

June 13, 1994



Ellen Meyers  
R.R. 2, Box 507  
Ilion, NY 13357



Zen Studies Society  
Board of Directors  
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Member of the Board;

I recently saw a copy of Tashi's eloquent letter to the Board of Directors dated January 1994. Betrayal is a word that comes up a lot. Tashi used to wonder about why students betrayed him. It is a difficult question. I, too, feel betrayed and it leaves me broken-hearted to write this about a teacher who, in spite of his actions, I still see good in.

I have seen the pain in the Sangha due to the behavior mentioned in Tashi's letter. There is a saying that 'power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely' (and 'spiritual power corrupts spiritually'). I have seen examples of this at D.B.Z. There are no effective controls. There need to be some real controls.

Although I don't live there anymore, I will never give up my Zen practice and I care about what happens at DBZ. Fundamentally it makes no difference to me what the Board does, but in the world of phenomena, it does make a difference to us all that young, vulnerable women are victimized while otherwise intelligent people rationalize this as part of Zen practice or something that happens between consenting adults (It goes on in some Christian churches and cults in very much the same way).

Also, I would like to ask you (again), does an enlightened man fall into the wheel of Karma or not?

I would appreciate a response to this letter.

Gassho  
REIHO KIDO Ellen Meyers