

Richard DeMartino, Jr. (1922–2013)

Professor Richard DeMartino, Jr. passed away on 6 January 2013 at the age of ninety-one. He was born in the city of New York, and very soon after the end of World War II, met Suzuki Daisetsu and started studying Zen Buddhism with him. From 1949 he accompanied Suzuki on several visits to the United States. In 1958 he became a lecturer at Otani University and participated in the project of translating the *Kyōgyōshinshō* into English.

Unfortunately, as a student I did not have the chance to listen to Prof. DeMartino's lectures. However, around that time he held a dialogue with Soga Ryōjin, which was a valuable exchange of thoughts about the view of time in Zen and Shin Buddhism (see "Bukkyō teki genzai ni tsuite" in *Soga Ryōjin taiwa shū* [Tokyo: Yayoi Shobō, 1973]). Reading it again now, I find this dialogue to be as thought-provoking as it was then.

Prof. DeMartino eventually returned to the United States and took up a teaching position at Temple University in Philadelphia. When I traveled to the United States to conduct research, I also happened to give a lecture at that university, and was then able to meet with Prof. DeMartino. I recall how he talked nostalgically about Soga Ryōjin, Yasuda Rijin, and others whom he had personally worked with and known well.

Yasutomi Shin'ya