

I write you again Roshi, hoping that we will hear from you soon about our earnest invitation to you to come to Koko An next month.

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Koko An  
2119 Kaloa Way  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
December 19, 1964

(S) (M)  
Dear Roshi Sama:

Yasutani Roshi has written to us of his decision not to come to Hawaii. Because we needed help with the translation of his letter, we are only now sure of his wording. We have answered him and have also written to Tai San requesting their help with the story about this decision to be printed in the next issue of the Diamond Sangha. As you may imagine, we half-expected the Roshi to change his mind in this way. His reasons for his decision were, however, a great surprise and a great disappointment. I enclose his letter for your reference, together with my answer and my letter to Tai San in carbon copy form.

Kai San writes that you have talked to Sekida San about his coming to Hawaii. Before we pursue this interesting idea, I want to speak frankly about our situation here. As you know, just before Yasutani Roshi was to come to Hawaii, I resigned from the East-West Center in order to be able to work full-time with him and Tai San on the development of the Koko An program and upon translation projects. Just a few days before his projected arrival, he wrote to us about the spot on his X-Ray, and then late in July he notified us that he would be delayed a year. In September the East-West Center people heard that he would not be coming, so the Executive Director of the Institute for Student Interchange asked me to come back to work and set up the new alumni office. ~~MM~~ I felt that Tai San would probably be successful in persuading Yasutani Roshi not to come to Hawaii, ~~MM~~ so I agreed to return to the Center, and began November 9 as Evaluation and Alumni Liaison Officer. I am very busy again, just work, eat, do zazen and sleep. I am so busy that I do not even prepare a talk for our meetings, and when I begin the meeting I do not know what I will say. However, I do not intend to resign again from the East-West Center. How can I trust things not to change again suddenly, and leave me exposed once more?

I feel very uneasy about our Zazenkai. I keep a cheerful face and try to encourage the members, but I am filled with doubts. As Yasutani Roshi says, we are only laymen. Just ippan no koji. Our teachers are concerned primarily with developing one or two successors. What chance to the rest of us have? Isn't everything I say at the meetings empty and untrue?

I don't know Mr. Sekida very well. I like his writing, but he seems quite nervous, and I wonder how well he would adjust to a foreign situation at his age. If I were more naive and eager, I would welcome anyone you recommended, but I am very ~~MM~~ jaded now, and very cautious. I would be happy if you could come once a year and lead sesshin, Roshi, otherwise I am really ready to give up everything. Please come after your January sesshin to Hawaii and lead us in sesshin between University of Hawaii semesters, around the end of the month or the beginning of February. Five days okay, three days okay. We need you, Roshi, -- please.

We are all of us well, and Anne and I pretend not to think of the calamity which has struck us. ~~MM~~ was not able to hold her job, but she is still with us and has not had to return to the hospital. She is taking a few art and music classes. Tommy is spending the day with us today, and is decorating the Christmas tree. All join with me in wishing you happy holidays and a creative new year. With gassho,