

# CEREMONIES OF CROSSING OVER

ALAN WATTS

(1915-1973)

*Led by: Zentatsu Baker-roshi  
Kobun Chino-sensei  
Claude Dalenberg*

*Roshi:*

All your ancient karma  
From beginningless time  
Born of body, speech and mind  
Is now fully resolved.

All your ancient karma  
From beginningless time  
Born of body, speech, and mind  
Is now fully resolved.

All your ancient karma  
From beginningless time  
Born of body, speech and mind  
Is now fully resolved.

Let us recite the ten names of Buddha:

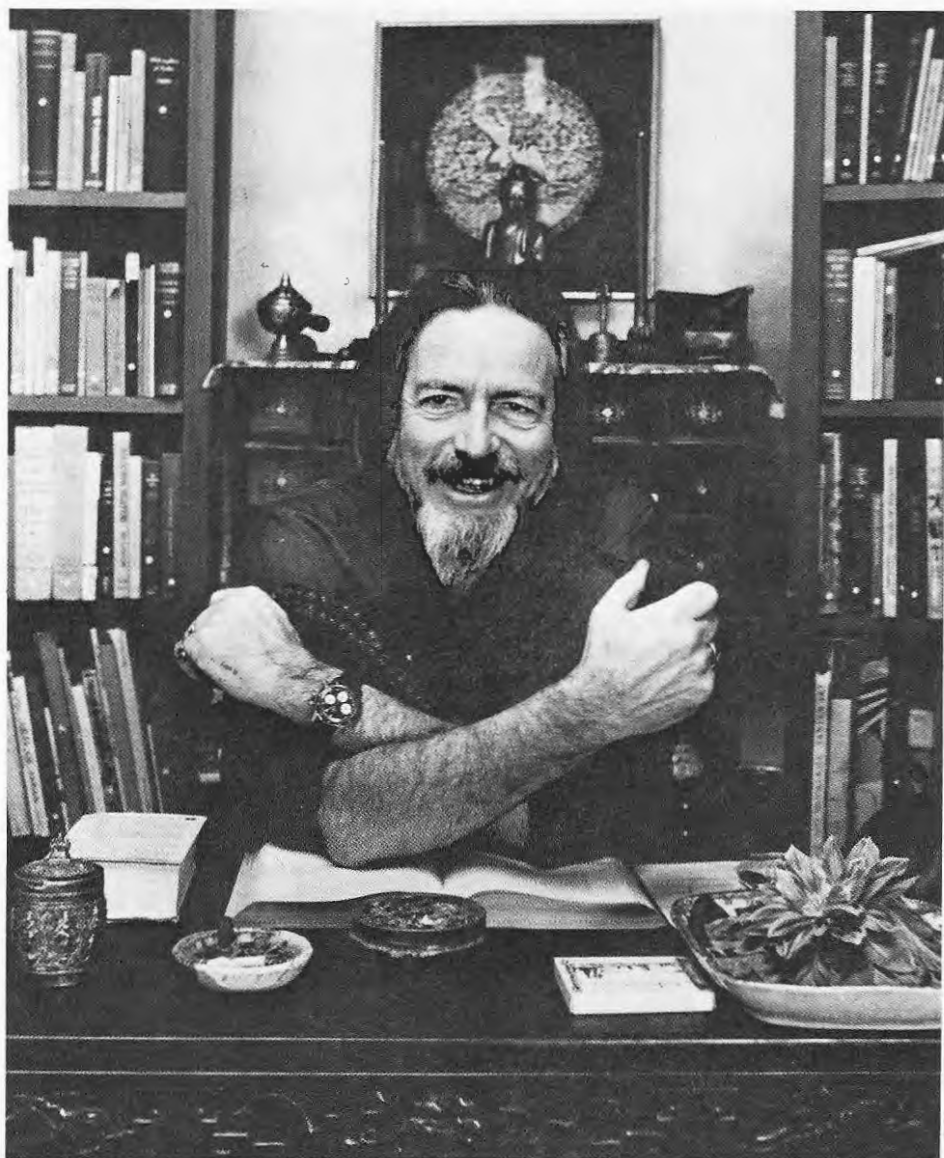
*Everyone:*

Homage to Dharmakaya Vairochana Buddha,  
Homage to Sambhogakaya Lochana Buddha,  
Homage to Nirmanakaya Shakyamuni Buddha,  
Homage to the future Maitreya Buddha,  
Homage to all Buddhas in the ten directions,  
past, present and future.

Homage to Manjusri the perfect wisdom Bodhisattva,  
Homage to Samantabhadra the shining practice Bodhisattva,  
Homage to the many Bodhisattva Mahasattvas,  
Homage to the Maha Prajna Paramita.

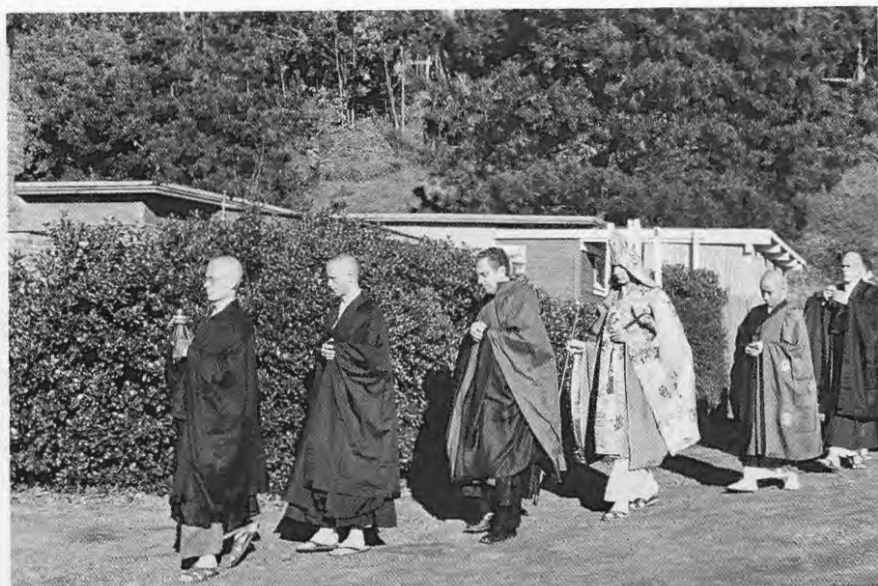
*Roshi:*

Alan, as you well know, there are four practices in Buddhism:  
The first is the Precepts, knowing how to survive, finding out  
how to live in this world. And you knew well how to  
survive, and taught us all. this whole society, how to  
live, in so many ways you taught us. I now give you  
all the Precepts, the True Mind of Buddha that sounds  
as thunder.



And the second practice is understanding, wisdom, Prajna, the transforming light that through your clarity led so many of us into wiser paths.

The third practice is compassion, putting yourself in the place of others, knowing the ultimate concern and care for the world and its beings—animate and inanimate—service. And you have served us so well, showing us the true meaning of this vow.



The fourth is the lineage. The understanding that is out of time and yet one with it. That is for all ages, all world systems, and yet one with this present age, the understanding and being of the universal source of all wisdom, all light and life.

And so I give you a Buddhist name now, to recognize this lineage, a name based on your home place, Druid Heights, where you felt so comfortable, and where you peacefully left this world. Yū Zan Myō Kō, Profound, Mysterious Mountain of Subtle, Penetrating, Transforming Light: Profound Mountain, Subtle Light; and because you are a great hero, a great founder of a new spiritual world; founder, opener of the Great Zen Samadhi Gate, I give you this title, Dai Yū In in front of your name, and Dai Zen Jō Mon after your name. A title given very rarely, once a generation or a century.

Dai Yū In Yū Zan Myō Kō Dai Zen Jō Mon:

Please take refuge in the Buddha.

Please take refuge in the Dharma.

Please take refuge in the Sangha.

Please completely take refuge in the Buddha.

Please completely take refuge in the Dharma.

Please completely take refuge in the Sangha.

Now you have completely taken refuge in the Buddha.

Now you have completely taken refuge in the Dharma.

Now you have completely taken refuge in the Sangha.



*Roshi returned to his seat and chanted the 'Mantra of the Secret Treasure of the Gate of Sweet Dew,' three times, preceded by the Dharma drum which faded as he began to chant and rose again each time he finished.*

*Chino-sensei then offered tea and said:*

With formless form you have come.  
With formless form you are going.  
This is how you are with us—  
We are with you—  
Showing what is the nature of awakening.  
We are very grateful.

*Claude Dalenberg then offered sweet water and said:*

O Monk of mind  
Broad as the sky  
Not clinging  
To any special Dharma.  
Going, going beyond going!  
The word of the Buddha  
Knows no discrimination.  
Thus he gave.  
A gentle rain of the Dharma falls on this land.  
We are grateful.



*Roshi then offered food. After the Flame Lighting Mudra—the circling of the flame clockwise and counter-clockwise—Roshi said:*

Alan, Dai Yū In Yū Zan Myō Kō Dai Zen Jō Mon,  
Here is your lineage from Buddha through the Buddhas  
and Patriarchs to you.

Alan Watts was a philosopher, a poet, a calligrapher, a  
lover, a friend, a Dharma reveller, a revealer, a  
great founder of the spirit for all of us.

He saw the true emptiness of all things.

He taught us to be free. To see through the multiplicities  
and absurdities to the Great Universal Personality  
and Play.

He gave us the Dharma Eye of a new age.

Our blessings go with You now.

Wide Mind, Joyous Mind, Careful Loving Mind.

For the true life is beyond life and death, origination  
and extinction.

We are with you in the many paths you opened for us.

HOoooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!

Go! Go! Great Hermit! Great Founder!

*Philip Whalen then read a tribute written for Alan by Gary Snyder:*

He blazed out the new path for all of us,  
and came back and made it clear. Explored  
the side canyons and deer trails, and  
investigated cliffs and thickets.

Many guides would have us travel single  
file, like mules in a pack train, and  
never leave the trail. Alan taught us  
to move forward like the breeze—tasting  
the berries, greeting the blue jays, learning  
and loving the whole terrain.

*Roshi then shook his staff and said:*

Alan gave this monk's staff to Suzuki-roshi at Tassajara monas-  
tery, and Suzuki-roshi gave it to me before he died. Suzuki-roshi  
used it at my Abbott's Installation Ceremony, the last ceremony  
he ever performed. Now I shake it for you, Alan, to help you  
on your way.

*After the priests chanted the Shariraimon, the family and friends offered incense  
while everyone chanted the Dai Hi Shin Dharani followed by the Maha Prajna  
Paramita Hridaya Sutra in English and Japanese.*

*Roshi:*

We have offered light, tea, sweet water, food, flowers,  
And we have chanted many things for you,  
O Alan  
May your great spirit rest  
And may we rest and move with you  
Coursing in this new peace you have shown us.  
Blessings on you and all beings, animate and inanimate.

*Green Gulch Farm Zendo November 18, 1973*



*Flame Lighting Mudra, Ceremony of Crossing Over for Vochu Fiske White.*