

Monday 5/13/20

David -

Here are the notes from the GG Seminar on Suzuki-roshi, as promised. I hope they are some sort of help.

I use certain abbreviations throughout:

\bar{B} = Buddha	\bar{w} = with	w/out = without
$\bar{B}ist$ = Buddhist	\bar{y} = ing	Q = question
$\bar{B}ism$ = Buddhism	\therefore = therefore	c = circa
\bar{F} = father	Δ = difference or change	$>$ = more / better than
\bar{m} = mother		

Call when the inevitable questions arise.

Cheers,

Bill

431-3708

His teachers were inspired. F was Zen priest. Sho-raka ... DAISO was his father. F sent him away to study w F's disciple - Shamon grandson, blood son of four.

Sent When 13 to Dykokojin Soan. Archer! No one else could string his bow! Strong & strict. Not very scholarly. Students served rotten daikon. One student buried it. Soan dug it up! Washed, cooled, & served again. Ate it this time. SR "had deeper insight into the nature of food at that time."

Musashi: Zen monks should have courage of warriors. Warriors should have compassion of Zen monks.

All of Soan's students ran away. "I would have too, but I didn't know I could." - SR

1. Strictness } SR's lineage.
2. Stupidity }

↳ innocence, not knowing you can run away from your teacher.

radical simplicity, not big able to imagine anything else.

Soan told SR he was going to become very ugly. SR began peering into mirror, waiting for ugliness to appear! Soan's nickname was "Crooked Cucumber."

TChase Q: "Did he ever think he was getting ugly?"

SUZUKI-ROSHI

REB

FRIDAY EVENING 3/8/96

GREEN GULCH

40 10 5:30 zazen
^ 6:30

SAT.

- ▷ 5:00 am zazen, koinin, service.
- ▷ Heart Sutra + Sandokai + Hokyozanmai : SR's favorite chants.
- ▷ Breakfast: 7⁰⁰ formal breakfast
7²⁰ - 8⁰⁰ informal breakfast; break
- ▷ 9:00 zazen; koinin to Wheelwright; chanting
- ▷ Lunch
- ▷ Break
- ▷ Tea 3:20
- ▷ Discussion
- ▷ Meditation
- ▷ Dinner
- ▷ Evening session

SUN.

- ▷ Informal blifst
- ▷ 8:00 VIDEOS of S.R. @ Tassajara
- ▷ Talk in zendo on S.R.'s teaching + life; Q + A
- ▷ Lunch
- ▷ Final session (ends at 2:00 pm)
1:00 pm

SR

b. 1904, May 18 (May 18 in California, 19th in Japan!)
 Japan was powerful @ the time. Defeated Russian fleet.
 But Buddhism not strong. Govt favored Shinto as
 nationalist thing. Best church was poor. Temple
 not maintained well.

Shizuoka Province - born. Warm; on Pacific Side.
 Lots of tea + oranges grown here. Big Zen country.

Walking absorbed w/ ugly thing ran into twig - cut into eye.
Then he was amused and stopped obsessing
on ugliness. 1-3

SR injured while worry about getting ugly.
Twig poked him near eye.

Teacher also pointed out he had problem w/
anger and patience.

When SR had son, he was a strict father.
Son Hoitsu Sanyu liked favorite thing, Pearly
fishing (in lakes in mountains). Otohira
Sanyu was Hoitsu's brother. Both caught fish one
day & fried them. SR came home. "What's this?!"
"Fish." "This is a temple. Can't cook here."
Threw pan & fish into woods. No more fishing!

When SR still young (in ^{late} 20's), his teacher Soandei
Soan asked congregation to make SR head of
Rinso-in temple. Cong. not thrilled.
forest & colder brother SR: "Let me do it 1 year.
Renew after 1 year."
Congregation asked him to stay after 1 year.

2nd teacher was
Kishizawa Ian - famous Zen teacher.
Scholar. ^{SR} Studied ^{WITH HIM} late 20's until 55 (death
of Ian at 90). Ian one of most influential
of Zen teachers in Japan. Most intellectual
understanding of Dogen from Ian. Basic
Dharma from F & first teacher.

@ Tape
Comp: "UNSWERVING"

Q: What was his education like?

Komazawa College - Zen priests are sent to this college in Tokyo. SR went there.

@ tape change "and then after the war was over..."

Warrior ^{clan that had been deposed} ~~class deposed~~ by Meiji Restoration supported Zen!

Pat → Suzuki Okusan story { SR was not a party animal. " When SR first came to USA, SR was invited to do weddings & funerals. Priest usually given food & sake & money & company. SR couldn't drink & would often sleep away w/out even taking beer. Okusan is a party animal. She took beer.

But he was a lot of fun from the viewpoint of American students. Cleaning, moving pots, eating in zen. Fun to listen to him teach.

When Okusan came from Japan, congregation had been ^{PAYING} paying him. SR never cashed checks! Okusan cashed all of them - found them in his dresser!

SR was frugal - frugality probably based on his poor background.

SR's central teaching + practice was zazen.
Outgrowth was extension of zazen into
daily life.

Our Soto practice emphasizes Shikantaza:
just to be ourselves. Period.

Connects with when you are being yourself
right now - it includes everything + everybody
Whatever you meet one person, role, etc.,
that thing also includes everything. Give +
bring yourself to each thing. Everything is your
practice. There is nobody / no thing that is
not your practice. Complete warmth,
devotion, + attention due every moment.
Discrimination ceases. This is the core of his
teaching, which applies to all situations.
∴ core of practice is an attitude. Can't "do" it.

Zazen is an attitude toward life. Not another
kind of karma. (It's not another thing to do.)

Right attitude + concentration + intention - ~~was~~ SR's
emphasis. Zazen is realized on the occasion of
speaking here at Wheelwright Center. Whatever
you're doing, be mindful of body, speech, and
mind.

SR didn't like to give instructions on zazen
techniques. Body, breath, + thought
mindfulness is foundation of teaching on
meditation.

ref

@
Cough "not everybody teaches this other kind of ..."

Bill: Find out when check-out time is.

Rob saw Zeno 1st time while doing ragen -
looked like the generator at Hoover Dam.

"Be yourself completely with no gaining" - SR's
teaching the paid over + over.

THIS IS THE END OF FIRST SESSION FRI EVE.

SESSION 2

- Q1: Went and he say about ^{SR} breathing?
 Q2: How 1st heard about SR?

SR was head priest of Rinso-in. Children born c. WWII. [let is 52!!] Late 30's - early 40's kids were born. In pacifist group. Threatened to take SR's teaching credentials away. Went to Manchuria as a chaplain for army. Japanese government

1945-52 (14 yr.) in Japan. Had desire to come to USA.

Japanese Heavy industry very damaged by war. Exported trinkets. No cloth, ceramics, etc. SR wanted to export something more than war and junk. Had idea for long time to export Buddhism to USA.

Studied English in Japan with Mrs. Ramsey (?). She had Buddha statue as an astray! ^{SR} pointed this out + stopped doing so.

Hard to leave temple. No stories about anyone giving him the idea to come to USA.

Okusan was 2nd wife. Not m of kids. SR planned not to marry. Changed mind when met wife. Crazy monk murdered wife. Congregation looked for new wife. Principal of kindergarten was a widow. She was Christian. She was Okusan. "Little by little I became his student and became a Buddhist."

Okusan was a bit ^{bossy.} bossy.

Q: Manchuria was where great atrocities occurred. Did SR speak about it?

SR went to Manchuria during end of war.

Q. Sent there or volunteered?

Q. Feeling of opposition before/after Manchuria?

"Bonsai": "10,000 lifetimes for the Emperor."

1955: 2nd teacher died. Congregation agreed for SR to leave for a while. Came to USA in 1959 to Sokoji.
Sokoji = San Francisco Temple.

Q. Why don't we chant Ian's name?

Q. What is story of Ian's earlier teacher?

Nishiwara Bokusan was Ian's teacher.
c. 1865-1955

Sokoji in former synagogue (wooden, Moorish). Big main room with balconies for women. Samur slides on weekends. 1881 Bush St. Reb went to Go Club (there) by mistake. Zendo a little bit bigger than Wheelwright Center. Japanese moved in (1931) synagogue in p. SR went there as a temple priest.

But he attracted Americans to sit. Japanese did not sit zazen with him.

"like this" = stooped over (re ladies who chanted)

Q: How many priests under him in temple in Japan
 SR came at end of beatnik era Watts, Snyder,
 Keonac referred people to Sokoji.

Q

What is "zen master?" RA: No specific definition of a "zen
 master." [But Baker Roshi referred to the term.]
 Then came the hippies.

Zen Center found as separate organization @ Sokoji.
 1961-65/66.

Then Tanajun. Macrobiotics by deaw. Z.C.
 grew quickly. Grew so fast that Japanese
 asked them to get their own temple. Page St.
 SR went with Americans to Page St.

Q: Was SR well known in Japan?

Very ^{ordinary} priest in Japan. Extraordinary in USA.

① Zenji = rarely used - "Master" of school

② roshi = "old teacher" - more like term of
 address in Soto (Rinzai = title)

③ sensei = teacher more formal

Q: ~~Is~~ Zenji ^{Does} ^{"mean"} deceased?
 at Z.C.

100% of white men had taken LSD in one
 practice period in late 60's.

- Q. Was Alan Watts around a lot?
Fundraising. Made connections w/ East Coast.
Susako Soen's daughter married Alan Watts.

Suzanne zen: City Center

Beat zen: Alan Watts

Ananda studied w/ Alan Watts + DT Suzuki.

Zen Center was growing - that's when Reb came.

Reb's Society happens after ⁵⁰⁻⁶⁰ 5060 min.
Comment: "you want the bell to ring."

"I'll be this" = face falls forward

RA's Advisor at Minnesota - story - decided not to be his student when he saw him hunched over a Big Mac. Fickleness.

1968.

Reb came out in Maya. Moved into apt across from Sokoji. Drove out in a '54 Cadillac hearse - small town in N Dakota.

(Kay's Q on breathy was "Did SR teach about breathy?")

Q: Initial/whole @ was by Kelly.

"where" is below novel (@ mudra).

Experience birth + death "down here"
again many below navel @ navel.

in all this converges at one point
(the navel). "



polygon of
several (3-4)
triangles



Cool head/warm lower abdomen.

Q Do people have different rhythms of breathing?
I had a long pause after exhale.

[Break.] —————> Zogen, then Z

11:30 am
SAT

Started a reference to Jonathan's @ on sweeping the
body with breathery.

Ref

Watch how "it" happens - how breathing comes to be.
Astor doesn't do act of breathing. Astor/action arise
interdependently. Astor is just another interdependent
factor.

2pm at Zendo.

2:45 Sat
after
Zogen

Anger

SP never spoke about other teachers' faults

SR hit students ~~to~~ strike repeatedly:

- ① ~~SR~~ ^{SENIOR STUDENT} asked if ~~students~~ ^{he} should go to peace rally.
- ② when head monk was discovered in earphones "under the covers." Said what a bad discipline he was.

SR '5'

Feb Session 1970 (1?): wake-up bell rung 1 hr early.
 SR Trothed out to zen by himself. @ there. When everyone came in later, he said "What do you think we're doing here?" Then hit everyone to stick.
 Reb moved to leave by his love for his students.
 Not quivering or self-righteous afterward: clear.

SR SAID WHILE HITTING STUDENT:

"Tie your own shoelace!"
 "Dreamed!"

} 2 other versions
 of same story!

Student's Q: Seems abusive to me but I'm ~~at~~ from public school.
 Makes him angry.

- ① Japanese culture is homogenous;
- ② all people hit are men.

Student's Q: If you felt love when he hit you, why did Reb use it as example of anger?

@ tape
 turn:

"^{so} that's part of the story, I guess..."

Test fūji² is whether it is helpful or not.

Q: Isn't there a pre-existing relationship involved?

The wrathful Tibetan dieties are the helpful ones.

~~at~~

Early time to SR: Reb felt he was ignoring him.

"1st or 2nd dokusan, my legs were hurting a lot..."
Told story where SR left Reb in the office by mistake.

Tea

Caryl Cary
1401 Shoreline Highway
Sausalito, CA 94965
probably Tassajara after April

send copy of my flying chakra tape

she can identify chakra by sound of his voice

SR ~~the~~ gave some 1:30 + 1:45 talks.

Find a cool spot in the middle of pain.
If you stay in the center - in the present - you can handle anything. Eg, "When will the bill come?" Hot burning pain follows.
"The present of the pain" is what you're looking for.

@ tape chaz

Q: PAIN + RESISTANCE = SUFFERING

Q: What ~~was~~ was it like to practice w SR? Did he make a big impression? Did you imitate him?

lots of people speaking; pigeon English when he first came to Z.C.

Reb feels SR in his hearts when he pokes up a cup of tea. But he doesn't feel like he imitated SR. Reb asked SR if he was getting too Japanese. SR: Don't worry: you're an American.

When SR prepared for talk, he prepared as much for 1 person as for ~~100~~¹⁰⁰. (Sometimes only 1 person in the audience at Sokoji.)

Gave Reb "advanced instruction" ^{by himself} on the Santokai. Reb fell asleep!

Did not prepare more if crowd got bigger.

Generally taught Reb indirectly. When he ordained Reb, he said "you're being ordained ahead of time. I'm sure you won't be arrogant."

"What we're doing is far too important to be taken seriously." - SR

"Now I'm too old to ~~not~~ sit upright, but I can still try."

He had moral integrity, not so much strength.

Asked young Reb for permission to go to movies!

"in to give your life is a very powerful message."

SR surprised by overinterpretation
which private notes 29

SR essentially gave up his health for Tassajara: ate
brown rice + no protein. Lost weight.

@
tapes
5pm

"Used to drink rice. Always ate protein in Japan
it was good not just to study but in zazen
position as well."

One of his parting messages was to encourage
studying. SR's books are full of notes: His
teacher & Dogen.

Sat.
evening.

(7pm)

all kept

[Tassajara tapes in Founder's Hall.] - ^{per} Caryl
(see p. 2-7)

Q: Did SR's disciples in Japan miss him?
SR: Not sure if he would stay. Japan dismissed & said OK.
SR: "Are you sure?" Okusan said he had trouble
believing they didn't need him. SR did not ask
Californians if he should go! Main disciples in
Japan ~~were~~ the "old lady's glee club."

type
change?

Q. Was katyuni - voshi his student?

Yes. But KR's first teacher was someone else.

Q. How came to Tassajara?

KR asked Okusan. KR became assistant priest
at Sokoji.

Tatsugami - voshi was a handy expert from
Eiheiji. TR taught KR how to chant. KR taught SR
the chants! SR didn't have a lot of monastic
training. TR came down to Tassajara for
without SR.

inadvertently

SR was amused by the dialect. Reb learned T R's dialect as well. SR retained Re and ironed out the dialect.

Reb
"I realized that I was trying to be a priest without asking ^{him} [SR]."

Reb born 1943.

1970: SR came to Taiwan for part of summer. Reb was there too.

★ Feb. 71: session. Had sessions every other month at City Center! 5 or 7 days for a year or so.

SR invited Reb to be attendant at Portland 3-day program. (Reed College.)

Reb asked Okusan what didn't we get, ^(understand) per SR? SR said "Americans are so sincere they understand Buddhism better than most Japanese people. They will understand the dharma. And we have empty heads regarding Buddhism."

SR taught Reb

How to	1	nin	6
count	2	nin	7
to 10	3	nin	8
in	4	nin	9 ku-nin
Japanese:	5	go-nin	10 to

Reed College - Friday night talk in Portland.
4 Noble Truths, suffering, compassion.
"Wonderful lecture." [Reb has a transcript.]

SR stayed with Maureen O'Leary + her husband.
Leishin next morning at Art School.

SR's Picture with
~~Pix in~~ hat + staff was when he left Pinso-in.
"Walley clothes"

Yucca plant used ^{to make} ~~for~~ calligraphy on cover of
ZMBM.

Trudy Dixon: Mill Valley.

@
tape
change

"It must be the fly leaf." [re Trudy Dixon's
fly]

Trudy Dixon's funeral was at Ekoji.

"I never thought I would have such a wonderful
disciple" - S.R. of Trudy @ funeral.

Bade to Reed College... SR bent forward - "I feel terrible."
Pet Toke ^{SR} him home, spit up bile.
Last day, Sunday.

Most people practice zogen when they're feeling good.
Practice in pain + confusion. Kindness, warmth
in spite of adversity is the test of a zen student.
Meet the pain. Continue warmth.

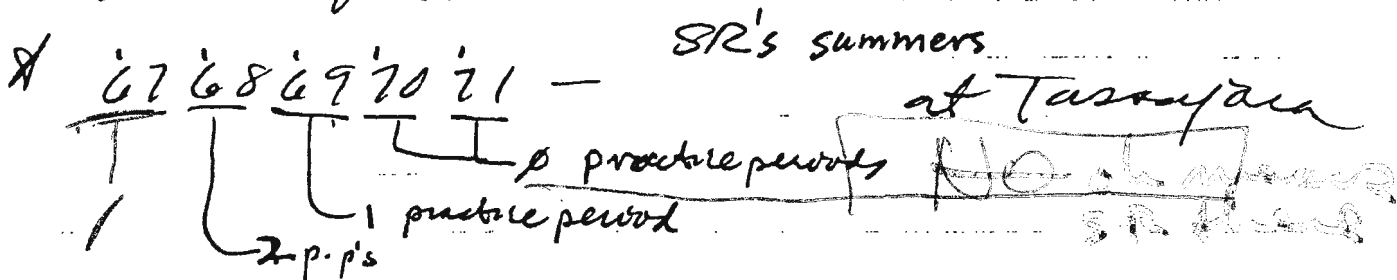
Q: So what did you do? Where did you go?
A: "I don't know... somewhere else..."

SR Didn't tell anyone that gallbladder was malignant when it was removed. Okusan knew too, and did not tell others.

SR: "THINGS TEACH BEST WHEN THEY'RE DYING" -
looked at Rab directly ^{during} a lecture when he said this.

When he came back from Tassajara, ^{SR's} eyes were yellow + bloodshot. Worked hard on lectures + rock garden. Liver cancer. He thought he had some time left.

Planned to do dharma transmission with the other disciple of Kisijawa Ian. But he went downhill fast.



12, 1971
March: Portland trip. Died on Dec 4, 1971: 1st morning of Robatsu-session.

Some ashes → Japan (abbot's cemetery at Rinzo-in).
Other ashes at Sonoma Mountain Center + Tassajara.

Q: "Did you feel you got what you needed from him?
Were you 'grown up and self-sufficient'?"

- 8 ZMBM video
- 9:20 - meditation talk - tea
- 1:00 - local session WWC (1 hr)

Sunday Afternoon

3-1

Plays
water
was 196

Q: Is video available? ^{*(summer '70)}
(Sunseed) ←
Zen in America

excerpt

^{felt} Better to ground yourself before being abstract (as a
"Did he use st Kōan?" Doctor of the Church).

@ tape
change
1:15
Sun

Shunryū :
"excellence" ← "excellence"

st He was really friendly to old Japanese ladies -
yukking it up after services.

1968: Hongkong flu - cleared his throat the
rest of his life. Not recovering well
from it for years.

1968-1970: Lost weight. Face ^{was round} round before he
went to Taiwan. Thereafter gaunt and thinner.

Shōgaku : "auspicious peak"
auspicious peak

"Shōgaku Shunryū" is correct sequence.
Not ~~sure~~ if F or master named him.
sure Lse's father

Reb's name → Ten shin
 heaven ← truth : but compound ≠
 "heavenly truth"; it =
 "a childlike understanding;
 a natural innocent
 reality of a child;
 somewhat ~~simple~~
 stupid simplicity;
 stupid like Babe in
 the movie "Babe."

"space flight" in "How do you like zagan"
 tape may have referred to the fact
 (per Reb today) that he^{SR} was taken to
 see the film 2001!

Ed Satazan : guy who got in tub w SR.
 SR said "Don't worry" when he got
 out of the tub. (This was private bath;
 time of SR.) Ed BECAME president of
 Zen Center later.

4th of month : SR commemorative service.
 And the night before also. Here, CC, +
 Tassajara.

evening : offer sweet water & incense + light
 + flowers to altar. Chant Sandokai,
 his favorite.
 SR's

acquired
 GG ~~obtained~~ a few months after he died. ^{SR}

[Reb's father]:
 "exhale" and then that would be it."

@ 2:02
 tape
 &

Reb's father never got to live
 the life of his sweetener. Had to be authoritarian
 businessman. Should have been a piano player.

Their integrity - no way to gage it.

No conveyance to Reb about how to practice
 in the world.

[D.O.D. gave me a view of capacity in
 the world.]

"But he ^{Reb's father} was very proud and happy that
 I was a Zen priest."

Peterson became coach of US Olympic winning ice
 hockey team. (Peterson was one of Reb's fathers.)

Q. Talking about next generation... how soon introduce
 children to practice?

Apply Precepts to child rearing:

3-4

Don't kill baby

" lie to "

" be possessive of "

" be angry at baby unless it's helpful

" intoxicate yourself
etc.

• Practice precepts with baby.¹