

PERSPECTIVES ON APHASIA

"I cannot speak!" Those were the last words I uttered. And just like that, I lost my ability to communicate in any shape or form.

- Banu Turhan

The doctor told us that I would not get any better. But I needed hope.

- Melba Ashburn

It is difficult to convey the depth of my emotional solitude. I did not feel like A.H. Raskin. I now had a new self, a person who no longer could use words with mastery. Privately I could do nothing but cry. With the tears came feelings of anxiety and depression. I wavered between feelings of melancholy and hope.

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A.H. Raskin

Always the same thing, talk to someone I have known for a long time and it would take a few minutes to find that they "had to go..." somewhere. Anywhere of course, and they had to go fast.

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Thomas M. Phillips

"We should not fear death. It is the possibility of a life unlived that is tragic."

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Leo Buscaglia

"With my past world forgotten I had to take this uncharted journey alone, redefining myself through the chaos of aphasia."

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Barbara Newborn

"I am not stupid. I am wounded. Please respect me."

Jill Bolte-Taylor

Throughout the years of my aphasia experience I had help from many people. Their friendship, sensitivity and empathy, was like a shining light in the darkness.

- Wilfried Dautlich