

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Yu-Shin's letter to the board of directors
Date: June 17, 2011 4:19:41 AM EDT
To: [REDACTED]

Dear friends of DBZ,

I decided to forward Yu-Shin's letter (copied below) to some of you who's contact I have and who might be also interested or not have received it.

This is just FYI...I think during these times of guessing and uncertainty it is important that we share some of our feelings and opinions regardless of the position we might have. Too little information and too many rumors are making their own ways and are contributing to misunderstandings and assumptions.

Yu-Shin's letter was meant to be read since he wasn't able to attend. Unfortunately it didn't get a voice in last weeks meeting where opinions and feelings from different perspectives were expressed openly for the first time from the board of directors, the residents and part time residents.

gassho,

[REDACTED]

Here's a copy of the letter. Feel free to send it to other Sangha members since the board refuses to read it to other concerned members.

Dear Board Members;

I am deeply concerned with the current state of affairs at Zen Studies Society. Specifically, I am deeply troubled by the board's decision to prevent Eido Roshi from attending DBZ events and Genjo Osho's behavior.

Regarding myself, I started training at Shobo-Ji in 2002 and have made an effort to contribute in whatever way I can since then. I have attended numerous sessions, and completed the Fall 2010 Kessei. I was planning to stay for another Kessai. However, after I learned that the board would be preventing Eido Roshi from setting foot on Zen Studies Property, I reconsidered my decision and left. As a relatively long time member, I ask you to consider my opinion on the Roshi matter.

I find the board's decision to prevent Eido Roshi from coming to Zen Studies property and seeing students who wish to see him unconscionable. The board has based their decision on slanderous website, slanderous blog postings by unknown posters, Eido Roshi's admission that he has had several consensual relations with women over the past 30 years, and the letter sent to the New York Times in defense

of Roshi. This is ridiculous. Regarding the website and the blog postings, they are for the most part a one-sided opinion about events that occurred more than 20 years ago written by people who are enemies of Eido Roshi. They would not be admitted as evidence in a court of law and in my opinion constitute slander. With regard to the consensual relations, I see nothing wrong with them. No pregnancies or abortions resulted from the relationships, all the relationships were consensual, and the relationships were heterosexual in character. This seems quite reasonable to me. Regarding the letter sent to New York Times, I have read and see nothing wrong with it. It is simply an attempt by Eido Roshi to defend his reputation against incorrect statements made in the New York Times.

There is no question that Eido Roshi received authentic Dharma transmission from a reputable school of Zen. He has held this title of Roshi for over 20 years. Moreover, prior to receiving transmission, he studied as a monk in Japan for over 10 years. Since coming to the United States practically penniless, he has established a 30 year tradition of authentic Zen teaching in the United States. Over 30 years ago, he founded Shobo-Ji, the first authentic Rinzai Zen temple in New York. In 1972 he founded the first authentic Rinzai Zen monastery in the United States, Dai Bosatsu Zendo. Since 1972 (over 30 years), he has been conducting sesshins and teaching at both Shobo-Ji and Dai Bosatsu Zendo. In addition to numerous accolades he has received here and abroad, in 2008 he was one of a few religious leaders in the United States to be granted an audience with the Pope. There is no doubt in my mind about his authenticity or commitment to establishing the Rinzai Zen tradition in the United States. I am sincerely grateful for his efforts and his commitment to the practice. Preventing him from seeing students (who want to see him) or attending the religious sites he founded because he has engaged in consensual heterosexual relationships and signed a letter where he defended his reputation is ridiculous.

Furthermore, the board's conduct has been very dishonest regarding the Eido Roshi matter. The board did not ask or consult with me or the majority of Eido Roshi's students. There was no letter sent to me or other students stating why Eido Roshi was being prevented from seeing his students. The board has used donor money to perpetuate the current state of affairs without disclosing it to the donors. Genjo Osho, one of the board members, slanders Eido Roshi at every opportunity (e.g., the Dharma Talk at Nyogen Senzaki session). Finally, the board's attempt to reduce Eido Roshi's retirement sickens me. In my opinion that the board's conduct has been immoral and dishonest and in no way befits a religious organization.

I sincerely hope that the board will reconsider its decision with regard to Eido Roshi. It has been my observations that Zen Studies Society has provided innumerable benefits to its members and visitors. I hope that this will continue. I am willing to forgive the board members for their acts. I ask the board to do the same for what they perceive to be Eido Roshi's transgressions. In this way, the Sangha can remain whole and the legacy started by Eido Roshi can benefit future generations.

Let true Dharma continue.

Yu-Shin
Tim B. Hale, Esq.