

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Library — Archives

(Phillips)

September 19, 1964

Dear Bernard:

Thanks for your letter. I am glad to know just what Tai San is saying. We are relieved that he is returning to Japan.

There has always been tension between us. Anne and I are anarchistic in our social attitudes, and Tai San finds close relationships possible only on a dominance-submission basis. I think he would find it hard to live with any self-reliant Americans.

This was not, however, the cause of his departure. We had all recognized our differences, and were working together pretty well in spite of them. The events that led to his going were completely unknown to Anne and me until they were called to our attention by professional people quite outside Koko An. They were such that I made a special trip to consult with Soen Roshi.

We are continuing our meetings, and picking up new members to replace those who quit when Tai San left. I have no idea what he told them, as they haven't been around since. I don't much care, actually; when the Dharma becomes a matter of personality, it loses its identity.

I am glad to hear you met a good Sufi. I smell an interesting hoo in the offing. My own plans are up in the air with all these changes. No job and no project at the moment.

Margaret has a common-law husband in Philadelphia; its no wonder she felt unsettled here. We should develop a questionnaire for our prospects. One young chap, Martin Selaman, recent graduate from Cornell, is going to make it, entirely from scratch and entirely on his own. He wrote to Shibayama Roshi on the basis of the latter's lecture in Anthology of Zen; Shibayama referred the letter to Ogata; Ogata agreed to sponsor him, so there he is now in Ogata's temple with one Myoshinji sesshin already under his belt. Abe is helping him, I think. He plans to enter an as yet undesignated temple for the Spring sesshin season. He had stopped off here to take in part of the Conference, and found us. He had never done zazen before visiting our zendo, and couldn't even handle chopsticks. He seems to have the balance of sensitivity, intelligence and guts that it takes; also youth,-- still only 20. He just might be the one.

The Conference was pretty good, actually. It was a little more structured, and there was a little less wheel-spinning. No real stars this time, like Hook, Suzuki or Nikhilananda in earlier years. We were flooded with Conference members visiting here at Koko An.

Yes indeed, Kapleau is now an osho-san. I don't know his plans.