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Koko An
2119 Kaloa Way
Sunday, October 25, 1964
After all-day meeting

Dear Kai San:

Thank you very much for your kind letter. We are glad to know that you had a pleasant trip. Probably it is quite cool now in Japan; soon the maple leaves will be red. We hope you are in good health in this change of climate.

Please don't feel sorry about our cancellation of the special zazen-kai on the 13th. Although everyone was disappointed, it is forgotten by now, and we are enjoying very good attendance. To give you an idea of how active the group is, here is an account ~~mm~~ of the last week, starting last Monday:

Monday evening: Special visit of comparative religion class at the University of Hawaii. 15 students with professor came to Koko An, heard an explanation of zazen, tried zazen for 15 minutes, then asked questions and had tea.

Tuesday evening: Four members came for family zazen, 8:00 to 9:00 PM.

Wednesday eve: 14 attenders at a regular meeting. 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Thursday evening: Four members came for family zazen.

Friday evening: Three members came for family zazen.

Saturday daytime: 12 members went to Pupukea for all-day landscaping project.

Sunday: Six members came for all-day zazen.

These figures do not include Anne and me, and do not include one member who comes for daytime zuiza. In addition, Anne and I sit each morning.

During the four years that Tai San has been "resident monk" of Koko An, he has been absent on trips over 30% of the time. During these extended absences, our meetings have been conducted as usual, and this time

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is no different. In fact, if anything, we are more active. Almost all of our present attenders are graduate students at the University of Hawaii, and this may have something to do with their strong interest in evening meetings, and the relatively light attendance on Sunday. And of course, it is unreasonable to expect people to sacrifice both Saturday and Sunday.

Next Monday evening I will give a talk on Zazen at the Unitarian Church, and some time in November I will speak for the second time at the Church of the Crossroads, a Congregational Church with a membership of university students and professors.

We have bought a mechanical tiller for helping with the landscaping at Pupukea, as we have a severe weed problem. To our surprise, our agent was finally able to rent the cottage, so this will be a great help with the payments, covering about half the monthly obligation. A sailor and his wife moved in last Friday. They seem very nice, and have put all their bowling trophies in the empty Butsudan. He is stationed at a nearby Navy radio station. We will continue with our weekly landscaping project. They understand that they will have to move out before the Roshi comes next June.

I am gradually spreading responsibility in the Zendo. I continue to conduct the Sunday meetings, but on Wednesday evenings, others take leading roles. One young man, a new student, is quite interested in Sutras, so he now leads the Shigu Seigan Mon at the end of the meeting. Another young man, an old-timer at the Zenshuji Mission Zazenkai in Los Angeles, acts as jigijitsu. I intend to ask still another to take Anne's job with the kaihan. I will watch this experiment closely, and if it does not work I will take over everything again. I think it is important to try such sharing of jobs, to give the members a feeling of participation.

Please give my regards to both Roshi when you see them, and take care of your health. Anne joins me in sending fond Aloha. We are extending your regards to Dick, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], also to Jerry, whom you met briefly on the porch.

With gassho