

Suzuki Roshi Document translation and authenticity verification by Reb Anderson

Jan 20, 2020, 11:33 AM

Dear Reb Assistant,

During a practice period in the late 1990s I was in the Abbot's Cabin with Tenshin Reb Anderson as he was going through some old papers, including what I thought he said were some papers that were actually written by Suzuki Roshi. He casually asked me if I wanted the attached scanned eko in romaji. Not knowing what to say, I said wow, thank you, yes (as it also seemed like he was not going to keep it.)

I tucked it away in a sutra book, and a few years ago asked Rev. Shohaku Okumura if he could translate it. He said the below:

Dear Tracy,

The writing is a part of the Eko (dedication) for a service, Sutra Chanting for Mortuary Hall Patrons (in Soto School Scriptures For Daily Services And Practice (published by Sotoshu Shumuchō). It is in page 68 of the book. The English translation of the part of the eko is:

The merit generated thereby may assist his/her awakened spirit and adorn the land of his/her reward. We humbly pray that within the current of birth and death he/she shall be as the lustrous pearl shimmering undisturbed in the vast sea; that on the shore of nirvana he/she shall be as a cinnamon moon shining alone in the azure sky; so that he/she will guide the entire world, together climbing the path to awakening.

Gassho, Shohaku Okumura

I would like this paper to end up in an archive somewhere someday, and David Chadwick has said he wants to post it at Cuke.com, but asked if I could verify that this eko is for sure hand written out by Suzuki Roshi himself.

Would you give this letter and show the scan to Tenshin Roshi and ask him if he can verify that this is actually from Suzuki Roshi's hand, or not, if he can?

Thank you so much, Tracy Cramer, Austin, Texas

Jan 20, 2020, 4:56 PM

Dear Tracy,

Yes, I bear witness that this document is in Suzuki roshi's handwriting.

Thank you so much for your diligence, devotion, and carefulness.

With deep appreciation and respect,

Reb

Tenshinzenki