

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
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January 8, 1965

Dear Mr. Aitken,

I am, as you requested, enclosing my story ~~for~~ explainingⁿ the reason for changing my plan to settle down in Hawaii so that you could have it appear~~ed~~ on the next Diamond Sangha. I am sorry for the delay in sending it to you.

According to your letter of January 1st, I understand you and Tai-san kindly worked out the story for me to carry ~~it~~ in the next Sangha; however, since I have not read it, I have no way to approve it. Therefore, I would rather want you to print the one which I am sending, i.e., the one which I by myself wrote. It seems better in order not to make any further misunderstanding among us, and I hope it will reach you in time for your deadline.

My answer ^{to} for your last letter is now being translated, so I will mail it as soon as it is finished.

With best wishes to you and your wife,

Yours sincerely,

Hakuun Yasutani

Yasutani Hakuun
Taihei-an
1671-6 Daimon
Hoyamachi, Kitatama-gun
Tokyo, Japan

[Jan 8 1965]

To All Zen Friends in the United States and Europe:

It was originally planned that I should move to Hawaii in the summer of 1964 to reside there permanently for the purpose of conducting regular sesshin and instructing students in Zen. Since Edo-san (Tai-san), who has an excellent command of English, was residing in Hawaii at Koko-an at the time and was willing to act as my interpreter, this plan seemed like an excellent one.

However, X-rays taken of my chest in connection with the medical examination for my permanent visa disclosed an old TB scar, and the United States immigration authorities insisted on further X-ray examinations in the course of the following year in order to assure themselves that the old spot was no longer active. Thus I had no choice but to postpone my trip to Hawaii for another year.

Meanwhile circumstances in Hawaii and elsewhere as regards Zen changed, leading me to reconsider my initial decision to settle down in Hawaii. These were the following: After it was announced that I would be going to Hawaii permanently, I received a number of letters from serious Zen students on the mainland of the United States and in Europe asking me would I not give sesshin in those places more often than the once a year envisioned by my Hawaii sponsors. Serious students of mine in Japan also expressed concern over the fact that my permanent stay in America would not permit me to return to Japan for more than one sesshin a year, if that. In addition to the foregoing, I recently learned from Edo-san that he had decided, for reasons of his own, to give up his residence in Hawaii and go to mainland America.

Taking all these circumstances into account, I concluded that it would be in the best interests of all concerned for me not to settle down permanently in Hawaii, but to move around the mainland United States, Hawaii, Europe, and Japan, holding sesshin whenever and wherever enough persons requested it--so long as my health permitted. Edo-san has agreed to continue to act as my interpreter under this arrangement, and this means that he will travel with me wherever I go.

I deeply regret the inconvenience which this change of plan may bring to Mr. and Mrs. Aitkin and others who have done so much to establish a place for me in Hawaii, but I feel sure they will understand thoroughly the reasons which motivated this change.

Hakuun Yasutani
空雲 安治
Hakuun Yasutani

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