

**From:** Zen Studies Society [mailto:office@zenstudies.ccsend.com] **On Behalf Of** Zen Studies Society  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2013 2:05 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** A Letter From Shinge Roshi

THE ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY

New York Zendo Shobo-ji  
Dai Bosatsu Zendo Kongo-ji

June 13, 2013

Dear Sangha,

These last few years have been a time of great challenge and change. Some people say that we must move on, and focus our attention on new growth. Yet I know there are many who feel their concerns have not been fully acknowledged. We need to address these concerns. For new growth to be firmly rooted, healing is essential.

We have all made mistakes, those of commission and those of omission. We have hurt others through our insensitivity, our ego-centered actions, and our lack of wisdom and compassion, and we must own up to this, and ask for forgiveness.

We need to bring restorative principles and practices to redress harm, restore peace, promote healing, and build a strong, healthy community.

How do we do this? We can take up a suggestion that was made some time ago to hold an annual ceremony of introspection and purification, through which we reflect upon the shadow history of the Zen Studies Society and vow to transform our karma.

The most appropriate time would be at the conclusion of every Anniversary Sesshin. This year's sesshin will end at noon on Saturday, July 6, 2013.

Even if you can't come to sesshin, please join us that Saturday at 2 p.m. for a facilitated listening circle in which everyone can speak openly, without interruption, and be heard deeply. Then we will have a special Purification Ceremony in the Dharma Hall. We'll end with an informal supper.

It is my intention to hold such listening circles on a regular basis, both at Dai Bosatsu Zendo and at New York Zendo, as well as an annual purification ceremony.

We all remember that transformative moment when we first drank in the nourishment of sitting together in zazen. Our shared practice of Buddha-Dharma inspires, strengthens, and heals us, but we need to commit to it beyond what's comfortable, beyond our perceived limitations—bravely shining the light of Dharma on our shadows.

Let's continue our work as one Sangha to establish a firm foundation of trust and communication. I'd love to hear from you—your thoughts, suggestions, and wishes. I hope you can join us for Anniversary Sesshin and stay on for the listening circle and ceremony; if you can't, please come for the day. RSVP to [DBZ office](#).

Gassho,

Shinge

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