

Yasutane
Dashi
Dear

Translation of letter received
in November 1964

I received your letter with pleasure, and also I thank you for the picture of Pupukea which ~~you~~ Mr. Dōkai Fukui brought. It seems to be located at a beautiful place and the building looks ~~delightful~~ wonderful. I very much appreciate friends in Honolulu for their efforts in making this house.

On Nov. 9 I met Mr. Eido Shimano and we had lots of talk. Among our talk the most important matter was the fact that ~~the~~ Mr. Shimano has made ^{his} decision that ~~he~~ he is going to leave Honolulu. He did not mention much in details about the ~~the~~ reason for his leaving Honolulu and going to move to the mainland. He said that he ^{had} told you about ~~the~~ his decision. This decision is entirely depending on his free will and ~~so~~ I cannot say anything about ~~the~~ his decision. I asked him if he ~~was~~ was going to quit Univ. of Hawaii and he answered that he was

going to give up his scholarship, too. It seems that his decision is very firm and there is difficulty in making his mind change.

Now, according to this fact, the problem about my going to Honolulu has come out.

As I told you in my last letter, you offered me the place to live without any obligation to be followed if I had a will to go to Hawaii two years ago. Since you told me that I ~~was~~ did not have to feel any restriction or obligation about my going, I accepted the kind offer with pleasure! And also I last April ~~received~~ received a letter from Mr. Shimano saying that he ~~would~~ would wait for me at Honolulu if I were coming ~~but~~ otherwise he would return to Japan. This ~~had~~ ^{made} my decision to go to Hawaii, and I believe that he had told you about this at that time. Along with the purpose of helping friends in Hawaii my main purpose was to ~~intend~~ guide Mr. Shimano's Zazen until he achieve his Zazen. ~~About helping~~

Helping Mr. Shimano's Zazen was
 Nakagawa Roshi's own particular
 request to me. Mr. Shimano regarded
 me as my interpreter during my trips
 last year and a year before. During
 these time of my trip, it was my
 important job to help his Zazen.
 My intension to help his Zazen has
 not changed and I'll continue
 to do it from now on. It continues
 to be my important job.

In zen, it is important to help
 ordinary people (koji) for their zen. However
 it is more important to bring up (or make,
 a successor to be a Zen leader. This had
 been the most important thing for all
 Zen masters and it is why Zen ^{has} continued
 to exist. I myself had been hoping to find
 a successor and ~~make him my~~ to
 bring him up as my successor for a long
 time. This business, however, is not
 like producing things by machine and
 it is very difficult to find a person
 by En (縁) through relationship between
 two human. At present Mr. Shimano is
 the only one who can sure to be my

successor. Another thing is that: even if I try to start Zen in the United States, the language is the problem. It is impossible to do without an ~~interpreter~~ appropriate interpreter. An interpreter in Zen has to have at least right eyes for Kenshō (見性) ~~and~~ ^{knowledge of} some doctrine of Buddhism ~~and vocabularies of Buddhism~~ and terminology of Buddhism. Just to be able to translate the language is not enough in case of Zen. Above three are the essential conditions and I cannot find any appropriate person but Mr. Shimano. Therefore Mr. Eido and I are the essential combination and we cannot be separated. When Mr. Eido decided to leave Honolulu, I ~~was~~ cannot stay in Honolulu either. We would of course ~~go to~~ ^{visit} your place for Sesshin and we would try our best to stay as long as possible during that session. I have to decide where to settle to live when Mr. Eido decides to settle in some place in the mainland.

I feel very sorry to say but please ~~to~~ cancel applications of

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my ~~visa~~ ^{visa} and Satomi-san's which you
worked so hard for me. I myself
finished taking X ray pictures three
times; ~~the~~ first in May, second in
August and third ~~in~~ yesterday, in
Nov. ~~the~~ I think it will be through
in once or twice more but I have to
stop continuing to take pictures.
Mr. Eido told me his decision on Nov. 9
and I took one week to think over and
over again carefully, and I believe
that it seems to be the only way to do
to give up coming to Hawaii.

You have prepared all in Pūnaha
and finished the complicated visa business
for me. It seemed that everything had
almost come to realization. It is very
regrettable and I feel very sorry for you
and all our friends who helped building
Pūnaha house, but it can't help. all
this happened because of Mr. Eido's
~~important~~ change of his mind which
caused very important situation to me.
When Mr. Eido decide ~~to~~ his destination,
I would start applying my visa.

Please give my all these messages
to Mrs. Aitken and send my best regard.

I feel very regrettable that I have to
send this letter to you but the situation
calls for it.

Jasako

Translated by
Atsuko Suzuki