

November 12, 1965

Dear Rev. Suzuki,

Yesterday Ben and I had another fight, and he says he does not want me ever to bother him again. I must face the possibility that this separation may last months, years, or even a lifetime. For years we have wrestled with a koan, locking eyebrows in the true tradition of the old masters. Now we have both failed completely and must continue to lock them in the invisible realm. Now we will really be put to the test.

I am sorry that you had such a limited opportunity to know him. He has great respect, and a deep warm feeling for you, (and what you have done for me, and for him, through me.) He has always encouraged me to follow your guidance, even to the point of cutting me completely out of his life. He knows he is precariously balanced on the razor's edge between genius and madness, but he must follow his own road--alone.

I will continue to study under you, as long as you will accept me, because I have a deep appreciation of the support you have given me, but I will never be able to separate myself from Ben completely, and he knows that I intend to follow him, some way or another, thru those invisible worlds.

I feel this would be a good time to make a change in my routine. It is time I began to work harder on sitting alone. I think I will stop coming to San Francisco every morning, and see if I can break through that time barrier that gives me so much difficulty (particularly at home.)

This plan will give me two extra hours a day (as I find it now very easy to get up early) and these early morning hours are the best for creative work. I will use them for writing and calligraphy. Occasionally I will have friends to bring to San Francisco, and I will come in perhaps two

or three mornings a month, when the spirit moves me.

I trust you will watch my posture closely on Thursdays  
and if you find it needs improvement will correct me.

*Love*

*Marian*