

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Library — Archives

22

file
July 23, 1964

Dr. Stanard Smith
P.O. Box 66166
Houston 6, Texas

Dear Dr. Smith:

You may know of me and our group through your patient, Miss [REDACTED], when she was confined at Queens Hospital. Because of our concern about her illness, and about the illness of another of our members, I volunteered as an aid at the psychiatric ward of Queens Hospital, and persuaded Eido Shimano (Tai San), our resident monk, to do the same. I thought that in this way we could learn a little more about mental illness, to learn at least to know when to make a referral.

Today I had my first conference with Dr. Pauling after the beginning of our volunteer work, and he told me that after Mrs. Sakamoto, the psychiatric social worker, had seen Tai San on the ward, she reported to the head nurse that she knew he had been involved with two previous patients at Queens, and that she did not think he was a good sort of person to work with patients as a volunteer.

At Dr. Pauling's suggestion I consulted with Mrs. Sakamoto, who had dealt with my wife in [REDACTED]'s case, and she confirmed Dr. Pauling's report, saying that you had expressed the wish that you could consult with Tai San's superior, but that your understanding was that he was independent. He is independent in that he has no priest over him at this time, but as his sponsor and as the chairman of the group, I am in a position of enough authority to bounce him back to Japan on the next flight if I determined that he actually did bed down with one or both of these two girls.

Mrs. Sakamoto supplied me with your address, and said that you might be willing to confirm the worst by letter if you thought some practical good would result. Now that the accusation has been made, we must follow through and run down the facts, and take suitable action accordingly. If the story is true, he must not stay. Can you confirm?

I realize the whole thing is just delicate as hell, and I don't want to upset the apple cart for [REDACTED], who, by the way, is still confined at Kāneohe. Her present doctor is Dr. Ram Gusaharni, who has told me that with his heavy patient load that he is too busy to discuss her case with me. He is not well acquainted with her as yet, and he may be able to make time later.

Please excuse this interruption of your busy life, but I am sure you can understand our pressing concern. I am consulting also the doctor of the other girl, Dr. Edward Furukawa. May I hear from you soon? Thank you very much.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert Aitken