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10. IV. 95

Dear David:

I have your great-looking novel sitting out in front of me--not novel, account, of your career in the realms of highest perfect enlightenment, and am looking very much forward to reading it. In the meantime I'll respond to your note: I had very little contact with Suzuki Roshi, only met him personally a couple of times, and can only tell you a little about that: I first heard of him from Joanne Kyger, who, along with several others were perhaps the first group to go pay him a call one morning--three or four people--almost immediately upon his arrival in San Francisco. Some of them became sitters for awhile at the Bush Street Zendo. When I came back in '69 I went and sat a few times at the Zendo, and had Suzuki Roshi over for lunch one time. We sat at lunch and told stories and had a wonderful time, and chuckled about how American Zen students were so extremely serious, and tight, and anxious, and perfectionistic, and how the Dharma was a loose and funny territory in fact.

to my horse on pine

I saw less of him after that, because I moved to the mountains--and was not really made to feel particularly welcome at the new Zen Center by the ruling brass. I wasn't able to make it to his funeral, or memorials, and that's it!

The person you're thinking of in Japan is probably SHIGEMATSU Soiku, he is a Rinzai priest. He has also translated my prose book Practice of the Wild in Japanese, and it is out and circulating about right now. His address is: Shogenji Shogenji-cho, Shimizu-shi, 424-02 Shizuoka-ken Japan. (And he also does teach English at Shizuoka University). Any other help I can give you, would be glad to. My phone is (916) 292-3792--I'm not here much because I'm teaching at U.C. Davis this quarter

Best,

Gary

→ who wrote me about it -- to Kyoto -- I was living near Daitoku-ji.