



## THE ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY

EIDO T. SHIMANO ROSHI, ABBOT

### Dear Friend

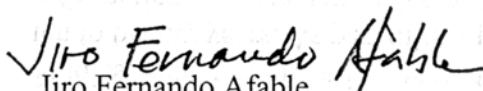
The Zen Studies Society is the operating entity for Dai Bosatsu Zendo Kongo-ji, a Mountain Monastery and Shobo-ji, the New York City Zendo. At this time the Zen Studies Society faces a limitless future with a strong past guided by Roshi Eido Tai Shimano, Abbot of Dai Bosatsu and his wife, Aiho, the manager of Shobo-ji. I and many Sangha members recently celebrated Eido Roshi's sixty-fifth birthday and his twenty-fifth year directing the Zen Studies Society and I expect this dynamic team to continue bringing the practice of Rinzai Buddhism to the United States and Europe for years to come. You can clearly see that they have accomplished their mission without seeing any end to it.

The time will come, however, when the mission for the Zen Studies Society must be reconsidered based on what Eido Roshi calls "the second generation" of Buddhist students. This generation refers to the many students and friends that have had direct experience of Buddhism as taught by Eido Roshi as well as all other friends and contributors. Together we will go forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. For that reason the Zen Studies Society is preparing its first "Strategic Plan" to guide its direction over the next ten to twenty years. As part of this planning process I need your considered opinion and information about your practice of Buddhism, what role the Sangha can fill in your life, your commitment to the Sangha, and how you perceive the second-generation mission.

Enclosed is a questionnaire I need you to mindfully examine and complete. I have completed it myself and it should take you only about 10 minutes to fill out. Any comments you wish to make may be entered on the questionnaire and will be gratefully accepted and respectfully considered. I also want to assure you that your response is confidential and ask that you do not enter any identification on the questionnaire itself. Please use the stamped return envelope enclosed in the survey package to return your form as soon as possible. There are five parts, with the last one on the back. Please fill out all parts.

Thank you again for your constant support of the transmission of Buddhism to the West.

Sincerely,

  
Jiro Fernando Afable  
General Manager

MOUNTAIN MONASTERY

Dai Bosatsu Zendo Kongo-ji HCR 1 Box 171 Livingston Manor, NY 12758-9732 Tel: 914-439-4566 Fax: 914-439-3119

CITY ZENDO

New York Zendo Shobo-ji 223 East 67th Street New York, NY 10021-6087 Tel: 212-861-3333 Fax: 212-628-6968

# **ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY QUESTIONNAIRE**

## **Instructions**

**The following questions are intended to help the Zen Studies Society assess the future. We are engaged in a planning effort to understand how we may best serve you in terms of programs and funding for Dai Bosatsu Zendo Kongo Ji, Shoboji (New York Zendo) and affiliated groups. Your answers are confidential and no attempt will be made to relate a questionnaire to an individual. Most questions ask for a simple yes-no response and then ask for a follow-up selection from presented options. We estimate it will take you about 10 minutes to fill out the questionnaire.**

**Thank you for helping us gain an understanding of our community of friends and associates. Our teacher Eido Tai Shimano has asked that the "second" generation begin work on the East to West Buddhist movement. You are part of the second generation and we hope to have your views and background. You were selected to represent a sample of members and so your information really counts! If you have any questions please direct them to**

**Dai En George Burch  
c/o Dai Bosatsu Zendo, Kongo-Ji  
HCR 1 Box 171  
Livingston Manor NY 12758.  
Tel 914-439-4566**

**A stamped self addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.**

## Part I. Buddhism in your daily life

Question	Instructions
1. Do you practice some form of Buddhism in your daily life? Yes ___ No ___	Please check yes or no. If you answer no please skip to Question 8
2. I practice a form of Zen Buddhism which I consider to be based on one or more of the following traditions: Yes ___ No ___ Japanese Soto ___ Japanese Rinzai ___ Korean ___ Chinese ___ Other ___	If Yes Please check as many as apply. Enter any other tradition in the Other column.
3. I practice Buddhism in the following non Zen tradition. Yes ___ No ___ Tibetan ___ Vajrayana ___ Pure Land ___ Tendai ___ Other ___	If yes Please check as many as apply. Enter any other tradition.
4. Over the past year I have used Zazen meditation as my main method of Buddhist practice. Yes ___ No ___ If yes please indicate your frequency of practice. Daily ___ Weekly ___ Unscheduled ___ Other ___	If you answer Yes please check one of the schedule options or fill in another schedule.
5. I use other forms of practice methods. Yes ___ No ___ Visualization ___ Prostration ___ Chanting ___ Other ___	If you answer Yes please check one of the practice options or fill in other.
6. In the past I have attended a Buddhist retreat such as a sesshin. Yes ___ No ___ Regularly (at least once a year) ___ Sometimes (Two or more times ) ___ Seldom ___	If you answer Yes please check one of the frequency options and go to the question 8. If no skip to question 9.
7. Please estimate the total number of sesshins you have attended. _____	Please enter your best estimate of the total number of sesshins you have ever attended.
8. I have been a Buddhist for _____ years.	Please enter the number of years you consider yourself to be a Buddhist. Enter 1 for part of a year.
9 I consider my religion to be: Christian Catholic ___ Christian Protestant ___ Jewish ___ Buddhist ___ None ___ Other _____	Please check all that apply.

## Part II Buddhism In Your Community of place, friends and family

Question	Instructions
9. My friends openly support or practice Buddhism. Agree ___ Disagree ___	Please indicate if you agree or disagree with this statement.
10. Most of my friends are religious. Agree ___ Disagree ___	Please indicate if you agree or disagree with this statement.
11. There is a Buddhist temple near my home or place of work. Yes ___ No ___	Please check yes if the temple is near enough for you to visit at least weekly.
12. I have a close relative who practices Buddhism. Yes ___ No ___	Please check yes or no leave blank if you are not sure.
13. I consider my household (those I live with) to be Buddhist. Yes ___ No ___	Please check yes or no leave blank if you are not sure.
14. My companion (wife or other) and I practice Buddhism together. Yes ___ No ___	Please check yes or no leave blank if you do not have a companion.
15. I consider my children (if any) to be Buddhist. Yes ___ No ___	Please check yes or no leave blank if you have no children.
16 I believe my companion's religion to be Christian Catholic           ___ Christian Protestant       ___ Jewish                       ___ Buddhist                   ___ None                       ___ Other _____	Please enter all that apply leave blank if you are not sure.

### Part III About Your Connection to the Zen Studies Society

Question	Instructions
<p>17. Do you consider yourself to be an active member of the Zen Studies Society?            Yes ___ No ___            Dai Bosatsu Sangha _____            Shobo-ji (New York City) Sangha _____            Syracuse Sangha _____            DC or Md. Sangha _____            Other Sangha _____</p>	<p>If you answer yes please indicate which sangha(s) you belong to. If you answer no please go to Part IV Your potential contribution to the Zen Studies Society mission.</p>
<p>18. How long have you been a member of the Zen Studies Society and its Sanghas?            _____ year(s).</p>	<p>Please enter the number of years (use 1 for part of a year).</p>
<p>19. Can you honestly say the Zen Studies Society through its Sanghas has made a meaningful contribution to your quality of life? Yes ___ No ___</p>	<p>Please check yes or no or leave blank.</p>
<p>20. Would you expect help from the Zen Studies Society in an important life event such as a wedding or funeral? Yes ___ No ___</p>	<p>Please check yes or no or leave blank if not sure.</p>
<p>21. Would you like more family oriented events at Dai Bosatsu or Shobo-ji? Yes ___ No ___</p>	<p>Please check yes or no or leave blank if not sure.</p>
<p>22. When you die would you want to be interred in Sangha Meadow at Dai Bosatsu mountain? Yes ___ No ___ Not Sure ___</p>	<p>Please check yes, no, or not sure</p>
<p>23. Would you like to be a Buddhist Monk or Nun sometime in this life? Yes ___ No ___ Not sure ___</p>	<p>Please check yes or no or not sure</p>
<p>24. Do you consider Eido Roshi to be your teacher? Yes ___ No ___</p>	<p>Please check yes or no.</p>
<p>25. The following are possible mission or purpose statements that indicate the direction Zen Studies Society could go in the second generation effort to support Buddhism in the west.</p> <p>A. The purpose of the Zen Studies Society is to support Eido Roshi's plans and programs for as long as he is willing or able to work.            Agreement level statement A _____ (0 - 5).</p> <p>B. If Eido Roshi is not active the Zen Studies Society should consider its mission complete and disband.            Agreement level statement B _____ (0 - 5).</p> <p>C. The Zen Studies Society purpose is to support only Shoboji and Dai Bosatsu Zendo at their current level of activity.            Agreement level statement C _____ (0 - 5).</p> <p>D. The Zen Studies Society mission is to further Buddhism in the Rinzai Zen style on the broadest level possible including support for new Zendos staffed by qualified monks and nuns.            Agreement level statement D _____ (0 - 5).</p>	<p>Please enter your degree of agreement or disagreement with the mission statements. Zero (0) means strong disagreement, (5) means strong agreement.</p> <p><b>Higher numbers mean more agreement with the statement.</b></p>



## Part IV: Your Commitment to the Zen Studies Society

Question	Instructions
<p>26. I would like to make a regular contribution to Zen Studies Society or its Sanghas Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I can make a regular contribution of:</p> <p>My Time <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>My Skills <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>My Money <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>If you answer yes please indicate all of the ways you could contribute. If you answer no please go to Question 28 regarding the second generation mission of the Zen Studies Society.</p>
<p>27. I would like to give some of my free time to the Zen Studies Society or its Sanghas. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I can give <input type="text"/> hours per</p> <p>Week <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Month <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>If yes please enter the effort level you could give for the period selected. (Your answer is not a commitment since it is confidential and used only for statistical purposes.)</p>
<p>28. I have a professional skill I could contribute free or at a significant fee reduction for the hours listed in Question 25 above. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Mechanical or carpentry <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Clerical <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>PC Hardware support <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>PC Software training, installation <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Accounting <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Legal <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Please check yes or no. If yes please indicate the professional skill type you possess. (Confidential with no commitment)</p>
<p>29 I have access to well below market or free goods that I believe could be used by the Zen Studies Society. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Computer equipment <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Food including catering <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Printing stock and services <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>PC Software training <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Please check yes or no. If yes indicate the type of goods that could be offered. (Confidential with no commitment)</p>
<p>30 I would be willing to pledge a money contributions as a continuing sponsor of selected Zen Studies Society programs. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Annual amount I could give \$ <input type="text"/>.</p>	<p>Please check yes or no. If yes please indicate the maximum level of support you could pledge. (Confidential with no commitment)</p>
<p>31. I would be willing to make a bequest of appreciated assets from my estate on a tax advantageous basis. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The maximum amount I would bequest is \$ <input type="text"/>.</p>	<p>Please check yes or no. Indicate the potential value of a bequest. Tax advantage could come from appreciated stock, land or other assets. (Confidential with no commitment)</p>

## Part V: Information About You

Question	Instructions
32. How old were you on your last birthday? _____ years	Enter your age in years
33. Are you currently in school? Yes ___ No ___ If yes are you: a full time student? Yes ___ No ___ a part time student? Yes ___ No ___ If yes do you attend (or Foreign equivalent): High school _____ College _____ Graduate school _____ Vocational school _____	If No skip to Question 34
34. What is the highest educational degree you have received? None _____ High school _____ College _____ Graduate degree _____	You may enter a vocational or international equivalent.
35. What is your current relationship status? Single _____ Married _____ Life partnership _____ Divorced unmarried _____	If single with no children skip to question 38.
36. Number of children living with you _____	Please include shared time arrangements.
37. Age of oldest child living with you _____	Age at last birthday.
38. What is your income? under \$25,000 _____ \$25,000 to \$50,000 _____ over \$50,000 _____	The survey is confidential but please skip this question if you wish.
39. What is your gender? Female _____ Male _____	
40. What is your ethnic identity? African-American _____ Hispanic/Latino _____ Native American _____ Caucasian _____ Asian _____ Blended _____ Other _____	Please indicate which ethnic group you feel you are identified with.

**Thank you for filling out this questionnaire. Please use the self addressed envelope marked Confidential Survey Questionnaire and return all parts as soon as practical.**