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Dear Bob:

Your letter arrived about a week after Tai-san had passed through here. I'd like to here your side of the story if you feel like telling it. Naturally I was dumbfounded at the news having had no warning ever that there was any tension between you two. Tai-san said very little except that he now felt free for the first time in four years and that he was going back to Japan to talk things over with the Roshis. And, of course, you didn't mention the matter in your letter.

I was very sorry to hear from you about Margaret Conway. I hardly know her at all. This past spring she attended my class as an auditor (without getting prior permission) and I knew she was attending Stunkard's Zazenkaï. About two days before I was leaving for Morocco she came to me for advice on going to Japan. I suggested she go first to Hawaii--and you know the rest.

I had a fabulous summer and succeeded in contacting the authentic Sufi tradition and met a fabulous master who is the most Zenlike person I have ever met and whose conversations are spontaneous Zen mondos, with the result that I am beginning Arabic here this fall to be able to pursue things further.

How did the East-West Philosophers Conference go? Dick is back in Japan and I heard that Kapleau had become an obosan.

This being registration week, that's all the time I can spare--so until later--

Love to you both



Phillips