

1125 Kaupakalua Rd.  
Haiku HI 96708  
May 1, 1982

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

To: Maezumi Rōshi  
Baker Rōshi

From: Robert Aitken

Subject: Proposal for a Public Statement about Eido Rōshi

The announcement from the Minnesota Zen Meditation Center that Eido Tai Shimano would speak on the Rinzairoku during the week of August 14-21 of this year has prompted me to compose the enclosed draft. I suggest that we revise this draft together, and if we all approve, publish it in our respective journals with all three of our names as signatories.

I make this suggestion because it is evident that Japanese authorities will not move, and that Shimano will continue to maintain his image one way or another if we continue our silence. Thus our silence is really a kind of complicity, and the Dharma is being harmed in the process.

I would be comfortable with holding our announcement until after Tetsugen Sensei's shinzanshiki, if this seems advisable. I would also want to spare Katagiri Rōshi embarrassment, but am not sure which would be best: to publish by mid-June to give the Minnesota people time to decide what to do, or to wait until after their August seminar.

I will go along with whatever the two of you decide by telephone, or would be glad to participate in a conference call and pay my end of the cost if this would help expedite.

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
Library — Archives

c  
o  
n  
f  
i  
d  
e  
n  
t  
i  
a  
l

ANNOUNCEMENT

We take this means to announce to our members that we do not endorse Eido Tai Shimano as a teacher of Zen Buddhism. Over the years we have met many former students of Mr. Shimano, and we include a number of them in our own assemblies. Upon consulting with these students, it became clear to us long ago that Mr. Shimano is so involved with personal concerns that he cannot be clear about the Buddha Dharma or empathetic in personal relationships.

We have privately advised our students not to participate in Mr. Shimano's programs, but we have kept silent publicly in hopes that events at the New York Zen Studies Society would naturally bring his association with American Zen to a close. It seems, however, that he can maintain a schedule of meetings with successive groups of new students and continue his influence.

Therefore we have decided to dispell any illusion that our silence implies approval of Mr. Shimano's activities. We do not approve, and we urge our students to keep their distance from Mr. Shimano.