**Follow-up Letter to Zoom Call 06**

Hello Friends,

Good to be with you on the call this week. As usual, I enjoyed being with everyone. It feels like a very rich and supportive group. I hope you're finding that as well. Here are the recordings:

[Gallery view](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/oZueEPUOKVPsBStcWX00xQazgwKuAMruLkPBKQUZCGNL3NbZOx1OttUjQg5HiReBzojglSf3LNvY10-Z.F-Z8kOpjLkuZDjb9?autoplay=true)

[Audio only](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/SF5t5gdcLGU6cuSS4bMFwYfPPJ9JeSJLbBOEcgECzGU2g-ZrcwNoUJaaa013jh8K2S_xFe0nuSMlsrF-.VpfhLg55ZUJsbRc4?autoplay=true)

After a sit, we discussed issues and questions that people raised. We then explored the topic of being authentic as leaders for our groups and the balance between showing our humanness while creating a safe container for others to just be themselves as well. I shared one of my favorite quotes from *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind* that I pasted below where one of his students is describing Suzuki Roshi, but more important the power when a teacher is able to be just themself.

Finally, we did the exercise that I shared in the last class about letting go of our stories. If you weren't able to attend, please watch or listen to the recording.

I hope you're finding leading your group a nourishing and positive experience. And I do hope you're able to participate with your mentor pod. As I mentioned to the group, if possible, I highly recommend connecting with someone in your group or in the training as a buddy to support each other.

We will next meet on Tuesday, April 25th 1pm Pacific Time on our usual Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/885065370>

Much metta to you all,

James

**Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind**
from the foreword by Trudy Dixon

"A roshi is a person who has actualized that perfect freedom which is the potentiality for all human beings. He exists freely in the fullness of his whole being. The flow of his consciousness is not the fixed repetitive patterns of our usual self-centered consciousness, but rather arise spontaneously and naturally from the actual circumstances of the present. The results of this in terms of the quality of his life are extraordinary – buoyancy, vigor, straightforwardness, simplicity, humility, serenity, joyousness, uncanny perspicacity, and unfathomable compassion. His whole being testifies to what it means to live in the reality of the present. Without anything said or done, just the impact of meeting a personality so developed can be enough to change another’s whole way of life.

But in the end it is not the extraordinariness of the teacher which perplexes, intrigues, and deepens the student. It is the teacher’s utter ordinariness. Because he is just himself, he is a mirror for his students. When we are with him we feel our own strengths and shortcomings without any sense of praise or criticism from him. In his presence we see our original face, and the extraordinariness we see is only our own true nature. When we learn to let our own nature free, the boundaries between master and student disappear in a deep flow of being and joy in the unfolding of Buddha mind.