

Leaving Us With the “Mystery”

I remember one of the first lectures Bob Neale gave at School. We were at the Ananda Ashram, outdoors for the lecture, and had no idea what to expect. Bob talked about John Fowles's book *The Magus*, and how it was, on one level, all about life being magic, and that we all had the potential to become magicians, and live in this magic world.

What amazed me most about the lecture wasn't the material he covered, though. It was his willingness to pose hard questions. Questions about life and death that most of us refuse to consider because we're afraid. What I loved most was Bob's willingness to dive in deep with those questions, to explore several different possible answers -- and then to be willing to leave the discussion open, unresolved.

All too often, I think we like to have our performances and our discussions result in an "the answer." Bob often seems happier when we can dive deeply into a difficult question, and leave the result as a mystery. As magicians, we *talk* about creating experiences of wonder and mystery, but few are willing to take that as far as Bob Neale does.

I know my own life is far richer for having been shown the way to what, as both Bob and his friend Eugene would call them, "the deeper" mysteries. Thank you, Bob!