

FROM A CONVERSATION WITH STACY SZYMASZEK

If the world at center is empty, without meaning how do we proceed in the activities of our lives and how does the way we view our lives or view ourselves in it alter our perception of poetry and what the poet's job might be. I think Leslie was open to outlandish proposals in that regard though part of the miracle of her was the lack of distinction between the outlandish and the conventional. I think she attacked the conventional by being quietly outlandish whether she knew it or not. I always wondered what she knew. She definitely thought her thinking belonged in broader social spheres than just the sphere of poetry. See that's where I admired Leslie's project infinitely. She really thought newspapers should print her pieces. She believed. I don't know how everyone isn't a Buddhist except that everyone doesn't have such a drive to believe and Buddhism perfectly refuses that desire so it's this endless cartoon. I mean there's Leslie again. Buddhism was such a joint of her work. Everything hinged on it if it hinged on anything at all.