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September 29, 1982

Robert Aitken Roshi
Koko An Zendo
2119 Kaloa Way
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Aitken Roshi:


For years I have heard from various Dharma friends of your concern over the behavior of Eido Tai Shimano of Dai Bosatsu Zendo and New York Zendo. You are, of course, aware of the series of scandals that have occurred over the last twenty years connected with him. Unfortunately, yet another of these unpleasant happenings has occurred, and we are currently involved in trying to regain our balance in the Zen Studies Society. I am enclosing with this letter xerox copies of other letters I have written to various interested participants in this terrible drama.

When Soen Roshi was here, he told us that the first instances of these sexual "adventures" of Mr. Shimano occurred in Hawaii and that two young women became so deeply involved with him that there was a terrible uproar over it. At this time, Dr. Tadao Ogura, Senior Psychiatrist of the South Oaks Hospital at 400 Sunrise Highway, Amityville, Long Island, New York 11701 (Telephone 516 691-1311) has involved himself in an attempt to resolve this situation. He is organizing a committee to investigate the charges against Mr. Shimano that have accumulated over the years and is especially interested in consulting "primary sources." My feeling is that you were present in Hawaii at the time of Mr. Shimano's encounters with the young women and I wonder if you might not be persuaded either to write or call Dr. Ogura and give him an accurate description of what the situation was at that time.

If indeed the reports of your concern about the welfare of the Zen Studies Society, Dai Bosatsu Zendo, and New York Zendo are true, I do hope that you will add the force of your nen to that of those of us who are attempting to resolve this terrible situation. My own virtue appears insufficient to bring about the resignation of Mr. Shimano, but I hope with the aid of others concerned with the Dharma that in the fullness of time this will be effected.

Namu dai bosa

Gassho,


George Zournas