

07/16/84

# University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Library — Archives

July 16, 1984

Dear Yamada Roshi,

I am writing to you regarding a most serious matter which could have significant impact on the future of American Zen. Eido Roshi has recently written some articles in memory of Soen Roshi, in which he made it clear, that he (Eido Roshi) continues to be Soen Roshi's Dharma Successor, and that half of Soen Roshi's ashes would be burried at Dai Bosatsu Zendo in New York. Eido Roshi is requesting funds ~~also for~~:

1. To erect a memorial stupa for both Soen Roshi and Nyogen Senzaki at Dai Bosatsu.
2. To publish a book on Soen Roshi.
3. To send promising Zen students to Japan for further study.

My concern is that I have heard from various sources that Soen Roshi had a very serious falling out with Eido Roshi during Soen Roshi's last visit to New York, and that Soen Roshi may have disowned and renounced Eido Roshi, thus invalidating Eido Roshi's claim to be a Dharma successor.

I have no way of knowing what the truth is, and feel that it is vital to the future of the American Zen to make the truth known. There has already been too much damage done to the image of Zen.

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
Library — Archives

We can not afford more deception or false rumor. I am turning to you with a heartfelt request to please help us learn the truth.

Gassho, your faithful student,

*Brian*  
Brian S. Baron