



Genjo

Posts: 76

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antispam: No



Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot

by Genjo on Wed Feb 08, 2012 7:12 pm

Genjo wrote:

If I remotely understood how much he didn't get it, I and others would have supported that he be fired and removed from office. Seigan [another former board member and ZSS priest] had it right from the beginning."

There has been some confusion about this statement, so I will explain. When the most recent scandal came to light in late May, 2010, all board members, including Seigan, were deeply shocked, as we all believed that he had reformed long ago. Eido Roshi had assured us, just days before the scandal came to light, that there had been no ethical breaches in well over a decade. He had also repeatedly apologized to the ZSS Sangha for his past behavior, and we loyally and perhaps gullibly believed him.

When his lie was exposed, as I recall some board members, especially Seigan, wanted Eido Roshi to resign as Abbot immediately. Unlike many on the board, including myself, Seigan had been around when a previous scandal broke, about 15 years earlier. Because we were all clear that Eido Roshi had lied to us in private and in public, Seigan saw that the only appropriate action was for Eido Roshi to fully resign at once. It was this stance of Seigan's that I referred to as, "right from the beginning." In hindsight, I wish the full ZSS board would have insisted on Eido Roshi's immediate resignation, and fired him if he did not resign.

Most board members, including myself, wanted more due process, and were content, at least initially, with Eido Roshi first resigning from the ZSS board, which he did on July 4th, while an investigation was started to examine the extent of his misbehavior. The rest is now history. Our investigation turned up credible evidence that the most recent incident was not the only breach in the last many years, and also brought to light that Eido Roshi was in the habit of more aggressively pursuing the most vulnerable female students under his spiritual care. Most disturbing of all to me was when we learned that not all sexual encounters started "consensually."

As the extent of this pattern came into focus, along with Eido Roshi's obvious insincerity about his own apology and his deep lack of comprehension of the damage he had done, it became clear to me that stronger corrective and redemptive action was needed by the ZSS board, yet the majority, led by Shinge Roshi, was not and still is not, willing to go there; hence, my own departure from the board and organization.

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