

September 8, 1982

Dear Korin--

To you as one of the senior members of our sangha, I herewith offer my withdrawal from New York Zendo, Sho Bo Ji. I do this with extreme regret and in full recognition of the unrepayable debt I owe to all honest Zen students, past, present, and future. I will always, in whatever ways I can, attempt to repay this debt. I am literally grateful beyond naming.

Please forgive me if I do not go into detailed reasons for my withdrawal. Suffice it to say that it may be wise to listen to a wise-fool, but it is stupid to associate for too long with a damn-fool. Which is which is, of course, a matter of personal integrity, taste, and choice.

Please believe that I will continue to have the deepest respect and affection for all our Sangha...everywhere and always.

Gassho!

P.S. I honestly do not know what to say to Elder Roshi at the present time. Would you be good enough to convey to him my many thanks? They are honest, if confused, thanks. Or, as the saying goes: Thanks, but no thanks!