



## **From Eastern Buddhism to Zen: D T Suzuki's Journey to the West**

By D. T. Suzuki's own account, he found himself in America in response to Paul Carus's need for assistance in the translation of Chinese texts. Using letters written in Suzuki's own hand, however, Robert Sharf shows that Suzuki himself instigated his apprenticeship with this German-American philosopher and publisher. From an analysis of Suzuki's publications from his time in the United States, and correspondence that has only recently come to attention, this paper reconciles these two accounts and suggests that the challenge to Western arrogance that Sharf detects at the end of Suzuki's career may well have been a significant factor in instigating his journey to the West. What exactly did he want to learn from Carus? To what extent was his first publication on Zen (1907) a conscious challenge to the logocentrism and obsession with original texts that shaped Western orientalist scholarship? The paper is an example of East/West interaction in the formation of Western knowledge of Japanese Buddhism.