

"I remember many poems by Philip Whalen and Diane di Prima also written at Tassajara . . . Of all the writing Tassajara has inspired though, Gail Sher's must be the most fully generated out of that canyon, its geothermal forces, its healing hot springs."

—ANDREW SCHELLING

Gail Sher is an ordained lay disciple of Shunryu Suzuki-roshi, the person credited with bringing Soto Zen Buddhism to the West. She practiced Zen at Tassajara Zen Mountain Center, San Francisco City Center and the Berkeley Zen Center alternately for 11 years.

Although all of her writing draws on her practice of Buddhism, two of her works come directly out of her experience at Tassajara: *Moon of the Swaying Buds*, an autobiographical account written in the ancient Japanese form of *haibun* (prose combined with haiku) and this work, *Pale Sky*, a poetic evocation of the Tassajara zendo during an intensive week-long meditation retreat on the day Suzuki Roshi died.

Gail Sher writes, teaches and practices psychotherapy in San Francisco's East Bay. For more information, visit www.gailsher.com.

