

Dear Kai San:

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Thank you for your kind letter. Please do not feel concerned about the effect of your news, and please don't blame yourself for anything. It is all a natural result. If Yasutani Roshi is so dependent on Tai San, then perhaps it is just as well that he does not come to Hawaii.

The translation of Yasutani Roshi's work into English has been done so far by Tai San and me working as a team, for the most part. We looked at the original together and thrashed it out carefully, line by line. If Roshi wants a translation that is accurate and strong for Western readers, then it is important for Tai San to work with someone who can contribute more than mere grammatical correction. I hope Roshi understands this.

I have not mentioned your news to our group, and I don't know how to announce it. Somehow I will have to make up a story that will not reflect badly upon him and upon Zen in general. Also, I will have to announce the change in our ~~letter~~ letter. Many people on the Mainland, and a few even in Europe and South America have sent money to help with the retreat project at Pupukea. What can we say? I would be very grateful for your suggestions and for Soen Roshi's suggestions.

Another matter is my legal responsibility with the American government as sponsor for Yasutani Roshi, Satomi San and Tai San. (I say "my" responsibility, -- actually I signed the papers, but the Diamond Sangha as a group is the sponsor.) I have already agreed with Tai San that I would withhold notification to the immigration authorities of his change in position until he returns to the United States, so legally he is still our Resident Monk, on leave in Japan. It will be a relatively simple matter to transfer his sponsorship to a Mainland group when the time comes, since his term here was four years, and it will probably seem logical to the immigration authorities that he should transfer.

However, I don't know whether or not I can explain a transfer by Yasutani Roshi and Satomi San when they have not spent any time here. It may seem frivolous to the authorities, and may be denied. On the other hand, if I say nothing about the transfer, it will come to light when they report their addresses during the month of January after their arrival, and it will appear that Diamond Sangha has brought them to the U.S. under false pretenses and I will be guilty of a punishable crime. I hope my position in this matter is entirely clear.

Yasutani Roshi's letter arrived day before yesterday, and I am having it translated (gyōshō is too hard for me). If his intentions to locate on the Mainland are clearly expressed, I will consult with the immigration people to determine the best course. It may be that I should cancel his sponsorship and have some Mainland group initiate new sponsorship proceedings. I will cooperate with such a group, of course, and furnish what information and documents I have in my files, so that their application process will be as easy as possible. I will take no action until the new group is ready.

As time goes on, it becomes quite plain that Tai San cannot return to Koko An. If we had any doubts about this, they were dispelled during his recent stop-over in Honolulu.

Perhaps I will make a brief business trip to Japan next spring for the East-West Center (where I have been re-employed as Alumni Officer. About a 30% chance for such a trip, I should think. Recently a Mr. Inoue of Japan Air Lines stopped over one night at Koko An. He is a friend of Patline's, and a student of Asahina Sogen Roshi. He tells me that plans are developing

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for a gaijin kojirin at Engakuji, probably under Zengyō (Gen) Sah. I admire Mr. Inouye's concern about Japan's responsibility for helping foreign students of Buddhism. He wanted me to help with the gaijin program at Engakuji, but my first responsibility is in Hawaii, at least until my son graduates from high school four years from now.. If our zazenkaï becomes a true sangha with proper guidance, my responsibility will always be here.

We have invited Soen Roshi to visit for sesshin after January 25, and I trust he is seriously considering this and will give his answer soon. Anne joins me in sending a fond aloha to you and to Soen Roshi.

With gasshō and sincere esteem,

Both Anne and I wish to stress our deep appreciation to you for your concern for the welfare of Kōko An during this entire episode. We know you went to a lot of trouble to see Yasutani Roshi, and we are very grateful. Your support has been a great help to us during a difficult time, and your belief in us the more touching since we were not able to tell you the full story.