



Genjo

Posts: 42

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Location: Seattle, WA USA

antispam: No



Re: Sexual misconduct by Buddhist teachers (was Eido Tai Shi

by [Genjo](#) on Fri Aug 12, 2011 10:20 pm

Shusan wrote:

As I said, I can't imagine any other organization in America TODAY (not historically) whose leader is found to be a basically unrepentant (by Genjo's account) apparently totally compulsive serial abuser of women, who would be talking about having a brief "hiatus" before he was allowed back to participate in the leadership of that organization (and one can't imagine him acting in any other capacity than authoritative). But, hey, this might just be me.

Dear Shusan,

I didn't say Eido Roshi should take a "brief hiatus" from coming on campus, I said AT LEAST a moderate hiatus, and I certainly never implied any kind of return to leadership or teaching. Eido Roshi is fully retired and must remain retired from all leadership or teaching for me to have anything to do with the organization. I have not left the organization precisely because the Board is united that Eido Roshi will never again have leadership or teaching responsibilities at ZSS. However, it is my position deep healing will not be possible and that new growth will be severely hindered if Eido Roshi isn't prohibited from being on campus entirely, and here the majority of the board and I disagree. It would be simplest to say that he would be forever banned. However, forever is a long time and I can at least imagine sufficient change in the organization and Eido Roshi that some future rapprochement becomes possible. For example, if the other goals I outlined above were all accomplished and there was a believable shift in Eido Roshi's position and understanding about his history, then the possibility of some minimal rapprochement should not be excluded.

The important point that I don't think you are hearing is that I too think Eido Roshi's exclusion from coming on campus is necessary. I don't see how the organization will do anything but limp along without this step. I felt so strongly and so estranged from the majority of the board on this point, that the only recourse left to me was to leave the board and publicly make a case for this position. Despite Eido Roshi's September 2010 apology, "I would like to acknowledge the pain and unnecessary suffering you went through in your hearts due to my faults. I have a profound feeling of remorse for my actions." he has since implied that this apology was forced and said in my presence that "if I did not accept the advances of these women, worse karma would be created than by accepting their overtures." First of all, there is a mountain of evidence that more often than not he made the first advances, secondly his overall lack of understanding of the harm he has done is nearly inconceivable. Furthermore, one of the believable stories I've heard, includes a woman who says in the 80's she was plied with alcohol and then forced into having sexual relations with him. Given known facts and mountains of circumstantial evidence that have piled up over decades, there is no way to justify the fact that Eido Roshi still has rooms reserved for his use on both properties, and in my mind he should be excluded from setting foot on either campus. I hope with his exclusion and other good efforts of the organization that the women who were manipulated or abused one day soon feel safe enough to give their first person accounts. I want to hear them, I want the organization to hear them, I want them to have a chance to find some closure and be fully affirmed that it was not their fault.

With a grieving heart,

Genjo

Abbot of Dai Bai Zan Cho Bo Zen Ji (Chobo-Ji) temple, Seattle, USA; psychotherapist and certificated spiritual director.

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