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## JULY 25, 2010

### Eido Shimano's Sex Scandal, Part (n+1)

Filed under: [Places](#), [People](#), [Zen](#) — Gecko @ 3:20 am

[UPDATE – Well, 8 months later, and not much has happened. The blogs caught fire here and there. I posted on some. There were a few more women victims anonymously relating their stories — not surprising at all. Also not surprising that they generally want to put the terrible experience behind them. As such, they are reluctant to come forward publicly.

Shimano announced his retirement awhile back, during the opening tumult of the scandal. As with anything Shimano does, the move was a calculated deception — little more than a delaying tactic. A couple of months later, he effectively took it back. What he did with the time he bought was this: He and his cronies forced out anyone who held any complaints against him, and promoted those who continued to support him. Finally, he appointed ex-lover and dharma heir Sherry Chayat abbot of his monastery, and, in return had her name himself "Honorary Founding Abbot".

Shimano et al also spent time publicly attacking those who spoke against him. This is his standard practice. He sent a letter to selected supporters, suggesting that Mark Oppenheimer, the NY Times writer, made no attempt to contact him, or anyone else at ZSS, for the unflattering editorial Mr. Oppenheimer had written for the NY Times. On another popular blog, an ex-caretaker was dismissed as an angry, bitter, alcoholic.

Mr. Shimano does this to plant doubt in the minds of ardent supporters who might be inclined to withdraw their support. He and his immediate followers have done this regularly in the past — with Shimano himself even going so far as to denounce his women victims as "mentally ill" when they had come forward in the past.

And me too — a nun of his posted, on another blog, that I am troubled, combative, "sexually violent", etc. She claimed that she personally knew half a dozen women who I "damaged", spiritually and emotionally.

All outrageous lies. But against things like this, what can you do?

The severity and viciousness of such character attacks come as a shocking surprise to their target. Mr Oppenheimer, for example, responded, incredulously, in his blog, in a post entitled "Me Vs. A Buddhist". What can you do? He detailed the number of ZSS people he called, and enumerated the messages he left.

What can you do? I responded by listing the women I knew from the time, and pointed out the truth of how they felt — about DBZ!

It's absurd that anyone has to go through that.

Anyway, he's still up there, "retired", surrounded by those of similar character. He is still teaching, giving teisho, and living with his students.

It's a sick, sick place.

END UPDATE]

Yeah... Again. Why is anyone surprised? Here is a man who employs lies and deception — on a continual basis — to achieve his real goals — money, sex, and power.

Here's the link:  
**one more time**

I hear his dharma heir, Roko Osho from Syracuse, was called in to help fight the fire. There will be a meeting in September (!?). What can anyone expect of this? Does nobody remember the **circumstances of her transmission**? She (among others) was having an affair with Shimano, way back when. It led to the breakup of her marriage. This was one of the (many) times the DBZ sangha blew up. Roko offered to return. Hence the transmission. So it goes. Don't expect much change.

Back to Shimano — do people think that someone of such proven dishonesty is telling the truth about the one thing upon which his whole illusion depends (his self-professed "real insight")? Apparently so — as always, there's a blanket of buddhist fog thickening over the scandal, as is always the case.

But "acceptance" is *NOT* "obedience". The terminal teachers of the world roll these two concepts together, spewing phrases they themselves don't understand. They say "look inward and forgive" or "practice acceptance" or "open your heart to him" or "you must not deify your teacher", or "he is a great teacher but he is only human", etc. etc.

But this isn't Buddha's Buddhism. Under an obviously corrupt structure, this is brainwashing. None of these phrases mean "continue to follow a blind man down a hole". The people who use these words hold the traditions, the lineage, and the teachings sacred. They *are not sacred*. Especially in situations like these, they only serve to cloud the eyes.

Why isn't this obvious to anyone? The Buddha didn't "accept" what is false or misleading. He dropped it from his own life and left those who proved themselves insincere. *This is Buddha!* The religious and spiritual landscape then, was just as it is now — a parade of fancy clothes and slow motion sycophants chasing masters and muttering worn phrases. Buddha recognized it, saw the harm it caused, and said goodbye. He ended up under a tree, alone.

This is the most obvious example of Rinzai's "depend on nothing".

Leaving people like Shimano IS the true path, however painful.

## 16 COMMENTS »

- This whole situation is terrible. Kongo-ji is such a beautiful place. Hoen-ji is also quite beautiful. It is very unfortunate that this is happening. But....whaddaya gonna do??? Nice to see the MU News is still going strong!

*Comment by chimon — August 11, 2010 @ 8:47 am*

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- As long as everybody leaves that place, not so terrible.  
  
I just worry that Shimano is replaced by another Shimano clone. ZSS is staffed by blind traditionalists — who else would stick around through all the scandals and lies? Their child-like clinging to tradition is part of why these things go on for so long.

<http://www.darkzen.com/Articles/zenholy.htm>

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I read that book, the link is a pretty good review.

Japanese Rinzaï Zen arrived here in sickness, and it continues to breed sickness. Maezumi and Sasaki were involved in many similar scandals. I've been to Mt. Baldy too. Sasaki's dishonesty and petty rage is on par with Shimano's, even at what — 104 years old!?

These guys are amazingly off course, but what's surprising is this: They *know* it, and they choose to live that way anyway (why!? for the bows?). I can't imagine lying to everyone every day for my whole life - but that's what they choose. People kind of sense it — these places are usually nearly empty, save for perhaps a single brainwashed monk (umm... or nun) screaming maniacally at 4 or 5 newcomers.

We'll see what happens, I guess.

We did have a great time up there. Zen could be like that all the time. That's what's sad...

I'm beginning to feel inspiration for another MU News exclusive feature...

*Comment by Gecko — August 12, 2010 @ 5:20 am*

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- Is there a zen master in America still married to his first wife? Show me one and I'll show you real enlightenment.

*Comment by woodstockmom — August 15, 2010 @ 1:11 pm*



- How does this impact on your practice? This is between adults isn't it? So everyone has their own responsibility. Gossip helps your practice? If you don't like it don't be it. But who anointed you?

*Comment by mujyo — November 29, 2010 @ 7:40 pm*

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- mujyo

None of what I wrote is gossip. The affairs and transmission happened. The dishonesty of the man is proven — even in this most recent scandal. The rest is my thoughts on how people have dealt with it.

And your comment illustrates very well the points of my post. Using Buddhist ideas and phrases to silence critical thought is what has allowed such corruption to endure at DBZ/ZSS for 40 years.

And besides — you chose your path. I chose mine. This IS my responsibility. I never cared to ask for it, and never felt I had to. It's everyone's. This IS my practice.

And I'm not asking for anyone to anoint me as anything. I never did. From your Dharma name, I'm guessing that's closer to YOUR game.

I'm not the monk here. I'm not the Buddhist.

*Comment by Gecko — November 30, 2010 @ 2:03 pm*

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- Hay guys,

Glad to see the Mu News is still rolling and its originator is still fighting the good fight. Was just looking around for more on DBZ's latest upheaval and I see nothing has changed same Machiavellian snake pit. Oh well....

I never returned but still ache for the woods and mountains of the place, but little else. Three 3 year stints starting in "86" finally cured me and the caretakers are still coming and going at a steady rate. Some good times some bad times, sun and storm, sun and storm but ain't karma beautiful? My best to all. Keep in touch....

Tamcho

*Comment by Tamcho — December 11, 2010 @ 8:24 pm*

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- Hey clown! If you're not out there in the woods rednecking around (for lack of a better word... hmmm... or ANY other word... nothing else really comes to mind), then what are you doing? What... Got a straight job?

I also miss the mountains, and working outside with the crew. Anyone who enjoys honest work will leave that place in a jiffy (or get kicked out). Hence the revolving door for caretakers.

On the other hand, anyone who likes dressing up fancy, walking around in slow motion, bossing people around, and giving speeches about service (OTHER people's service) will stick around for awhile.

Nice to hear from you! Geez I thought you'd be fossilized by now... All that hard livin', etc... all that Chevy 350 fastlane lifestyle...

Where are you?

*Comment by Gecko — December 12, 2010 @ 7:26 am*

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- Straight job, ewwwwwwwwww!

Am quite close fossilization and living in a little ville that looks a little like Lew Beach only isn't owned by Rockefeller. Can't give AO on it in this format though. Life in the fast lane finally caught up with me but I got a good run for my money.

I see Eido is using the old I'm stepping down trick again with fingers crossed on one hand and the other up a nuns robes. So tiresome. Wade through this blog some interesting stuff on the DBZ fuck follies in the archives.

Tamcho

*Comment by Tamcho — December 12, 2010 @ 1:35 pm*

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- OOPS! <http://genkaku-again.blogspot.com/>

Be well.

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*Comment by Tamcho — December 12, 2010 @ 1:39 pm*

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- Eidos karma rears its ugly head!

<http://monkeymindonline.blogspot.com/2010/12/letters-from-zen-teachers-to-zen.html>

*Comment by Tamcho — January 1, 2011 @ 1:50 pm*

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- Yeah I read that. It was funny to read Shimano's response to Mark Oppenheimer, the NYT writer. Mr. Oppenheimer, taken aback by the allegations and misdirections of Shimano, took the time to write a response on his blog:

<http://markoppenheimer.com/front-page/a-buddhist-vs-me.html>

So funny — a lifetime of lying to the obsequious monks and nuns he surrounds himself with may work in daily morning meeting, but it doesn't fly much farther than that.

I'm pretty disgusted by this little parade of Zen masters — all of them posturing whatever posture gets them the most points from their adoring public. They announce their positions just at the moments they have something to gain.

Sad to watch Marinello flip-floping back and forth, all the while carefully gauging public opinion (of himself, of course) and really disgusting to watch Chayat nimbly surfing this little tempest to her very own abbotship — what she always wanted.

That's not me being cynical, my friend. It's the ugly truth!!!

It's a very sick Zen that blew over here from the east. We should have held our noses and blown it back.

*Comment by Gecko — January 2, 2011 @ 12:50 pm*

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- Well said, myself I wonder were the voices are of all the disgruntled Vice Abbots that took ill earned credentials and set them selves up in the zen business. They know better than anybody what went on at DBZ yet they remain silent to this day. Guess they don't want to bite the hand that gives inka.

Tamcho

*Comment by Tamcho — January 4, 2011 @ 8:59 pm*

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- The Committee for Sangha Stepping Forth has an update on the facilitators for the March 20th meeting in NYC.

The meeting will now be co-facilitated by Barry Magrid and Grace Schireson.

For more details, please check our web site:  
<http://www.sanghasteppingforth.com/>

Thank you.

*Comment by CSSF — February 27, 2011 @ 10:54 am*

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- Shortly after the "Committee for Sangha Stepping Forth" ("CSSF") announced its intention to sponsor a ZSS sangha event in New York City on March 20, 2011, an attorney familiar with the turmoil involving Eido Shimano and Zen Studies Society provided disclosure / disclaimer language to protect event participants from unwittingly jeopardizing their legal claims or the claims of other prospective plaintiffs in anticipated litigation. The language was provided to CSSF on February 18th.



On March 5th, CSSF issued its own "privacy" statement, advising registrants and prospective event participants that (i) discussion of legal matters was not to be part of the event, (ii) an agreement among participants to keep the matters discussed at the event "confidential" would serve to keep the matters discussed from "public" disclosure, and (iii) advising participants to seek the advice of their own attorneys – at their own expense – prior to attending the meeting.

The CSSF leadership has declined – inexplicably – to offer sangha members the benefit of reading the disclosure / disclaimers and determining for themselves how the information contained there might affect the manner in which they participate in the event. For the benefit of registrants, participants and the event organizers and facilitators, here is what was provided to CSSF:

"If the Sangha Stepping Forth meeting proceeds as scheduled, here are some cautionary "disclaimers" to prospective attendees. This might be one way in which the event might proceed while mitigating (but not eliminating) the risk that prospective plaintiff-attendees might unwittingly jeopardize their legal claims or the claims of other prospective plaintiffs. For example, prospective participants, registrants and attendees might receive the following disclaimers:

"Before discussing openly your experiences concerning the Zen Studies Society and Eido Shimano with organizers and other participants at the Sangha Stepping Forth event, you should carefully consider (i) that you may be entitled to participate as a plaintiff or class member in one or more lawsuits currently being prepared to redress injuries you may have sustained, or suffering you have endured, as a consequence of your affiliation with the Zen Studies Society and Eido Shimano and (ii) that your communications with organizers and other event participants might be used against you and other prospective plaintiffs in such lawsuits."

"Those who may be entitled to participate in such lawsuits include, but are not limited to, individuals (i) who were injured or were caused to suffer directly by Eido Shimano's conduct, (ii) who were injured as a result of the Zen Studies Society's Board of Directors' failure to disclose, or deliberately to conceal, material facts concerning Eido Shimano and the situation at ZSS, (iii) who were injured as a result of the Zen Studies Society's Board of Directors' failure to exercise their fiduciary duty to take appropriate actions to protect students from Eido Shimano or to take decisive remedial action with respect to Shimano, (iv) who made financial donations or donations in kind either to the Zen Studies Society or Eido Shimano, and (v) those who took the precepts during 'jukai,' were ordained by Eido Shimano, attended 'sesshin' with Eido Shimano or did 'dokusan' with Eido Shimano."

"It is extremely important that you understand that despite what you may have heard or believe about your claim being "time barred" or "barred by the statute of limitations," you may nevertheless have a valid legal claim against the Zen Studies Society and Eido Shimano, even if the event that you believe caused your injury or suffering happened ten, twenty or even thirty or more years ago. Even if your own legal claim turns out to be time-barred, you may nevertheless be able to tell your story in court in order to support others whose claims are not time-barred."

"None of this is meant as legal advice or to encourage you to pursue any legal action. Nor is it an endorsement of the merits of any possible lawsuit. It is rather provided to you as a caution and a disclosure so that your decision about whether and how to participate in this event is informed by some very important considerations of which you may not previously have been aware."

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I'm not an attorney, and can't give a legal opinion, but it certainly seems like the envisioned lawsuit is not based solely on sexual misconduct and the cautions are well worth considering.

*Comment by Kobutsu Malone — March 7, 2011 @ 11:45 pm*

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- Serve your three year training period Kevin then run your self righteous mouth. Right now you are just another Eido named flunky with a bogus ordination of convenience.

*Comment by Tamco — March 30, 2011 @ 3:53 pm*

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- Whoa there Tamcho!

Why the nasty words for Mr. Malone? Who cares if he wasn't a monk.

I can't help but feel that things like this — who is/isn't a monk — who has "credibility" based on these words — is the whole problem.

I mean, if Shimano were a community college teacher or something, he would be run out of town. If he were younger and tried to bully people and lie to people the way he does (every day), he'd be beaten up regularly! That's a fact!

The only reason that DOESN'T happen is because of his fancy monk costume, and how people see it.

*Comment by Gecko — March 31, 2011 @ 1:55 am*