

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
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November 3, 1982

Dear Rōshi Sama:

Thank you for your letter about the Eidō Rōshi affair. I must say that I feel surprised and concerned that Sōchū Rōshi knew nothing about it. Many important events occurred when Sōen Rōshi visited the United States earlier this year, and the fact that he did not confide in his own No. 1 disciple makes me feel that Sōen Rōshi must be in an increasingly state of mind.

For one thing, Sōen Rōshi gave transmission to Maureen Freedgood, a former disciple of Eidō Rōshi, and she is now giving dokusan and teisho in Boston with full ceremony, with the title of Rōshi. I had never heard of this person before one of my students returned from a visit to Boston, where she attended one of Ms. Freedgood's meetings, and told me about it.

This has raised many questions about transmission in our own Sangha, and, I am sure, in other Sanghas across the country. Sōen Rōshi's own credibility as one to give transmission is under serious question as details of the Shoboji scandal emerge, and the abruptness of this so-called inka is another dubious factor.

Board members of the New York Zen Studies Society are so deeply invested in Eidō Rōshi that psychologically they are not able to face up to their responsibility to send him away. Thus it seems that the matter will drag on until something very serious happens. The strongest action people are taking is to resign from the Board of Directors, and they are simply replaced by Eidō Rōshi's own appointments. Back in 1964, one of the women involved with him bought a gun and was going to shoot him, but her episode

PASSED BEFORE CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD PERMIT. Much more poison has accumulated, and while I don't want to be an alarmist, still I feel that a rational assessment of the situation would be "critical."

The whole thing is like a serious illness; we cannot go back and relive all the causes and change them, and it is no good saying this or that should have been done 18 years ago--though at first I was moved to think such things. We in Hawaii and in the American Sangha generally will need your sympathetic support, however, and perhaps you will be moved to write something later on. Meanwhile I have been giving teishos on the inner connection of Zen practice and morality.

Be healthy in this cool weather. Gasshō

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