



THE ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY

EIDO T. SHIMANO ROSHI, ABBOT

Dear Roko,

I received your beautiful letter together with your “final” preface and glossary. Suzuki, Sochu Roshi former abbot of Ryutakuji one of Soen Roshi’s Dharma heirs 1921-1990 and Kozen Fujimori Roshi (1925-1984) one of the Dharma heirs of Soen Roshi, former abbot of Hoko-ji, one of the headquarters of the Rinzai Zen school.

Also from my introduction I will delete the names of Bob Aitken and Philip Kapleau and also delete them from the glossary. As you changed your preface according to the circumstances, you will understand why I need to do so as I don’t want to be associated with these two regarding anything, on any level. In my opinion, they are Judeo-Christian puritans wearing Buddhist Robes and desperately want to appear to be the “first zen Buddhist patriarchs in the land of liberty.” They don’t know how the Dharma transmission takes place or what it is about. I even doubt they have clear insight. That is none of my business. If they want to be moralistic vigilantes let them do what they want. But my Dharma stream of Hakuin, Torei, Gempo and Soen is slightly different. You know when I say slightly, I mean very.

A few days ago, I had a dream. In the dream Soen Roshi appeared in his black robe with a smile saying, “Don’t worry.” So I said, “Worry about what?” He just kept saying “don’t worry.” with a clear big voice. Finally he said, this is the Dharma...*

See page two for further [transcribed - hand written] notes:

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* Re: Jews would not recognize Jesus as messiah.

I do not wish to include the names of BA [Bob Aitken] and PK [Phillip Kapleau] in the introduction. While reading the different versions of your preface, it is you who gave me a hint to take this kind of action upon seeing your revised preface.

I strongly urge you to remove the selected Hakuin-diary entry re Bob Aitken.

As a collaborator and executor of Soen Roshi's material I ask to remove that diary entry.