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When someone significant passes on

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My boss, who I worked with and under when I began my career 40 years ago, passed on. I kept in touch with him infrequently over the last many years and would visit him occasionally.

News of his passing on brought back several memories.

I realised that when such a person who has impacted you passes away, the first thoughts are remembering happy memories of that person. Yet, it causes in me sadness that we allow to surface from within chosen and joyful memories only when they have physically departed.

A teacher of mine once casually asked me how I would like to be remembered when I depart this world. Without giving it second thought I said, "As someone who made others happy".

My teacher smiled at me and said, "Why are you waiting to go away, to die, for people to think you contribute to their happiness? Why don't you do it now when you are alive and well?"

I wish for myself and for those who I know, that we do this 'here and now' and not wait for the 'day of judgement'.

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