

ROBERT M. MACGREGOR
Founder

GEORGE ZOURNAS
Director

ROSAMOND GILDER
Consultant

Theatre Arts Books

153 WAVERLY PLACE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10014
OREGON 5-1815

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Library — Archives

September 20, 1982

Dear

I am sure you have been aware of the undercurrent of dis-ease that has been running through the zendo over the past several months. Some of you have learned that this has been caused by the latest in a long series of accusations against Eido Roshi by young women who say they have been seduced by him in the dokusan room. The latest charge has been made by Mrs. Robin Westen, a reporter for the Village Voice and a writer for the ABC Television Network. This is but the most recent of a long series of such seductions, dating back to Eido Roshi's time in Hawaii in the 1960s. Over the past sixteen years, as member of the Board of Trustees of the Zen Studies Society and more recently as president of that Society, I have attempted to make excuses for Eido Roshi and to cover up the scandals as best I could. Now, however, sickened by this latest outrage and by his abominable treatment of his own teacher, Soen Roshi, I have resigned from the presidency of the Board of Trustees and from the Board itself. Because you are a member of the sangha of Shoboji and Dai Bosatsu Zendo, I believe you should be in possession of the facts concerning what is going on. For that reason, I am sending you the enclosed copies of letters I have written over the last several weeks.

This is a time to face unflinchingly the sordid facts as they are. To do so is a basic tenet of our Zen Buddhism which too many of us have disregarded in the past. But now, many are facing up to this terrible situation and many are leaving the zendo to do zazen elsewhere. Until the Shimanos remove themselves from Dai Bosatsu Zendo and Shoboji, I urge you, too, to sit either at home or with other Zen groups.

After publicly denouncing Eido Roshi as "a seducer of women and a liar," Soen Roshi returned to Japan. I have talked with him several times since then and in our last conversation he said, "I do not hate Eido Roshi; I love him very deeply. But I do hate his falsehood and his lying." He told me that he had sent a cable to Eido Roshi which read, "Eido's shame is Soen's shame. The shame of Dai Bosatsu is the shame of Ryutakuji and every zendo in the world."

In my letter to the Board, Dr. Tadao Ogura's opinion of Eido Roshi's condition is set forth. The Dalai Lama's doctor, Dr. Donden, when he examined Eido Roshi in the spring of 1981, diagnosed Eido Roshi's illness as a malfunction of the wind element. At a public meeting at Shoboji, while describing the Tibetan system of medicine, Dr. Donden, whether on purpose or not I do not know, said that disorders caused by disturbances of the wind element have their genesis in excess pride and desire in the patient's mind.

We all regret that this should be the case, but the fact is that Eido Roshi has polluted

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Library — Archives

the Buddha Dharma at Shoboji and Dai Bosatsu Zendo and has disgraced us in the eyes of all other zendos in the world.

I trust that you will consider this situation carefully, and bravely do what your conscience says you must.

Namu dai bosa, namu dai bosa, namu dai bosa.


George Zournas