



## Saving a Dharma Treasure

May 11th, 2012

By [Genjo Marinello](#), Osho

I must say I am feeling a bit burned by my continued efforts to bring change to the Zen Studies Society (ZSS). I've now been successively accused of being power hungry, motivated by my early abuse history, "Holier than thou," allowing dual relationships including the sin that my wife of twenty plus years is a member of the Chobo-Ji sangha and comes to dokusan with me, and finally sexual harassment followed by an apology. These attacks on me I think are diversions from what remains to be done at ZSS.

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

I fully accept that there may be many different views on how to proceed, 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.

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 needs to be an organizational apology from the board of ZSS for not taking stronger steps to protect its own sangha, 5) There continues to be Insufficient investigation and outreach to those most harmed by Eido Shimano Roshi's history of abuse of power and position.

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.

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.

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](mailto:office@newyorkzendo.org)

With palms together,

Genjo