

Letter for the 80th birthday of Meiho Missen Michel Bovay



"Eternal life is endless"
Mokudō Taisen Deshimaru

Zurich, 19th June 2024

Dear Michel,

Everything is contained in Zazen - past, present, future – and we can sense it; unconsciously, naturally, of its own accord. For twenty years you taught us tirelessly and with great dedication, always with deep trust in Zazen and following the teachings of your master Mokudo Taisen Deshimaru, also the founder of Muijoji almost fifty years ago.

Today, this year, you would have turned eighty. The fifteen years since your death have flown by like an arrow and we continue to sit in constant *gyoji*, beyond good and bad, pleasant and unpleasant, in Muijo, "the castle of non-fear", as you put it in one of your wishes in your last words. Much has changed in this impermanent world – *mujo*, in the flow of eternal change. The daily practice of Zazen has remained, with many "old" monks and nuns and many new, young monks, nuns, Zazen practitioners.

With immense gratitude we remember the past times, here and now in the "normal condition of body and mind", as you always repeated, following the cosmic order, connected in Zazen beyond space and time and karma – in the eternally-existing Buddha mind. The annual barbecues that you loved so much have also remained as a living legacy and continue to be very popular with young and old alike. Likewise the Saturday lunches, always with a "Menu Surprise", prepared by many different chefs who naturally and

spontaneously volunteer to cook, to the delight of everyone and with surprise guests popping up time and again.

You have gone ahead of us, returned to the ocean of *ku*, some have already followed you, the remaining ones will follow one day, unconsciously, naturally, of their own accord - *shiki soku ze ku ku soku ze shiki*.

In the pure water of the mind
reflects the clarity of the moon.

Even the waves break there
and become light.

Dogen

Goodbye, Sayonara
Sincerely in deep Gassho and Sanpai,

Monika Eishuku and everyone from the Muijoji Sangha