

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 sesshū,
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 Hülsida'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.

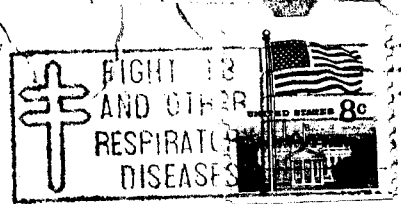
Yours

Willard McCarty

14. December 1973



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