

From Dosho Port, Sensei

Dear Joe Soun Dowling, ZSS Board, and Dai Bosatsu monks:

I am writing in regard to the retirement of Eido Shimano Roshi and the installation of Shinge Roko Sherry Chayat Roshi as your new abbot. Congratulations on taking this important step!

I've been following the American Zen Teacher's listserve regarding your difficulties, especially this past year, and attended the meeting at Chapin Mill where Roko and Genjo shared some of the circumstances and complications of your situation.

Eido Shimano's recent letter to the NYTimes disappointed and saddened me. I concur with my colleagues on the many points that have already been expressed.

The one point I'd like to emphasize is that for the future of Eido Shimano's dharma lineage, and immediately for the sake of Roko Chayat's tenure as abbot, please remove Eido Shimano from all teaching venues and from residence in your centers.

Any other action at this time is likely to set-up Roko for failure, reflect poorly on your own integrity and that of American Zen.

Your best chance to redeem the past now appears to lie in a clean and definitive break with Eido Shimano.

Respectfully,

Dosho Port

Abbot of Wild Fox Zen and dharma heir of Katagiri Roshi