a philosopher and a spiritualist. The philosopher, through mental gymnastics, will try to ascertain the correct answer to the question. The spiritualist will recognize the ego play involved, and go about his business.

The value of conundrums is that there is no right answer to get boxed into. This is a cornerstone of Zen Buddhism and its mystical Taoist antecedent. In the ego-centered West, where intellectual grasp is a prized possession, paradox can be

See ZEN, Page C2, Col. 5

THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

CLASSIFIED

Inside

LIFESTYLE

Zen

Continued from Page C1

mistaken for evasiveness, or plain foolish ignorance

David Chadwick, in his introduction to this lovely book of anecdotes about Zen master Shunryu Suzuki, tells us that Suzuki moved from his native Japan to San Francisco in 1959 to minister to a Japanese American congregation in Japantown on Bush Street. That may have been his official assignment, but his real mission "was more than what his hosts had in mind for him."

"He brought his dream of introducing to the West the practice of the wisdom and enlightenment of the Buddha," Chadwick writes, and to that end, Suzuki founded the first Buddhist monastery for Western practitioners in the Western world. Zen Mountain Center at Tassajara Springs was established in Monterey County in 1967. Two years later, Suzuki founded the residential San Francisco Zen Center.

Chadwick met Shunryu Suzuki in San Francisco in 1966, when he began his lifelong commitment to the practice of Zen Buddhism. Compiled in this book are quotations and maxims he has collected over the last 30 years as told by many of Suzuki's original American students.

▼ Reading

AUTHOR: David Chadwick will appear at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Village Books, 1210 11th St., Fairhaven.

They are arranged a bit like poetry, one anecdote on every page of the book, with an eye to their relevance and to brevity. The longest of the remembrances measures a brief 100 words, no more, and most of them are half again as short as that.

The effect is delightful and welcome, very refreshing, uncluttered and lightening, the very effect Zen meditation hopes to advance for us.

Many of the stories are funny. Some are fierce in their reminder of life's temporal nature. Most illuminate the great beauty and wisdom and humor of paradox.

Ordained as a Buddhist priest by Suzuki himself in 1971, David Chadwick is also the author of the Suzuki biography, "Crooked Cucumber."

His love and respect for the Zen priest is evident in the care he has taken with these memories. They do shine light, and more than just on one small corner of the world.

Ara Taylor reviews books for The Bellingham Herald.