



Randy Phillips

April 10, 2013 at 12:33 am

Aloha Nonin,

Thank you for a very well written piece on Unethical Practices and karma.

For some background I am Banko Randy Phillips and I was at one time president of the board of directors of the Zen Studies Society. At one time I considered myself a good friend of Eido Shimano. I traveled with him to Japan and worked on several books with him. When Robert Aitkin via the web asked for a formal reply by Eido Shimano to his charges (the first that I was aware of them) I tried to get Eido Shimano to respond. I was no longer president of the board but was still on it. It was apparent that his answer was not forthcoming.

It is a long and dreary story that unfolded and there is no real need to go into details other than to say that I resigned the board because I found myself at a moral empass. I was not the first nor the last. When the original admission of an ongoing affair surfaced just days before a sesshin I argued for an immediate leave of absence for Shimano. The board did not support my view. As time passed and other things emerged it became more apparent to me that this LOA was the least that we should do. I explained my moral dilemma to the board and Shinge Roshi. They did not support my view and so I resigned.

Genjo Osho was in agreement with my positions all along and did his best to support me. He hung in there but eventually experienced a moral dilemma of his own that he could not side-step. Of course he was in a bit of a different position being a dharma heir to Shimano. Shinge Roshi was appointed as Abbot and was basically running the board. She did not support Genjo Osho in the least and he left the board. I feel a great sense of loss for her action – or lack of.

The reason for this reply now is simply because of the subject of the above article. As a matter of record – you – from the side-lines repeatedly cast aspersions at anyone who was “against” Shimano or Shinge Roshi. You were an apologist for both – one might even say even a rabid apologist. To my reading – and I think many others – you responded often in a mean spirited manner. Almost anything that Genjo Osho said was picked apart ad nauseam – in a seemingly imperious manner as well – to what end? Shinge Roshi eventually called Shimano a “psychopath” – nothing that either I nor Genjo Osho did. Maybe she is right – now Shimano is suing ZSS (for breaking a contract that he basically wrote himself)- “Let True Dharma Continue” – indeed.

I wish to to tell you that your “actions” made a very difficult time for those of us who were trying to deal with this situation from the inside much more difficult. I don’t believe that you can understand how much more difficult you made things – and what a negative drag it was dealing with your continued sniping. Was this sniping, goading, gloating, quick to anger and attack “unethical” – I don’t presume to know by a long shot but there was apparently plenty of greed anger and delusion to go around. IMHO.

As you said “The law of karma is: positive actions have positive results, negative actions have negative results, neutral actions have neutral results. No one is above this law, no matter how long one has practiced or how deep their understanding.”

Mahalo,

Banko

Reply