

**ⓔ tenshin said...**

**One of the seduced said...**

***I slept with Shimano.***

First, I am so sorry of what you have been through. I also applaud your courage in telling part of your story.

As someone pointed out, there is only one first-hand account in the Eido Roku of Shimano's actions – that being Olivia's letter to the ZSS Board of Directors. (The Robin Weston piece doesn't qualify because he failed in his attempt with her.)

Olivia's account is remarkable because of the courage she displays in sharing it. For those of us who have known Shimano for years, it also includes descriptions of behavior that are very recognizable as his. This helps to convince me that her account is dreadfully true. As is often said, you can't make this stuff up.

The first-hand accounts are critical for a couple of reasons. First, they are not hearsay and more difficult for people to pass off as improbable – a defense still being used by the remaining handful (and, yes, it is only a handful) of Shimano devotees. Second, they reveal the depth of his depravity and indifference to other sentient beings. Third, they lessen the unjustified stigma felt by some victims by simply reinforcing the fact that they are not alone and not to blame for what happened – they were hunted by a very skilled predator. Fourth, the more people that speak up the greater the pressure imposed on Shimano, and the more pressure there is the more people will know, which will disarm his ability to manipulate, abuse, and rape in the future.

From personal experience, I know the difficulty of speaking of one's own experience. I also know that speaking out can be liberating both by releasing the negative force one can feel subjected to and by knowing that speaking out protects others from becoming future targets of predation. Disclosing the details of one's experience I believe is liberating, although the shame response, which is probably our most influential emotion wishes us to believe otherwise.

Lastly, I think the record of the trail of destruction needs to be known. Not knowing ensures that either he or others in the future will succeed and society will not learn from the past. Because I believe Shimano could be one of the largest sexual predators alive, the world needs to know, first-hand, the damage that he has caused. And to accomplish this we need to hear the experiences of those impacted by him.

We also need people with access to ZSS communications to make those available, anonymously, to the archive. I personally know of a couple of people who have relevant and recent documentation that frankly needs to be made public. People need once and for all to say no to this situation, and the release of those documents is necessary to put a final stop to this.

Fear is a powerful force – just ask those who experienced the tactics used by the fascists of our time: Mussolini, Hitler, Pinochet, and B\*sh. Fear hides the truth, and hiding the truth increases the power of those hiding the truth. Revealing the truth is how democracies remain democracies.

To me, there is no difference between a cult and a fascist society. A despot is a despot, whether they wear Armani, brocade robes or Kesa, military uniforms, or galabeya.

Folks with first-hand experience and those with documentation, please for the sake of society, reconsider making your stories and documentation public. Anonymity can be retained. It is that simple.

Peace,

tenshin

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