

Tenshin David S. Hill

Kirkland, WA 98033

USA

@gmail.com

December 24th, 2010

Rev. Eizan Goto Roshi - Abbot
Ryutaku-Ji, Sawaji
Mishima-shi
Shikzuoka-ken
411 Japan

Dear Roshi,

Happy Rohatsu!

I have never had the opportunity to meet you, but have had the fortune of sitting with your Dharma Brothers Kyudo Roshi and Eido Shimano, while both were in New York City.

I am writing as a follow-up to Rev. Kobutsu Kevin Malone's letter to you, dated November-28th, 2010.

I have been a student of Hakuin Ekaku's lineage since 1980, and as such could be considered a great grandchild of Yamamoto Gempo Roshi. I am begging you to help us to keep Hakuin's legacy alive in North America by taking the difficult step of responding to Rev. Kobutsu's letter. All the records I have been able to find, pertaining to Mitta Kutsu Soen Nakagawa's Dharma Heirs, appear clear that Eido Tai San Shimano was not among this group.

As is documented in an unpublished article by the reporter Robin Westen of ABC News (http://www.shimanoarchive.com/PDFs/19820400R_Zen_Seduction.pdf and in Japanese, http://www.shimanoarchive.com/PDFs/19820400R_JP_Zen_Seduction.pdf), when asked about the allegations of extended sexual misconduct by Eido Shimano, Soen Roshi said the following:

"This is a *grave* matter. Very grave. I showed Eido the letter you sent here last week. I asked him for an explanation. He gave me one, but it was not satisfactory. He is a Liar.... This problem happened almost seven years ago when Dai Bosatsu was to officially open. Now it is happening again. The responsibility is clearly mine... It is a grave manner."

(Japanese translations of some additional material appear at the following Web URL:

<http://www.shimanoarchive.com/html/JPindex.html>.)

I have worked for years in Japan, and understand that what I ask you to do is very difficult. That said, I believe answering Kobutsu's questions is in-line with Soen Roshi's wishes. I personally have heard Eido Shimano's denigrating comments about Soen – about his senility, drunkenness, and unstable mental

health, and believe these comments to be an attempt by Eido to discredit an incredibly honorable man (Soen) who did so much by bringing the spontaneity of Hakuin's teachings to America. The seeds that have been sown here by Eido's actions are more than just small problems. They exhibit extreme behaviors that are not acceptable in any society, and may potentially border on criminal behavior.

This is why I implore you to ease Soen Roshi's distress by issuing a clarifying statement from Ryutaku-ji, so that we in America can begin the difficult task of cleaning up this 50 year situation by allowing the truth to flourish and also to finally be able to help those who have survived his abuse.

This is about honor, and about keeping others from soiling Soen Roshi's reputation and spirit. Ryutaku-ji is, at the heart of this matter, the only entity that can once and for all clarify this situation and put it to rest. It is indeed a grave matter, but one that you can help bring closure to, thus allowing Soen Roshi to truly rest.

With profound compassion and gratitude,

-Tenshin

Attachment: December 18th, 2010 letter to Eido Shimano