

7423 SE 31 Avenue, Portland, Oregon, 97202

Dear Baker-roshū:

As you requested in the Wind Bell,  
I would like to contribute my  
small & brief encounter with  
Suzuki-roshū, at Hillside  
Center in Portland, in late  
1971.

During his lecture at the sesshin,  
he seemed to be talking DIRECTLY  
to me, as if my recent activities  
& turmoil were as a facial  
expression to be plainly read.  
This realization increased my  
upset greatly. Then, later,

during a break, I was wandering about in Hülsside's Calligraphy Studio, alone, still upset & thinking about my half-hearted zazen & calligraphy practices, when I became aware of someone in back of me. I turned around & saw Suzuki-roshi looking at me with great intensity. This lasted perhaps a few seconds but it seemed a very long time. Then he turned away & continued his walk.

Although at the time I could not tell much about what had happened, he had done something to me.

That incident grew in significance  
as I noticed the improvement  
in the sincerity of my practices.

It is a small thing to give you  
& not told so very clearly, but  
I cannot say how significant  
this small meeting & great  
turning-point has been & still  
is.

I wish you the greatest success  
with your collection.

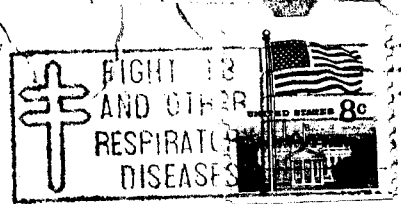
Yours

Willard McCarty

14. December 1973



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