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

Dear Yasutani Roshi:

I am very sorry for this long delay in answering your letter. It has worried me that I was not able to write sooner, but I had to have help translating it, and only now am I sure of your wording.

We half-expected your decision to change your mind. We knew that it would be unsafe for me to go to Japan last August, but I went anyway. I could not decide what to do by myself, and I had to have consultation. To us ordinary laymen, right behavior seemed, and still does seem, more important than Zen. It seems to us that if the means is wrong, then the end cannot be right. If we have sacrificed your good will and the good will of people all over the United States who contributed to the Pupukea project, at least we did it on a sound moral basis, and we have no regrets.

I am writing to Tai San to learn just what sort of story you and he would want in the next Diamond Sangha. We must make a convincing presentation of your reasons for changing your mind, or the damage to the Dharma could be very great. Perhaps you may wish to advise Tai San on this point. I will print whatever he suggests.

I regret very much that the matter which first came to our attention last July has caused you so much trouble. Anne and I still feel very close to you, and we hope that we may see you again.

Regarding your visas, I would rather wait and see if you cannot find another sponsoring group. It must be a group, not an individual. If you can find such an organization, then perhaps I can persuade the immigration authorities to allow transfer of sponsorship. Your visas are not in the application stage, they are completely approved except for health clearance for you. These are permanent visas, and are terribly difficult to obtain. Cancellation will cause all kinds of official questions, and may have two bad results: First, it may make it very difficult for a new group to apply for a new visa for you, and second, it may make it very difficult for the Diamond Sangha ~~to~~ to apply for a visa for anyone else. I am not sure that I can arrange transfer of sponsorship, but I can always try. If I fail, then of course I will have to cancel. All this is just my opinion, and if you still think I should cancel at this time, before you have a new sponsoring group arranged, then I will go ahead and do so. But please remember that American immigration people are quite authoritarian and unpredictable.

When you write again, I wonder if I could ask you if you could have someone write in Romaji or in English. Even broken English is okay. I am ashamed that my Japanese is so rusty from disuse that I can no longer read an ordinary letter, and we have no member at this time who is more skillful than I. Thank you for your consideration of this troublesome request. These matters are very confidential, and I cannot ask just any scholar for assistance.

Anne joins me in wishing you and Satomi San a very happy holiday season. We wish you also a very happy birthday next month.

Yours, with sassho. *RA*