

Daya (Dianne) Goldschlag

A ~~short~~ story of how Bill saved my life when I was in my early 20's. I had been ill at Tassajara for 2 weeks - unable to eat & in pain. Barely able to sit thru a lecture by Suzuki Roshi. Two friends "kidnapped" me & drove me in to see Bill who had offered his medical services gratis to Zen students at Tassajara. He found a gynecological surgeon to examine me at his office & it turned out I had a large abscess on my right fallopian tube. I spent that weekend at Bill's home resting & on heavy antibiotics. Monday, with all of that it was found the abscess had continued to grow, near ready to burst & I need of immediate surgical attention. Bill spent hours at the P.G. General hospital finding ^{an} available surgery room & a surgeon, nurse, an anesthesiologist ~~and~~ ^{and} recovery room at the hospital for recovery - all ~~donated~~ donated. When he came to pick me up I suggested maybe I could just use herbs to heal. He, appropriately, flew up in frustration then got me in the car & off to the hospital. He said it took 10 minutes for all the medical folks to stop laughing when I was rolled into ~~sitting~~ surgery sitting up stiffly counting my breath in a panic though I'd been given ~~two~~ hefty shots & should have

been unconscious. The abscess burst during surgery I would have died but for the immediate attention. After 5 days recuperating in the hospital, I stayed with Bill & his then wife Peggy for another 3 weeks till I was well enough to return to Tassajara. I certainly appreciated this care & generosity at the time though not to the extent I do now. Over the years I did not keep in contact with Bill & I am very sorry for that. He not only saved my life & gave me a home to recuperate in but because of all this my son Kelly was able to be conceived, birthed & raised - a fine treasure for the world. Bill, let me express now gratefulness for my life. I send my love & deep thanks & hope you will receive it where you dwell. May your journey on the other side be filled with peace & the great light of shining compassion - a reflection of who you were on earth.

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