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Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and others

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1934 posts • Page 95 of 97 • 1 ... 92 93 94 95 96 97



Jok_Hae

Posts: 3539
Joined: Mon Feb 16, 2009 1:53 am
Location: CT, USA

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

↳ by Jok_Hae on Wed May 02, 2012 4:05 pm

genkaku wrote:

Jok_Hae wrote:

genkaku wrote:

Thanks Carol. I thought his take on the club-house aspects of organized Zen were interesting as well as the differentiation of "teachers" and "priests."

It seems that those who don robes may do some good and create some problems.

It seems that those who take off robes may do some good and create some problems.

I guess that leaves the rest of us with the practice we have chosen ... doing some good and creating some problems. Lord save us from virtue! 😊

Folks who don and take off robes...and the rest of us? 🙏🙏🙏

Ahh, the great interconnected oneness...

That doesn't exist. 😊

If you say so..then I believe it! 😊

Kong an (koan) practice has nothing to do with right or wrong answer - Dae Kwang Soen Sa Nim

[New Haven Zen Center](#)



Gregory Wonderwheel
Global Moderator

Posts: 2647
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 3:07 am
Location: Santa Rosa, Calif.
antispam: No

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

↳ by Gregory Wonderwheel on Wed May 02, 2012 8:55 pm

Bob Skank wrote:

Carol wrote:

Bob Skank wrote:

Carol wrote:

I think, in the end, I'm somewhat deficient in the cynical gene. 😊

How about the self-praise gene?

Bob

I lean more towards self-deprecation gene. sometimes, but not always. What about you?

Irony.

Mine are blue.

Get it?

Blue genes.

^_^

Gregory

myojo

Posts: 12
Joined: Sun May 06, 2012 9:52 pm
Location: London

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

↳ by myojo on Mon May 07, 2012 11:38 pm

The idea of a Zen master is a very attractive one. Of course they don't exist. I have had them in the past. They seemed to exist then. I have one now - but he is only pretending. Some people - I know - think I am one but they are deluded. We are as we are. The background to all of this is Buddha Nature - perhaps some of us are aware of this experientially - but the foreground is our conditioned nature over which we have NO control. Perhaps the more someone sees REALITY the less they might care how they are perceived by others.

What people want when they say Zen master is something which fulfills their own fantasy about how they would like to be when they become a Master. In the sense of a superbeing, masters don't exist. That is not to say that there are none who know Reality - it's just that it makes no difference to who they are. If they were a twit before they are a twit after.

There are plenty of worthy Zen 'Masters' who do not see reality but are nice enough and a few who see reality who are quite unworthy. Of course the ideal is a worthy Zen Master who really Knows. Yes I've known them. They do exist. Just friends now though not Masters. They play the master game for fun. It is fun. Meaningless fun. Harmless fun.

The trouble all starts when the game is taken seriously by the 'teacher'. A Zen teacher who considers themselves to be a teacher is not and a lot of peculiar and ridiculous things can happen as a result.

It is impossible to know really whether someone is a naughty enlightened person or a fraud or deluded or what?

No matter what I think we should look on with interest and ask - has any real harm been done? To whom? Does it matter who people sleep with? What do we expect? What can we learn?

I have learned to be pretty unsurprised by human behaviour and more curious than censorious.

I am a Soto Zen priest ordained by Mokuho Guy Mercier who was ordained by Taizen Deshimaru and served as Tenzo at the head temple in France for many years. I live in London and until recently helped to run the Central London Dojo.



Genjo

Posts: 110
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

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

↳ by Genjo on Tue May 08, 2012 5:29 am

myojo wrote:

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It is impossible to know really whether someone is a naughty enlightened person or a fraud or deluded or what?
No matter what I think we should look on with interest and ask - has any real harm been done? To whom? Does it matter who people sleep with? What do we expect? What can we learn?
I have learned to be pretty unsurprised by human behaviour and more curious than censorious.

I agree with much you have written, but I disagree that "It is impossible to know really whether someone is a naughty enlightened person or a fraud or deluded or what?" As I have said before, the taste of the pudding is in the eating; the discernment is just not that difficult. Moreover, it does matter who people sleep with. I support peer to peer consensual relations; in general, our culture could use a lot more consensual relations, but someone in a strong hierarchical role with another should avoid sleeping with them. I know Zen is all about equality and freedom, but to realize deep equality and freedom is not easy. Guidance may not be necessary, but it is helpful. To sleep with those you are guiding is often more than a big complication. Such relations can cause harm and often do.

In the case of Eido Shimano Roshi, there is no doubt much harm was caused, and he still remains mostly clueless, as do those who wish to continue to train with him. I worry too about the leadership of the Zen Studies Society that still allows Eido Roshi on its campuses (with supervision) while paying the Shimano's in excess of \$90,000 a year in deferred compensation and benefits, while never even acknowledging as an organization how it helped perpetuate a serious problem, and, in my mind, continues to perpetuate harm.

I deeply appreciate loyalty and gratitude, but allowing the Shimanos to drain the organization dry is just crazy, and causing more harm, especially considering that Eido Shimano Roshi himself in his last official instruction (Nov., 2010) to the ZSS board insisted that: "It is now your responsibility to keep and manage well all these assets for the practice of Rinzai Zen Buddhism and leave it to the next generation. Under any circumstances, not even a square foot of property or a speck of dust should be sold. Right now this is under your management, but strictly speaking it is the property of the Dharma. Keep that in your mind. To effect this, I am requesting that the Board pass a resolution at its meeting on December 9, 2010 that no properties will be sold and no land disposed of in perpetuity."

I would like to think the ZSS board would show loyalty to his wishes, but plans are a foot or perhaps already completed to sell a trust of about half of the property to the Nature Conservancy to support his retirement package. There is no other possible way to fund his rubber stamped retirement package. There was never even a clause in the package that would have made it contingent on good behavior. Given Eido Roshi's long history of repeated ethical breaches and lies, it can only be some sort of unconsciousness or malfeasance that formed the 1995 Differed Compensation Agreements. There is harm being done to an American Zen treasure right now that this travesty is being allowed to go forward without challenge.

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

<http://www.chobojji.org>

partoft22

Posts: 2054
Joined: Fri Oct 08, 2009 2:36 pm

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

↳ by partoft22 on Tue May 08, 2012 12:54 pm

sometimes people simply "get away" with things- and sometimes certain persons get away with a whole lot more than the norm- even in courtrooms-



Spike

Posts: 24
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

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

By Spike on Tue May 08, 2012 3:38 pm

Genjo wrote:

... plans are a foot or perhaps already completed to sell a trust of about half of the property to the Nature Conservancy to support his retirement package. There is no other possible way to fund his rubber stamped retirement package. There was never even a clause in the package that would have made it contingent on good behavior. Given Eido Roshi's long history of repeated ethical breaches and lies, it can only be some sort of unconsciousness or malfeasance that formed the 1995 Differed Compensation Agreements. There is harm being done to an American Zen treasure right now that this travesty is being allowed to go forward without challenge.

More than ten years ago, I was invited to DBZ to consult with Eido Roshi regarding potential sale of a conservation easement to The Nature Conservancy (TNC). I had been a student of Eido Roshi since 1992, and my TNC affiliation was known to him: I had worked previously for TNC for 21 years. I explained what I believed to be the pros: protection in perpetuity, ZSS still owns all in fee, sound conservation management of and consultation about, in particular, the watershed area, as well as the cons: ZSS loses a 'right', TNC will no doubt need a gate key. For whatever reason, it did not go through at that time.

Intrinsically, and from a conservation standpoint, a conservation easement with TNC or some other conservation entity providing sound scientific management, would probably be very good for the land, waters and wildlife. But if this deal is being driven out of desperation to fulfill the Shimano's DCA, it is a shame. It should be considered, if at all, totally separate from the Shimano mess. The DCA should be renegotiated in favor of ZSS. If it is not, all Shimano privileges not legally binding should be abrogated. Furthermore, ZSS should repudiate his behavior, and issue an organizational apology for it. That's right: for the practical purpose of enabling ZSS to remain viable, I would have foregone such things, or at least timed them for ZSS benefit.



Genjo

Posts: 110
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

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

By Genjo on Tue May 08, 2012 3:51 pm

Spike wrote:

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I agree completely! If the land is to be put in trust, the moneys gained should go for the further development of the Dharma in the West. And how about setting some aside in a fund to address the harm done to those who were groomed, manipulated or physically coerced into having sex with Eido Shimano Roshi?

With palms together,

Genjo

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

<http://www.choboji.org>



Nonin
Global Moderator

Posts: 3545
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 3:30 pm
Location: Omaha, Nebraska, USA
antispam: No

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

By Nonin on Tue May 08, 2012 4:55 pm

Genjo,

Why don't you take this up with the board and membership of ZSS? What good does it do to discuss these issues here, where no one has any formal connection with ZSS?

Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

Soto Zen Buddhist Priest. Transmitted Dharma Heir of Dainin Katagiri Roshi.

Abbot and Head Teacher, Nebraska Zen Center / Heartland Temple, Omaha, Nebraska, USA

<http://www.prairiewindzen.org>



Shodo

Posts: 129
Joined: Thu Nov 11, 2010 8:17 pm

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

By Shodo on Tue May 08, 2012 5:12 pm

Nonin said...

Genjo,

Why don't you take this up with the board and membership of ZSS? What good does it do to discuss these issues here, where no one has any formal connection with ZSS?

Because talking to ZSS won't work - isn't selling off/leasing their land the idea of the ZSS board?
Seems like bringing it up to the ZSS just an exercise in wasting air.

The ZSS has been and is in currently, self-protection mode. This is one of the few places where these issues are being openly discussed...

The Dude: Yeah, well. The Dude abides *nowhere*.

The Stranger: The Dude abides *nowhere*... I don't know about you but I take comfort in that. It's good knowin' he's *not* out there. The Dude. Takin' 'er easy for all us sinners.



Spike

Posts: 24
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

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

By Spike on Tue May 08, 2012 5:15 pm

Nonin wrote:
Genjo,

Why don't you take this up with the board and membership of ZSS? What good does it do to discuss these issues here, where no one has any formal connection with ZSS?

What good, indeed? Probably could be said about a lot of things discussed here.

Believe Genjo's formal connection with ZSS is severed.



Nonin
Global Moderator

Posts: 3545
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 3:30 pm
Location: Omaha, Nebraska, USA
antispam: No

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

By Nonin on Tue May 08, 2012 5:41 pm

Shodo said:

Seems like bringing it up to the ZSS just an exercise in wasting air.

Seems like? Have you tried it?

Definitely, bringing it up here is just wasting air!

If anyone with any kind of investment in the organization wants to effect what's going on at ZSS, how about directing your concerns directly to the ZSS board or attending meetings at ZSS when things like the sale of property are being discussed.

Shinge Roko Chayat and others at ZSS are working very hard not only to rectify the errors of the past but also to keep the organization afloat both spiritually and financially. They are working within legal constraints and also with the help of legal advice, and they deserve support, for they are doing their best to keep ZSS from going down the tubes due to the mistakes of the past, which stem not only from Eido Shimano's gross misconduct but also from bad financial and organizational decisions made by previous boards of directors.

Discussing the ramifications of clergy misconduct is continually important. That's why this thread has been kept open. However, continually sniping at Shinge Chayat, the ZSS board, and ZSS's current membership is only beating one's gums from afar. To what purpose?

Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

Soto Zen Buddhist Priest. Transmitted Dharma Heir of Dainin Katagiri Roshi.
Abbot and Head Teacher, Nebraska Zen Center / Heartland Temple, Omaha, Nebraska, USA
<http://www.prairiewindzen.org>



Shodo

Posts: 129
Joined: Thu Nov 11, 2010 8:17 pm

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

By Shodo on Tue May 08, 2012 5:50 pm

Nonin said...

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Nothing speaks louder to the "usefulness" of voicing concern to the ZSS board than the fact that Genjo broke all ties to them.

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Carol
Global Moderator

Posts: 7963
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 2:52 am
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
antispam: No

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

By Carol on Tue May 08, 2012 6:00 pm

Having once served on the board of directors of a nonprofit (non-Buddhist) organization that was trying to overcome the mistakes of the past and recover financially ... I learned that there were many things we could not do that we wanted to do. There were legal limitations to what we could do that were not apparent to the many people who were urging us to take this action or that.

As a now-retired lawyer, I also have some insight into the legal difficulties the current board faces. Here are some of them: (1) public acknowledgment of harms done could expose ZSS to major financial claims that could require the sale of all the properties in order to cover them. (2) Shimano's deferred compensation package did NOT have a good behavior clause in it and is very likely (almost certainly) something the court would uphold. A legal contest to try to break it would also be very expensive. Lawyers don't work for free.

Those two things are weighing heavily on the minds of the ZSS board (whatever their thoughts about Shimano may be). They have conflicting fiduciary duties that are not easy to sort out. One is to preserve ZSS and the properties and facilities for future generations of Zen students, another is to protect current ZSS students from harm, another is to compensate those harmed by ZSS in the past for the harm done.

There are many facets to this prism ... and trying to look through as many as possible, with open heart/mind, and with as little ill-will as possible seems to be the only way through.

It's easy to get stuck in the mire of something like this ... and to become sure that "I'm right" is one way to get and stay stuck, IMO. The open-hearted way allows other points of view, even in disagreement, and grants that others who may see things differently are also trying to do what will do the least harm and the most good from their perspective.

Expand. Expand. Expand. Beyond ill-will.

--Carol

Things are not what they appear to be, nor are they otherwise. --The Lankavatara Sutra



Carol
Global Moderator

Posts: 7993
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 2:52 am
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
antispam: No

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
D by Carol on Tue May 08, 2012 6:02 pm

Shodo wrote:
Nonin said...

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I eventually resigned from the board of directors I mentioned above, not because it was not useful to continue, but because I didn't have the strength and courage to stay and see it through. I'm not saying that's the case with Genjo. But I am saying that there are many reasons for leaving ... and not all of them are the best. I look at all the directors who resigned over the past couple of years, and think if they had all stayed on then there would be a different board today, perhaps taking different actions.

Things are not what they appear to be, nor are they otherwise. --The Lankavatara Sutra



Genjo

Posts: 110
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
D by Genjo on Tue May 08, 2012 8:55 pm

Nonin wrote:
Genjo,

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Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

LOL You know very well I have taken this up with the board of ZSS. You also know that my views have been rejected by them. You also should know that without public forums and public pressure Eido Shimano Roshi would not have been re-exposed for the sexual addict and sexual predator he is and would still be teaching at ZSS today.

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

<http://www.choboji.org>



Genjo

Posts: 110
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
D by Genjo on Tue May 08, 2012 9:02 pm

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It's easy to get stuck in the mire of something like this ... and to become sure that "I'm right" is one way to get and stay stuck, IMO. The open-hearted way allows other points of view, even in disagreement, and grants that others who may see things differently are also trying to do what will do the least harm and the most good from their perspective.

Expand. Expand. Expand. Beyond ill-will.

~Carol

All good points Carol, and I am not an attorney, but I have heard from attorneys that say the 1995 DCA could be fought on several grounds. The problem is that Shinge Roshi and the ZSS board don't have the stomach for it. As for an organizational apology, the Faith Trust Institute, which has great experience with such cases, has said an organizational apology and setting aside some funds to deal with the aftermath of such abuse of power, reduces the likelihood of being sued out of existence, not the other way around.

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

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Carol
Global Moderator

Posts: 7963
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 2:52 am
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
antispam: No

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

By Carol on Tue May 08, 2012 9:14 pm

Genjo wrote:

Carol wrote:

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hmmmm. I would trust the Faith Trust Institute's experience more than mine in this area of religious figures' abuse. I don't have such experience. But I was on the board of a nonprofit that was nearly sued out of existence when a number of sexual harassment cases were brought over circumstances that had been handled VERY poorly in the past ... so I'm pretty cautious these days.

As for the DCA ... there are always grounds to contest just about anything. The contest would be expensive with no sure-fire outcome. However, a contest could put ZSS in a better negotiating position.

I'm not saying there aren't good arguments on both sides ... just that the prism has many facets.... and reasonable people of honesty and integrity can see it differently. And TBH, reading about what the ZSS board should do about it's legal issues here does seem a bit like whistling in the wind.

I THINK IT'S EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE SPOTLIGHT AND PRESSURE ON KEEPING THAT MAN OFF CAMPUS AND AWAY FROM ZSS STUDENTS. The other issues detract from the force and effectiveness of that essential point for me.

Things are not what they appear to be, nor are they otherwise. ~The Lankavatara Sutra



Spike

Posts: 24
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

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

By Spike on Tue May 08, 2012 11:04 pm

Carol wrote:

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(1) I would rather see that rape victims get compensated rather than Shimano's DCA account get fat.

(2) Here is a basic fact: what is good for Shimano is not good for ZSS. Shove it down his throat.





Nonin
Global Moderator

Posts: 3545
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 3:30 pm
Location: Omaha, Nebraska, USA
antispam: No



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

by Nonin on Wed May 09, 2012 12:59 am

Genjo wrote:

Nonin wrote:

Genjo,

Why don't you take this up with the board and membership of ZSS? What good does it do to discuss these issues here, where no one has any formal connection with ZSS?

Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

LOL You know very well I have taken this up with the board of ZSS. You also know that my views have been rejected by them. You also should know that without public forums and public pressure Eido Shimano Roshi would not have been re-exposed for the sexual addict and sexual predator he is and would still be teaching at ZSS today.

Genjo,

Eido Shimano is no longer teaching at ZSS and is no longer a presence there. Shinge Roko and others have stuck it out at ZSS and have facilitated a much more positive and safe environment for practice and ethical behavior than existed there in the past. Much still needs to be done for ZSS to re-establish itself as a respected and viable Zen Buddhist practice place and to regain some measure of fiscal responsibility and stability, but there are many people working diligently to facilitate all of the above.

Many people have left, including you, and no longer have any connection with ZSS. Why should the board listen to you or others who have quit the organization? Board members and Shinge Roko are much closer to the situation than you are, are following legal advice and advice from other Zen Buddhist teachers and sangha members. They have also turned to An Olive Branch for help in facilitating a positive outcome so that ZSS can overcome the difficulties the sangha has faced and is still facing.

What do you hope to accomplish by continuing to snipe at Shinge Roshi and the Board from afar? What purpose does this serve?

Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

Soto Zen Buddhist Priest, Transmitted Dharma Heir of Dainin Katagiri Roshi,
Abbot and Head Teacher, Nebraska Zen Center / Heartland Temple, Omaha, Nebraska, USA
<http://www.prairiewindzen.org>



Spike

Posts: 24
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

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

by Spike on Wed May 09, 2012 1:24 am

Nonin wrote:

Genjo wrote:

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What do you hope to accomplish by continuing to snipe at Shinge Roshi and the Board from afar? What purpose does this serve?

Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

Hey buddy, you implied upcolumn that Genjo had a 'formal connection' to ZSS. You can't have it both ways!

Well, obviously, any "sniping" is going to be done from 'afar', because Seattle is a long way from Rochester. Shinge has majorly sniped at Genjo, accusing him of sexual misconduct (personal communication) resulting in admonishment from his sangha (personal communication) and implied disqualification from consideration for the position she now occupies at ZSS.

Genjo quit the organization, I'm guessing, because it revealed itself as corrupt.

< Return to Practical Buddhism

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Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and others

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1912 posts • Page 96 of 96 • [1](#) ... [92](#) [93](#) [94](#) [95](#) [96](#)

Genjo

Posts: 109
 Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
 Location: Seattle, WA USA
 antispam: No



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

by [Genjo](#) on Wed May 09, 2012 1:29 am

Online

Carol wrote:

...

I THINK IT'S EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE SPOTLIGHT AND PRESSURE ON KEEPING THAT MAN OFF CAMPUS AND AWAY FROM ZSS STUDENTS. The other issues detract from the force and effectiveness of that essential point for me.

From your mouth to Shinge Roshi's ears. If this much could have been accomplished I would have still been on the ZSS Board. However, with more distance I can see the larger travesty of giving all that money to the Shimanos, moreover, I'm better in touch with the sincere and dedicated students of the Dharma and former ZSS sangha who have been directly harmed, alienated and disenfranchised over the decades and I see clearly how their needs remain woefully unaddressed. I have invested many years of my life into ZSS and this Dharma lineage and I will remain a vigilant voice, despite the efforts of some to silence me.

With palms together,

Genjo

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

<http://www.choboji.org>Nonin
Global Moderator

Posts: 3544
 Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 3:30 pm
 Location: Omaha, Nebraska, USA
 antispam: No



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

by [Nonin](#) on Wed May 09, 2012 2:03 am

Spike said:

“Hey buddy, you implied upcolumn that Genjo had a 'formal connection' to ZSS.

No, I did not. Also, I'm not your buddy.

Spike also said:

“Shinge has majorly sniped at Genjo, accusing him of sexual misconduct (personal communication) resulting in admonishment from his sangha (personal communication) and implied disqualification from consideration for the position she now occupies at ZSS.

I have never heard Shinge Roko speak against Genjo publicly. Also, implications are personal considerations and cannot be verified.

For the record, what sexual misconduct and admonishment from his (Genjo's) sangha are you speaking of?

Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

Soto Zen Buddhist Priest. Transmitted Dharma Heir of Dainin Katagiri Roshi.

Abbot and Head Teacher, Nebraska Zen Center / Heartland Temple, Omaha, Nebraska, USA

<http://www.prairiewindzen.org>



Carol
Global Moderator

Posts: 7988
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 2:52 am
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
antispam: No

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
by Carol on Wed May 09, 2012 2:48 am

Moderator's Note:

We have kept this topic open for 2-1/2 years and 96 pages because it is important that everyone have a place to express their points of view, and this subject is of great concern to the Zen Mahasangha throughout the country and beyond.

BUT, we will not tolerate rudeness. I have just removed one post and will remove more and will start issuing warnings if those posting in this topic will not moderate themselves.

Please respect the ZFI rules or don't post here.

~Carol

Things are not what they appear to be, nor are they otherwise. ~The Lankavatara Sutra



Genjo

Posts: 109
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
by Genjo on Wed May 09, 2012 3:00 am

Spike wrote:
...
Well, obviously, any "sniping" is going to be done from 'afar', because Seattle is a long way from Rochester. Shinge has majorly sniped at Genjo, accusing him of sexual misconduct (personal communication) resulting in admonishment from his sangha (personal communication) and implied disqualification from consideration for the position she now occupies at ZSS.

Thanks Spike, that makes things much more clear to me. Shinge Roshi was on a campaign to have me ousted from the board because I disclosed too much for her sensibilities, but she would never have gotten the votes to have me removed. I did leave the ZSS Board because of irreconcilable differences with her on how to proceed as an organization (See: <http://sweepingzen.com/2012/03/03/inter...s-society/>). Now she is spreading misinformation about me, makes sense. I have never been admonished by my sangha or any professional organization for sexual misconduct; however, I do know what is like to be wrongly accused.

With palms together,

Genjo

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

<http://www.choboji.org>



Carol
Global Moderator

Posts: 7988
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 2:52 am
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
antispam: No

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
by Carol on Wed May 09, 2012 3:04 am

If Shinge is spreading rumors about Genjo, she needs to be outed about it. Would whoever heard these rumors directly from her please come forward?

On the other hand, if this is just 2nd hand gossip about 2nd hand gossip -- please don't spread it here!

Things are not what they appear to be, nor are they otherwise. ~The Lankavatara Sutra



Spike

Posts: 23
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
by Spike on Wed May 09, 2012 3:06 am

Carol wrote:
Moderator's Note:
~Carol

Genjo: my pleasure. I love you.

Carol: with love, great respect, and friendliness: in your face.

Can 'you' take it?



Spike

Posts: 23
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
by Spike on Wed May 09, 2012 3:11 am

Carol wrote:
If Shinge is spreading rumors about Genjo, she needs to be outed about it. Would whoever heard these rumors directly from her please come forward?

Wait: did I not just?!



Carol
Global Moderator

Posts: 7988
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 2:52 am
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
antispam: No

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

by Carol on Wed May 09, 2012 3:24 am

Spike wrote:

Carol wrote:

If Shinge is spreading rumors about Genjo, she needs to be outed about it. Would whoever heard these rumors directly from her please come forward?

Wait: did I not just?!

If that's what you meant -- that you heard it directly from Shinge -- that was not clear to me from what you said -- "(personal communication)". I did not understand you to mean "personal communication" from Shinge.

You also said that you knew from personal communication that Genjo had been admonished by his sangha. Genjo says that is not true. So, please be VERY VERY careful with your words here. People can be seriously harmed by false rumors -- not everyone reading this stuff has any idea who the players are, who is credible, etc., etc. And I am dead set against ZFI being used for the purpose of destroying peoples' reputations, intentionally or not.

Things are not what they appear to be, nor are they otherwise. ~The Lankavatara Sutra



Spike

Posts: 23
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and others

by Spike on Wed May 09, 2012 3:40 am

Carol wrote:

Spike wrote:

Carol wrote:

If Shinge is spreading rumors about Genjo, she needs to be outed about it. Would whoever heard these rumors directly from her please come forward?

Wait: did I not just?!

If that's what you meant -- that you heard it directly from Shinge -- that was not clear to me from what you said -- "(personal communication)". I did not understand you to mean "personal communication" from Shinge.

Ok. Here it is, my numbered questions and Shinge's replies:

“

Shinge Roshi, Roko Sherry Chayat roko@hoenji.org
9/22/11

to me

Dear ["blank"],
Thanks for your email of 9/19.

I have three followup questions:

1. Who have you nominated for board directorships?

We are still discussing people's ideas, and will begin the formal nomination process after Golden Wind Sesshin.

2. What is the status of Genjo Marinello in ZSS? That is, what is your specific position regarding his most recent letter offering to rejoin the board, and keep Chobo-ji affiliated with ZSS?

He quit the board because he could not accept the board's and our lawyer's repeated requests that he discontinue his breaches of confidentiality. After being put on notice several times by our lawyer, he said he "refused to be muzzled" and would communicate whatever he felt he needed to to the wider world. A second concern, just between you and me, is that we have heard from several of his women students complaints of sexual harassment: inappropriate touching, verbal come-ons, and insufficient observation of boundaries between therapy and Zen teaching. So no, we won't be asking him to re-join.

3. Does Eido Roshi still have access to ZSS property in any way, under any condition?

Under very restricted conditions: only by permission, with direction, and supervision, during a time of no official gatherings or programs, for approved reasons, and very briefly.

Although you have not acknowledged my previous letters under my name and the pseudonym 'spike', I trust you will have a change of heart in this instance, and reply to these three specific questions.

I did reply by email to you as [*blank*] not long ago. and no, I don't read the blogs, so I wasn't aware of your being one of my, if not the only, defenders. But thank you.
Best wishes,
Shinge

Carol: I have "blanked" out my name to prevent any harm to anyone who might confront me, but feel free to look up my registration to see who I am, or ask Genjo.

Frankly, if what Shinge alleges is true, I would hope she and the board would forgive Genjo, since all has been made right. But really, she should **apologize**.

"just between you and me" -- ha! I barely know this broad.



Kojip

Posts: 2075
Joined: Sat Nov 21, 2009 6:38 pm
antispam: No

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

By Kojip on Wed May 09, 2012 4:05 am

Carol wrote:

-- not everyone reading this stuff has any idea who the players are, who is credible, etc., etc. And I am dead set against ZFI being used for the purpose of destroying peoples' reputations, intentionally or not.

True.. and for someone just investigating...just trying to connect through this site... it must look like American Zen is a snake pit. It is easy to imagine someone wondering just what on Earth could these people teach me? I'm wondering it..



Genjo

Posts: 109
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

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

By Genjo on Wed May 09, 2012 5:02 am

Nonin wrote:

Spike also said:

Shinge has majorly sniped at Genjo, accusing him of sexual misconduct (personal communication) resulting in admonishment from his sangha (personal communication) and implied disqualification from consideration for the position she now occupies at ZSS.

I have never heard Shinge Roko speak against Genjo publicly. Also, implications are personal considerations and cannot be verified.

For the record, what sexual misconduct and admonishment from his (Genjo's) sangha are you speaking of?

Once again any criticism of ZSS or Shinge Roshi is redirected as criticism of me. Good going Nonin.

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

<http://www.choboji.org>



Carol
Global Moderator

Posts: 7988
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 2:52 am
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
antispam: No

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

By Carol on Wed May 09, 2012 5:17 am

Spike wrote:

Carol wrote:

Moderator's Note:

~Carol

Genjo: my pleasure. I love you.

Carol: with love, great respect, and friendliness: in your face.

Can 'you' take it?

Good question! I try really hard. I do. My biggest two concerns are (1) not harming anyone by what is posted at ZFI, whether the harm is intentional or an unintended consequence of something posted here, and (2) reducing ill-will here on the forum and in the world generally. I think when people speak from ill-will, they are not helping themselves or others to get through this terrible pain and suffering that human error generates. The first step is to recognize my own ill-will and see if noticing it helps me to find another way. Sometimes it does. To be honest, sometimes it doesn't because I'm just feeling too self-righteous to let go of the ill-will. Then I'm in trouble. I expect it's the same for most of us.

I thank those who try to moderate their ill-will and who consider the unintended consequences of what they say and post. It ain't always easy when feelings are running high!

~Carol

Things are not what they appear to be, nor are they otherwise. ~The Lankavatara Sutra

Online

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

by Genjo on Wed May 09, 2012 8:22 am



Genjo

Posts: 110
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No



Spike wrote:
Ok. Here it is, my numbered questions and Shinge's replies:

“
Shinge Roshi, Roko Sherry Chayat roko@hoenji.org
9/22/11

to me
...
He quit the board because he could not accept the board's and our lawyer's repeated requests that he discontinue his breaches of confidentiality. After being put on notice several times by our lawyer, he said he "refused to be muzzled" and would communicate whatever he felt he needed to to the wider world. A second concern, just between you and me, is that we have heard from several of his women students complaints of sexual harassment: inappropriate touching, verbal come-ons, and insufficient observation of boundaries between therapy and Zen teaching. So no, we won't be asking him to re-join....
Shinge

I repeat: "Shinge Roshi was on a campaign to have me ousted from the board because I disclosed too much for her sensibilities, but she would never have gotten the votes to have me removed. I did leave the ZSS Board because of irreconcilable differences with her on how to proceed as an organization (See: <http://sweepingzen.com/2012/03/03/inter...s-society/>). Now she is spreading misinformation about me, makes sense. I have never been admonished by my sangha or any professional organization for sexual misconduct; however, I do know what is like to be wrongly accused."

The most serious complaint that had the least bit of merit was that I moved somebody's hair from their eyes when they were crying and that on more than one occasion touched someone's knee sympathetically. Since becoming a "Dharma Heir" I have had to learn that even the simplest human touch can be misconstrued. As far as "insufficient observation of boundaries between therapy and Zen training", in the past, I have allowed FORMER counseling clients of mine to come to sesshin and do Jukai at Chobo-Ji before a sufficient brake from counseling had transpired. I told all of this to Shinge Roshi before she ever heard it from anyone else. I find it incomprehensible that she is spreading such salacious rumors about me. How sad.

With palms together,

Genjo

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

<http://www.choboji.org>



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

by christopher:: on Wed May 09, 2012 10:10 am



christopher::
Founding Member

Posts: 4824
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 1:25 am
Location: Fukuoka, Japan
antispam: No

I just wonder, do we really need these detailed personal accusations to remain public? They were not made public until now. It's gossip, basically, no? The situation with Eido Shimano is so different, we need to make distinctions between what people should know for their own safety and what's better not spread throughout the Internet.

:::: Buddha Nature: Heart of the Dharma :::: Some "Zen inspired" Artwork: ::::
"You are the sky. Everything else, it's just the weather." --Pema Chodron



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

by Dan74 on Wed May 09, 2012 11:12 am

Dan74

Posts: 2334
Joined: Sun Feb 15, 2009 12:26 am
Location: Melbourne, Australia
antispam: No



"Be the change you want to see" -- Mahatma Gandhi

"Less is more."



genkaku

Posts: 3800
Joined: Sun Feb 08, 2009 2:24 am

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

↳ by genkaku on Wed May 09, 2012 12:55 pm

I posted this on the [Eido Shimano continued](#) blog site and lack the energy to rewrite it here:

It's b-a-a-a-a-a-c-k!

First of all, thanks to Spike for posting some actual-factual correspondence. Second, thanks to Carol over at ZFI for what I thought was a relevant and level-headed legal assessment. And third, I find it interesting that Genjo should make some effort to be open about his failings or missteps in the past, but I see no similar effort on the part of Shinge, who seems content to nail Genjo's hide to the naughtiness wall on behalf of some 'greater good' ... future generations of Zen students or the 'unconditioned realm' or 'protecting the Dharma' or something similar.

When it comes to self-protective behavior -- seeking to buttress and burnish my own actions by pointing out the failures of others -- I will have to plead guilty. Frankly, I think I have a lot of human company, but that's not the point. The point is that I have done it and am thereby able to recognize bullshit when I see it.

Eido Shimano's past activities have shone a bright light on the corruption of this self-enhancing behavior. In that regard, he has been an outstanding teacher. Duck-and-cover, direct attention away from the issue and come out smelling like a rose, blame the victim, hold up some 'greater principle' blah, blah, blah ... it goes on and on.

And to my eye, Shinge, in imputing malfeasance to Genjo, has kept the tradition alive and thriving. I don't imagine for a moment that Genjo is some flawless man. I don't claim for a moment that I am a flawless man. Everyone fucks up ... so what else is new?

But notice ... Genjo at least took a swing at addressing the accusations openly. To use a popular fifty-cent word, he attempted to be 'transparent' about his own failings and the fallout those failings might produce. Like the rest of us, he tried to learn from his mistakes and doesn't duck the fact that he made them. This willingness benefits whatever the hell 'the Dharma' may be far more than diverting people's minds and hopes to a mythology that coincidentally seems to immunize those who promote it from any personal responsibility or honest observation.

My own feeling is that if Zen students have something to 'protect' -- from self to mythology to sainted properties -- they are in the wrong damned business.

I know, I know ... there are 'reasons' and 'explanations' and 'excuses' and hymns to sing, but I'll take one man who makes an effort at 'transparency' over a hundred 'important' poseurs any day of the week. Honesty just plain works better.



Kojip

Posts: 2077
Joined: Sat Nov 21, 2009 6:38 pm
antispam: No

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

↳ by Kojip on Wed May 09, 2012 1:37 pm

genkaku wrote:

My own feeling is that if Zen students have something to 'protect' -- from self to mythology to sainted properties -- they are in the wrong damned business.

Never mind sainted properties, please tell me where amid what's on display here, there is anything different than a benighted family tearing each other to pieces at the dinner table? What can an unenlightened knuckle head like me learn except that zen masters self-immolate on the internet, like anyone else?



christopher:::
Founding Member

Posts: 4824
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 1:25 am
Location: Fukuoka, Japan
antispam: No

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

↳ by christopher::: on Wed May 09, 2012 2:26 pm

Kojip wrote:

genkaku wrote:

My own feeling is that if Zen students have something to 'protect' -- from self to mythology to sainted properties -- they are in the wrong damned business.

Never mind sainted properties, please tell me where amid what's on display here, there is anything different than a benighted family tearing each other to pieces at the dinner table? What can an unenlightened knuckle head like me learn except that zen masters self-immolate on the internet, like anyone else?

*This is an exquisite truth:
Saints and ordinary folks
are the same from the start.*

*Inquiring about a difference
Is like asking to borrow string
when you've got a good strong rope.*

*Every Dharma is known in the heart.
After a rain, the mountain colors intensify.*

*Once you become familiar
with the design of fate's illusions
Your ink-well will contain
all of life and death.*

~Hsu Yun
(1839 - 1959)

:::: Buddha Nature: Heart of the Dharma :::: Some "Zen inspired" Artwork ::::
"You are the sky. Everything else, it's just the weather." ~Pema Chodron

genkaku

Posts: 3800
Joined: Sun Feb 08, 2009 2:24 am

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

↳ by genkaku on Wed May 09, 2012 2:46 pm

Kojip wrote:

genkaku wrote:

My own feeling is that if Zen students have something to 'protect' -- from self to mythology to sainted properties -- they are in the wrong damned business.

Never mind sainted properties, please tell me where amid what's on display here, there is anything different than a benighted family tearing each other to pieces at the dinner table? What can an unenlightened knuckle head like me learn except that zen masters self-immolate on the internet, like anyone else?

Kojip -- You may well be right and a round-table shouting match may resolve nothing whatsoever. Still, I don't know about you, but when Laundry Day rolls around in my neck of the woods, I sort out and observe the gritchy stuff as a means of assuring that I will wear some clean clothes in future. The process isn't always pretty and it's not always perfect (where DID that other blue sock go?!), but the outcome is better than living with an over-stuffed and sometimes-smelly hamper.

Last edited by genkaku on Wed May 09, 2012 2:50 pm, edited 1 time in total.



Carol
Global Moderator

Posts: 7988
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 2:52 am
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
antispam: No

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

↳ by Carol on Wed May 09, 2012 2:48 pm

My biggest two concerns as a moderator here are (1) not harming anyone by what is posted at ZFI, whether the harm is intentional or an unintended consequence of something posted here, and (2) reducing ill-will here on the forum and in the world generally. I think when people speak from ill-will, they are not helping themselves or others to get through this terrible pain and suffering that human error generates. The first step is to recognize my own ill-will and see if noticing it helps me to find another way. Sometimes it does. To be honest, sometimes it doesn't because I'm just feeling too self-righteous to let go of the ill-will. Then I'm in trouble. I expect it's the same for most of us.

I thank those who try to moderate their ill-will and who consider the unintended consequences of what they say and post. It ain't always easy when feelings are running high!

~Carol

Things are not what they appear to be, nor are they otherwise. ~The Lankavatara Sutra

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Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and others

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1937 posts • Page 97 of 97 • [1](#) ... [93](#) [94](#) [95](#) [96](#) [97](#)



Carol
Global Moderator

Posts: 7994
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 2:52 am
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
antispam: No

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

by **Carol** on Wed May 09, 2012 4:51 pm

Shodo wrote:

What I see is an organization (ZSS) that seems to wish desperately that this situation goes away - That people would stop shining a light on what they are doing (and not doing), and is now trying to slander it's biggest detractor via innuendo in an effort to weaken the beam...

IMO, repeating slander damages the person slandered as much as the slanderer in most cases. These things take on a life of their own on the internet and the rumor mill ... and go far beyond those "in the know" with the capacity to make informed judgments about them.

I only permitted it to be posted here after consulting with Genjo and receiving his permission, and after it had already been posted on Genkaku's blog ... so the damage was already set in motion. I wanted to give Genjo an opportunity to respond, which he has done with his customary forthrightness, as well as the hard-learned lesson he drew from it.

~Carol

Things are not what they appear to be, nor are they otherwise. ~The Lankavatara Sutra



Shodo

Posts: 129
Joined: Thu Nov 11, 2010 8:17 pm

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

by **Shodo** on Wed May 09, 2012 5:55 pm

Carol said...

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Wait... I hope you don't think that by posting the letter, that Spike or anyone else was going after *Genjo*...?
If it's the Spike I know - he admires Genjo. (sorry for putting words in yer mouth Spike)

I think it was to show that Shinge's been engaging in a little slander.

The Dude: Yeah, well. The Dude abides *nowhere*.

The Stranger: The Dude abides *nowhere*... I don't know about you but I take comfort in that. It's good knowin' he's *not* out there. The Dude. Takin' 'er easy for all us sinners.



Carol
Global Moderator

Posts: 7994
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 2:52 am
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
antispam: No

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

by **Carol** on Wed May 09, 2012 6:04 pm

Shodo wrote:

Carol said...

I only permitted it to be posted here after consulting with Genjo and receiving his permission, and after it had already been posted on Genkaku's blog ... so the damage was already set in motion. I wanted to give Genjo an opportunity to respond, which he has done with his customary forthrightness, as well as the hard-learned lesson he drew from it.

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If it's the Spike I know - he admires Genjo. (sorry for putting words in yer mouth Spike)

I think it was to show that Shinge's been engaging in a little slander.

No. It is quite clear that Spike is not "going after Genjo." Re-read what I said. Slander travels, and many people will not know enough to evaluate it's merits or origins. Genjo is harmed by it, even though that is not Shodo's intention.

I know this from too much personal experience to recount here.

Things are not what they appear to be, nor are they otherwise. ~The Lankavatara Sutra



Kojip

Posts: 2078
Joined: Sat Nov 21, 2009 6:38 pm
antispam: No

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

↳ by Kojip on Wed May 09, 2012 8:20 pm

genkaku wrote:

Kojip wrote:

genkaku wrote:

My own feeling is that if Zen students have something to 'protect' -- from self to mythology to sainted properties -- they are in the wrong damned business.

Never mind sainted properties, please tell me where amid what's on display here, there is anything different than a benighted family tearing each other to pieces at the dinner table? What can an unenlightened knuckle head like me learn except that zen masters self-immolate on the internet, like anyone else?

Kojip -- You may well be right and a round-table shouting match may resolve nothing whatsoever. Still, I don't know about you, but when Laundry Day rolls around in my neck of the woods, I sort out and observe the gritchy stuff as a means of assuring that I will wear some clean clothes in future. The process isn't always pretty and it's not always perfect (where DID that other blue sock go?!), but the outcome is better than living with an over-stuffed and sometimes-smelly hamper.

There is always, when people declare non-duality beyond the pairs, transcending saints and sinners... a stealth duality drawn nonetheless in their own blind spots. Everyone draws the line somewhere, where it suits them. ...and it spills out in every word. That is why maybe a frank duality is more helpful than a slippery and convenient non-duality. This is not a comment on you, genkaku... or anyone in particular. I respect all of you... It's just a general observation about Zen rhetoric.

Maybe this makes no sense.. or is off topic. it doesn't matter. ...and I am happy not to "get it"



Spike

Posts: 24
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

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

↳ by Spike on Wed May 09, 2012 11:11 pm

Shodo wrote:

Wait... I hope you don't think that by posting the letter, that Spike or anyone else was going after Genjo....?
If it's the Spike I know - he admires Genjo. (sorry for putting words in yer mouth Spike)

I think it was to show that Shinge's been engaging in a little slander.

Or call it "politics".

Here's an irony: Shimano engages in *serial abusive sexual intercourse* with ZSS students and gets paid ~\$90,000/year (by ZSS) forever. Genjo applies a light touch to comfort a crying sangha member, and this becomes the basis for banishment by ZSS.

Some are not at all "far beyond upside down views".

Dan74

Posts: 2338
Joined: Sun Feb 15, 2009 12:26 am
Location: Melbourne, Australia
antispam: No

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

↳ by Dan74 on Thu May 10, 2012 12:12 am

Kojip wrote:

genkaku wrote:

My own feeling is that if Zen students have something to 'protect' -- from self to mythology to sainted properties -- they are in the wrong damned business.

Never mind sainted properties, please tell me where amid what's on display here, there is anything different than a benighted family tearing each other to pieces at the dinner table? What can an unenlightened knuckle head like me learn except that zen masters self-immolate on the internet, like anyone else?

I think there is more to this than "a benighted family tearing each other to pieces at the dinner table" but the prominence of this sad saga here where many people interested in Zen may come, is a worry.

I mean there is time and place to "do the laundry" as genkaku says, but I am not sure this prolonged and very public exhibition of the dirty laundry is really beneficial for the onlookers and the chance visitors.

Like it was said earlier it can create an impression that American Zen is a "snake pit" and I guess a few American Zen teachers who do see this thread would probably wish for different sort of publicity. Or for this affair to be put in the greater context rather than loom so large.

"Be the change you want to see" -- Mahatma Gandhi

"Less is more."

genkaku

Posts: 3802
Joined: Sun Feb 08, 2009 2:24 am

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

↳ by genkaku on Thu May 10, 2012 12:47 am

Dan -- It strikes me that all the jumping up and down here indicates not just that Zen is or can be a "snake pit" but also that there is something worth jumping up and down about ... and I am not talking about sedate and self-serving silences.

Dan74

Posts: 2338
Joined: Sun Feb 15, 2009 12:26 am
Location: Melbourne, Australia
antispam: No

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

↳ by Dan74 on Thu May 10, 2012 1:23 am

I am sure there is "something worth jumping up and down about" for the people involved, but what about the rest of us? What about the folks who having read Zen Mind, Beginners Mind hop on the web to see what the practitioners of this Way actually do?

Do you think they will see this as "something worth jumping up and down about"?

Or will they come away feeling that Zen must be a load of hogwash if what Zen Buddhists mostly do is argue over some supposedly great teacher's nasty sexual predations and the resulting fall out?

I am not for stifling this conversation. I am just wondering out loud if this is a proper venue for it.

Also I am not sure what you mean by "sedate and self-serving silences," genkaku. Perhaps you could expand on this?

/

"Be the change you want to see" -- Mahatma Gandhi

"Less is more."



christopher::
Founding Member

Posts: 4828
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 1:25 am
Location: Fukuoka, Japan
antispam: No

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

↳ by christopher::
on Thu May 10, 2012 1:51 am

Carol wrote:

My biggest two concerns as a moderator here are (1) not harming anyone by what is posted at ZFI, whether the harm is intentional or an unintended consequence of something posted here, and (2) reducing ill-will here on the forum and in the world generally. **I think when people speak from ill-will, they are not helping themselves or others to get through this terrible pain and suffering that human error generates. The first step is to recognize my own ill-will and see if noticing it helps me to find another way. Sometimes it does. To be honest, sometimes it doesn't because I'm just feeling too self-righteous to let go of the ill-will. Then I'm in trouble. I expect it's the same for most of us.**

I thank those who try to moderate their ill-will and who consider the unintended consequences of what they say and post. It ain't always easy when feelings are running high!

~Carol

In my view this is where the laundry really gets done, where the dirty socks are recognized and sorted out from the clean. We can jump up and down about outrageous pensions for a serial predator, and we need to make people aware of the dangers of sexual misconduct, but at the end of the day its each of us looking within and monitoring our thoughts, feelings, words and intentions (as directed towards fellow sentient beings) where the real heavy lifting in our practice gets worked out, where the dharma gets "realized".... no?

:::: [Buddha Nature: Heart of the Dharma](#) :::: [Some "Zen inspired" Artwork](#) ::::

"You are the sky. Everything else, it's just the weather." ~Pema Chodron



fukasetsu

Posts: 2637
Joined: Fri Feb 06, 2009 12:17 am
Location: zandvoort-haarlem NL

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

↳ by fukasetsu on Thu May 10, 2012 2:09 am

christopher::
wrote:

In my view this is where the laundry really gets done, where the dirty socks are recognized and sorted out from the clean. We can jump up and down about outrageous pensions for a serial predator, and we need to make people aware of the dangers of sexual misconduct, but at the end of the day its each of us looking within and monitoring our thoughts, feelings, words and intentions (as directed towards fellow sentient beings) where the real heavy lifting in our practice gets worked out, where the dharma gets "realized".... no?

Not really, thoughts/feelings [whatever] occur due to conditions,

In the end whatever will happen will happen, and the referees are part of the play whether they identify to the role or not.

Besides no one complains on a thread which is full of praise

Abbatfruktbröd



christopher::
Founding Member

Posts: 4828
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 1:25 am
Location: Fukuoka, Japan
antispam: No

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

↳ by christopher::
on Thu May 10, 2012 2:25 am

Sure, the "game" nature of all this is important to see and the referees are part of the play. But intentions and compassion matter, mindfulness, wisdom and attentiveness shape the way the game flows, very much so. On one level it's all just happening, but we also have the power to consciously influence the direction events go.

As Richard said:

Kojip wrote:

There is always, when people declare non-duality beyond the pairs, transcending saints and sinners... a stealth duality drawn nonetheless in their own blind spots. Everyone draws the line somewhere, where it suits them. ...and it spills out in every word. That is why maybe a frank duality is more helpful than a slippery and convenient non-duality.

This is important to see, imo.

:::: [Buddha Nature: Heart of the Dharma](#) :::: [Some "Zen inspired" Artwork](#) ::::

"You are the sky. Everything else, it's just the weather." ~Pema Chodron

Dan74 wrote:

I am sure there is "something worth jumping up and down about" for the people involved, but what about the rest of us? What about the folks who having read Zen Mind, Beginners Mind hop on the web to see what the practitioners of this Way actually do?

Do you think they will see this as "something worth jumping up and down about"?

Or will they come away feeling that Zen must be a load of hogwash if what Zen Buddhists mostly do is argue over some supposedly great teacher's nasty sexual predations and the resulting fall out?

I am not for stifling this conversation. I am just wondering out loud if this is a proper venue for it.

Also I am not sure what you mean by "sedate and self-serving silences," genkaku. Perhaps you could expand on this?



Dan -- You may be entirely right and I may be entirely wrong. But I think there are several things worth considering.

First of all, if I hear you correctly, there is good reason to nourish and encourage the newcomers that all of us once were -- the ones who found something magnetic and sensible about observations like The Four Noble Truths or prescriptions like The Eightfold Path. Suffering is not some philosophical talking point, but is very real in people's lives. The idea that they might find something to unwind the knots or relieve the pain is honestly touching. Who with a heart could not sympathize and do what they could to sustain and inform and protect such young shoots -- shoots such as any one of us might have been or yet be?

Will such young shoots be turned off or turned away by the "snake pit" they find here? Will they dismiss it as poppycock and look elsewhere for a more laudable activity than "snake pit" Zen practice? It's certainly conceivable that they might, but my own take is that Zen is stronger and more resilient than any negative ballyhoo that ever was. It is also my take that Zen is stronger and more resilient than its promoters, its posing protectors and its praise-mongers. As I say, this is just my take, and you may have a more accurate bead on the situation.

Another element worth considering in this "snake pit" maelstrom is this: To what extent was a coddling and extolling and compartmentalizing approach to Zen responsible for the ascent and enthronement and corruption of a man like Eido Shimano? The "unconditional realm" or "a lineage reaching all the way back to Shakyamuni Buddha" etc. etc. ... to what extent does so much implicit and explicit praise (leading to so much implicit and explicit credulity among the tender shoots) open the door as much to corruption as it does to any grounded and honest understanding? And if this assessment is anywhere near to true, then what remedy works better ... a continued hagiographical insistence that all is well in the Land of Nod or some examination (snakes and all) of the land as it is?

Also worthy of consideration: If the Internet or other similar venues are not the 'proper' place for such grinding and endlessly-unresolved discussions, what would be the 'proper' place? Behind the monastery walls? Within the confines of the American Zen Teachers Association? Or in some other venue where those most affected or most at risk could not gain access? I am not trying to impugn the sometimes good-hearted caring that goes on at the organizational level of Zen Buddhist organizations, but neither am I willing to hand over a sovereignty that they sometimes arrogate to themselves...and insist their memberships uphold. This is not the Catholic church. Not to put too fine a point on it, organizers have jobs -- jobs they defend against attack. But for the young shoots, Buddhism holds out promise in their *lives*. And when I match a job against a life, my inclination is to side with affected lives.

Dan, if I hear you correctly, I agree: This whole "snake pit" business is dispiriting and exhausting and far from the whole story. Wouldn't it be nicer to make nice and praise what is deservedly praise-worthy in Zen practice? Of course it would. And of course newcomers might be reassured even as the old farts like me wallowed in delicious, job-preserving certainties. It is nice to relax, to be assured, to be reassured, to feel that the wiles and wretchedness of the marketplace cannot enter, to see a brighter tomorrow. I'd take that in a heart beat if I could find it.

But, as I say, I think that Zen is finer and stronger by far than either its promoters or detractors. Zen isn't some second-string, genuflecting, believer-rich religion. Our practice has to do with life ... all of it. And whether we can smile today or hope to smile tomorrow, still the practice has a smile written all over it. Young shoots are young shoots. Old farts are old farts. It's nothing special and yet ... well, Zen practice is worth it not because "Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind" says so or because some abbot in a fine monastery says so or because some skill proclaims a "lineage that goes all the way back to Shakyamuni Buddha" ... Zen practice is worth it because you say so ... and so do I.

Sorry for so much wind.

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

by fukasetsu on Thu May 10, 2012 2:46 am



fukasetsu

Posts: 2637

Joined: Fri Feb 06, 2009 12:17 am

Location: zandvoort-haarlem NL

christopher:: wrote:

Sure, the "game" nature of all this is important to see and the referees are part of the play. But intentions and compassion matter, mindfulness, wisdom and attentiveness shape the way the game flows, very much so. On one level it's all just happening, but we also have the power to consciously influence the direction events go.

Kind of missed the point, mate.

You can trace how a thing comes to be but not how a thing is.

The problem with "influencing" the direction of things, well not everybody wants to direct it the same, so the new point simply is that "free speech" cannot be covered up by the camp of "compassion" and advising others what to say or not, be it praise or blame. [I haven't followed this thread, but if someone violates the TOS there's a simple ban option I assume]

Abbafruktbröd

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

by christopher:: on Thu May 10, 2012 3:12 am



christopher::
Founding Member

Posts: 4828

Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 1:25 am

Location: Fukuoka, Japan

antispm: No

What I am trying to say Dan's sig line sums up well...

"Be the change you want to see" -- Mahatma Gandhi

That's all.

::::: Buddha Nature: Heart of the Dharma ::::: Some "Zen Inspired" Artwork :::::

"You are the sky. Everything else, it's just the weather." --Pema Chodron

Seishun

Posts: 1

Joined: Thu May 10, 2012 2:40 am

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

□ by Seishun on Thu May 10, 2012 3:05 pm

1733 South Horton Street
Seattle, WA 98144
May 8, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: The following post on Zen Forum International, dated May 8, 2012: "Shinge has majorly sniped at Genjo, accusing him of sexual misconduct (personal communication) resulting in admonishment from his sangha (personal communication) and implied disqualification from consideration for the position she now occupies at ZSS."

The Chobo-Ji Board of Trustees categorically states that it has never admonished, nor known of any reason to admonish, Genjo Marinello for sexual misconduct. There is nothing further to say on this matter.

Sincerely,

Seishun Dee Endelman, Current President
Chobo-Ji Board of Trustees

And Genko Blackman, Former President
Chobo-Ji Board of Trustees



Genjo

Posts: 111

Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm

Location: Seattle, WA USA

antispam: No

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

□ by Genjo on Thu May 10, 2012 4:00 pm

Spike wrote:

Shinge Roshi, Roko Sherry Chayat roko@hoenji.org
9/22/11

to me

...

He quit the board because he could not accept the board's and our lawyer's repeated requests that he discontinue his breaches of confidentiality. After being put on notice several times by our lawyer, he said he "refused to be muzzled" and would communicate whatever he felt he needed to to the wider world. A second concern, just between you and me, is that we have heard from several of his women students complaints of sexual harassment: inappropriate touching, verbal come-ons, and insufficient observation of boundaries between therapy and Zen teaching. So no, we won't be asking him to re-join.

...

Shinge

Shinge Roshi wrote me the following on May 9th 2012:

Shinge Roshi, Roko Sherry Chayat
Dear Genjo,

I want to apologize to you, and I am so sad that something I thought was a private correspondence has been unleashed in this hurtful way. You are certainly right, there is no confidentiality possible in an email. I have experienced that often myself, so I should have known better! It has been clear for a long time that our trust in each other has been abused again and again in this very public way, and it's really distressing. In any case, I'm glad Genko wrote to the board fully exonerating you, and I fully accept and have faith in her statement. More than likely what I heard came from feelings of confusion and resentment, and I should not have repeated it even to one person, particularly in an email. I deeply regret the pain this has caused you, and I hope you will accept my apology.

Gassho,

Shinge

I wrote back "Apology accepted. Thank you."

However, I must say I am still feeling burned, angry and depressed. I've now been successively accused of 1) being power hungry, when that didn't stick, 2) motivated by my early abuse history, when that didn't stick, 3) "Holier than thou," when that didn't stick, 4) allowing dual relationships including the sin that my wife of twenty plus years is a member of the Chobo-Ji sangha, and finally, when that didn't stick 5) sexual harassment followed by an apology.

I am not the only one who has reported being treated very poorly when they publicly disagree with the course of the ZSS administration.

What I've been saying is: 1) Eido Shimano Roshi should be excluded from being on ZSS property, 2) that there are good arguments that the 1995 Deferred Compensation Agreement is bogus, essentially written by Eido Roshi himself, and should be challenged, 3) There needs to be a democratically elected ZSS Board, 4) There continues to be Insufficient investigation and outreach to those most harmed by Eido Shimano Roshi's history of abuse of power and position, 5) There needs to be an organizational apology from the board of ZSS for not taking stronger steps to protect its own sangha.

I'm sorry if this seems like a broken record or too much to ask for, but I will not be cowered into being quiet. It is my hope that ZFI will allow this thread to remain open until these steps have been realized.

With palms together,

Genjo

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

<http://www.choboji.org>



Carol
Global Moderator

Posts: 7994
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 2:52 am
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
antispam: No

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

↳ by Carol on Thu May 10, 2012 4:36 pm

Moderator's Note:

So long as I'm a moderator here this thread will remain open, whether or not these steps have been realized.

Our [Terms of Service](#) apply to this topic and everyone needs to comply with them ... no matter what their perspective may be. Posts not complying with the Terms of Service will be removed. Posters repeatedly violating the Terms of Service will have their posting privileges suspended ... see our [Moderation Guidelines](#).

So, a caution to all ... just because you disagree with something or someone does NOT give you license to abuse them here. There are better ways to express your views. If you don't agree with those ground rules, then don't post here.

If you believe someone has posted an abusive post, DO NOT respond in kind. Use the report function at the top of the post to report it to the moderators and we will deal with it.

~Carol

Things are not what they appear to be, nor are they otherwise. --The Lankavatara Sutra



Anders Honore

Posts: 1164
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 11:58 pm
antispam: No

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

↳ by Anders Honore on Thu May 10, 2012 5:22 pm

If nothing else, it seems the recent responses here suggest that this topic on ZFI does not exist in a vacuum.

"The wise do not even abide in the middle." --- Samadhiraja Sutra

*"Even if my body should be burnt to death in the fires of hell
I would endure it for myriad lifetimes
As your companion in practice" --- Gandavyuha Sutra*



Carol
Global Moderator

Posts: 7995
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 2:52 am
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
antispam: No

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

↳ by Carol on Thu May 10, 2012 5:55 pm

Online

Genjo wrote:

Shinge Roshi wrote me the following on May 9th 2012:

Shinge Roshi, Roko Sherry Chayat

Dear Genjo,

I want to apologize to you, and I am so sad that something I thought was a private correspondence has been unleashed in this hurtful way. You are certainly right, there is no confidentiality possible in an email. I have experienced that often myself, so I should have known better!

It has been clear for a long time that our trust in each other has been abused again and again in this very public way, and it's really distressing.

In any case, I'm glad Genko wrote to the board fully exonerating you, and I fully accept and have faith in her statement. More than likely what I heard came from feelings of confusion and resentment, and I should not have repeated it even to one person, particularly in an email. I deeply regret the pain this has caused you, and I hope you will accept my apology.

Gassho,

Shinge

I must say that I find this apology deeply disturbing ...

(1) It deflects the "blame" for Shinge's defamation onto the person who made her disgraceful statement public. This is analogous to blaming whistle-blowers for revealing corporate or governmental wrongdoing to public scrutiny. Shinge's defamation of Genjo was "unleashed" on him when Shinge wrote it -- Genjo just didn't know it -- and not when the recipient made it public and known to him. Presumably what she wrote to someone she barely knew she also said or wrote to others without compunction. Her claim that this was a "private" communication (to someone she hardly knew) is insupportable. Shinge was defaming Genjo to a member of the public and cannot hide behind "private communication" as an excuse. Whispering slander is one of the most devious and destructive breaches of the precepts, and should be confronted, condemned, and disciplinary action should be taken by the Sangha and/or board of directors when it occurs.

2) It continues the long-time pattern of discrediting/defaming those who have opposed Shimano's predations and sought to make things right. I do strongly believe that there are different legitimate views on how to do that -- but defamation of those who see it differently will certainly NOT accomplish making things right at ZSS. So, the sickness continues into the next generation.

3) This is truly disheartening because ZSS has now coalesced around Shinge Roshi ... She is the prime mover now, and her discernment of ethical conduct is sadly faulty, as demonstrated by this email. This deeply saddens me because I very much wanted to believe Shinge's approach, though not the one recommended by the Faith Trust Institute or Genjo, was capable of restoring an ethical foundation for teaching the Dharma at ZSS.

4) Under these circumstances, I would be very tempted to conclude that ZSS is a lost cause, and that everyone who hoped for better should just move on to more positive endeavors. These things become an energy sink that retards or stops growth in other areas.

~Carol

Things are not what they appear to be, nor are they otherwise. --The Lankavatara Sutra



Shodo

Posts: 130
Joined: Thu Nov 11, 2010 8:17 pm

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

by Shodo on Thu May 10, 2012 6:51 pm

Carol said...

“

I must say that I find this apology deeply disturbing ...

(1) It deflects the "blame" for Shinge's defamation onto the person who made her disgraceful statement public. This is analogous to blaming whistle-blowers for revealing corporate or governmental wrongdoing to public scrutiny. Shinge's defamation of Genjo was "unleashed" on him when Shinge wrote it -- Genjo just didn't know it -- and not when the recipient made it public and known to him. Presumably what she wrote to someone she barely knew she also said or wrote to others without compunction. Her claim that this was a "private" communication (to someone she hardly knew) is insupportable. Shinge was defaming Genjo to a member of the public and cannot hide behind "private communication" as an excuse. Whispering slander is one of the most devious and destructive breaches of the precepts, and should be confronted, condemned, and disciplinary action should be taken by the Sangha and/or board of directors when it occurs.

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Thank you Carol for finding the right words about Shinge's letter... I was going to write something, but was pondering your above Mod instructions to us and decided that I better hold off and do some zazen before I re-wrote my post.

as well as this:

“

4) Under these circumstances, I would be very tempted to conclude that ZSS is a lost cause, and that everyone who hoped for better should just move on to more positive endeavors. These things become an energy sink that retards or stops growth in other areas.

The Dude: Yeah, well. The Dude abides *nowhere*.
The Stranger: The Dude abides *nowhere*... I don't know about you but I take comfort in that. It's good knowin' he's *not* out there. The Dude. Takin' 'er easy for all us sinners.

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 1941 posts • Page 97 of 98 • ...

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Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and others

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1949 posts • Page 98 of 98 • [1](#) ... [94](#) [95](#) [96](#) [97](#) [98](#)



Gregory Wonderwheel
Global Moderator

Posts: 2655
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 3:07 am
Location: Santa Rosa, Calif.
antispam: No

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

↳ by **Gregory Wonderwheel** on Thu May 10, 2012 7:11 pm

Shodo wrote:

Thank you Carol for finding the right words about Shinge's letter... I was going to write something, but was pondering your above Mod instructions to us and decided that I better hold off and do some zazen before I re-wrote my post.

Sound's like the Mod admonitions worked as intended.

One of the sometimes overlooked aspects of ZFI is the ability to practice through our writing/speaking. The practice opportunity of ZFI is not just to state our opinions willy nilly but to craft and present our words carefully to state a perspective that is "standing on zero" or "sitting in suchness," etc. and thus accord with Buddha Dharma. No easy task for any of us.

/
Gregory

The Blessed One said, "The recognition of the one vehicle (一乘) is obtained when there is no rising of discrimination by doing away with the notion of grasped and grasping and by abiding in the reality of suchness." ~ From the Lankavatara Sutra



Gregory Wonderwheel
Global Moderator

Posts: 2655
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 3:07 am
Location: Santa Rosa, Calif.
antispam: No

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

↳ by **Gregory Wonderwheel** on Thu May 10, 2012 7:47 pm

Genjo wrote:

I wrote back "Apology accepted. Thank you."

However, I must say I am still feeling burned, angry and depressed. I've now been successively accused of 1) being power hungry, when that didn't stick, 2) motivated by my early abuse history, when that didn't stick, 3) "Holier than thou," when that didn't stick, 4) allowing dual relationships including the sin that my wife of twenty plus years is a member of the Chobo-Ji sangha, and finally, when that didn't stick 5) sexual harassment followed by an apology.

Considering that Bodhidharma was poisoned multiple times, Huike also poisoned, Yantou speared to death, Dahui banished for years to see at least a third of the sangha that accompanied him into banishment die from malaria and other diseases, well the cliché seems to apply, "No matter how bad it gets, there's always something worse that could happen."

Yunmen's "Every day is a good day" goes with the Plain's Indian's saying "Hoka hey, today's a good day to die."

Just saying,..... not meaning to deny or trivialize the living hurt.

Oh and another saying works as well, "[No good deed goes unpunished.](#)"

Thanks Genjo Osho for being as strong voice for clear Dharma.

/
Gregory

The Blessed One said, "The recognition of the one vehicle (一乘) is obtained when there is no rising of discrimination by doing away with the notion of grasped and grasping and by abiding in the reality of suchness." ~ From the Lankavatara Sutra



Nonin
Global Moderator

Posts: 3548
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 3:30 pm
Location: Omaha, Nebraska, USA
antispam: No



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

By Nonin on Thu May 10, 2012 9:30 pm

Online

Genjo said:

“
What I've been saying is: 1) Eido Shimano Roshi should be excluded from being on ZSS property, 2) that there are good arguments that the 1995 Deferred Compensation Agreement is bogus, essentially written by Eido Roshi himself, and should be challenged, 3) There needs to be a democratically elected ZSS Board, 4) There continues to be insufficient investigation and outreach to those most harmed by Eido Shimano Roshi's history of abuse of power and position, 5) There needs to be an organizational apology from the board of ZSS for not taking stronger steps to protect its own sangha.

No one at ZFI has the power or position(s) to facilitate any of this. You'd be better off directing your demands to the ZSS Board of Directors, for it is the only entity with the power to do any of the above.

Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

Soto Zen Buddhist Priest. Transmitted Dharma Heir of Dainin Katagiri Roshi.
Abbot and Head Teacher, Nebraska Zen Center / Heartland Temple, Omaha, Nebraska, USA
<http://www.prairiewindzen.org>



Genjo

Posts: 112
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No



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

By Genjo on Thu May 10, 2012 10:14 pm

Online

Nonin wrote:
Genjo said:
“
What I've been saying is: 1) Eido Shimano Roshi should be excluded from being on ZSS property, 2) that there are good arguments that the 1995 Deferred Compensation Agreement is bogus, essentially written by Eido Roshi himself, and should be challenged, 3) There needs to be a democratically elected ZSS Board, 4) There continues to be insufficient investigation and outreach to those most harmed by Eido Shimano Roshi's history of abuse of power and position, 5) There needs to be an organizational apology from the board of ZSS for not taking stronger steps to protect its own sangha.

No one at ZFI has the power or position(s) to facilitate any of this. You'd be better off directing your demands to the ZSS Board of Directors, for it is the only entity with the power to do any of the above.

Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

What a great idea Nonin. I will do just that. In fact I ask that any and all who agree that these are good steps, please email them with their own additions or comments to: Attention Shinge Roshi, ZSS Board of Directors, Dai Bosatsu Zendo & Shobo-Ji <office@daibosatsu.org>.

With palms together,

Genjo

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

<http://www.choboji.org>



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

D by genkaku on Thu May 10, 2012 10:39 pm

Carol wrote:

Genjo wrote:

Shinge Roshi wrote me the following on May 9th 2012:

Shinge Roshi, Roko Sherry Chayat

Dear Genjo,

I want to apologize to you, and I am so sad that something I thought was a private correspondence has been unleashed in this hurtful way. You are certainly right, there is no confidentiality possible in an email. I have experienced that often myself, so I should have known better!

It has been clear for a long time that our trust in each other has been abused again and again in this very public way, and it's really distressing.

In any case, I'm glad Genko wrote to the board fully exonerating you, and I fully accept and have faith in her statement. More than likely what I heard came from feelings of confusion and resentment, and I should not have repeated it even to one person, particularly in an email. I deeply regret the pain this has caused you, and I hope you will accept my apology.

Gassho,

Shinge

I must say that I find this apology deeply disturbing ...

(1) It deflects the "blame" for Shinge's defamation onto the person who made her disgraceful statement public. This is analogous to blaming whistle-blowers for revealing corporate or governmental wrongdoing to public scrutiny. Shinge's defamation of Genjo was "unleashed" on him when Shinge wrote it -- Genjo just didn't know it -- and not when the recipient made it public and known to him. Presumably what she wrote to someone she barely knew she also said or wrote to others without compunction. Her claim that this was a "private" communication (to someone she hardly knew) is insupportable. Shinge was defaming Genjo to a member of the public and cannot hide behind "private communication" as an excuse. Whispering slander is one of the most devious and destructive breaches of the precepts, and should be confronted, condemned, and disciplinary action should be taken by the Sangha and/or board of directors when it occurs.

(2) It continues the long-time pattern of discrediting/defaming those who have opposed Shimano's predations and sought to make things right. I do strongly believe that there are different legitimate views on how to do that -- but defamation of those who see it differently will certainly NOT accomplish making things right at ZSS. So, the sickness continues into the next generation.

(3) This is truly disheartening because ZSS has now coalesced around Shinge Roshi ... She is the prime mover now, and her discernment of ethical conduct is sadly faulty, as demonstrated by this email. This deeply saddens me because I very much wanted to believe Shinge's approach, though not the one recommended by the Faith Trust Institute or Genjo, was capable of restoring an ethical foundation for teaching the Dharma at ZSS.

(4) Under these circumstances, I would be very tempted to conclude that ZSS is a lost cause, and that everyone who hoped for better should just move on to more positive endeavors. These things become an energy sink that retards or stops growth in other areas.

~Carol

Carol -- Remind me to buy you a beer when you're out this way. Nicely done ... and far more polite than I could have been. Evasive and manipulative language does not bring out the best in me. Thanks.



Nomin
Global Moderator

Posts: 3548

Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 3:30 pm

Location: Omaha, Nebraska, USA

antispam: No

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

D by Nomin on Thu May 10, 2012 11:17 pm

Genjo said:

However, I must say I am still feeling burned, angry and depressed. I've now been successively accused of 1) being power hungry, when that didn't stick, 2) motivated by my early abuse history, when that didn't stick, 3) "Holier than thou," when that didn't stick, 4) allowing dual relationships including the sin that my wife of twenty plus years is a member of the Chobo-Ji sangha, and finally, when that didn't stick 5) sexual harassment followed by an apology.

Genjo,

For many people, some of what has been said should have stuck, and in my view, your reflection on some of it would be helpful rather than viewing yourself as a victim. (1) When your early positions were not accepted by the rest of the ZSS Board of Directors, you quit, effectively removing yourself from a position of power to effect change in the organization. Can't you see that this could be viewed as the actions of a power-hungry person who says "if things don't go my way, I'm leaving?"

Also, (2) you have admitted that your early abuse history might be driving your actions, especially early on. Do you still feel this way, and have you looked deeper into this? As you know, child molesters have a hard time in prison because many other inmates were victims of child abuse. Children who were abused often carry hurt and anger well on into adulthood and beyond, especially when confronted by instances of child abuse.

(3) When you constantly point fingers at others and don't ever acknowledge any personal faults that might have led to the situations you find yourself in, isn't it likely that some might consider you as presenting yourself as "holier than thou?"

And, (4) No one has spoken against a teacher's spouse being a member of sangha. However, taking on a spouse as one's personal student is certainly frowned upon, so most teachers' spouses select other teachers and connect with them periodically. I don't know how it is in Rinzaï Zen, but in Soto Zen, these kinds of dual relationships are discouraged, and there are clear proscriptions in our Ethics Statement about dharma transmission in such situations. Whether you like it or not, you'll have to live with the fact that your wife is a personal student of yours. If it doesn't bother you, fine, but it bothers others. Also, I wouldn't have brought this up if you hadn't tried to goad me into revealing an early transgression of mine that you didn't know I'd revealed and owned not only on this board but also within the Zen Buddhist community at large and had spoken out against for many years. I would have appreciated an apology, but none was forthcoming.

(5) As far as the sexual harassment rumors go, I'm glad that they didn't stick and that they've been put to rest; however, you did mention a couple of touching incidents that were mis-interpreted. We all learn from past incidents, and we've all learned what a hot button issue clergy sexual misconduct has become.

Online

We put ourselves in the positions we find ourselves, and blaming others for our conditions is not helpful. No one connected to ZSS is clean in this situation, and many people besides Eido Shimano have acted badly and are still acting badly. Many others commenting here on this board and in other Zen Buddhist venues also acted on bad information early on, have paid the price for it, and are still paying it. It seems as if some people won't be satisfied unless Eido Shimano is hung by his balls from the nearest high tree, Shinge Roko is tarred and feathered and run out of town, and Dai Bosatsu and Shobo-ji are burned to the ground.

I've known Shinge for many years. We were two of the earliest members of the AZTA, and we became friends way back. I've always seen her as one of the deepest, most talented, and most stable of American Zen Buddhist teachers. She also has a very good reputation among her peers and has taught at other temples headed by members of the AZTA. I've taught at her temple in Syracuse, N.Y. and attended her dharma transmission there a few years ago. I was impressed with the sangha there, which is always a reflection of the teacher. Shinge and I are still in contact from time to time, and I'm confident that she's doing the best she can to right ZSS, along with the other Board Members, who are all putting a lot of time on the most pressing issues and are also trying to keep the practice going in the midst of all the turmoil. Shinge does not deserve the venom that has been and still is directed toward her by those on the outside who are constantly pointing fingers on those on the inside, who are doing their best to re-establish ZSS as a viable practice place.

It does no good to be constantly spreading ill-will toward Shinge and the current Board. We'd all be better off if we continue to examine the issue of clergy misconduct, its ramifications, and other tangential issues civilly and with at least a measure of good will, without all the venom and ill-will people harbor constantly being directed at Eido Shimano, Shinge, and ZSS in general and shoving this thread over to the dark side.

Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

Soto Zen Buddhist Priest. Transmitted Dharma Heir of Dainin Katagiri Roshi.
Abbot and Head Teacher, Nebraska Zen Center / Heartland Temple, Omaha, Nebraska, USA
<http://www.prairiewindzen.org>



Carol
Global Moderator

Posts: 8000
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 2:52 am
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
antspam: No

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

By Carol on Fri May 11, 2012 12:33 am

Worth reposting at this time

A Sweeping Zen posting... by Grace Shireson

<http://sweepingzen.com/2012/03/06/the-z...community/>

Online

“Sweeping Zen is providing a valuable forum for airing questions about Zen teacher misconduct and how the Zen community leadership meets this challenge. The recent dialogue in Sweeping Zen captured in interviews with Roko Sherry Shinge Chayat Roshi and Genjo Marinello brings several important questions into focus: How should a Zen center organization remediate and restructure in the aftermath of a teacher's misconduct, how does influential community members' loyalty to a disgraced teacher tend to minimize a teacher's misconduct, and what is the appropriate balance between keeping an established community functioning and thoroughly and honestly disclosing harm done and helping its victims heal. Their side by side interviews begin to resemble a case study in the effort required to remediate teacher misconduct, revealing how even with the best intentions harm can be perpetuated and justified, and how whistleblowers – the Zen students who point out a teacher's faults – are isolated and driven out of sanghas.

There is a dangerous and predictable process that develops in sanghas plagued by teacher misconduct. It's a process of division that preserves and rewards the teacher's defenders and systematically isolates those who speak truth to power. Teachers who commit harm repeatedly can do so only with protectors and enablers and a community that tolerates, dismisses or supports their misconduct. Under such circumstances, loyalty and gratitude to the teacher – a traditional element in Zen practice – becomes a very tricky business, easily hijacked for unwholesome purposes. Because the Zen teacher-student relationship is a new dynamic in the West, it's especially important for us to look carefully at the overall dynamic, at its complexities and boundaries, and at what happens when the relationship breaks down. This is a work in progress and is painful for all concerned parties.

When a teacher is violating appropriate boundaries and exploiting students, there is a loyalist tendency to minimize, explain away, or even cover-up the misconduct in order to keep the community functioning and maintain the status quo. Sometimes what's being protected and preserved is a level of activity, sometimes an idealized concept of the teacher and practice, sometimes a public face or reputation, sometimes the positions and benefits of senior members, sometimes real estate owned by the community, but the dynamic is the same. At the organizational level, those who support the teacher despite his/her harmful misconduct circle the wagons and are typically empowered or "promoted" in the hierarchy to keep the teacher and the community's status as a Zen practice place. Meanwhile those who voice the problem, try to change the system, and ask the teacher to acknowledge his/her harm are driven away. Or they leave to avoid being pulled into the web of loyal apologists. The teacher's supporters come to be labeled as authentic practitioners, true Dharma heirs and examples of Zen wisdom, while those seeking rehabilitation and remediation for the teacher and the community are labeled as troublemakers and enemies of the Dharma. This perverse split affects not only the community, but the quality of Zen teaching and the teachers themselves. The whole Zen tradition is dragged down by lies, cover-ups, and corruption, and the challenging, courageous, and talented students are driven out, isolated, and sometimes deprived of a teaching venue.

In her Sweeping Zen interview, Roko Shinge Roshi seems to be struggling to find a balanced way to acknowledge and address Eido Shimano's misconduct and the community's pain without throwing the baby (the ZSS community itself) out with the bathwater. As is now well documented and widely known, Eido Shimano was informed (by Aitken Roshi's report in 1964) of serious damage to two women in his Hawaii community who were hospitalized in a psychiatric ward resulting from their sexual experiences with Shimano. Despite being warned about the harm he'd caused, the record suggests that Shimano continued for more than 40 years, perhaps compelled by addiction, to risk causing this same harm, having sex with female students who might be especially vulnerable to emotional distress. Roko Shinge Roshi provides some socio-cultural context for his sexual predation, harking back to the 60's and early 70's when women's new found sexual freedom was, in her words, expressed by "choosing who we wanted to have sex with and kind of subverting the paradigm" including taking on teachers as lovers, a choice she compares to elevating the word "queer" to something positive in the gay liberation movement.

Of course, we are always swimming in and influenced by the currents of our times, but there are other perspectives on this kind of acting out that are also worth taking into account in this case. One alternative feminist perspective is that choosing a Zen teacher for a sexual partner is hardly an expression of a woman's freedom, in the 60's, 70's, or at any time before or since. Rather, having sex with a mentor, employer, teacher, or doctor may be better understood as a time-worn, misguided attempt to seek power through sex with a powerful man. I describe some of these dynamics in my book Zen Women: Beyond Tea Ladies, Iron Maidens and Macho Masters. A seductive adult woman needs to take responsibility for her behavior, but ultimately, it is a Zen master's job to teach any woman seeking sex as a means to enlightenment that seduction and ingratiation are not the route to Zen awakening. Sadly, Eido Shimano apparently advised female students that sexual intimacy with him was good for their Zen practice. Whatever socio-cultural and psychological forces may have been influencing his female victims, they do not mitigate the hard reality of what took place in Shimano's community and the need to keep his misconduct, responsibility as teacher, and the harm caused at the center of our discussions.

Responsible teaching and protection of students is an essential obligation for any teacher in a position of power and a necessary requirement in the Zen teacher's job description. Unequal power in any helping profession requires restraint in satisfying one's own appetites – sexual and otherwise – in favor of protecting students' well-being and not confusing the purpose of training or healing. It is deemed so essential to those empowered to guide others that a legal prohibition between consenting adults has been mandated—sex is illegal— between doctors and patients, therapists and clients, and in some states between ministers and congregation members. Sadly, such a law prohibiting a minister's sexual liaison with a member of his/her congregation has yet to be passed in New York where Shimano did his damage.

In Scott Edelman's excellent book, *Sex and the Spiritual Teacher*, we learn that a sexually addicted, sexually predatory and sexually exploitative teacher can also apparently offer wisdom, and that such teachers have done just that throughout history. Edelman argues: "Whether we like it or not, many spiritual teachers are both wise and foolish; many are both generous and acquisitive; many are both loving and self-centered. In fact, a small number of exceptionally insightful and inspiring spiritual teachers have also been serial exploiters." However, he also concludes that the community cannot survive this kind of misconduct and that these serially exploitative teachers cannot be remediated. Rather than endlessly arguing about who is at fault, or hand-wringing about the shame and lost opportunity, Edelman recommends that we need to protect the community and consider that sexual exploitations are not a good fit with the job requirement of being a spiritual guide. We need to become clear on who can be helped and how to protect and heal the community. On this point, I congratulate the ZSS Board for bringing in the Faith Trust Institute to investigate Eido Shimano. Sadly, as Genjo Marinello points out, the Faith Trust recommendations were not followed by the ZSS Board.

We also learn from Genjo Marinello's allegations that the ZSS Board was informed that Eido Shimano had forced himself on some of his students in non-consensual sex. (I also have personally heard women describe non-consensual sexual encounters with Eido Shimano.) Addressing this difficult matter in her *Sweeping Zen* interview, Roko Shinge Roshi seems to be aiming for a balanced view, remarking that if such events occurred, "all we can say is how much we deplore it and how much it pains us." By withholding judgment as to the truth of the non-consensual sex ("if" such events occurred), she seems to be trying to establish a calm, neutral ground – not siding with either Eido Shimano or acknowledging the truth of his accusers' allegations. Not an easy task, but an understandable undertaking given Roko Shinge Roshi's attempt to sustain and nurture the ZSS community.

That said, beyond deploring alleged non-consensual sex, going further to express a willingness to investigate and even a willingness to prosecute if compelling evidence is found would be a brave additional step that may be necessary for healing the community. A sincere promise of investigation, possible prosecution, and remuneration to victims would encourage women to come forward and tell their stories so that justice could be served and the community could truly begin to heal. Whatever the legal consequences, knowing that Eido Shimano had perpetrated rape or date rape is an essential part of this conversation and the potential healing of the ZSS community. "Deplored" is certainly an expression of compassion, but I wonder how far it will go toward actually healing these concerns and allegations and repairing the community. Encouraging women to come forward requires trust and honesty; these basic conditions need to be more clearly established for ZSS women to testify. We have learned from the Catholic Church that an attempt for truth and justice can seem hopeless to survivors of clergy abuse since the clergy are so well protected by the institutional denial and avoidance. Investigating allegations, supporting those abused and physically forced to have sex without consent, and seeing that justice is served begins to offer the appropriate response to move beyond the misconduct and the mistrust.

Sangha leaders should consider actions to create a trusting environment. Expressions of disapproval of non-consensual sex are weak tea. We all deplore rape, but what will we do about such allegations in a Zen community? Genjo Marinello suggests that Eido Shimano's (\$90,000/year) retirement money is inappropriate under such circumstances. It seems he is being rewarded for harmful behavior, and that the victims of his harm should receive compensation instead. Until this level of honest investigation and appropriate action are undertaken, a cloud of mistrust will shadow the ZSS community. No matter how hard the ZSS Board works to rewrite the bylaws or restructure the community, the integrity of the community cannot be restored until the truth is heard and an appropriate response is offered.

Speaking and facing the truth, meeting reality, is the backbone of the Zen tradition. In order for Zen to become authentic in the West, it needs to root in honesty and accountability. All of us should care enough about Zen to look closely at what is being taught, to take responsibility for creating structures to apply honesty in our communities, and to develop processes for early remediation and termination for the teachers' transgressions that cannot be remediated. To honor the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha, we must each hold those three treasures dear and not become passive observers. I believe the ZSS Board is trying to find the balance between protecting an established teaching venue and healing the community. This has been a thankless job for all of them. Zen practice requires guts. Let us keep working to make it real here in the West. Please investigate thoroughly and then voice your findings on this matter. We can still make a difference in the outcome.

Things are not what they appear to be, nor are they otherwise. –The Lankavatara Sutra

genkaku

Posts: 3804

Joined: Sun Feb 08, 2009 2:24 am

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

By genkaku on Fri May 11, 2012 1:17 am

Dear Nonin -- With as much respect as I can muster, may I suggest that your address to Genjo falls fully into the category of "civilly uncivil." And that's being as civil as I plan to get.

You ask:

“Can't you see that this could be viewed as the actions of a power-hungry person who says "if things don't go my way, I'm leaving?"

My response without consulting Genjo, but basing that response on Genjo's previous posts in this thread is: Of course he can see that it might be viewed that way. Genjo is not stupid. But being able to see that a course of action might be viewed in another light does not address or consider or 'see' that that course of action was, based on a lack of ZSS transparency or willingness to address the patent harm that has been done, the last resort of someone who had done his principled best to speak forthrightly and clearly to those whose subsequent actions underline a lack of forthrightness and clarity. He tried to point out (in my words) that the laundry needed washing. But, as Yogi Berra once said of the dwindling attendance at the ballpark, "If the fans won't come out to the ballpark, you can't stop them." ZSS and its leadership, in word and deed, have proved time and again that "you can't stop them." Genjo is not a stupid man any more than he is an arrogant one.

Your reference to Genjo's "early abuse history" is abusive, smug and intolerant in its righteousness.

You say:

“(3) When you constantly point fingers at others and don't ever acknowledge any personal faults that might have led to the situations you find yourself in, isn't it likely that some might consider you as presenting yourself as "holier than thou?"

Who on this thread has been more forthcoming about his faults and doubts than Genjo? Certainly I see no similar civility from you. When Genjo was wrong, he acknowledged it. Can you say the same? Is Genjo "holier than thou?" Maybe ... but I can think of more pertinent examples.

I can appreciate that you and Shinge/Roko may be good friends and appreciative colleagues. We all make our choices. But have you bothered to READ the response put forward on her behalf as regards her email comments about Genjo? What that response says is (in true Shimano fashion) not, "I am sorry, Genjo." Instead it very clearly details a person who is sorry she got caught. And thus the tradition continues ... not acknowledging with straightforwardness the damage done to previous students, but misdirecting attention towards the victims themselves ... or apologizing without ever apologizing. Oh goody ... "who among us is not without fault?" Such virtuous and wise and overarching kindness. But the point isn't who is not without fault but whether the perpetrators of that fault acknowledge that fault personally. The unkindness of this oh-so-civil approach is despicably twisted.

I don't expect you to agree with my point of view. I don't expect you to agree with Genjo's point of view. But as a "transmitted teacher," I would hope that your own examination of "clergy misconduct, its ramifications, and other tangential issues" would not be so comfortingly 'civil' as to paper over some semblance of honesty.

Please forgive my somewhat higglety-pigglety response. My point of view is that there is an appropriate time to say "no!" There is a time to admit that the emperor is wearing no clothes. There is a time to speak out for transparency and repentance. Genjo has done his best and deserves better than a smarmy, looks-good, civilly-uncivil virtue by way of ripost. Genjo has had the good grace to admit his mistakes. I hope I may emulate his capacity in that regard. Civil incivilities strike me as too corrupt a way to live.



Spike

Posts: 25
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

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

D by Spike on Fri May 11, 2012 1:55 am

genkaku wrote:

Dear Nonin -- With as much respect as I can muster, may I suggest that your address to Genjo falls fully into the category of "civilly uncivil." And that's being as civil as I plan to get.

You ask:

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Civil incivilities strike me as too corrupt a way to live.

Hey, Genkaku: I hope you didn't get warned!

Hey Mr. Nonin: calling a (respected) colleague "power-hungry" is unfriendly and disrespectful.

Maybe you should warn yourself.



Carol
Global Moderator

Posts: 8000
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 2:52 am
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
antispam: No

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

D by Carol on Fri May 11, 2012 1:59 am

MODERATOR'S NOTE:

ENOUGH! ENOUGH POSTS DIRECTED AT THE PERSON!



I'm not going to remove any of this. But it's time to dial it back, everyone.

~Carol

Things are not what they appear to be, nor are they otherwise. --The Lankavatara Sutra

Online



Nonin
Global Moderator

Posts: 3551
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 3:30 pm
Location: Omaha, Nebraska, USA
antispam: No

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

D by Nonin on Fri May 11, 2012 2:08 am

Grace Schireson's words are spot on and deserve to be read and re-read, so I've quoted it here and bolded some words that are of special interest in the light of current discussion on this thread:

Most people who have any knowledge of ZSS's current processes know that Shinge's responses have to be very measured, for she's the head of ZSS and has to operate not only after lawyers' advice but with the consent of the rest of the Board of Directors.

Grace said:

“Sweeping Zen is providing a valuable forum for airing questions about Zen teacher misconduct and how the Zen community leadership meets this challenge. The recent dialogue in Sweeping Zen captured in interviews with Roko Sherry Shinge Chayat Roshi and Genjo Marinello brings several important questions into focus: How should a Zen center organization remediate and restructure in the aftermath of a teacher's misconduct, how does influential community members' loyalty to a disgraced teacher tend to minimize a teacher's misconduct, and what is the appropriate balance between keeping an established community functioning and thoroughly and honestly disclosing harm done and helping its victims heal. Their side by side interviews begin to resemble a case study in the effort required to remediate teacher misconduct, revealing how even with the best intentions harm can be perpetuated and justified, and how whistleblowers – the Zen students who point out a teacher's faults – are isolated and driven out of sanghas.

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Online

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Soto Zen Buddhist Priest. Transmitted Dharma Heir of Dainin Katagiri Roshi.
Abbot and Head Teacher, Nebraska Zen Center / Heartland Temple, Omaha, Nebraska, USA
<http://www.prairiewindzen.org>



Nonin
Global Moderator

Posts: 3551
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 3:30 pm
Location: Omaha, Nebraska, USA
antispam: No

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

by Nonin on Fri May 11, 2012 2:20 am

Grace Schireson wrote:

“
In her *Sweeping Zen* interview, Roko Shinge Roshi seems to be struggling to find a balanced way to acknowledge and address Eido Shimano's misconduct and the community's pain without throwing the baby (the ZSS community itself) out with the bathwater.

Yes, absolutely, and this is a difficult balance to maintain, because Shinge's not only the head of the organization but also its public voice, and ZSS's continuance depends a lot on her actions. Also, as we all know, her actions and statements are made within the constraints of ZSS's lawyers' advice. The weight on her shoulders is immense, and I, for one (of many) offer her my heartfelt support and my sincere wishes that she sees the organization through to successful healing and to the successful fruition of Rinzaï Zen Buddhist practice at both of ZSS's practice places.

Grace also said:

“
I believe the ZSS Board is trying to find the balance between protecting an established teaching venue and healing the community. This has been a thankless job for all of them.

Yes, and they, including Shinge, deserve a lot of credit for sticking with it and seeing it through in the midst of all the negativity and downright nastiness that's been slung at them.

Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

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Shodo

Posts: 131

Joined: Thu Nov 11, 2010 8:17 pm

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

↳ By [Shodo](#) on Fri May 11, 2012 3:01 am

We read things quite differently...

Here is a different take on Grace Shireson's post - so I've quoted it here and bolded some words that are of special interest in the light of current discussion on this thread:

Grace said...

66
Sweeping Zen is providing a valuable forum for airing questions about Zen teacher misconduct and how the Zen community leadership meets this challenge. The recent dialogue in Sweeping Zen captured in interviews with Roko Sherry Shinge Chayat Roshi and Genjo Marinello brings several important questions into focus: How should a Zen center organization remediate and restructure in the aftermath of a teacher's misconduct, **how does influential community members' loyalty to a disgraced teacher tend to minimize a teacher's misconduct, and what is the appropriate balance between keeping an established community functioning and thoroughly and honestly disclosing harm done and helping its victims heal.** Their side by side interviews begin to resemble a case study in the effort required to remediate teacher misconduct, revealing how even with the best intentions harm can be perpetuated and justified, and how whistleblowers – **the Zen students who point out a teacher's faults – are isolated and driven out of sanghas.**

There is a dangerous and predictable process that develops in sanghas plagued by teacher misconduct. It's a process of division that preserves and rewards the teacher's defenders and systematically isolates those who speak truth to power. Teachers who commit harm repeatedly can do so only with protectors and enablers and a community that tolerates, dismisses or supports their misconduct. Under such circumstances, loyalty and gratitude to the teacher – a traditional element in Zen practice – becomes a very tricky business, easily hijacked for unwholesome purposes. Because the Zen teacher-student relationship is a new dynamic in the West, it's especially important for us to look carefully at the overall dynamic, at its complexities and boundaries, and at what happens when the relationship breaks down. This is a work in progress and is painful for all concerned parties.

When a teacher is violating appropriate boundaries and exploiting students, there is a loyalist tendency to minimize, explain away, or even cover-up the misconduct in order to keep the community functioning and maintain the status quo. Sometimes what's being protected and preserved is a level of activity, sometimes an idealized concept of the teacher and practice, sometimes a public face or reputation, sometimes the positions and benefits of senior members, sometimes real estate owned by the community, but the dynamic is the same. At the organizational level, those who support the teacher despite his/her harmful misconduct circle the wagons and are typically empowered or "promoted" in the hierarchy to keep the teacher and the community's status as a Zen practice place. Meanwhile those who voice the problem, try to change the system, and ask the teacher to acknowledge his/her harm are driven away. Or they leave to avoid being pulled into the web of loyal apologists. The teacher's supporters come to be labeled as authentic practitioners, true Dharma heirs and examples of Zen wisdom, while those seeking rehabilitation and remediation for the teacher and the community are labeled as troublemakers and enemies of the Dharma. This perverse split affects not only the community, but the quality of Zen teaching and the teachers themselves. The whole Zen tradition is dragged down by lies, cover-ups, and corruption, and the challenging, courageous, and talented students are driven out, isolated, and sometimes deprived of a teaching venue.

In her Sweeping Zen interview, Roko Shinge Roshi seems to be struggling to find a balanced way to acknowledge and address Eido Shimano's misconduct and the community's pain without throwing the baby (the ZSS community itself) out with the bathwater. As is now well documented and widely known, Eido Shimano was informed (by Aitken Roshi's report in 1964) of serious damage to two women in his Hawaii community who were hospitalized in a psychiatric ward resulting from their sexual experiences with Shimano. Despite being warned about the harm he'd caused, the record suggests that Shimano continued for more than 40 years, perhaps compelled by addiction, to risk causing this same harm, having sex with female students who might be especially vulnerable to emotional distress. Roko Shinge Roshi provides some socio-cultural context for his sexual predation, harking back to the 60's and early 70's when women's new found sexual freedom was, in her words, expressed by "choosing who we wanted to have sex with and kind of subverting the paradigm" including taking on teachers as lovers, a choice she compares to elevating the word "queer" to something positive in the gay liberation movement.

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Genjo

Posts: 115
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

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

By Genjo on Fri May 11, 2012 7:18 am

Nonin wrote:

Genjo said:

However, I must say I am still feeling burned, angry and depressed. I've now been successively accused of 1) being power hungry, when that didn't stick, 2) motivated by my early abuse history, when that didn't stick, 3) "Holler than thou," when that didn't stick, 4) allowing dual relationships including the sin that my wife of twenty plus years is a member of the Chobo-Ji sangha, and finally, when that didn't stick 5) sexual harassment followed by an apology.

Genjo,

For many people, some of what has been said should have stuck...

I see no need to answer your questions Nonin, I have already answered to the best of my ability in many previous posts, and as Carol has appropriately said, "ENOUGH POSTS DIRECTED AT THE PERSON!"

I fully accept that there may be many different views on how to proceed at ZSS, but I think dialogue here and elsewhere should stay on track about helping ZSS find its way to a more healthy future. I consider the ZSS properties to be a national treasure, purchased by the donations and sweat of many hundreds of people alive and dead. As everyone knows, I resigned from the ZSS board in July of last year because I felt as though I were beating my head against a wall. The board was going in directions I could not support. But this fact does not abrogate my or anyone's right to express our views on what we see and what we want to see to help this national treasure recover. As a Dharma Heir of Eido Shimano Roshi I have a vested interest in this lineage, and as someone who has served on the ZSS board, an intimate understanding of the complications.

Again here are the steps that I believe have been overlooked: 1) Eido Shimano Roshi should be excluded from being on ZSS property, 2) that there are good arguments that the 1995 Deferred Compensation Agreements that pay the Shimano's in excess of \$90,000 a year are bogus, essentially written by Eido Roshi himself, and should be challenged in court, 3) There needs to be a democratically elected ZSS Board, 4) There continues to be Insufficient investigation and outreach to those most harmed by Eido Shimano Roshi's history of abuse of power and position, 5) There needs to be an organizational apology from the board of ZSS for not taking stronger steps to protect its own sangha.

The stakes are too high to stop or divert the dialogue here or elsewhere to personal attacks. Shinge Roshi has done a lot to positively change the atmosphere and course, but still more needs to be done. I am asking that all of us offer Shinge Roshi our heartfelt support and sincere wishes for efforts to right the ZSS organization, but I'm also asking that we not fail to put forth clear ideas of what needs doing to support this great treasure. If you think my ideas have merit, please support them by sending a letter to the ZSS board. If you think there are items I have missed or think some of my suggestions are too severe please say so to the ZSS Board. At the very least ZSS Board can review our collective wisdom of what we think remains to be done. I know that in the past they have been influenced but such written appeals. Here is the contact information...

Attention ZSS Board President
New York Zendo Shobo-ji
223 East 67th Street
New York, NY 10065
(212) 861-3333 | Fax (212) 628-6968
email New York Zendo: office@newyorkzendo.org

With palms together,

Genjo

Last edited by Genjo on Fri May 11, 2012 3:06 pm, edited 1 time in total.

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

<http://www.choboji.org>



christopher::
Founding Member

Posts: 4830
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 1:25 am
Location: Fukuoka, Japan
antispam: No

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

↳ by christopher:: on Fri May 11, 2012 10:15 am

Genjo wrote:

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Excellent "re-framing" of the situation, Genjo.

I really think this is the best way to move forward, that has the greatest potential of actually effecting change. We all have difficulty hearing one another when our words are personalized and sound aggressive. As people stop attacking and demonizing - yet speak from the heart, speak directly to those in decision-making positions, the odds are greater I think that the wisdom of what people "outside" of ZSS are saying will "get through"...

Respectfully,
Chris

::::: [Buddha Nature: Heart of the Dharma](#) :::: [Some "Zen inspired" Artwork](#) ::::
"You are the sky. Everything else, it's just the weather." --Pema Chodron

partoft22

Posts: 2057
Joined: Fri Oct 09, 2009 2:38 pm

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

↳ by partoft22 on Fri May 11, 2012 11:11 am

Genjo wrote:

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worth repeating again- and again and again-

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Dan74

Posts: 2342
Joined: Sun Feb 15, 2009 12:26 am
Location: Melbourne, Australia
antispam: No

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

↳ by Dan74 on Fri May 11, 2012 11:25 am

I can't help but wonder could it be time to abandon ship (ZSS)? Hasn't it been sufficiently compromised, so much pain inflicted, so many lies, all this ongoing conflict. Call me a prude but I wouldn't want to practice in a place like this.

"Be the change you want to see" -- Mahatma Gandhi

"Less is more."



Nonin
Global Moderator

Posts: 3554
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 3:30 pm
Location: Omaha, Nebraska, USA
antispam: No

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

↳ by Nonin on Fri May 11, 2012 12:02 pm

Dan74,

All this ongoing conflict is virtual, Dan. What I've heard from those close to the situation is that practice is proceeding at ZSS and that the atmosphere is much more open and welcoming, and, importantly, completely safe, for Eido Shimano has been removed. Of course, a lot remains to be done, a lot of cleaning up, both financially and psychologically. However, the Board of Directors and Shinge are working diligently on it. They deserve our support.

Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

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Joined: Sun Feb 15, 2009 12:26 am
Location: Melbourne, Australia
antispam: No

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

By Dan74 on Fri May 11, 2012 12:55 pm

This is really heartening to hear.

I hope the conflict stays virtual and that this exchange serves to expedite this "cleaning up" that you speak of. That the right thing is done, no matter how difficult.

I guess if it was me I would be seeking other teachers in other lineages, at least for the time being. I think I would not be able to practice in the space, in the lineage that have been compromised to such a devastating extent.

Earlier on in the thread we spoke of forgiveness and redemption and it was a touching exchange. But I feel that cleansing and purification also have their place and they don't seem to be getting much of a mention. I wonder what has been done in that regard?

"Be the change you want to see" -- Mahatma Gandhi

"Less is more."



christopher:::
Founding Member

Posts: 4830
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 1:25 am
Location: Fukuoka, Japan
antispam: No

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

By christopher::: on Fri May 11, 2012 1:16 pm

Much in life is a process.

As far as "purification" goes- it looks like a heartfelt apology from Shimano won't be coming. Instead we see his two main Dharma heirs doing all they can to set things right. Shinge has an awful lot to clean up, meanwhile Genjo is there pointing out the spots she's missed.

Reminds me a bit of many marriages I've seen, committed partners bicker sometimes bitterly and don't agree all the time but it's the shared love, commitment and mindful attention to detail that helps us fix mistakes and make lemonade out of our lemons.

And so life flows.

::::: Buddha Nature: Heart of the Dharma :::: Some "Zen inspired" Artwork ::::
"You are the sky. Everything else, it's just the weather." ~Pema Chodron

genkaku

Posts: 3805
Joined: Sun Feb 08, 2009 2:24 am

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

By genkaku on Fri May 11, 2012 2:25 pm

Dan74 wrote:

I can't help but wonder could it be time to abandon ship (ZSS)? Hasn't it been sufficiently compromised, so much pain inflicted, so many lies, all this ongoing conflict. Call me a prude but I wouldn't want to practice in a place like this.

Dan -- Zen Buddhism does not require us to say that if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck it is therefore a Chihuahua. Nor does it require us to say it is a supremely wondrous duck.

My own opinion is that ZSS has set itself on a course that, while ostensibly 'caring' and 'compassionate,' is morally bankrupt. My questions include, "rebuilding what, precisely?" But this is just my point of view. Others provide more glowing accounts and see the ZSS material holdings and current vision as worthy of support.

The point I am trying to make is this: It doesn't matter that you agree with what I think and it doesn't matter that you agree what others think. The only thing that matters is that you agree with what you think. It's not really a big deal: Just agree with what you agree with, even if it's confusing. Own it ... and give yourself leave to change your mind as you see fit. That's what minds are for -- changing -- right? 😊

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Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and others

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1981 posts • Page 99 of 100 • [1](#) ... [96](#) [97](#) [98](#) [99](#) [100](#)

Dan74
Posts: 2345
Joined: Sun Feb 15, 2009 12:26 am
Location: Melbourne, Australia
antispam: No

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

D by **Dan74** on Fri May 11, 2012 2:44 pm

genkaku wrote:

Dan74 wrote:
I can't help but wonder could it be time to abandon ship (ZSS)? Hasn't it been sufficiently compromised, so much pain inflicted, so many lies, all this ongoing conflict. Call me a prude but I wouldn't want to practice in a place like this.

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"This above all else - to thine own self be true." eh?

In the mean time we spend time doing this (which can be fun):



Thanks, genkaku - like many seemingly obvious things, what you say will no doubt sprout some unexpected growths in times to come! 😊

I don't know the people involved and thinking about this sorry saga, trying to fathom what had happened and is happening, I can't shake off the surreal feeling of it all. Like a report of a massive devastation in some distant exotic place, it is hard to truly comprehend. I try to avoid cluttering this thread with my verbiage (here we go again!) and I am sure people will do their best, as we all do.

Whether that will resolve it or lead to more confusion and suffering I cannot tell of course. You no doubt have a better insight into the prospects.

I remember when my good friend Chris moved to NY 2 years ago, just after this thread got started and asked me if I knew of any good places for Zen, I said avoid Zen Studies Society. Maybe this is just my prejudice and there is good solid practice going on there as Nonin said. I hope so.

"Be the change you want to see" -- Mahatma Gandhi

"Less is more."



Nonin
Global Moderator

Posts: 3562
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 3:30 pm
Location: Omaha, Nebraska, USA
antispam: No

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

↳ by Nonin on Fri May 11, 2012 3:18 pm

Dan74 said:

I guess if it was me I would be seeking other teachers in other lineages, at least for the time being. I think I would not be able to practice in the space, in the lineage that have been compromised to such a devastating extent.

If I were a newcomer or someone with limited experience, I would probably do the same.

However, I wouldn't hesitate to recommend Shinge as a teacher. I have confidence in her ability. Her main place of practice is at Zen Center of Syracuse, which is not formally connected to ZSS and has avoided all the stuff that went wrong there. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend that someone sit a sesshin with her in Syracuse, at Dai Bosatsu, or at the city temple.

I'm a Soto Zen teacher, but if I had a senior, mature student who wanted to experience Rinzai Zen monastic practice, I would recommend trying out DBZ for a practice period, but I would first want to know who would be leading it. This would be the same for me, however, at any monastery, whether Soto or Rinzai. I don't think that the place is as important as the teacher there. However, DBZ is a wonderful monastic facility and that, coupled with a good teacher, would be a good choice, even now.

Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

Soto Zen Buddhist Priest. Transmitted Dharma Heir of Dainin Katagiri Roshi.
Abbot and Head Teacher, Nebraska Zen Center / Heartland Temple, Omaha, Nebraska, USA
<http://www.prairiewindzen.org>



Genjo
Posts: 115
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

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

↳ by Genjo on Fri May 11, 2012 3:48 pm

Nonin wrote:
Dan74 said:

I guess if it was me I would be seeking other teachers in other lineages, at least for the time being. I think I would not be able to practice in the space, in the lineage that have been compromised to such a devastating extent.

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Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

Mostly I agree with you Nonin, Zen Center of Syracuse under Shinge Roshi's leadership did avoid all the stuff at ZSS; I wouldn't hesitate to recommend sesshin with her at that locale. However, until more is done to address the sins of the father at ZSS, I can't yet recommend practice there, but I still have confidence the changes that need to be made can be made. Minimally, I don't see how any of the harmed or alienated sangha can feel relief or any possibility of being welcomed while Eido Roshi is still allowed on campus, at least the majority of the ZSS board is elected by the active sangha, there is an organizational apology, and further investigation and some sort of effort at restitution is made.

With palms together,

Genjo

Abbot of Dai Bai Zan Cho Bo Zen Ji (Chobo-Ji) temple, Seattle, USA; psychotherapist and certificated spiritual director.
<http://www.choboji.org>



Nonin
Global Moderator

Posts: 3562
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 3:30 pm
Location: Omaha, Nebraska, USA
antispam: No

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

↳ by Nonin on Fri May 11, 2012 4:22 pm

Genjo,

There have been clear restrictions as to how and when Eido Shimano can be allowed on campus. He has to apply for entrance beforehand and is to be accompanied. When this was established months ago, he needed to retrieve some personal belongings.

Do you know if they have been retrieved, if he has been continuing to retrieve them, if he is still needing to, and how often he's appeared on campus over the past months?

Do you know if the above restrictions still apply?

Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

Soto Zen Buddhist Priest. Transmitted Dharma Heir of Dainin Katagiri Roshi.
Abbot and Head Teacher, Nebraska Zen Center / Heartland Temple, Omaha, Nebraska, USA
<http://www.prairiewindzen.org>



Shodo

Posts: 133
Joined: Thu Nov 11, 2010 8:17 pm

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

□ by Shodo on Fri May 11, 2012 5:46 pm

As I am pressed for time...

Would anyone please kindly post what the Faith Trust's recommendations to the ZSS were...?
And whether or not each recommendation was followed or not, and if not, why?

(it would be good to see that information here on the current page, instead of buried in the archives or on page 20 or so of this 2 1/2 year old thread.)

The Dude: Yeah, well. The Dude abides *nowhere*.

The Stranger: The Dude abides *nowhere*... I don't know about you but I take comfort in that. It's good knowin' he's *not* out there. The Dude. Takin' 'er easy for all us sinners.

genkaku

Posts: 3808
Joined: Sun Feb 08, 2009 2:24 am

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

□ by genkaku on Fri May 11, 2012 9:15 pm

The six recommendations made by Faith Trust Institute can be found in [this exchange](#) between Marie Fortune of FTI and the Rev. Kobutsu Malone.

JVC108

Posts: 7
Joined: Tue Jan 11, 2011 6:06 pm

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

□ by JVC108 on Fri May 11, 2012 9:30 pm

Shodo wrote:

As I am pressed for time...

Would anyone please kindly post what the Faith Trust's recommendations to the ZSS were...?
And whether or not each recommendation was followed or not, and if not, why?

(it would be good to see that information here on the current page, instead of buried in the archives or on page 20 or so of this 2 1/2 year old thread.)

From http://www.shimanoarchive.com/PDFs/20101024_Fortune_Malone.pdf

“The Society understands that there is public knowledge that the FTI provided suggestions to the Society, and that these were read at the sangha meeting. These six suggestions are embodied in the FTI’s September 2nd, 2010 confidential memo to the Society, and reproduced below:

So at this point, we make the following suggestions:

- Eido Shimano must end his tenure as Abbot as soon as possible. As long as he remains in this role or in any other official capacity, the integrity of ZSS is compromised.
- If there are students who wish to continue to study with Eido, they may do so on their own but not under the auspices of ZSS.
- Eido Shimano should make a full public apology acknowledging his misconduct and his regret for harm done to ZSS.
- Conduct a formal financial audit for the organization. Issue a summary audit report available to the Sangha members.
- Consult with your Zen colleagues who have gone through major restructuring to address misconduct issues, e.g. ZCLA, to help with by-laws revisions and restructuring.
- Read Marilyn R. Peterson’s *At Personal Risk: Boundary Violations in Professional-Client Relationships*.”



Genjo

Posts: 115
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

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

D by Genjo on Sat May 12, 2012 2:45 am

Nonin wrote:

There have been clear restrictions as to how and when Eido Shimano can be allowed on campus. He has to apply for entrance beforehand and is to be accompanied. When this was established months ago, he needed to retrieve some personal belongings.

Do you know if they have been retrieved, if he has been continuing to retrieve them, if he is still needing to, and how often he's appeared on campus over the past months?

Do you know if the above restrictions still apply?

As far as I know the restrictions certainly still apply and in Shinge Roshi's own words they are: "only by permission, with direction, and supervision, during a time of no official gatherings or programs, for approved reasons, and very briefly." However, I don't believe these restrictions have ever been published, which means to me that they could change more easily and no one would know. In general it is my understanding these are being followed, but I have heard of exceptions where Eido Roshi has been at DBZ before his chaperone arrived, and that this caused an awkward scene with monastery residents. I believe at the city center the times have been clearer because, as far as I know he doesn't still doesn't have the new key and must be let in. I have heard that he has demanded and received time in his old office and rooms to visit guests and as far as I know the rooms have still not been cleared, but I do not have very current information and would love an update.

The big problem is that I don't believe the essential investigation and any attempts at serious sangha reconciliation will be possible as long as there is any chance Eido Shimano Roshi is allowed on campus. It is highly unlikely that anyone will come forward to tell their stories until he is officially excluded from both properties, the board offers a public organization apology, and the bylaws are changed so that at least the majority of the ZSS Board is elected by the practicing sangha.

With palms together,

Genjo

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

<http://www.choboji.org>

genkaku

Posts: 3808
Joined: Sun Feb 08, 2009 2:24 am

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

D by genkaku on Sat May 12, 2012 2:21 pm

One very small, but quite telling, example of the ZSS approach to what has been dubbed "transparency" is the fact that the recommendations made by the Faith Trust Institute might never have seen the light of day if the Rev. Kobutsu Malone -- a man standing outside the 'caring' confines of ZSS -- had not ferreted them out.



Nonin
Global Moderator

Posts: 3562
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 3:30 pm
Location: Omaha, Nebraska, USA
antispam: No

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

D by Nonin on Sat May 12, 2012 3:13 pm

genkaku wrote:

One very small, but quite telling, example of the ZSS approach to what has been dubbed "transparency" is the fact that the recommendations made by the Faith Trust Institute might never have seen the light of day if the Rev. Kobutsu Malone -- a man standing outside the 'caring' confines of ZSS -- had not ferreted them out.

Not so. The recommendations were read at a ZSS sangha meeting soon after they were made and later published on ZSS's website.

Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

Soto Zen Buddhist Priest. Transmitted Dharma Heir of Dainin Katagiri Roshi.
Abbot and Head Teacher, Nebraska Zen Center / Heartland Temple, Omaha, Nebraska, USA

<http://www.prairiewindzen.org>



Nonin
Global Moderator

Posts: 3562
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 3:30 pm
Location: Omaha, Nebraska, USA
antispam: No

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

D by Nonin on Sat May 12, 2012 3:28 pm

Genjo wrote:

Nonin wrote:

There have been clear restrictions as to how and when Eido Shimano can be allowed on campus. He has to apply for entrance beforehand and is to be accompanied. When this was established months ago, he needed to retrieve some personal belongings.

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...

With palms together,

Genjo

I've made inquiries as to the above, and when I get a response, I'll post it here.

Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

Soto Zen Buddhist Priest. Transmitted Dharma Heir of Dainin Katagiri Roshi.
Abbot and Head Teacher, Nebraska Zen Center / Heartland Temple, Omaha, Nebraska, USA
<http://www.prairewindzen.org>

genkaku

Posts: 3808
Joined: Sun Feb 06, 2009 2:24 am

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

↳ by genkaku on Sat May 12, 2012 3:33 pm

Nonin wrote:

genkaku wrote:

One very small, but quite telling, example of the ZSS approach to what has been dubbed "transparency" is the fact that the recommendations made by the Faith Trust Institute might never have seen the light of day if the Rev. Kobutsu Malone -- a man standing outside the 'caring' confines of ZSS -- had not ferreted them out.

Not so. The recommendations were read at a ZSS sangha meeting soon after they were made and later published on ZSS's website.

Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

I stand corrected. Kobutsu looked on the ZSS website in his initial search for information about what the Faith Trust Institute had recommended. When he found nothing, he winkled them out by other means. Then he put them up on the Shimano Archive. Then ZSS -- in the interests of transparency -- published them.



Nonin
Global Moderator

Posts: 3562
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 3:30 pm
Location: Omaha, Nebraska, USA
antispam: No

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

↳ by Nonin on Sat May 12, 2012 3:40 pm

genkaku wrote:

Nonin wrote:

genkaku wrote:

One very small, but quite telling, example of the ZSS approach to what has been dubbed "transparency" is the fact that the recommendations made by the Faith Trust Institute might never have seen the light of day if the Rev. Kobutsu Malone -- a man standing outside the 'caring' confines of ZSS -- had not ferreted them out.

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Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

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Genkaku,

As I said, those recommendations were made public at a ZSS sangha meeting and later on the website. Both of these actions were planned and taken independently by the ZSS Board, not because something was published elsewhere. Please give credit where credit is due.

Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

Soto Zen Buddhist Priest. Transmitted Dharma Heir of Dainin Katagiri Roshi.
Abbot and Head Teacher, Nebraska Zen Center / Heartland Temple, Omaha, Nebraska, USA
<http://www.prairewindzen.org>

myojo

Posts: 16
Joined: Sun May 06, 2012 9:52 pm
Location: London

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

↳ by myojo on Sat May 12, 2012 4:04 pm

Genkaku,

Sorry for the delay in responding to your post.

For myself, I have always chosen very well behaved and traditional teachers. That is my preference. But those teachers have always been at pains to point out that their behaviour was nothing to do with enlightenment.

I was once given a breakdown of different types of teacher and this seems to tally with my experience;

1. Disciplined, part of a formal system and enlightened.
2. Undisciplined, part of a formal system and enlightened.
3. Undisciplined, not part of a formal system and enlightened.
4. Disciplined, part of a formal system and not enlightened.
5. Undisciplined, part of a formal system and not enlightened.
6. Undisciplined, not part of a formal system and not enlightened

I believe I have met all kinds and studied under type 1 and 4. Obviously types 5 and 6 are Pretty undesirable. I'm not sure I'd really enjoy type 2 or 3 - but some people seem to.

I can only speak from personal experience and preference - but am open to the idea that an enlightened teacher might be a very apparently flawed human being.

With absolute respect,

In Gassho,

Myojo

I am a Soto Zen priest ordained by Mokuho Guy Mercier who was ordained by Taizen Deshimaru and served as Tenzo at the head temple in France for many years. I live in London and until recently helped to run the Central London Dojo.

myojo

Posts: 18
Joined: Sun May 06, 2012 9:52 pm
Location: London

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

↳ by myojo on Sat May 12, 2012 4:08 pm

P.s.

I guess, to be pedantic, you could also have;
7. Disciplined, not part of a formal system, enlightened.
Myojo

I am a Soto Zen priest ordained by Mokuho Guy Mercier who was ordained by Taizen Deshimaru and served as Tenzo at the head temple in France for many years. I live in London and until recently helped to run the Central London Dojo.



Shodo

Posts: 133
Joined: Thu Nov 11, 2010 8:17 pm

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

↳ by Shodo on Sat May 12, 2012 5:44 pm

genkaku said..

“ I stand corrected. Kobutsu looked on the ZSS website in his initial search for information about what the Faith Trust Institute had recommended. When he found nothing, he winked them out by other means. Then he put them up on the Shimano Archive. Then ZSS -- in the interests of transparency -- published them.

Yes I also find the timing of what the ZSS said interesting...
I also find it interesting that the Faith Trust recommendations are no longer on the ZSS website.
(I guess that is what happened when they didn't follow them.)

Nor there is no mention of any scandal in their yearly newsletters - in fact I can't tell any change as to how Eido is viewed at all, what with all the many articles on how he is being honored... seems like he is just as revered as before.

The Dude: Yeah, well. The Dude abides *nowhere*.

The Stranger: The Dude abides *nowhere*... I don't know about you but I take comfort in that. It's good knowin' he's *not* out there. The Dude. Takin' 'er easy for all us sinners.



christopher::
Founding Member

Posts: 4832
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 1:25 am
Location: Fukuoka, Japan
antispam: No

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

↳ by christopher:: on Sun May 13, 2012 12:37 am

ZSS has prominently displayed "ethical guidelines" on their [main website](#). They could probably go further and provide a contact person or phone number for students (past or present) to contact if these guidelines have been violated.

In Feb when my father was staying at a hospital in Florida we had a lot of problems. Things really turned around when we were informed that there was an official "patient advocate" on the staff that we could contact. Once we were in touch with her things really started to change. She was totally empowered within the system to speak up for patients and challenge what was going on if harm was being done.

Genjo's suggestion that board members be elected by ZSS members is somewhat similar, people need to know that they can go to certain people if they have a problem or difficulty and that those people are more concerned about their wellbeing than of the institution.

There is presently a lack of trust, it seems.

::::: [Buddha Nature: Heart of the Dharma](#) :::: [Some "Zen inspired" Artwork](#) ::::

"You are the sky. Everything else, it's just the weather." --Pema Chodron



Spike

Posts: 26
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

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

↳ by Spike on Sun May 13, 2012 2:00 pm

Nonin wrote:

Genjo said:

“ However, I must say I am still feeling burned, angry and depressed. I've now been successively accused of 1) being power hungry, when that didn't stick, 2) motivated by my early abuse history, when that didn't stick, 3) "Holier than thou," when that didn't stick, 4) allowing dual relationships including the sin that my wife of twenty plus years is a member of the Chobo-Ji sangha, and finally, when that didn't stick 5) sexual harassment followed by an apology.

Genjo,

For many people, some of what has been said should have stuck, and in my view, your reflection on some of it would be helpful rather than viewing yourself as a victim. (1) When your early positions were not accepted by the rest of the ZSS Board of Directors, you quit, effectively removing yourself from a position of power to effect change in the organization. Can't you see that this could be viewed as the actions of a power-hungry person who says "if things don't go my way, I'm leaving?"

I believe there were perhaps ethical considerations involved, and as you know, Genjo offered to rejoin. It can be a struggle to try to be "true to yourself" and your beliefs.

Nonin wrote:

Also, (2) you have admitted that your early abuse history might be driving your actions, especially early on. Do you still feel this way, and have you looked deeper into this? As you know, child molesters have a hard time in prison because many other inmates were victims of child abuse. Children who were abused often carry hurt and anger well into adulthood and beyond, especially when confronted by instances of child abuse.

A wholistic appraisal of Genjo's character and emotional makeup would no doubt include his childhood history. Better to regard this history as intrinsic. Genjo is a psychotherapist and in that context he no doubt is psychologically self-aware. Therefore, especially as one who is long-trained to look deep, he probably has.

Nonin wrote:
(3) When you constantly point fingers at others and don't ever acknowledge any personal faults that might have led to the situations you find yourself in, isn't it likely that some might consider you as presenting yourself as "holier than thou?"

One might be hard-pressed to see how this is not "pointing a finger".

Nonin wrote:
And, (4) No one has spoken against a teacher's spouse being a member of sangha. However, taking on a spouse as one's personal student is certainly frowned upon, so most teachers' spouses select other teachers and connect with them periodically. I don't know how it is in Rinzai Zen, but in Soto Zen, these kinds of dual relationships are discouraged, and there are clear proscriptions in our Ethics Statement about dharma transmission in such situations. Whether you like it or not, you'll have to live with the fact that your wife is a personal student of yours. If it doesn't bother you, fine, but it bothers others. Also, I wouldn't have brought this up if you hadn't tried to goad me into revealing an early transgression of mine that you didn't know I'd revealed and owned not only on this board but also within the Zen Buddhist community at large and had spoken out against for many years. I would have appreciated an apology, but none was forthcoming.

It would be hard for most people to see how the spouse of a teacher, in that teacher's sangha, could not help but also be a student, informally by listening to his dharma talks, watching his example, etc. If she requested taking jukai to become a formal student, I would imagine that there was an appropriate discussion about this, but it is none of my business. Plus, I'll bet she thought that he would be the best teacher for her, and that this has probably proved true.

Nonin wrote:
(5) As far as the sexual harassment rumors go, I'm glad that they didn't stick and that they've been put to rest; however, you did mention a couple of touching incidents that were mis-interpreted. We all learn from past incidents, and we've all learned what a hot button issue clergy sexual misconduct has become.

Having read your praise/defense of Shinge, and, as far as I can tell, your failing to acknowledge that she was perhaps the prime rumor-monger and slanderer, and certainly the most organizationally dangerous of persons to do this to Genjo, this assertion seems questionable.

Nonin wrote:
We put ourselves in the positions we find ourselves, and blaming others for our conditions is not helpful. No one connected to ZSS is clean in this situation, and many people besides Eido Shimano have acted badly and are still acting badly. Many others commenting here on this board and in other Zen Buddhist venues also acted on bad information early on, have paid the price for it, and are still paying it. It seems as if some people won't be satisfied unless Eido Shimano is hung by his balls from the nearest high tree, Shinge Roko is tarred and feathered and run out of town, and Dai Bosatsu and Shobo-ji are burned to the ground.

Nobody wants to see Shimano "hung by his balls" (well, maybe just by one ball. Well, maybe an egregiously injured victim, or her significant other, would dream of seeing it.)

Nonin wrote:
I've known Shinge for many years. We were two of the earliest members of the AZTA, and we became friends way back. I've always seen her as one of the deepest, most talented, and most stable of American Zen Buddhist teachers. She also has a very good reputation among her peers and has taught at other temples headed by members of the AZTA. I've taught at her temple in Syracuse, N.Y. and attended her dharma transmission there a few years ago. I was impressed with the sangha there, which is always a reflection of the teacher. Shinge and I are still in contact from time to time, and I'm confident that she's doing the best she can to right ZSS, along with the other Board Members, who are all putting a lot of time on the most pressing issues and are also trying to keep the practice going in the midst of all the turmoil. Shinge does not deserve the venom that has been and still is directed toward her by those on the outside who are constantly pointing fingers on those on the inside, who are doing their best to re-establish ZSS as a viable practice place.

It does no good to be constantly spreading ill-will toward Shinge and the current Board. We'd all be better off if we continue to examine the issue of clergy misconduct, its ramifications, and other tangential issues civilly and with at least a measure of good will, without all the venom and ill-will people harbor constantly being directed at Eido Shimano, Shinge, and ZSS in general and shoving this thread over to the dark side.

Hands palm-to-palm,
Nonin

One may earn ill-will by their actions, and by the many ramifications those actions may bring. To some, slander is venom. Even if it's just someone slandering someone else behind their back as a "bloodless stuffed shirt", it is beyond crabby.

[Bird of Appetite](#)

Posts: 1
Joined: Mon May 14, 2012 11:08 am

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

↳ by [Bird of Appetite](#) on Tue May 15, 2012 5:25 pm

I have followed this blog for almost one year as an unregistered guest. While a few upper echelon ZSS members (present and former) have contributed, not one of the sangha's recently active rank and file seems to have come forward. Indeed, it appears to me that most contributors are "outsiders".

A recent post by one of the most vociferous of the outsiders suggesting that some people will not be "satisfied unless ... Dai Bosatsu and Shobo-ji are burned to the ground" prompts me to make my own contribution.

I was a member of ZSS for more than ten years. I received the precepts from Eido Shimano. I participated in three kesseis at Dai Bosatsu. In addition, I attended numerous sesshins there and at Shobo-ji. I have also done sesshin at Hoen-ji. During my time at DBZ I held various offices and was privy to some of the inner workings of ZSS. My means are modest, nonetheless I made efforts to donate when possible to the ZSS.

Although rumors of past misdeeds circulated during my term, none were ever corroborated and it was generally believed that the teacher was completely reformed, well on his way to becoming the first patriarch of Rinzai Zen in America. I was informed on June 24, 2010—three days after the initial revelation—of the most recent scandal by an eye witness to the disclosure.

Thanks to the Internet the full scope of the goings-on within ZSS was soon revealed. At this point, I would like to declare that had factual information on that sangha's principal teacher been readily available at the time I chose to enter it, I certainly would have looked elsewhere for zen training.

In any case, while I never questioned the strength of the sitting practice at DBZ, I found many other aspects perplexing, even distasteful. When the scandal broke I was actively seeking other venues that would allow me to carry on with my practice.

Since then, I have renounced my dharma name and I have lost all interest in formal zen practice. Ongoing contacts with many former dharma brothers and sisters have been reduced to sporadic communications with a handful of my closest friend from those days. Luckily I had the good fortune (karma?) to attend three retreats under the aegis of the Insight Meditation Society. I can report that in what surely amounts to less than twenty days, I found more wisdom and compassion there than in all my years of practice with the ZSS.

While I do not think that I would be happy to see Dai Bosatsu or Shobo-ji "burned to the ground", the current situation is totally unsatisfactory. I find myself closely aligned with Genjo Osho and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his courage and steadfastness. He seems to be one of the few protagonists to have left the ZSS shipwreck with his honor intact. His continued participation in this blog, in spite of numerous, ongoing attacks, is worthy of admiration.

Perhaps rather than burning down DBZ and NYZ they could be handed over to some ecumenical Buddhist organization that can transform both those places (after thorough purification) into centers for atonement and silent reflection on the pitfalls of practice.



[Michaeljc](#)
Posts: 1015
Joined: Fri May 05, 2011 3:36 pm
Location: Anywhere

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

↳ by [Michaeljc](#) on Tue May 15, 2012 7:49 pm

Do such institutions, by default, have a Mother figure? i.e someone worldly, experienced, and responsible for the **normal** wellbeing of students? If you don't, then get one!

m

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Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and others

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2001 posts • Page 100 of 101 • [1](#) ... [97](#) [98](#) [99](#) [100](#) [101](#)

[genkaku](#)

Posts: 3812
Joined: Sun Feb 08, 2009 2:24 am

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

by [genkaku](#) on Wed May 16, 2012 12:24 am

Thank you, Bird of Appetite. May your honesty continue to serve you well.



[Genjo](#)

Posts: 118
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

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

by [Genjo](#) on Wed May 16, 2012 3:02 am

Bird of Appetite wrote:

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Perhaps rather than burning down DBZ and NYZ they could be handed over to some ecumenical Buddhist organization that can transform both those places (after thorough purification) into centers for atonement and silent reflection on the pitfalls of practice.

Dear Bird of Appetite,

Thank you for your honest post and support. I've heard many similar stories from former participants at DBZ and Shobo-Ji. I've also heard from people who are now training there how much better the environment has become. The sangha left standing and slowly growing is having

a much better time now, but what of the hundreds who have left? I know there are many that have either been so harmed or are so alienated that they would never think of returning, but I also know there are many, and I am among this group, who hope to one day return. I've been called a "quitter" for leaving the ZSS board. However, I offered to return if some minimal steps were advanced, but no go. I won't be a part of their entrenched inaction when it comes to addressing the needs of those most harmed and alienated from the practice. It could all start with the simple step of publicly excluding Eido Shimano Roshi, who has demonstrated repeatedly that he is a sexual predator grooming and preying on females from his own sangha, from the properties. Most everyone, including some remaining board members, and many of those sangha members who have managed to hang on, have said to me that it is primarily Shinge Roshi's resistance that has prevented this simple step. I think a letter campaign to the board may just tip the balance. I really appreciate those who have taken the time to write and support me, and even more those who have actually written the ZSS board. Please see: <http://sweepingzen.com/saving-a-dharma-treasure/> for more details.

With palms together,

Genjo

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

<http://www.choboji.org>



thewhitesquirrel

Posts: 340
Joined: Mon Jan 10, 2011 6:17 am
Location: Texas

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

by thewhitesquirrel on Wed May 16, 2012 4:39 am

christopher:: wrote:

In Feb when my father was staying at a hospital in Florida we had a lot of problems. Things really turned around when we were informed that there was an official "patient advocate" on the staff that we could contact. Once we were in touch with her things really started to change. She was totally empowered within the system to speak up for patients and challenge what was going on if harm was being done.

Genjo's suggestion that board members be elected by ZSS members is somewhat similar, people need to know that they can go to certain people if they have a problem or difficulty and that those people are more concerned about their wellbeing then of the institution.

Even then, there are plenty of "retaliation" and "preemptive" tactics abusers engage in towards their accusers. I had the fortune of speaking with a caseworker from DFPS when I had to report a colleague for shoving (pushing with palms-open), intimidating (encroaching on his personal space; inches from his nose) and threatening a client (saying, "I will murder you.")

The first tactic entails "throwing their weight around" (her words). Its when they continuously emphasize their "seniority" or "authority" to individuals they perceive as vulnerable to their influence. They typically do this when a newbie is "in town" and before an abuse has taken place. If they are unable (due to situation, environment or disability) or unwilling to become physically aggressive, they usually resort to psychological aggression.

The second tactic is questioning the questioner. It's a kind of "how dare you" strategy, intended to undermine the other persons confidence in their "curiosity" and sense of inquiry. For instance, the guy I reported kept asking me "how long have you been here? Then do your job and mind your own business" as a way of keeping me off his trail. He was reacting this way (and, in turn, I was asking questions) because he kept medication laying around and failed to report several incidents of physical aggression from our clients. In an effort to keep these violations secret, he snapped at anyone who posed a threat to bringing them to light. Keep in mind, leaving medication laying around is a huge violation (around clients its considered neglect and, hence, you can have your license revoked) in the medical field.

The third is eliciting doubt. When really desperate, they'll often try to elicit a state of doubt in their (perceived) accuser by saying, "if you tell them what goes on here, they won't believe you. You've only been here for a few months now and I've been here for years. You think they're on your side but they're not. They'll laugh at you and mock you when you're not looking." Keep in mind, they don't always say it that explicitly. Often, it's a convoluted of this simple speech; i.e., "you've been here for what? 6 months? You know, the board likes to pass around this idea that we're all out for each other but as soon as you start to believe them, you show them how truly naive you are. Sooner or later, the secretaries and, hell, even the interns are snickering at you."

These are pretty common occurrences of abuse reported when someone decides to step forward. At least, here in the USA. I'm not sure how it works in Japan. They even have a whole different set of symptoms for depression, so who knows?

What is nearness if it fails to come about despite the reduction of the longest intervals? What is nearness if it is even repelled by the restless abolition of distances? What is nearness if remoteness also remains absent? -Martin Heidegger

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

by Nonin on Thu May 17, 2012 12:19 am

Genjo et al,

Below are the answers I received from a ZSS Board member to my questions about Eido Shimano's presence at either Dai Bosatsu or Shobo-ji. My questions are in regular type. The person's answers are in bold type.

1. Is Eido Shimano still able to appear on ZSS's campuses if the visit is arranged in advance, if the reason is approved, and if he is met and chaperoned?

Only under those circumstances, and only if absolutely necessary.

2. Is he still visiting the campuses with any regularity these days?

No, he is rarely visiting either temple (we don't use the word "campus"). [He visits] only when a cremation/memorial service for an old-time student whose family requests, for example. I can count on one hand the number of visits he's made in the past year.

3. Are his rooms at both practice places still maintained?

His rooms are now storage places while we begin a photographical and itemized inventory so that decisions can be made on personal vs ZSS belongings (art work, scrolls, etc).

Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

Soto Zen Buddhist Priest. Transmitted Dharma Heir of Dainin Katagiri Roshi.
Abbot and Head Teacher, Nebraska Zen Center / Heartland Temple, Omaha, Nebraska, USA
<http://www.prairiewindzen.org>



Nonin
Global Moderator

Posts: 3570
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 3:30 pm
Location: Omaha, Nebraska, USA
antispam: No



Genjo

Posts: 118
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No



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

By Genjo on Thu May 17, 2012 1:24 am

Nonin wrote:

1. Is Eido Shimano still able to appear on ZSS's campuses if the visit is arranged in advance, if the reason is approved, and if he is met and chaperoned?

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3. Are his rooms at both practice places still maintained?

His rooms are now storage places while we begin a photographic and itemized inventory so that decisions can be made on personal vs ZSS belongings (art work, scrolls, etc).

Thank you for researching this Nonin. I'm certainly glad to hear Eido Roshi is on campus [I use this term because there are two temple locations] less and less it seems. However, this misses the point that few if any who have been directly harmed will ever consider coming forward in a self-revealing way, let alone feel comfortable with the idea of returning, as long as he is allowed on campus. A clean break will need to be made before a more complete investigation, restitution or reconciliation is possible. ZSS and its properties are much more than the sangha left standing or newly coming. Where is the compassion for the hundreds alienated, harmed and abandoned by the organization's previous actions or lack of action over the course of decades. I do understand the need for compassion for grieving families who specifically request his presence at Sangha Meadow (grave site away from the main DBZ buildings), but this should be all that is tolerated.

With palms together,

Genjo

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

<http://www.choboji.org>



Spike

Posts: 29
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

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

By Spike on Fri May 18, 2012 12:31 am

Nonin wrote:

Genjo et al,

Below are the answers I received from a ZSS Board member to my questions about Eido Shimano's presence at either Dai Bosatsu or Shobo-ji. My questions are in regular type. The person's answers are in bold type.

2. Is he still visiting the campuses with any regularity these days?

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In other words, he visits regularly, i.e., once a month.

Nonin wrote:

3. Are his rooms at both practice places still maintained?

His rooms are now storage places while we begin a photographic and itemized inventory so that decisions can be made on personal vs ZSS belongings (art work, scrolls, etc).

Apparently, it is hard to get around to effecting a true separation when even a simple inventory of two rooms cannot be completed in a timely fashion.

Of course, this information may be unreliable since it is from an anonymous (ZSS Board member?) source.

"Don't warn me, bro!"





Carol
Global Moderator

Posts: 8010
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 2:52 am
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
antispam: No

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
D by Carol on Fri May 18, 2012 5:48 am

Spike wrote:

Nonin wrote:
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In other words, he visits regularly, i.e., once a month.

That's about every other month.

Things are not what they appear to be, nor are they otherwise. --The Lankavatara Sutra



Spike
Posts: 29
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
D by Spike on Fri May 18, 2012 3:47 pm

Carol wrote:

Spike wrote:
Nonin wrote:
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In other words, he visits regularly, i.e., once a month.

That's about every other month.

Absolutely right: the 12-month period, not the year 2012, makes more sense.

Can it really be that July 4th, 2012, will mark the two year anniversary of Shimano's retirement? Is that date really right?

"Don't warn me, bro!"



Genjo
Posts: 118
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
D by Genjo on Fri May 18, 2012 11:31 pm

Spike wrote:

Can it really be that July 4th, 2012, will mark the two year anniversary of Shimano's retirement? Is that date really right?

Eido Roshi indeed resigned from the ZSS Board on July 4th, 2010, and retired as abbot on Dec. 8th, 2010.

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

<http://www.choboji.org>

genkaku

Posts: 3812
Joined: Sun Feb 08, 2009 2:24 am

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
D by genkaku on Sun May 20, 2012 2:16 pm

For those interested, [D.T. Suzuki](#) offers an interesting -- if brief -- take on Zen Studies Society and the Yasutani lineage of which Eido Shimano is a part.



unsui

Posts: 132
Joined: Tue Feb 10, 2009 5:46 pm

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

↳ by [unsui](#) on Sun May 20, 2012 4:56 pm

genkaku wrote:

For those interested, [D.T. Suzuki](#) offers an interesting -- if brief -- take on Zen Studies Society and the Yasutani lineage of which Eido Shimano is a part.

Although Shimano completed his koan training under Yasutani, he is not part of the Yasutani lineage.

Genkaku, I have chosen not to read the entire archive, so I would like to ask if, by reading it, will I get an impression of Eido Shimano's strengths as well as his weaknesses and flaws? How about the beneficial actions of ZSS and DBZ?

May we extend This Mind over the whole universe so that we and all beings together may attain maturity in Buddha's wisdom

genkaku

Posts: 3812
Joined: Sun Feb 08, 2009 2:24 am

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

↳ by [genkaku](#) on Sun May 20, 2012 5:39 pm

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Dear Unsui -- I can only infer from your remarks that you overlooked or refused to scroll down the link provided. I was not asking anyone to read "the entire archive" -- a feat that would probably defy all but the most caring Zen student. By scrolling down, the reader finds four or five easily-digestible quotes from letters by D.T. Suzuki. What inferences are made are entirely left to the reader. If four or five short quotes are too much to factor in, how can anyone take seriously the upside encomiums you seem to prefer?

On a personal note, I have and am likely to sum up the nine years spent in Eido Shimano's environs this way: I wouldn't trade my training for all the tea in China and I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy.

Perhaps you are right and Shimano is not part of Yasutani's lineage in a formalized sense. I really don't know. I do know that Shimano was given to bandying Yasutani's name around after having served as a translator.



Carol
Global Moderator

Posts: 8010
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 2:52 am
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
antispam: No

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

↳ by [Carol](#) on Sun May 20, 2012 5:48 pm

genkaku wrote:

For those interested, [D.T. Suzuki](#) offers an interesting -- if brief -- take on Zen Studies Society and the Yasutani lineage of which Eido Shimano is a part.

Yasutani had many fine students ... as you can see [here](#) and his lineage in this country is highly regarded ... coming down through Robert Aitken Roshi, Philip Kapleau, Maezumi Roshi, John Daido Looi, ... among others.

I find it sad that D.T. Suzuki said what he did, but the amalgamation of Soto and Rinzaï Zen in the Harada-Yasutani school was not highly regarded in Japan ... not surprisingly. There was certainly some sectarianism going on at the time ... perhaps still is.

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genkaku

Posts: 3812
Joined: Sun Feb 08, 2009 2:24 am

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

↳ by [genkaku](#) on Sun May 20, 2012 7:07 pm

Carol -- If it eases your discomfort at all, there is this from old D.T. himself:

“The consolation is, however, that the masters, almost all of them in the past, have complained of undesirable trends of thought and movements among their contemporaries. They were so rampant in Rinzaï's days that he describes their being "like fine spring rain."



Carol
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Posts: 8010
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 2:52 am
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
antispam: No

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

↳ by [Carol](#) on Sun May 20, 2012 7:27 pm

genkaku wrote:

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Not so much "discomfort" as shaking my head in ruefulness at human nature. I think it's a bit appalling to tar the whole Yasutani line because of something DT Suzuki said decades ago. 😞 There are some great teachers, and some not-so-great ones in all lineages, so far as I can tell.

You know, DT Suzuki said a lot of things ... some of them insightful, some of them not. This one seems to me like a prejudice without probably knowing much about what Yasutani was up to.

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

By [unsui](#) on Sun May 20, 2012 8:20 pm



[unsui](#)

Posts: 132
Joined: Tue Feb 10, 2009 5:46 pm

genkaku wrote:

Dear Unsui -- I can only infer from your remarks that you overlooked or refused to scroll down the link provided. I was not asking anyone to read "the entire archive" -- a feat that would probably defy all but the most caring Zen student. By scrolling down, the reader finds four or five easily-digestible quotes from letters by D.T. Suzuki. What inferences are made are entirely left to the reader. If four or five short quotes are too much to factor in, how can anyone take seriously the upside encomiums you seem to prefer?

On a personal note, I have and am likely to sum up the nine years spent in Eido Shimano's environs this way: I wouldn't trade my training for all the tea in China and I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy.

Perhaps you are right and Shimano is not part of Yasutani's lineage in a formalized sense. I really don't know. I do know that Shimano was given to bandying Yasutani's name around after having served as a translator.

Sorry, Genkaku, I have apparently not made myself so clear! But please don't read actions or intentions into my question. The question I was asking was **not at all** referring to your link, which I **DID** of course read, but more generally to the content of the archive, since I figured you had followed it from the get-go. But, then, I guess with that I am just as guilty of reading something into someone, too. 🙄

Here at ZFI, links to the Shimano Archive are often (or maybe always) links regarding the problems and trouble with Shimano et. al. I was interested in knowing if there also are documents about any of the good that has come out of ZSS or DBZ or Shimano's work, but maybe that isn't the purpose of the archives?

Otherwise, I was merely stating a fact about a specific lineage.

My English apparently isn't up to snuff - what do you mean by *upside encomiums*?

Last edited by [unsui](#) on Sun May 20, 2012 9:22 pm, edited 1 time in total.

May we extend This Mind over the whole universe so that we and all beings together may attain maturity in Buddha's wisdom

[JVC108](#)

Posts: 9
Joined: Tue Jan 11, 2011 8:06 pm

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

By [JVC108](#) on Sun May 20, 2012 9:06 pm

Re: D. T. Suzuki's disassociation with Zen Studies Society, Yasutani and Shimano.

The documents recently added to the Shimanoarchive.com make it completely clear that clear that Dr. Suzuki did not want ZSS, Yasutani or Shimano to be associated with his name. It would be useful for us to find out what more specifically Dr. Suzuki was referring to and not assume too much. The last thing we should be doing is citing mere sectarian differences.

"Yasutani is too indiscriminate or too "grandmotherly" as we say in Japan. Zen is not a mere play of thought or "experience" so called. Zen is really a most serious business. From some reports I get from his associates here in Japan and from America, and also from reading some of his works, I am afraid Yasutani does not fully realize the harm he is doing. His handling of Zen is injurious to its development in America. His way may lead his adherents even to mental aberrations. And I strongly wish to keep him from having [anything] to do with the Society, if possible. Mr. Yamaoka tells me that he will follow my views on this. "

Regarding Yasutani, to understand what Dr. Suzuki was referring to we should start by examining the methods Yasutani took from his teacher, Harada Daiun Sogaku Roshi and how he changed or used them. There are many examples of things Harada and Yasutani did that other teachers did I do not approved of. Some of this has been written of in such mainstream Buddhist publications as Tricycle magazine over the years. One example that quickly comes to mind is the public recognition given to those who allegedly attain "kensho" during a sesshin. Another is the harsh and perhaps brutal treatment of students which is referred to in Kapleau's "Three Pillars of Zen."

Dr. Suzuki specifically mentioned Shimano's character:

"It is too bad Dr. Phillips is too short-sighted as not to see what kind of personality Shimano is and what kind of Zen Yasutani propagates. I hope the time will come for Dr. Phillips to see all this before long.

We know that Aitken Roshi had already begun documenting, consulting about and privately discussing Shimano's problems in 1964. Further, we know that Aitken informed Dr. Phillips of problems with Shimano. [http://www.shimanoarchive.com/PDFs/1964... Aitken.pdf](http://www.shimanoarchive.com/PDFs/1964...Aitken.pdf)

So while we do not get the specifics of Dr. Suzuki's concerns from those documents, and we may not want to make many assumptions, there is too much at stake to write this off as mere sectarianism. We should not be naive either and not see some obvious connections to what already has been established.

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

By [Anders Honore](#) on Sun May 20, 2012 9:42 pm



[Anders Honore](#)

Posts: 1182
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 11:58 pm
antispam: No

Carol wrote:

genkaku wrote:

Carol -- If it eases your discomfort at all, there is this from old D.T. himself:

"The consolation is, however, that the masters, almost all of them in the past, have complained of undesirable trends of thought and movements among their contemporaries. They were so rampant in Rinzai's days that he describes their being "like fine spring rain.

Not so much "discomfort" as shaking my head in ruefulness at human nature. I think it's a bit appalling to tar the whole Yasutani line because of something DT Suzuki said decades ago. 🙄 There are some great teachers, and some not-so-great ones in all lineages, so far as I can tell.

You know, DT Suzuki said a lot of things ... some of them insightful, some of them not. This one seems to me like a prejudice without probably knowing much about what Yasutani was up to.

Hindsight is 20/20 and without wanting to tar the whole Yasutani lineage - you have to say that is a remarkable level of foresight from DT here. Ignoring however thriving his other descendants may be (I don't know - I am explicitly not commenting on them here), he called it spot on in the case of Shimano more than 50 years ago.

"The wise do not even abide in the middle." --- Samadhiraja Sutra

"Even if my body should be burnt to death in the fires of hell I would endure it for myriad lifetimes

As your companion in practice" --- Gandavyuha Sutra



Carol
Global Moderator

Posts: 8010
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 2:52 am
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
antispam: No

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

By Carol on Sun May 20, 2012 10:45 pm

Anders Honore wrote:

Carol wrote:

genkaku wrote:

Carol -- If it eases your discomfort at all, there is this from old D.T. himself:

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So did Robert Aitken. I don't think it has anything to do with lineage. But it does have a lot to do with character, or lack of it. Shimano's lack was obvious to many discerning people for a long time -- again, having nothing to do with his lineage (which was not the Yasutani lineage).

Things are not what they appear to be, nor are they otherwise. --The Lankavatara Sutra

genkaku

Posts: 3812
Joined: Sun Feb 08, 2009 2:24 am

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

By genkaku on Mon May 21, 2012 1:26 am

unsui wrote:

genkaku wrote:

Dear Unsui -- I can only infer from your remarks that you overlooked or refused to scroll down the link provided. I was not asking anyone to read "the entire archive" -- a feat that would probably defy all but the most caring Zen student. By scrolling down, the reader finds four or five easily-digestible quotes from letters by D.T. Suzuki. What inferences are made are entirely left to the reader. If four or five short quotes are too much to factor in, how can anyone take seriously the upside encomiums you seem to prefer?

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Otherwise, I was merely stating a fact about a specific lineage.

My English apparently isn't up to snuff - what do you mean by *upside encomiums*?

Dear Unsui and all -- Just to repeat what I said before, I made a MISTAKE about Eido Shimano's standing in Yasutani's lineage. No excuses ... I MADE A MISTAKE AND I APOLOGIZE. I had assumed that because Shimano was frequently willing to bandy Yasutani's name around and because he had been Yasutani's translator that there was therefore a lineage connection. I WAS WRONG.**

Unsui -- I think you are essentially correct: The Shimano Archive is not devoted to all the good that may have arisen either from Eido Shimano or the vast sangha that made Zen Studies Society and its two practice centers a reality. Instead the archive represents (in one sense) a reaction to the history of lies, deceptions, depredations and abuses that Shimano managed to stage-manage for decades. Perhaps the situation is a bit like the sex abuse within the Roman Catholic Church: There may be much good to mention about the church's activities, but the vile deceptions so carefully hidden by the Vatican and its underlings gained a critical mass that the Roman Catholic Church has yet to stop lying about, fudging, covering up, etc.

So ... are there documents that depict the good deeds of ZSS et al.? It's hard to say since so much of what might in fact be good is tainted by the protective and sometimes twisted camouflage that allowed (and to some extent continues to allow) things to reach critical mass in the first place.

Personally, I think that a hierarchical system rife with implicit and explicit fawning is a big mistake in Zen practice. I am wary of those who fling around words like "compassion" or "the unconditional realm" without some care. But I am also not so naive as to believe that hierarchy and perhaps some fawning will ever be entirely eradicated in Buddhist practice ... at least in the beginning phases. Human beings are human beings, and as such, they deserve care rather than manipulation of their weaknesses.

Is there good stuff to point out about ZSS et al.? Probably yes. In my own case, I consider it good, for example, that after nine years (I always was a little slower than the other kids) I learned a very good lesson from Eido Shimano.

My lesson: **DON'T YOU DO THAT!**

***On a slightly less weighty front, I sometimes think that people who use others' names partly as a means of elevating their own stock should have to pay a royalty or residual to the person (or his/her descendants) named. By this means, Rinzai, Dogen, Gautama, "my teacher" and various others would be hip-deep in shekels and perhaps the volume would be reduced on the ever-so-subtle self-aggrandizement amplifier.

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Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and others

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2030 posts • Page 101 of 102 • 1 ... 98 99 100 101 102

JVC108
Posts: 10
Joined: Tue Jan 11, 2011 6:09 pm

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

By **JVC108** on Mon May 21, 2012 8:31 pm

I want to add something, no doubt simply a reminder for many, that may further shed light on D. T. Suzuki's views of Hakuun Yasutani and his desire not to be associated with him.

In his book, "Zen at War," Dr. Brian Victoria brought attention to Yasutani's and Suzuki's political views to the wider English speaking world. Yasutani's views were seen to be extremely anti-democratic, anti-semitic and imperialistic. Victoria also accused Suzuki of being nationalistic and imperialistic, but a strong case has been made that he was not given to the extremes expressed by Yasutani. See <http://www.tricycle.com/feature/fog-world-war-ii>.

Again, it would be far better to have some examples of Dr. Suzuki's writings to show his actual reasons for not wanting to be associated with Hakuun Yasutani, Eido Shimano and Soen Nakagawa.



Spike
Posts: 37
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

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

By **Spike** on Wed May 23, 2012 4:33 pm

I see by Mr. Nonin's post of Wed May 16, 2012 7:19 pm, that he is able to obtain information directly from the ZSS Board. Perhaps the Board might consider the following questions:

Who exactly are the Board members? This information has not been available from repeated direct email queries, nor is it posted on the ZSS website.

What are their areas of expertise (e.g., fundraising for non-profits, the law, marketing, management, Buddhist philosophy, etc.)? In other words, why are they on the Board?

What is the status of the forensic audit, and when might we expect results to be reported (ballpark estimate)?

If Mr. Nonin or some similar person with a Board connection would kindly forward this request and post the results here, I am sure many including myself would appreciate it.

Thank you.

"Come on, Sandy, baby, loosen up. You're too tight." -- NFL Super Bowl-winning running back John Riggins, while seated next to Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, at a Washington Press Club Salute to Congress dinner.



Nonin
Global Moderator
Posts: 3597
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 3:30 pm
Location: Omaha, Nebraska, USA
antispam: No

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

By **Nonin** on Wed May 23, 2012 5:42 pm

Spike,

Go to <http://www.daibosatsu.org/> and click on "contact us." You can ask your questions there. I'd use my real name if I were you. Most organizations, including our temple and others, won't respond to someone using a pseudonym.

Also, are you a native speaker of English? It's customary in this language when using "Mr." to use it with the person's last name. In my case that would be "Mr. Chowaney." To write or say "Mr. Bob," or "Mr. Joe," or "Mr. Nonin" would betray either a non-native speaker or someone who doesn't know how to use "Mister, (abbr. Mr.)" "Miss," "Mrs.," or "Ms."

However, my dharma name is "Nonin." That's the name I go by and that I ask people to address me by.

Hands palm-to-palm,

Nonin

Soto Zen Buddhist Priest. Transmitted Dharma Heir of Dainin Katagiri Roshi.
Abbot and Head Teacher, Nebraska Zen Center / Heartland Temple, Omaha, Nebraska, USA
<http://www.prairiewindstran.org>



Spike
Posts: 37
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

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

By **Spike** on Wed May 23, 2012 10:10 pm

Nonin wrote:

Spike,

Go to <http://www.daibosatsu.org/> and click on "contact us." You can ask your questions there. I'd use my real name if I were you.

True enough. I can ask away, and sign my full name with ZSS dharma name included, but I won't get/haven't gotten the courtesy of a reply.

Guessing how you must feel very much put upon in this situation, I withdraw my request.

Nonin wrote:

so, are you a native speaker of English?

Jackpot! In fact, I'm an English major to boot! But that somehow got twisted by being in the Nam.

Nonin wrote:

It's customary in this language when using "Mr." to use it with the person's last name. In my case that would be "Mr. Chowaney." To write or say "Mr. Bob," or "Mr. Joe," or "Mr. Nonin" would betray either a non-native speaker or someone who doesn't know how to use "Mister, (abbr. Mr.)" "Miss," "Mrs.," or "Ms."

You know, all the kids on my schoolbus call me "Mr. Spike". As a former psychotherapist, first in The Next Step drug and alcohol abuse clinic for mostly black, mostly male mandated ex-offenders, and then at College Park Youth and Family Services where the demographic was minority, they mostly called me the same thing: "Mr. Spike". They all used "Mister" out of respect. It wasn't necessary to go native to notice it. Oh, and I really loved it!

However, my dharma name is "Nonin." That's the name I go by and that I ask people to address me by. [quote]

Forty years ago the motto of me and my colleagues was "Semper Gumby" (loosely: "always flexible"). I recommend it!

"Come on, Sandy, baby, loosen up. You're too tight." -- NFL Super Bowl-winning running back John Riggins, while seated next to Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, at a Washington Press Club Salute to Congress dinner.

genkaku

Posts: 3816
Joined: Sun Feb 08, 2009 2:24 am

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

↳ by genkaku on Sun May 27, 2012 2:50 pm

For those interested in getting a sniff of his steam or possibly taking a bite out of his bum, the Rev. Kobutsu Malone -- longtime creator/maintainer of the [Shimano Archive](#) and a prison rights advocate -- is scheduled to give a live interview this afternoon at 3 p.m. EST. From the promo, it seems that people can call the host with comments or queries.

Since Kobutsu is a friend of mine, I will refrain from praising him.

[Here is the interview site.](#)



Genjo

Posts: 124
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

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

↳ by Genjo on Sat Jun 02, 2012 6:54 pm

Nonin wrote:

Spike,

Go to <http://www.daibosatsu.org/> and click on "contact us." You can ask your questions there.

Just a short note to say that back on May 23rd I asked Shinge Roshi, Eido Roshi's successor, the following simple questions, I have others, but I thought I would start with some easy ones:

"Are you willing to say who exactly sits on the ZSS board at this time? I understand there have been at least two additions since I left. Were they elected or nominated? Has anyone else dropped off? How is the forensic audit coming? Any date in mind when it will be completed? Have the new bylaws been formally adopted yet? If so, may I have a copy, I think bylaws are designed to be a public document."

Shinge passed this off to the Soun, the ZSS Board President, to respond. To date nothing has been forth coming.

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

<http://www.choboji.org>



Spike

Posts: 37
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

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

↳ by Spike on Sun Jun 03, 2012 1:20 am

Genjo wrote:

Just a short note to say that back on May 23rd I asked Shinge Roshi, Eido Roshi's successor, the following simple questions, I have others, but I thought I would start with some easy ones:

"Are you willing to say who exactly sits on the ZSS board at this time? I understand there have been at least two additions since I left. Were they elected or nominated? Has anyone else dropped off? How is the forensic audit coming? Any date in mind when it will be completed? Have the new bylaws been formally adopted yet? If so, may I have a copy, I think bylaws are designed to be a public document."

Shinge passed this off to the Soun, the ZSS Board President, to respond. To date nothing has been forth coming.

Hard to understand how or why a reforming non-profit would not be proud, or not even willing, to announce the selfless, credentialed volunteers who serve on its board (preferably on its website for all to see), as well as the progress, however modest, it is working hard to accomplish, towards its regenerative, charitable, and community-oriented goals.

'In the readiness of time', perhaps? But just not now, eh?

Just one other question: has the inventory of the contents of Eido Roshi's rooms even been completed? After how long? Obviously, no forensic audit could even be started without the completion of this initial step ...

How could such an organization hope to solicit the donations necessary to sustain it without such minimum transparency?

"Come on, Sandy, baby, loosen up. You're too tight." -- NFL Super Bowl-winning running back John Riggins, while seated next to Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, at a Washington Press Club Salute to Congress dinner.

genkaku

Posts: 3816
Joined: Sun Feb 08, 2009 2:24 am

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

↳ by genkaku on Sun Jun 03, 2012 2:40 pm

As with the brokerage houses and banks and insurance companies that were "too big to fail," it is hard not to imagine that ZSS might be banking on the true treasury of human forgetfulness to replenish their depleted spiritual coffers.

I hope this is not true, but I am not holding my breath.

genkaku

Posts: 3816
Joined: Sun Feb 08, 2009 2:24 am

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

↳ by genkaku on Tue Jun 05, 2012 7:33 pm

Yo Spike! Perhaps the latest addition to the [Shimano Archive](#) and June News Letter of ZSS gives some indication of the 'new' and 'transparent' and 'democratic' directions you seemed to have some doubt about.

“Zensho Martin Hara has been a Rinzaï Zen student under the guidance of Ven. Eido Shimano Roshi of the Zen Studies Society since 1979. For 33 years since then, he attended many sesshins at both Dai Bosatsu Zendo and New York Zendo Shobo-Ji, especially the observance of O Bon and Rohatsu which he attends each year. He was given the Dharma name Zensho in 1992, meaning 'Fully Alive'. In 2010, Zensho was chosen to serve on the Executive Committee at NY Zendo Shobo-Ji as a representative member of the Sangha. He was also chosen by Eido Roshi to serve as his personal secretary since his retirement in 2010. Zensho's Dharma talk 'The Heart of Being Alive' will share his early experiences as a Dharma Student, and how Rinzaï Zen practice opened up his access to being 'fully alive' in the contemporary world today.”

Maybe it's all old news, but it's new news to me: A representative of the sangha appears to have been "chosen" rather than elected by the sangha he is credited with representing. "Chosen" by whom, I wonder. And to what extent do Mr. Hara's connections suggest that ZSS is charting a new course in the wake of the upsets occasioned by Mr. Shimano?

Lord love a duck!



Genjo

Posts: 124
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

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

↳ by Genjo on Tue Jun 05, 2012 8:30 pm

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There is no question in my mind that Martin Hara, one of Eido Shimano Roshi’s staunches supporters, who is now on the NYC Zendo Shobo-Ji Executive Committee is a bad sign. He is a lovely person, I like him a lot, but the selection of someone who, to my knowledge, has always adamantly supported Eido Roshi’s efforts to continue to teach students, represents the opposite direction of where I hoped the organization was going. This just confirms that the organization, under Shinge Roshi’s leadership, still has not come to terms with the depth of the damage done, is still unable to acknowledge the organization’s part in this, and will be unable to reach out in any meaningful way to those who have been most harmed or alienated. With this kind of leadership selection, I am loosing all hope that the organization can turn around in any meaningful way.

I recently read the following quote in [National Catholic Reporter](#) that speaks to the opportunity that is being lost:

“When a large group’s identity is threatened and power is lost, the healthy group will mourn before reworking their sense of self to accord with a new reality. When mourning goes well, there is a cleansing of mind, spirit, and psyche to go on after loss; to reconstitute self, relationships with others, hopes, dreams and beliefs in a renegotiated engagement with the real and the possible. There is self-examination about our own contribution to the control we are losing, perhaps ending in a rueful recognition that we never should have had that much control. The crisis of mourning well done can morph into a kairos leading to deeper connection with self, others and the Divine. .

When mourning is refused, however, we may deny that loss is permanent and instead manically try to restore that which is forever changed. Nostalgia, memory’s rose-colored cousin, rules the mind and soul. In some cases, we select someone or something defined now as “Other” onto whom we direct rage for “causing” our loss of power and control even if our own behaviors actually ushered in the loss. Mourning is submerged beneath rage and exclusivity -- we are OK, they are not; the badness is out there while goodness and heroism is within.”

Unfortunately, the course set by Shinge Roshi for the Zen Studies Society, sounds eerily familiar.

Sadly,

Genjo

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

<http://www.choboji.org>

partofit22

Posts: 2082
Joined: Fri Oct 09, 2009 2:36 pm

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

↳ by partofit22 on Wed Jun 06, 2012 3:23 am

don't know if this service can provide help but it might-

<http://www.ovs.ny.gov/HelpforCrimeVictims/HelpforCrimeVictims.aspx>

JVC108

Posts: 10
Joined: Tue Jan 11, 2011 6:06 pm

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

↳ by JVC108 on Wed Jun 06, 2012 4:57 pm

Re: Zen Studies Society -- Eighteen months after Shimano’s retirement. Shimano was in charge of Zen Studies Society for nearly forty-five years (1965 - 2010).

“In 2010, Zensho was chosen to serve on the Executive Committee at NY Zendo Shobo-Ji as a representative member of the Sangha.

Genkaku wrote:

“Chosen” by whom, I wonder.

Given the history of the lack of democracy or even of a real representative form of governance of any kind in that organization, and no announcement of fundamental changes to the by-laws, you “wonder”? Why?

Genjo wrote:

“This just confirms that the organization, under Shinge Roshi’s leadership, still has not come to terms with the depth of the damage done, is still unable to acknowledge the organization’s part in this, and will be unable to reach out in any meaningful way to those who have been most harmed or alienated. With this kind of leadership selection, I am loosing all hope that the organization can turn around in any meaningful way.

Given the nature of Shimano’s historical choices: all having a very large component of perceived personal loyalty, how likely is it that anyone one in a leadership position at ZSS can really be open to real, substantive change? It is more likely to be the opposite, is it not?



Spike

Posts: 37
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

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

↳ by Spike on Tue Jun 12, 2012 1:12 am

(SFZC = San Francisco Zen Center)

2011 Board Election Results

“The SFZC Board wishes to thank all members who voted in this year’s Board election. Our newly elected Board Members are

- Charlie Pokorny (returning for a second term)
- Gretchen Rau
- Judi Martindale
- Brian McCaffrey

Prior to stepping on to the Board, each of our candidates were hard at work supporting Zen Center. We look forward to their leadership in the work of building a sustainable Zen Center for years to come. Congratulations and thank you.

Korin Charlie Pokorny
Korin Charlie Pokorny lived as a resident at Tassajara and Green Gulch Farm from 1994 to 2006, serving as treasurer, tenzo (head cook), director, and shuso (head monk), and ordaining as a priest in 1999. He serves as director for the Soto Zen Buddhist Association and teaches at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley. He is co-chair of the Diversity and Multiculturalism Committee and chair of the EAR (Ethics and Reconciliation) Council.

Gretchen Rau
Gretchen Rau began her practice in 2006 and participated in Establishing the Path of Practice the following year. She is a resident practitioner at City Center and was involved in the City Center Visioning Task Force. She looks forward to building on the work of those who came before her in expressing our core mission through the offerings at our practice centers. She works in the executive office of a global environmental nonprofit organization, and hopes that her knowledge and organizational skills will be an asset to the Board in advancing our collective vision.

Judi Martindale

Judi Martindale was lay ordained by Abiding Senior Dharma Teacher Linda Cutts in 2004. She participated in six Green Gulch and one Tassajara practice periods, and attended seven Intensive Practice Periods with Tenshin Reb Anderson. This training opened her life to new ways of being on many levels and she would like to express her deep gratitude through participating on the Board. She has also received extensive training and experience in hospice care and harp therapy and received certifications in Integral Coaching by both New Ventures West and the Strozzi Institute. She recently retired from 30 years as a fee-only financial planner focusing on working with people to develop a peaceful, wise, and satisfying relationship with money.

Brian McCaffrey

Brian McCaffrey completed Establishing the Path of Practice in 2009. Subsequently he enrolled in the one-year Leadership Program, which gave him the opportunity to begin to understand the structure of SFZC and some of the issues that we are currently facing. His primary non-profit experience consists of five years on the board of a progressive, local, private school, including two years as president of the board. After a brief career as a high school English teacher, he enrolled in law school and received a J.D. from Hastings College of the Law. He now practices law, primarily in the areas of estate planning and probate litigation.

Are you interested in Board service?

The SFZC Board Development Committee works throughout the year to find qualified potential candidates for our annual Board elections. If you are interested in serving in a leadership role or would like to suggest a candidate please contact Norma Fogelberg.

We value your participation and look forward to hearing from you."

Well, of course, SFZC is a more robust and sophisticated organization compared to ZSS. But notice any fundamental differences in their approach to governance? Like: elections; leadership training; being proud, thankful, and grateful towards their volunteer board members; transparency; etc.

"Come on, Sandy, baby, loosen up. You're too tight." -- NFL Super Bowl-winning running back John Riggins, while seated next to Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, at a Washington Press Club Salute to Congress dinner.

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

By [Spike](#) on Tue Jun 12, 2012 1:50 am

Spike wrote:

... He is co-chair of the Diversity and Multiculturalism Committee and chair of the EAR (Ethics and Reconciliation) Council.

SFZC incorporates "reconciliation" into its ethics council.

Wonder if Shinge would consider such a thing as a valuable goal, especially as regards hurt, alienated or 'banished' members? (I believe all signs point to a 'reconciliation' between her and Eido Shimano as a *fail accompli*.)

As for 'ethics', i.e., ethical behavior, ...

"Come on, Sandy, baby, loosen up. You're too tight." -- NFL Super Bowl-winning running back John Riggins, while seated next to Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, at a Washington Press Club Salute to Congress dinner.

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

By [christopher](#) on Tue Jun 12, 2012 4:14 am

Genjo wrote:

There is no question in my mind that Martin Hara, one of Eido Shimano Roshi's staunch supporters, who is now on the NYC Zendo Shobo-Ji Executive Committee is a bad sign. He is a lovely person, I like him a lot, but the selection of someone who, to my knowledge, has always adamantly supported Eido Roshi's efforts to continue to teach students, represents the opposite direction of where I hoped the organization was going. This just confirms that the organization, under Shinge Roshi's leadership, still has not come to terms with the depth of the damage done, is still unable to acknowledge the organization's part in this, and will be unable to reach out in any meaningful way to those who have been most harmed or alienated. With this kind of leadership selection, I am losing all hope that the organization can turn around in any meaningful way.

I recently read the following quote in [National Catholic Reporter](#) that speaks to the opportunity that is being lost:

"When a large group's identity is threatened and power is lost, the healthy group will mourn before reworking their sense of self to accord with a new reality. When mourning goes well, there is a cleansing of mind, spirit, and psyche to go on after loss; to reconstitute self, relationships with others, hopes, dreams and beliefs in a renegotiated engagement with the real and the possible. There is self-examination about our own contribution to the control we are losing, perhaps ending in a rueful recognition that we never should have had that much control. The crisis of mourning well done can morph into a kairos leading to deeper connection with self, others and the Divine.

When mourning is refused, however, we may deny that loss is permanent and instead manically try to restore that which is forever changed. Nostalgia, memory's rose-colored cousin, rules the mind and soul. In some cases, we select someone or something defined now as "Other" onto whom we direct rage for "causing" our loss of power and control even if our own behaviors actually ushered in the loss. Mourning is submerged beneath rage and exclusivity -- we are OK, they are not; the badness is out there while goodness and heroism is within."

Unfortunately, the course set by Shinge Roshi for the Zen Studies Society, sounds eerily familiar.

Sadly,

Genjo

Hi Genjo and everyone,

It sounds to me like things are going as one might expect given the autocratic nature of the organization and the close proximity of the founder, who is still very much alive. In Japan this is quite common, that power works behind the scenes. I've heard that while we rarely see them any more many of the former prime ministers of Japan continue to exert a strong influence after they step down. That differs from the American leadership model where former leaders are expected to leave and no longer participate.

I see this in many Japanese organizations. Even with both my sons' rugby teams the "OB network" of former players is constantly influencing decision-making. They also provide financial support.

I would not be surprised if what we are observing here is primarily influenced by cultural and financial issues. How do Japanese and American ZSS members compare in terms of monetary support? How much of the money raised each year comes from Japanese members who have family grave sites that have been prayed to continuously and looked over by Shimano for decades? Many of them have stuck it out, probably feeling "rooted" to the community, unlike many of the American members who come for awhile and then move on. I would imagine that ZSS has given them a Japanese cultural harbor, safe haven, that has felt like "home."

If the Japanese members (who I assume are close to the Shimanos) have also provided a bulk of financing then its unlikely that they are going to go into mourning and "rework their sense of self to accord with a new reality" as long as the Shimanos are still alive and they are able to live in denial of all that has happened.

To expect otherwise may be unrealistic?

... [Buddha Nature: Heart of the Dharma](#) ... [Some "Zen inspired" Artwork](#) ...
"You are the sky. Everything else, it's just the weather." --[Pema Chodron](#)

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

By [Linda Anderson](#) on Tue Jun 12, 2012 5:44 am

Off the top of my head, I was touched by the post quite a while ago about the Catholic approach to revisioning and reawakening.... if memory serves, Genkaku posted it. It went directly to the point of radical self reflection ... just like zen says it does.... it's getting to the point whatever the form or the tradition ... the comparisons just don't make it even though I am so self-satisfied repeating them.

I am still running from my own demons of a different name, so I can readily see it in others. God... we know not what we do.

Snowflakes fall just in the right place,

Linda

Last edited by [Linda Anderson](#) on Tue Jun 12, 2012 6:07 am, edited 1 time in total.

Not last night,
not this morning;
Melon flowers bloomed.
-- [Baasbo](#)



[Spike](#)

Posts: 37
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm



[christopher](#)
Founding Member

Posts: 4863
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 1:25 am
Location: Fukuoka, Japan
antispam: No



[Linda Anderson](#)

Posts: 1346
Joined: Mon Feb 09, 2009 7:14 pm
Location: Forestville, CA



Genjo

Posts: 124
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

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

↳ by Genjo on Tue Jun 12, 2012 6:03 am

christopher:: wrote:
...
If the Japanese members (who I assume are close to the Shimanos) have also provided a bulk of financing then its unlikely that they are going to go into mourning and "rework their sense of self to accord with a new reality" as long as the Shimanos are still alive and they are able to live in denial of all that has happened.
To expect otherwise may be unrealistic?

Throughout its history I think far more support has come from non-asian members. Regardless, ZSS is likely not surviving by donations, but through selling a trust of half of the monastery property to the Nature Conservancy, which is the only place they can possibly get the money to pay the Shimanos in excess of \$90,000 in deferred compensation and benefits per year. Surely this same money would be better spent keeping the organization afloat, in good repair and in offering some amends to those most harmed by Eido Roshi's actions. Unreasonable? I don't think so. However, given the current culture at ZSS under Shinge Roshi's leadership, it may be unrealistic to expect they will arrive at this reasonable compassionate view anytime soon. It appears clear to me that their attachment to the man far exceeds their compassion for those directly harmed or indirectly alienated.

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

<http://www.choboji.org>

partoft22

Posts: 2092
Joined: Fri Oct 06, 2009 2:38 pm

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

↳ by partoft22 on Tue Jun 12, 2012 12:39 pm

hi all- the subject keeps coming up about offering amends and more to those harmed- i posted a help for crime victims link a little ways up- the way i understand it, which might be wrong, is that they go after the offenders to pay for any costs related to the incidents for instance fees for therapy, medications, so forth- have any of the victims that have come forward been able to take advantage of such programs?



Genjo

Posts: 124
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

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

↳ by Genjo on Tue Jun 12, 2012 1:11 pm

partoft22 wrote:
hi all- the subject keeps coming up about offering amends and more to those harmed- i posted a help for crime victims link a little ways up- the way i understand it, which might be wrong, is that they go after the offenders to pay for any costs related to the incidents for instance fees for therapy, medications, so forth- have any of the victims that have come forward been able to take advantage of such programs?

Many of the women have banded together to form their own support group, and I know some collective legal action is still pending. I hear the attorneys for the case are busy at the moment pursuing other fish in the Catholic scandals. The reasons why there have not been formal charges thus far are complicated, and I would be happy to share what I know privately with you if you contact me.

With palms together,

Genjo

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

<http://www.choboji.org>



christopher::
Founding Member

Posts: 4863
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 1:25 am
Location: Fukuoka, Japan
antispam: No

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

↳ by christopher:: on Tue Jun 12, 2012 5:20 pm

Genjo wrote:
christopher:: wrote:
...
If the Japanese members (who I assume are close to the Shimanos) have also provided a bulk of financing then its unlikely that they are going to go into mourning and "rework their sense of self to accord with a new reality" as long as the Shimanos are still alive and they are able to live in denial of all that has happened.
To expect otherwise may be unrealistic?

Throughout its history I think far more support has come from non-asian members. Regardless, ZSS is likely not surviving by donations, but through selling a trust of half of the monastery property to the Nature Conservancy, which is the only place they can possibly get the money to pay the Shimanos in excess of \$90,000 in deferred compensation and benefits per year. Surely this same money would be better spent keeping the organization afloat, in good repair and in offering some amends to those most harmed by Eido Roshi's actions. Unreasonable? I don't think so.

No, not unreasonable. Thanks for the clarification, Genjo.

“However, given the current culture at ZSS under Shinge Roshi's leadership, it may be unrealistic to expect they will arrive at this reasonable compassionate view anytime soon. It appears clear to me that their attachment to the man far exceeds their compassion for those directly harmed or indirectly alienated.”

Right, that's what it seems like for me as well.

Besides a possible lawsuit has anyone talked of collectively (or individually) doing more creative things, like Merry Benezra did writing Special Karma, or Kobutsu's creation of the Shimano Archive?

I've always wondered about the women who were hospitalized in Hawaii, how did things go for them, did they get their lives back on track or not? Did some women attempt suicide or die? If so we should all know about it, there needs to be followup. It seems to me like this is a story worth telling, whether as a documentary, a 60 minutes special, books, poetry or a movie screenplay.

Tell your stories more widely, get the truth out, and then let go. Talking to Merry I got the sense that writing her book was very cathartic, she needed to speak the truth of what happened (as she experienced it) share it publicly, and then after that she was better able to let go of her attachments to the man.

Attachments, holding on to memories, resentments, anger and pain, its not good for any of us. What is the most compassionate thing for each person to do for themselves, regardless of what others are doing?

Those of us who carry unrealistic expectations of others are burdening ourselves. We can blame them forever, but in the end we each need to work our knots and issues out, express our pain and truth but then let go somehow.

And neither ZSS nor Shimano needs to do anything for people who were harmed to do that. Expecting a top-down "solution" to this problem seems unrealistic.

:::: Buddha Nature: Heart of the Dharma :::: Some "Zen inspired" Artwork :::
"You are the sky. Everything else, it's just the weather." -Pema Chodron

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Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and others

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2041 posts • Page 102 of 103 • [1](#) ... [99](#) [100](#) [101](#) [102](#) [103](#)



Genjo

Posts: 127
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

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

by [Genjo](#) on Tue Jun 12, 2012 8:28 pm

christopher::: wrote:
...
Tell your stories more widely, get the truth out, and then let go. Talking to Merry I got the sense that writing her [book](#) was very cathartic, she needed to speak the truth of what happened (as she experienced it) share it publicly, and then after that she was better able to let go of *her* attachments to the man.

Attachments, holding on to memories, resentments, anger and pain, its not good for any of us. What is the most compassionate thing for each person to do for themselves, regardless of what others are doing?

Those of us who carry unrealistic expectations of others are burdening ourselves. We can blame them forever, but in the end we each need to work our knots and issues out, express our pain and truth but then let go somehow.

And neither ZSS nor Shimano needs to do anything for people who were harmed to do that. Expecting a top-down "solution" to this problem seems unrealistic.

All good advice Christopher. For myself, I think a book is in the works. Recently, I wrote an article for [BuddhaDharma](#) that represents some of the lessons I've learned that might be of interest to others.

At this point, I don't expect a top-down solution from ZSS. The only people left there are those who are either clinging to what they see as Eido Roshi's positive legacy, or are newly recruited and don't know better. However, I do feel an enormous loss. I have given a lot to this lineage and to these properties over the years. It was my sincere hope to be an active participant in the flowering of ZSS for generations to come. Because the current hierarchy, can't bring themselves to admit their culpability organizationally, can't bring themselves to exclude Eido Roshi from the properties, can't write more democratic bylaws with more separation of powers and therefore can't reach out more effectively to those who have been harmed or alienated, many, myself included, feel excluded from associating with this National Zen Treasure that arose from so many who gave so much.

I know, I just have to get over it, so says my wife and Seattle Sangha, but I will make one last effort to see if Shinge Roshi might be able to listen to the collective wisdom of her peers, at the upcoming AZTA meeting that starts this Thursday in Vermont. Regardless, I promise to remain vigilant in holding both Eido Roshi and the ZSS organization accountable for their actions. This is the least I can do to safeguard the good that has genuinely sprung from this lineage.

With palms together,

Genjo

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

<http://www.choboji.org>

genkaku

Posts: 3820
Joined: Sun Feb 06, 2009 2:24 am

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

by [genkaku](#) on Tue Jun 12, 2012 8:42 pm

A couple of points of interest were brought to my attention recently:

A.

“In 2010, Zensho [Martin Hara] was chosen to serve on the Executive Committee at NY Zendo Shobo-Ji as a representative member of the Sangha.

Questions: Who are the other members of the committee?

Who "chose" them?

Whom, if anyone, do they **represent**?

B.

On June 6, 2012, the [New York Times Magazine](#) section ran a piece about long-ago sexual abuses at the prestigious Horace Mann school in New York. Four **DAYS** after the ensuing furor erupted, on June 10, 2012, the school sent a letter to its alumni. Like Spike in his references to Zen Center of San Francisco dealings, I would like to ask if anyone notices any "fundamental differences in their approach to governance."

Here is that letter. The boldface emphasis added is mine.



fukasetsu

Posts: 2855
Joined: Fri Feb 06, 2009 12:17 am
Location: zandvoort-naarlem NL

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
D by fukasetsu on Wed Jun 13, 2012 2:43 am

Spike wrote:
It is going to take more than a 'yin-yang approach' to effect change.

The fish always starts to rot at the head, just cut its head off.

Abbafruktbröd



Spike

Posts: 39
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
D by Spike on Wed Jun 13, 2012 2:55 am

fukasetsu wrote:
The fish always starts to rot at the head, just cut its head off.

Well alright then.

For starters, let's go AZTA.

"Come on, Sandy, baby, loosen up. You're too tight." -- NFL Super Bowl-winning running back John Riggins, while seated next to Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, at a Washington Press Club Salute to Congress dinner.



fukasetsu

Posts: 2855
Joined: Fri Feb 06, 2009 12:17 am
Location: zandvoort-naarlem NL

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
D by fukasetsu on Wed Jun 13, 2012 2:58 am

I would mate but I live in the Netherlands, but over in the States it should be easier, rally a few folks, demonstrate in front of the gate [It could be done better bet lets keep the Buddhist "non-violence thingy] make a bunch of noise, t.v. stations will appear... the rest will happen by itself.

Abbafruktbröd



Spike

Posts: 39
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
D by Spike on Wed Jun 13, 2012 3:24 am

Sorry, meant to exhort AZTA members to act on the Shinge/Shimano mess.

"Come on, Sandy, baby, loosen up. You're too tight." -- NFL Super Bowl-winning running back John Riggins, while seated next to Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, at a Washington Press Club Salute to Congress dinner.



Genjo

Posts: 127
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
D by Genjo on Wed Jun 13, 2012 5:36 am

christopher:: wrote:
There's a saying "sometimes we teach best what we most need to learn" which may apply here to ZSS, in that the greatest lessons may be for others within the larger Zen community who carefully observe what went on. That's where doing interviews, writing books, can be most helpful.

Trying to change the organization from the outside is a lot like banging one's head on a wall. The organization will change one day, change is inevitable, but no one can predict how or when. A lawsuit, new leadership, a 60 minutes story, Shimano passing away- some catalyst will eventually change things.

Until then everyone who cares has the challenge of acting skillfully and compassionately, of finding the Zen "lessons" in all of this. And it doesn't take a roshi's wisdom to see that much of Zen Buddhist practice is about behaving compassionately while also cultivating non-attachment, letting go.

A kind of yin-yang approach seems wisest, being vocal, engaged and active yet also taking individual responsibility for all the ill-will and negative feelings that arise within each of us, to transmute that somehow. Grow and learn, heal ourselves without expecting something from others who have their own twisted tangle of delusions to transmute.

Very challenging, and I respect you both for the efforts you have made.



namaste

Well said! Things will change in the readiness of time. I'll keep doing my part. Shinge Roshi, as with all parties involved, is likewise doing her best. Surely some catalyst eventually will come along to shift the power from support of Eido Roshi to support for those harmed and alienated so that deep healing and reconciliation has a chance. I wish it would be sooner than later, but my only responsibility is to act as skillfully and compassionately as I can in each circumstance. I have no agenda for the upcoming meeting of AZTA, other than a desire that the current situation at ZSS be examined for what has gone well and what has not. The American Zen Teachers Association is a group of peers that has no authority over anything but the conduct of our time together, perhaps it could be more than this some day, but that is a whole other conversation. Nevertheless, I've always come away from this collegial group feeling more supported and informed.

With palms together,

Genjo

PS: For my part, I hope there is no interference or intrusion by any faction wanting or expecting some action or resolution.

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

<http://www.choboji.org>

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

by christopher:: on Wed Jun 13, 2012 10:11 am



christopher::
Founding Member

Posts: 4882
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 1:25 am
Location: Fukuoka, Japan
antispam: No

Genjo wrote:

Well said! Things will change in the readiness of time. I'll keep doing my part. Shinge Roshi, as with all parties involved, is likewise doing her best. Surely some catalyst eventually will come along to shift the power from support of Eido Roshi to support for those harmed and alienated so that deep healing and reconciliation has a chance. I wish it would be sooner than later, but **my only responsibility is to act as skillfully and compassionately as I can in each circumstance.** I have no agenda for the upcoming meeting of AZTA, other than a desire that the current situation at ZSS be examined for what has gone well and what has not. The American Zen Teachers Association is a group of peers that has no authority over anything but the conduct of our time together, perhaps it could be more than this some day, but that is a whole other conversation. Nevertheless, I've always come away from this collegial group feeling more supported and informed.

With palms together,

Genjo



namaste

PS: For my part, I hope there is no interference or intrusion by any faction wanting or expecting some action or resolution.

How's that Doris Day song go? "Whatever will be will be,"...

Spike wrote:

In the meantime, DBZ is being sold off piecemeal, and the ZSS Board apparently is being populated by Shinge proxies and Shimano loyalists.

It is going to take more than a 'yin-yang approach' to effect change.

What I meant is that besides seeking change in others there is always the challenge of changing within, letting go of the thoughts and feelings that bring suffering for us. Isn't this what Dharma practice is about? Sure, we hope for outward changes in organizations like ZSS but things go as they go, and most organizations change slowly and resist outside pressures. It's just how institutions work, imo.

The Dalai Lama has been trying to pressure China to change their policies on Tibet for over 50 years, with not much in the way of change. Yet at the same time he keeps meditating, cultivating equanimity, doing all he can to encourage others to stay vocal without holding to destructive emotions.

Thich Nhat Hanh had his [community](#) in Viet Nam trashed and attacked by the Vietnamese government. There's barely been much of an extended outcry in the Buddhist community, and he's not speaking out much about it. Seems a bit too soft of an approach imo, but he and his sangha keep meditating, keep moving forward, practicing mindfulness and compassion day to day.

We have much more control over our own reactions to life than we do the outer details of the world - especially the reactions and behaviors of others. As Genjo just said, our primary responsibility is to act as skillfully and compassionately as we can in each circumstance.

Not a small challenge.

:::: Buddha Nature: Heart of the Dharma :::: Some "Zen inspired" Artwork ::::
"You are the sky. Everything else, it's just the weather." --Pema Chodron



Linda Anderson

Posts: 1358
Joined: Mon Feb 09, 2009 7:14 pm
Location: Forestville, CA

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

by Linda Anderson on Thu Jun 14, 2012 6:48 pm

Not to beat a dead horse, which disappeared on page 52, I've been contemplating quid pro quo on another issue.

It seems quite a practical way of viewing the situation and disarming the attachments... for clearer seeing. any ideas?

QUID PRO QUO: from wikipedia

Quid pro quo ("this for that" in Latin[1]) most often means a more-or-less equal exchange or substitution of goods or services. English speakers often use the term to mean "a favor for a favor" and the phrases with almost identical meaning include: "give and take", "tit for tat", "this for that", and "you scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours".

Legal usage

In legal usage, quid pro quo indicates that an item or a service has been traded in return for something of value, usually when the propriety or equity of the transaction is in question. For example, under the common law, a binding contract must involve consideration: that is, the exchange of something of value for something else of economic value. In the United States, if the exchange appears excessively one sided, courts in some jurisdictions may question whether a quid pro quo did actually exist and the contract may be void by law.[2]

Similarly, political donors are legally entitled to support candidates that hold positions with which the donors agree, or which will benefit the donors. Such conduct becomes bribery only when there is an identifiable exchange between the contribution and official acts, previous or subsequent, and the term quid pro quo denotes such an exchange. The term may also be used to describe blackmail, where a person offers to refrain from some harmful conduct in return for valuable consideration.

Quid pro quo harassment occurs when employment or academic decisions or expectations (hiring, promotions, salary increases, shift or work assignments, performance standards, grades, access to recommendations, assistance with school work, etc.) are based on an employee or student's submission to or rejection of sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other behaviour of a sexual nature. These cases involve tangible actions that adversely affect either the conditions of work or academic progress.

Not last night,
not this morning;
Melon flowers bloomed.
-- Basahō



Spike

Posts: 39
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

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

by Spike on Mon Jun 18, 2012 6:35 pm

Can't wait to go read all the details of the recent meeting of AZTA on its Yahoo Group Page, or see an outline of it on its website. Can just imagine what the "current concerns" discussed were, especially all the progress at ZSS.

Then I'll go over to the ZSS website to look at the list of board members, their C.V.'s, etc., so I can really feel good about where they're going.

Not like everything has to be a big (cult-like) secret, or anything.

"Come on, Sandy, baby, loosen up. You're too tight." -- NFL Super Bowl-winning running back John Riggins, while seated next to Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, at a Washington Press Club Salute to Congress dinner.

genkaku

Posts: 3820
Joined: Sun Feb 06, 2009 2:24 am

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

by genkaku on Tue Jun 19, 2012 2:39 am

The only reference I've yet seen so far is [this](#).

Bird of Appetite

Posts: 2
Joined: Mon May 14, 2012 11:08 am

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

by Bird of Appetite on Sun Jun 24, 2012 3:03 pm

The extravagant entry gate, or *Sanmon*, was part of the original DBZ project.

Its realization was proposed in 2010 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Eido Shimano's arrival in the United States.

An e-mail was sent to the DBZ sangha in May of 2010 soliciting contributions to a fund that would finance the timely completion of the *Sanmon*. At the time, it was suggested that the sum of \$150,000 was necessary. As we all know the most recent scandal came to light in June 2010.

Evidently, the *Sanmon* has been brought to completion. It would be interesting to be informed as to what purpose this furbelow was brought to completion.



Genjo
Posts: 127
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

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

by Genjo on Sun Jun 24, 2012 4:16 pm

Spike wrote:
...
As for O-Bon: I realize his parents remains are in Sangha Meadow, so he gets a pass there. If he attends, he should be just like any other tourist, and have no role in the ceremony. Perhaps the Japanese-Americans who usually attend will appreciate his presence somehow.
...

If Eido Roshi were to attend O-bon as you describe, I could support that; however, I suspect his involvement will be more than this.

genkaku wrote:
... a desire 'not to throw the baby out with the bath water...'

I too fight not to throw the baby out with the bath water. I'm positive there was a lot of good that came from the men you have cited. Eido Roshi still gave a lot and did a lot of good. None of us can be all "good" or "bad." Let's discern clearly, keep what works and discard what doesn't.

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

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< Previous Display posts from previous: Sort by Next >

2041 posts • Page 102 of 103 • ...

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Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and others

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2069 posts • Page 103 of 104 • [1](#) ... [100](#) [101](#) [102](#) [103](#) [104](#)

[genkaku](#)
Posts: 3823
Joined: Sun Feb 08, 2009 2:24 am

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

by [genkaku](#) on Sun Jun 24, 2012 9:33 pm

I too fight not to throw the baby out with the bath water

Genjo -- I can find no fault with this well-worn saying as long as it is in honest hands. I do however believe that the well-discerned track record of situations such as the Vatican or ZSS or Penn State proves what sort of cruelties can and have arisen due to a self-serving and smarmy dishonesty ... Eg. Hitler, after all, wasn't such a bad guy: He built the autobahn, right?

Until there is a time of more proven and palpable and open-air honesty -- an actual-factual, well-discerned track record -- I hope you will forgive me if I keep my bullshit-detector turned on.



[Genjo](#)
Posts: 133
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

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

by [Genjo](#) on Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:20 pm

FYI,

The four new Board Members at ZSS are:

Jeffrey Hovden, attorney at law; Linda King, website and graphics designer; Carlos Cervantes, whose background includes heading corporate and not-for-profit agencies; and the Rev. Dr. Dan Diffin, head of radiology at a hospital in Rhode Island and a Zen priest.

This information was gratefully provided by Shinge Roshi, Abbot of ZSS.

With palms together,

Genjo

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

<http://www.choboji.org>

[genkaku](#)
Posts: 3823
Joined: Sun Feb 08, 2009 2:24 am

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

by [genkaku](#) on Wed Jun 27, 2012 1:47 am

Thanks Genjo.

Is there a way to compile a complete list of the board members and perhaps what functions they are expected to fulfill?

Is there a way to know how they were chosen and who did the choosing?

Zensho Martin Hara was said to have been chosen in 2010 (by whom unknown) to represent sangha interests at Sho Bo Ji ... is he likewise on the ZSS board or is his function separate? If it is separate, how can he adequately represent the sangha?

Sorry to ask all this but information seems to appear in dribs and drabs and it is hard to form a clear picture.

Thanks.



[Spike](#)
Posts: 41
Joined: Thu Aug 19, 2010 7:15 pm

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

by [Spike](#) on Wed Jun 27, 2012 3:54 am

Genjo wrote:
The four new Board Members at ZSS are:
Jeffrey Hovden, attorney at law; Linda King, website and graphics designer; Carlos Cervantes, whose background includes heading corporate and not-for-profit agencies; and the Rev. Dr. Dan Diffin, head of radiology at a hospital in Rhode Island and a Zen priest.

Hopefully these are good adds. I believe they need help with their website, and the newsletter is overdue at this point, so maybe King is being brought on to direct efforts to get back up to speed. Obviously ZSS will benefit if Cervantes can provide good management direction. Diffin is aka Hokuto, and reportedly took priest vows in April at DBZ. He has at least some insider understanding. As for Hovden, the intellectual property law specialist: you probably can't have enough lawyers, given the Shimano mess.

"Come on, Sandy, baby, loosen up. You're too tight." -- NFL Super Bowl-winning running back John Riggins, while seated next to Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, at a Washington Press Club Salute to Congress dinner.



Genjo

Posts: 133
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
by Genjo on Wed Jun 27, 2012 6:11 am

genkaku wrote:
...
Sorry to ask all this but information seems to appear in dribs and drabs and it is hard to form a clear picture.

This is exactly how I feel about it and I do understand the frustration. I'll try and put what I know and don't know together after Chobo-Ji's Summer Sesshin is complete.

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

<http://www.choboji.org>



Genjo

Posts: 133
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
by Genjo on Wed Jun 27, 2012 11:43 pm

Here is what I wrote Shinge Roshi about having Eido Roshi at two events at DBZ this summer...

"As for the O-bon celebration, as long as Eido Roshi is just a participant like anyone else, I see no problem with this, except to say that anyone who has been sexually abused or taken advantage of is not likely to be in attendance even if they too had relatives at rest in Sangha Meadow. Maybe every other year Eido Roshi could be invited so that in the off year those abused or alienated would also have an opportunity to enjoy O-bon.

Regarding the new Sanmon Gate ...

Inviting Eido Roshi to this event is a slap in the face to all who have been harmed or alienated. It says he is still welcome; it says you and the board are still too close to him.

How I wish closure and healing were ZSS's top priority."

With palms together,

Genjo

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

<http://www.choboji.org>

JVC108

Posts: 11
Joined: Tue Jan 11, 2011 6:06 pm

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
by JVC108 on Thu Jun 28, 2012 12:34 am

Genjo wrote:
Here is what I wrote Shinge Roshi about having Eido Roshi at two events at DBZ this summer...

"As for the O-bon celebration, as long as Eido Roshi is just a participant like anyone else, I see no problem with this, except to say that anyone who has been sexually abused or taken advantage of is not likely to be in attendance even if they too had relatives at rest in Sangha Meadow. Maybe every other year Eido Roshi could be invited so that in the off year those abused or alienated would also have an opportunity to enjoy O-bon.

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Inviting Eido Roshi to this event is a slap in the face to all who have been harmed or alienated. It says he is still welcome; it says you and the board are still too close to him.

How I wish closure and healing were ZSS's top priority."

With palms together,

Genjo

Probably falling on deaf ears but thanks for trying.

As for as my family is concerned, it's going to take more than Eido's absence before we visit Sangha Meadows much less attend O-bon.

Regarding the Sanmon Gate, since it's first mention ages ago, many believed it's construction as visualized would be a very foolish waste of money (100K+) better spent on other things. The Wikipedia entry for it goes to help understanding what a Sanmon Gate is:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanmon>

These following excerpts show why Shimano was/is so attached to having it built. It definitely goes toward Shimano's "the Japanese way is superior." It also goes to show how out of touch the both he and the ZSS board have been with American's spiritual sensibilities and not just in the obvious and atrocious ways.

- "A sanmon , also called sangedatsumon, the gate of the three liberations, is the most important gate of a Japanese Zen Buddhist temple, and is part of the Zen shichidō garan, the group of buildings that forms the heart of a Zen Buddhist temple."
(How many Zen group struggle to maintain a barebones facility?)

- "The sanmon's size is an indicator of a Zen temple's status."
(That's just sad.)

Will he be permitted to be present at the Gates dedication? Will he preside? Yes if the people making up the leadership of this organization continue to indulge him and even venerate him despite a uttering a few words to the contrary when they think people that matter are watching. So it goes....

genkaku

Posts: 3823
Joined: Sun Feb 08, 2009 2:24 am

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
by genkaku on Sat Jul 07, 2012 4:56 pm

Those with an interest in the issues of this thread may want to take a look at the essay by Christopher Hamacher: "[Zen Has No Morals!](#)" - The Latent Potential for Corruption and Abuse in Zen Buddhism, as Exemplified by Two Recent Cases.



unsui

Posts: 154
Joined: Tue Feb 10, 2009 5:46 pm

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
by [unsui](#) on Sat Jul 07, 2012 5:22 pm

genkaku wrote:

Those with an interest in the issues of this thread may want to take a look at the essay by Christopher Hamacher: "[Zen Has No Morals!](#)" - The Latent Potential for Corruption and Abuse in Zen Buddhism, as Exemplified by Two Recent Cases.

I have also just reviewed this essay. Please be both open, inviting AND critical upon reading.

May we extend This Mind over the whole universe so that we and all beings together may attain maturity in Buddha's wisdom

Wallace

Posts: 20
Joined: Wed Jul 04, 2012 4:53 am

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
by [Wallace](#) on Sun Jul 08, 2012 12:41 am

Types of behavior to be wary of in Zen teachers:

- A) Negative or hostile response to criticism.
- B) Extreme formalism
- C) Blaming the ego of critics
- D) Hypocrisy
- E) Groupthink
- F) Information control
- G) Self-agrandisement
- H) Autocratic control

I hope none of these behaviors seem familiar!



Linda Anderson

Posts: 1376
Joined: Mon Feb 09, 2009 7:14 pm
Location: Forestville, CA

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
by [Linda Anderson](#) on Sun Jul 08, 2012 3:33 am

OK, here is a turning word perhaps a way to stop and listen. It worked for me after a long road of heartache that can't be re-written and I couldn't stop.

it's a story:

A woman was done wrong to by a mean teacher. Nothing could console her. Finally, she decided to visit an old woman at the edge of town who she hoped would help her release this terrible burden. (yada, yada.... the original story had many flourishes which I have forgotten that made the story even more vivid, and how she tried to work with the dog) The old woman told her to find the meanest dog in town and to get three hairs from it and bring them back to her. She did this and there was much plotting and trying about how to accomplish this, always with the dog right at the end of it's leash to avoid harm. After several schemes, she managed to get three hairs and bring them back to the old woman. The old woman threw them on the ground and said "I CANT HELP YOU! You have already transformed!"

Blessed be, and so it was told to me by a wise Roshi.

Justice was never done in the way that I had illusioned.

gratitude for all,
Linda

Not last night,
not this morning;
Melon flowers bloomed.
- Basaho



Jage

Posts: 611
Joined: Fri Mar 16, 2012 8:15 am

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
by [Jage](#) on Sun Jul 08, 2012 3:43 am

So what do you think of the thread. Still going strong and burning since 2009. Three times more views than the Meditation Journal.



Linda Anderson

Posts: 1376
Joined: Mon Feb 09, 2009 7:14 pm
Location: Forestville, CA

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
by [Linda Anderson](#) on Sun Jul 08, 2012 3:45 am

I've followed it from the beginning.... lots of heartache and no easy answers 🙄

Not last night,
not this morning;
Melon flowers bloomed.
- Basaho



Jage

Posts: 611
Joined: Fri Mar 16, 2012 8:15 am

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
by [Jage](#) on Sun Jul 08, 2012 3:56 am

I am just wondering since almost all teachers are always teaching of non-attachment to form and no form. Don't be attached to anything. 😊



Linda Anderson

Posts: 1376
Joined: Mon Feb 09, 2009 7:14 pm
Location: Forestville, CA

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

by Linda Anderson on Sun Jul 08, 2012 4:07 am

Jage wrote:

I am just wondering since almost all teachers are always teaching of non-attachment to form and no form. Don't be attached to anything. 😊

as you can see, sometimes we are just human and aspiration is aspiration, and all's well with the world in either case. ☺

Not last night,
not this morning;
Melon flowers bloomed.
- Basaho



Genjo

Posts: 133
Joined: Mon Aug 30, 2010 5:57 pm
Location: Seattle, WA USA
antispam: No

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

by Genjo on Sun Jul 08, 2012 4:20 am

Wallace wrote:

Types of behavior to be wary of in Zen teachers:

- A) Negative or hostile response to criticism.
- B) Extreme formalism
- C) Blaming the ego of critics
- D) Hypocrisy
- E) Groupthink
- F) Information control
- G) Self-agrandisement
- H) Autocratic control

I hope none of these behaviors seem familiar!

Well said and cannot be said enough.

I found Christopher Hamacher's report to be a sound and useful cautionary tale.

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

<http://www.choboji.org>



Linda Anderson

Posts: 1376
Joined: Mon Feb 09, 2009 7:14 pm
Location: Forestville, CA

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

by Linda Anderson on Sun Jul 08, 2012 4:32 am

Genjo wrote:

Wallace wrote:

Types of behavior to be wary of in Zen teachers:

- A) Negative or hostile response to criticism.
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- C) Blaming the ego of critics
- D) Hypocrisy
- E) Groupthink
- F) Information control
- G) Self-agrandisement
- H) Autocratic control

I hope none of these behaviors seem familiar!

Well said and cannot be said enough.

I found Christopher Hamacher's report to be a sound and useful cautionary tale.

yes, yes, yes.... and it is so and can we move beyond.... the perpetrator will never agree as far as I can see... where is the transformation

Not last night,
not this morning;
Melon flowers bloomed.
- Basaho



unsl

Posts: 154
Joined: Tue Feb 10, 2009 5:46 pm

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

by unsl on Sun Jul 08, 2012 7:19 am

Genjo wrote:

Well said and cannot be said enough.

I found Christopher Hamacher's report to be a sound and useful cautionary tale.

Yes, in many ways, a sharp analysis.

I was taken aback, however, by the nearly perfect academic language and use of footnotes and then the propensity to include own emotional reactions as well as misleading and/or incorrect generalizations about Zen based on his own experiences plus the lack of well-balanced criticism of the cited source materials.

May we extend This Mind over the whole universe so that we and all beings together may attain maturity in Buddha's wisdom



Jok_Hae

Posts: 3636
Joined: Mon Feb 16, 2009 1:53 am
Location: CT, USA

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

By Jok_Hae on Sun Jul 08, 2012 3:19 pm

unsui wrote:

Genjo wrote:

Well said and cannot be said enough.

I found Christopher Hamacher's report to be a sound and useful cautionary tale.

Yes, in many ways, a sharp analysis.

I was taken aback, however, by the nearly perfect academic language and use of footnotes and then the propensity to include own emotional reactions as well as misleading and/or incorrect generalizations about Zen based on his own experiences plus the lack of well-balanced criticism of the cited source materials.

I have written at least 4 responses and submitted 1 more, but deleted them all. But, I felt the same way. I actually thought it was pretty poorly written. It just read like a long gossip tale. It is worth noting that the audience for the presentation was the International Cultic Studies Association. I am sure they got everything they wanted out of the presentation. Oh well. I guess anything that shines a light on this nonsense is worthwhile. I just wonder when all this self-flagellation and hand wringing turns into just plain old blind cynicism. It's a fine line, I suppose.

Kong an (koan) practice has nothing to do with right or wrong answer - Dae Kwang Soen Sa Nim

[New Haven Zen Center](#)

genkaku

Posts: 3823
Joined: Sun Feb 08, 2009 2:24 am

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

By genkaku on Sun Jul 08, 2012 4:17 pm

The Zen teacher Soen Nakagawa Roshi used to invite his students to slap his head. And he wasn't just looking for a smarmy love tap. Years and years of practice and he was insistent on acknowledging the dangers.

Without a willingness to consider the dirty water, how can the laundry ever get clean?

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2069 posts • Page 103 of 104 • 1 ... 100 101 102 103 104

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