

January 2, 2011

*On Facebook, Jan Chozen Bays, Roshi posted her letter to the ZSS board, comments ensued. One of the comments was this:*

Kensei Koji

I live in Syracuse, NY and have been a student of Shinge Roshi, who is now the abbot of Dai Bosatzu monastery as of yesterday, for the past seven years. I was her attendant on the evening that she sat us all down in our zendo this past May... to tell us about Eido Roshi's behaviors. Since May, I have been back to sit with the sangha twice.

On that evening in May, we were told that, even though he has committed these heinous acts, he still has "the True Dharma Eye" and "dwells in the absolute." These ideas were presented as excuses and justifications of Eido Roshi's behavior. Our sangha, out of loyalty to Shinge Roshi, has turned a blind eye to Eido's acts, and given him a pass. As far as I can tell, only one other person besides myself has stood up and said that Eido's behavior is intolerable, that he needs to be removed from all positions of authority, that Shinge Roshi needs to sever all ties with him, and that we won't come back into the sangha until these things happen.

When I spoke privately with Shinge Roshi, she said that she had no intention of breaking their student - teacher relationship, that he was her teacher no matter what, that he served as an excellent reminder of how absolute power corrupts and she would continue to learn from him, as he has "the true Dharma eye."

So, now I'm looking for another teacher.