



Ven. Eido Shimano Roshi, Abbot



NEW YORK ZENDO•SHOBO-JI • DAI BOSATSU ZENDO•KONGO-JI



Descending Into The Dragon's Cave

A 20th Anniversary Address
by the Venerable Eido Roshi

Twenty years have passed since the opening of Dai Bosatsu Zendo. First of all I would like to say, *Congratulations!*—to us all, since this is the combined effort and accomplishment of us all. Some of you may not be aware of it right now, but history will reveal that this anniversary was a landmark of Zen Buddhism in the West. Hence, *Congratulations!*

In the *Blue Rock Collection* (*Hekiganroku*) there is a quite well known story of Baso's "Sun-faced Buddha, Moon-faced Buddha." In it you will find Setcho's wonderful verse:

*For twenty years
I have had fierce struggles,
Descending into the Dragon's cave
for you.*

*The hardship defies description.
You clear-eyed monks—
don't make light of it.*

It was a struggle; it was twenty years of struggle: cultural struggle, language struggle, financial struggle, psychological struggle, emotional struggle. The hardship indeed defies description. I went through all of these, descending into the Dragon's cave innumerable times. Now I understand Setcho's verse perhaps better than anyone in this hall. And at last, I can put my palms together with my head bowed low to thank my karma which allowed me to donate my life to the Buddha Dharma in America.

Yet, as you undoubtedly have noticed, there were a few times when I was almost going to give it up; but something forced me to stay. I listened to that voice and obeyed that order, forbearing without knowing why. But today I know and I am glad I did not give it up.

I often think, "If I had not come to America, what then?" I would have had quite a different life staying in Japan. To be a roshi in one of the monasteries, abbot of a headquarters or a simple temple priest...all of them could be possible. Frankly, that kind of life is easier, more conventional and comfortable, but certainly not as meaningful as the past 36 years I spent in America. I am immensely grateful to my karma and to all those who supported me and to all those who gave me a difficult time. At last I can laugh and say this much.

Please allow me to continue to express my personal feelings. According to the Chinese way of thinking, our life can be divided into four periods,



DBZ
20th Anniversary
Report

FALL 1996

namely: *Ki, Sho, Ten and Ketsu*.

Ki is to prepare and begin. I consider the time from my birth until the time I came to America on August 21, 1960, as my *Ki* period. *Sho* means continuation. This was the period from 1960-1976 when I was fully combusting myself creating two Buddhist temples: in New York City, Shobo-ji and here in the Catskills, Kongo-ji—even though in 1965 someone said contemptuously, after I told him that my dream was to build a Buddhist temple in New York, "It is more likely for the Hudson River to become transparent than for you to build a Buddhist temple in New York. You'd better give up such a dream."

The third is *Ten* or drastic transformation: 1976-1996, the past twenty years. When the actual building structure of DBZ was completed, the dedication ceremony took place on America's Bicentennial, July 4th, 1976. This is the day the real Dai Bosatsu Sangha construction began, truly a transformation from the material to the human realm. Now we are able to have the most harmonious Sangha we have ever had. Today, July 4th, 1996, marks the end of the third period. Tomorrow *Ketsu*, the conclusion period of my life will begin. This period is the most important one. And I wish to end my life contentedly without misgiving. How long will this last? I don't know. However, there are two things I am keenly aware of. First, someone said to me, "Roshi, the less you do, the more we do." I will obey this principle after the

roof replacement project is over. Otherwise, the future of Dai Bosatsu Zendo will not be a strong one. Now more than ever, I will take care of my health so that I can watch the gradual Americanization of Zen Buddhism. I feel it is my responsibility to oversee this gradual transmission while firmly upholding the vibrant and elegant tradition of the Hakuin-Torei-Gempo-Soen lineage.

The future of Dai Bosatsu Zendo looks bright and unshakable. There is a feeling of harmony on this Independence Day with both the Japanese and the American flags flying side by side, symbolizing the unification of East and West. This monastery is no longer a teenager. It has become an adult and will mature more and more.

Ladies and gentleman, Dharma brothers and sisters, I am extremely grateful for your support in the past and ask for your encouragement in the decade to come. To my students, I say:

*"You clear-eyed monks—
don't make light of it."* ▲

*Speech for the
July 4, 1996 Commemoration of the
Twentieth Anniversary of
the Opening of
Dai Bosatsu Zendo Kongo-ji*

Given by Dai En George Burch

The Rev. Muishitsu Eido Shimano Roshi, Abbot of Dai Bosatsu Zendo Kongo-ji, Aiho-San Dai Shi Yasuko Shimano, honored guests, sesshin participants, and ordained bikshus and bikshunis ...

Two score years ago today, Eido Roshi and his wife Aiho-San and numberless supporting beings opened this International Dai Bosatsu Zendo Kongo-ji and dedicated this great lake and mountain setting and all of its trees, animals, rocks and grasses to the liberation of all beings in Buddha's wisdom.

Also this day the people of these United States celebrate the political events of two-hundred and twenty years ago when its citizens claimed political liberation for the people and by the people.

I think it is useful to compare these twin liberations celebrated this day.

The liberation promised by the Buddha and being fulfilled at this moment in this very place, is timeless and stateless. It depends on nothing more than our own realization and practice as set out two thousand five hundred years ago by Siddartha Shakyamuni. Furthermore, the liberation promised by the Buddha ends all suffering by releasing us from attachments. It is colorblind, requires no voter registration drives and extends to all beings, not just citizens of one country or one place or one time.

On the other hand, the political liberation promised by our founding fathers requires constant maintenance. We say, "vigilance is the price of liberty." It sets fathers and mothers against sons and daughters if they have differences of opinion. It furthers war and suffering in the name of peace. In short, it often creates as many problems as it solves. Yet this democracy is the best that ordinary thinking can produce.

When clearly compared I believe the liberation promised us here at International Dai Bosatsu Zendo Kongo-ji is far greater than any political liberation that can be given or taken away by others. This is why we must dedicate ourselves to the liberation of all beings from suffering. And this is the reason we are here today to congratulate this place for being twenty years old, for giving us the taste of true liberty, and for the opportunity to practice the principals of Buddhism.

We are currently engaged in one such practice, the practice of charity. I was introduced as the Chairman of Zendo Roof Replacement Fund Raising Drive. I would like us to think about that fund raising effort as part of our practice to liberate all beings from suffering.

Let me read from the introduction to the *Sutra of the Diamond of Perfect Wisdom*:

One day, at mealtime, the World-honored One put on His robe and, carrying His bowl, made His way into the great city of Shravasti to receive offerings of food. In the midst of the city, He walked from door to door, according to tradition. In this way, all virtuous men and women were given an opportunity to learn the practice of charity.

When you receive a fund raising letter from this mountain, think of it as a chance to practice charity, a supreme way to reach the liberty of enlightenment. Consider it the Buddha's Bowl.

When you consider making a donation remember what the Buddha said about your practice in the Diamond Sutra:

"... in the practice of charity, a Bodhisattva should be detached. He should practice charity without regard to appearances..."

In this way Dai Bosatsu can fulfill its promise to free all beings by presenting its bowl to you, and you can be freed by being selfless in your giving.

The good news is that as of this date our fund raising effort for replacement of the Zendo roof indicates that the friends of the International Dai Bosatsu Zendo Kongo-ji have a strong practice of charity.

Nearly 10% of those asked by mail to contribute have given. The average contribution is over \$450. We have raised \$95,000 from the direct appeal and have received \$110,000 in special Dai Koji gifts, for a total of \$205,000. These amounts are much better than expected from past appeals, but we will need substantially more gifts to reach our target of 250,000. In fact we need to raise an additional \$45,000 and cannot count on large gifts. For that reason you will receive more practice opportunities during the remainder of the year. Please be generous.

I want to share a story with you with roots in my home town of Concord, Massachusetts. Concord, famous for the "shot heard round the world" and birthplace of the battle for political liberation we celebrate today, is also the home of Emerson, the intellectual leader of the Transcendental Movement of the middle of the last century. The Transcendentalists, by the way, had some knowledge of Buddha and were practicing vegetarians.

This year is another commemoration, which brings this story to mind. It is the memorial year of the 150th anniversary of the Irish Famine. The story as told by Emerson involved a very poor Irish family. They were so poor that the children were tucked in at night with rags around them, and to keep them alive through the cold night their parents put a door over them. One night as the children were being put to bed the eldest daughter remarked that she pitied the other children she knew because they were so poor they didn't even have a door.

So when you think of giving but feel too poor, please remember this story.

Finally, let us look forward to the next twenty years, into the next century to the year 2016. In simple terms, maintaining this building in the future is not our greatest funding challenge; maintaining Dai Bosatsu Zen in America is. I will explain this challenge by looking at Eido Shimano Roshi's life. In 1960, Eido Shimano Roshi, then known as Tai San, came to the United States. We now can simply look around and see the wonderful results of thirty-six years of his and Aiko-San's dedicated charity practice. We cannot expect their effort to continue another twenty years, and we cannot expect a new "Tai San" to pack up a life in Japan and come here to continue dedicated Mu practice, to selflessly give us training for another thirty years. We must come to the realization that Dai Bosatsu itself must be extended to communities like my home town of Concord, like Roko-San's Syracuse, and to your town.

Eido Roshi and I have discussed this future and over the next several years we will ask you to give more than money. We will need your help in thinking about how to build a new American Dai Bosatsu Zen. With your help over the next twenty years I predict that Dai Bosatsu Zendo will come down from the

mountain, that ordained Zen monks and nuns will be funded to start community Zen centers, and that new practices will help ordinary Americans discover the extraordinary way of Zen, so that all citizens of the United States may become truly liberated from suffering.

In closing, I want to share with you my deeply-felt gratitude for the past seventeen years that I have been coming to this place, sitting mindful, and taking home the warm and compassionate feeling that Dai Bosatsu Zendo Kongo-ji gives us all. *MAY TRUE DHARMA CONTINUE AND CONTINUE AND CONTINUE.*

About Dai En George Burch:

Dai En George Burch is a dedicated lay Buddhist whose generosity to Dai Bosatsu Zendo is well known.

In 1980 Dai En was driving to Dai Bosatsu from Washington D.C. and felt compelled to stop in Pennsylvania at an Oriental antique store he saw along the way. In the store was a large gong that had been converted to a planter. Dai En did a rubbing of the kanji inscription on the gong and showed it to Eido Roshi. The gong, according to the inscriptions on it, dates back to the late 16th century. It was a gift of Hideyoshi, the ruler of Japan at that time, to the Dai Men Temple.

Dai En told the antique dealer he would buy the gong even though he did not have the money to pay for it. When Dai En returned home, he found an unexpected gift from the IRS that enabled him to purchase the gong! So as Dai En often says, "The money follows the Dharma, not the other way around."

Eido Roshi said that this gong "is the equivalent in American terms of a silver chalice made by Paul Revere and given by George Washington to the

National Cathedral." Dai En lives in Concord, Massachusetts, where he has established the Wild Goose Zendo and Digital Dharma Library, dedicated to the digital preservation of and open electronic access to the Buddhist Sutras and related documents.

We appreciate his efforts on behalf of Dai Bosatsu Zendo Kongo-ji over the past seventeen years and most recently as Chairman of the DBZ Roof Replacement Fund Raising Drive. ▲

Special Note to Our Readers:

As the prior and current issues of the Newsletter have been devoted to Dai Bosatsu Zendo's 20th Anniversary, a Winter issue including DBZ and NYZ News is planned for this year.

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY:
DBZ 20th Anniversary Report
Fall 1996

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Where We Stand

The hundreds of individuals who have contributed towards our roof fund deserve the everlasting gratitude of Dai Bosatsu. Your concern has been overwhelming, and we are encouraged to do the best job we can for the Dai Bosatsu roof.

For the rest of this year Dai Bosatsu Zendo will be in the homestretch of the effort to fund our roof replacement. There remains \$45,000 to be raised. Out of our mailing list, we received an overwhelming response from 9% of friends and Sangha members. We are sending out a second letter of solicitation to those who have not responded, along with our next newsletter, this winter. The "Long Life" roof shingle will be sent out in the spring next year, when the shingles from the roof will be taken down.

Sourcing the best materials and contractor for the job has already begun. Since the DBZ roof is a large area, we are inquiring about direct shipment of cedar shingles from West Coast wholesalers to see if this is cost-effective. We are confident that our replacement roof, because it improves upon the original installation, will last for 40 years.

In May 1997, work on the roof will begin. We are extending our offer to give each donor a DBZ roof shingle burned-in with the character for "Long Life." As we thank each of our donors, we appeal to those who have not yet given to make our roof replacement a success.

—Jiro Andy Afable
General Manager



*Twenty Years of Dharma:
Happy Birthday
Dai Bosatsu Zendo!*
A Report of Events of the
Twentieth Anniversary

By Doshin David Schubert

With a cup of tea, Anniversary Sesshin 1996 began. Eido Roshi set the mood with his opening exhortation. This sesshin was quite special, unprecedented and unrepeatable. It would generate strong *nem* (intense single-minded thought) for the auspicious celebration of the twenty-year anniversary of International Dai Bosatsu Zendo Kongo-ji.

Fifty-six Dharma students participated. Almost all were experienced practitioners and some had been involved with DBZ since its birth. The officer positions were primarily held by the ordained. Everyone sensed the immensity of this Dharma arrangement. The feeling of gratitude for this rare opportunity was pervasive, and all protecting deities of Dai Bosatsu Mountain supported this radiant devotion.

Eido Roshi delivered five teishos from the *Hekiganroku*, and Dharma talks were presented by Jiro-San Andy Afable and Roko-San Sherry Chayat. The sesshin climaxed on the warm and rainy morning of July 3. Following morning service,

the skies cleared and mist rose from the mountain, as a silent procession circumambulated Beecher Lake. The beauty of the morning deepened when "Namu Dai Bosa" was chanted at the large Buddha on the opposite shore. Later, Roshi led the participants to Sangha Meadow for the dedication of the new polished gray granite stupa, which was installed on June 1, Gempo Roshi's memorial day. Roko-San read the names of Dharma brothers and sisters now buried there, and incense was offered in their beloved memories. The hazy sun shone through, as Aiho-San stood upon a moss-covered rock to deliver a powerfully moving speech which was introduced by her recitation of the poem, "Please Call My Name," in both Japanese and English. She recalled, with sentimental reverence, how the mountain meadow was selected to become the Sangha's cemetery. Her revelation of the interrelationship between the living and the dead brought tears to the eyes, as a light rain began to fall.

Continuous, purifying rain greeted over a hundred people, as they arrived at Dai Bosatsu Zendo, on the morning of July 4. Everyone gathered in the zendo, and at 1:00 p.m. sharp, the *bonsho* (large outdoor gong) sounded, followed by a thunderous *hokku* (Dharma drum) introduction by Shokan Marcel Urech. All rose,

hands to hearts, and sang the national anthem. East and West merged, symbolized by the Japanese and American flags that hung on either side of the altar. The mood was hushed as Fujin Attale Formhals played a solemn flute solo. Eido Roshi venerated Kongo Bodhisattva (the guiding compassionate Bodhisattva of Kongo-ji, the Diamond Temple) by offering incense and prostrations, and was attended by Jun-san Masazumi Ogasawara. The honorable tea master of Urasenke, Mr. Yamada, offered *ho-cha* (ceremonial tea). Sutra leader Christopher Pallm introduced the chanting, as heavy rain poured on the zendo roof. During the chanting of the Great Compassionate Dharani, Eido Roshi and the monks and nuns proceeded to the Dharma Hall to honor the patriarchs and deceased Dharma friends by offering incense and prostrations. Everyone again stood and proudly sang, "Happy Birthday Dai Bosatsu!" filling the air with joy.

Jiro-San introduced speeches by Dai En George Burch (Chairman of the Roof Replacement Fund Raising Drive) and Eido Roshi, who spoke with profound dynamism of the overwhelming nature of this twentieth anniversary ceremony and the promising future of DBZ. The ceremony was concluded with a toast by Hozo Willem Pretorius. Glasses of vintage 1976 red wine, graciously donated by Charles Vacher and Michael Weissert, were raised in honor of all who made the birth and growth of International Dai Bosatsu Zendo possible. Participants were then presented with commemorative gift bags containing the books, *Endless Vow - The Zen Path of Soen Nakagawa* (with an introduction by Eido Roshi, and compiled and translated by Kaz Tanahashi and Roko-San Sherry Chayat) and *The Book of the Zen Grove* (translated by Zenrin Robert Lewis), a *shikishi* calligraphy written by Eido Roshi, as well as an original tea cup by George Peterson.

During the mid-afternoon a festive Fourth of July dinner was held in the dining room. The Sangha enjoyed a

DAI BOSATSU ZENDO KONGO-JI 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY SCHEDULE

JULY 3, 1996

Anniversary Sesshin Closing

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 12:00pm | Sesshin Closing |
| 1:15 | Informal lunch |
| 2:30-4:30 | Work practice |
| 5:15 | Informal dinner |
| 6:30-7:30 | Chanting/zazen |
| 7:30 | Zuiza |

JULY 4, 1996

Program of Events

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| 12:00pm | Informal light lunch |
| 12:50 | Shinrei (bell), go to zendo |
| 1:00 | 20th Anniversary Ceremony |

National Anthem

Incense Offering by

Ven. Eido T. Shimano Roshi
Abbot, Dai Bosatsu Zendo

Tea Offering by

Hisashi Yamada Sensei
Urasenke Tea Master

Sutra Chanting

Happy Birthday

General Manager Rev. Jiro-San Andy Afable
will introduce addresses by:

Dai En George Burch
Chairman, DBZ Roof Fund Committee

Ven. Eido T. Shimano Roshi

Hozo Willem Pretorius
Toastmaster

Master of Ceremonies,
Rev. Doshin David Schubert
will conclude Anniversary Ceremony

3:30 Dinner

Master of Ceremonies
introduces informal speeches

5:35 Shinrei, go to zendo
5:45 Evening concert in zendo

Short Poetry Reading by
Rev. Saigyo Terrance Keenan

The Ives String Quartet
Beethoven, Opus 135
Mozart Quartet

Closing Words by Zenshin Richard Rudin
Celebration Conclusion

7:15 Coffee and tea in dining room
7:30 Bus and day guests depart



Roshi and sesshin participants dedicating the new stupa in Sangha Meadow.



Circumambulating Beecher Lake.

Chanting above the lake on July 3 morning.



Aiho-San speaks at the dedication of the stupa.

Continued from page 5...

delicious meal prepared by the tenzo staff headed by Ed Farrey. Informal speeches were given spontaneously, testifying to the special nature of the DBZ Sangha family.

Everyone gathered again in the Zendo for a poetry reading by Saigyo Terrance Keenan (a lay ordained monk from Hoen-ji, in Syracuse). The Ives String Quartet, consisting of students of the Juilliard School of Music, presented pieces from Beethoven, Ravel and Mozart, which provided the perfect conclusion to a perfect day. The zendo quieted as Zenshin Richard Rudin offered final words of praise, respect, humility and reverence to Eido Roshi and all known and unknown Dharma brothers and sisters that made this mountain temple possible.

"Let True Dharma Continue, Universal Sangha Relation, International Dai Bosatsu Zendo Become Complete." ▲

THANKSGIVING

AT
DAI BOSATSU ZENDO
NOV. 28-29, 1996
with
*Special Performance of
Classical Baroque Music*



"Han-shan and Shih-te" by Liang K'ai.
Southern Sung Dynasty

The Zen Studies Society

Dai Bosatsu Zendo • Kongo-ji
HCR 1 Box 171
Livingston Manor, NY 12758



Come share this *day of thanks* with family and friends at Dai Bosatsu Zendo. This year's event will be a special benefit for the DBZ Roof Replacement Project. The Thanksgiving program includes:

- Informal lunch/snack at 12:30 p.m.
- Zazen at 3:30
- Thanksgiving Ceremony
- A short Dharma Talk by Venerable Eido Roshi
- Thanksgiving Vegetarian Dinner at 6:00

■ Special Classical Baroque Music Performance by Dr. Lionel Party on the harpsichord and Rev. Fujin

Attale Formhals on flute. Dr. Party is the only artist to be awarded First Prize and Gold Medal in the prestigious International Johann Sebastian Bach Competition. He is a faculty member of the Juilliard School of Music, harpsichordist for the New York Philharmonic, and a member of New York Zendo. Fujin has played in Europe and America, is an alumnus of the Manhattan School of Music, and is a DBZ monk.

- Overnight Accomodations
- Optional Zazen and Morning Service
- Continental Breakfast

\$100 Adults

\$35 Children under 12

FREE to the following:

- Those who have contributed or pledged \$500 or more to the Roof Replacement Fund.
- '96 Rohatsu Sesshin participants— are also invited to continue their *FREE* stay as guest students right up to the time Rohatsu begins on the 30th, and help with sesshin preparations.

Please Call DBZ at 914-439-4566

or fax 914-439-3119 for registration/information.

Registration deadline is November 20.

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