

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Is this you?
Date: January 14, 2011 2:29:21 PM EST
To: Kobutsu Malone <kobutsu@engaged-zen.org>

Hi Kobutsu,

My story is this: I was at Ryutaku-ji as a student for the winter semester 2001-2002. On the middle day of a sesshin (I think it was January), right before mealtime, there was suddenly a kind of murmur among the monks: Eido Shimano had shown up and was going to be eating with us. Sure enough, as we entered the dining hall, there was Eido waiting at one end of the table. That was the first time I had ever seen him and so I was of course curious: I remember thinking that for some reason he looked sheepish.

It was only later that I realised why he had looked like that. He had been meeting with Kyudo Roshi in the morning and obviously Kyudo had not invited him to eat lunch with him in his abbott's quarters, instead merely sending him back downstairs to eat noodles with the monks. I remember the whole episode very well because the midday meal on the fourth day of sesshin at Ryutaku-ji is always terrible: nothing but udon noodles in hot water with some kind of chili powder.

I actually mentioned the incident to Shimano five or six years later in Switzerland, telling him that I once had lunch with him in Japan. He said he vaguely remembered the visit, but could not remember any particulars.

Please redact my name from this email.