

NEW YORK ZEN DO 正法寺  
SHO BO JI

December 17, 1971

Dear Sangha:

"A storehouse that's empty ya  
End of the Year  
Practicing the Samisen."

To that music we two new servants of the Zendo come forward to present ourselves, bow, and ask your help in performing our duties as Custodians of the Sho Bo Ji Zendo's "storehouse" for the coming year.

The year just ending marks the end of a seven-year cycle of great achievement for the Sho Bo Ji. This period saw the establishment on a firm base of the Sho Bo Ji itself; the setting up of an exchange program of students from the Sho Bo Ji and monks from Ryutaku Ji, our parent monastery in Japan. This exchange has already brought us the inestimable benefit of the presence here of Rin San and Ho San, and helped produce Sho Bo Ji's first American-born monk, Dai Ko (Chuck Carpenter). Of equal importance was the founding of the International Dai Bosatsu Zendo at Beecher Lake, that secluded spiritual site which most of us have by now visited. Already the strength of our Sangha helps support Dai Bosatsu spiritually in the day-to-day quality of its life; but with the beginning of this new cycle we must consider plans for its further physical development. Long-range proposals call for, among other things, the construction of sesshin facilities for us all - a zendo, dormitories and a kitchen.

The acquisition of the property and buildings of the Sho Bo Ji and Dai Bosatsu was made possible, in large part, by extraordinary gifts provided especially for that purpose. The responsibility for providing funds for their continuing maintenance and expansion and for the exchange program now rests with us, the Sangha of the Sho Bo Ji. As with everything else these days, to fulfill that responsibility will require more funds, and we, the keepers of Sho Bo Ji's treasury, must report that, indeed, the storehouse is near empty.

To replenish that fund certain economies in management have already been put into effect at the Sho Bo Ji and Dai Bosatsu. But in an already frugal situation it cannot be expected that further economies will be of significant help. That help must come from increased contributions from us, the Sangha. Towards that end it has been decided to ask that single members raise their monthly contribution to twenty dollars, and couples raise

theirs to thirty-five. Less active and non-resident members are asked to contribute those amounts quarterly. It is hoped that those who can afford to contribute more will do so. This will pinch some of us, of course, but the finding of ways to earn the few extra dollars, or to eliminate some non-essential item from our life and thus make the money available, in itself becomes an essential everyday practice of Zazen. However, those individuals or couples who find it absolutely impossible to contribute the suggested amounts should talk to one of us and some other arrangement will be worked out.

Traditionally there existed the Sangha and, separately, its lay-supporters. Here at the Sho Bo Ji the Sangha and its lay-supporters are one and the same, clearly manifesting thereby that ultimate fact: "There is no Giver, There is no Gift, There is no Recipient," but at the same time producing certain problems.

These financial problems are very real, but they can be solved; and in surmounting them we open our hearts with commitment and are encouraged and sustained by the knowledge that, by unimaginable karmic relations, all of us - long-time members, newer members, preparatory students - are participating in an enterprise of inexpressible magnitude.

"The Dharma incomparably profound, and minutely subtle, is hardly met with even in hundreds of thousands of millions of aeons..."

We have met with it.  
Wonderful! Wonderful!  
That each is in no other place!

*Vicky*

Vicky Gerdy  
Assistant Treasurer

Gassho

*George Zournas*

George Zournas  
Treasurer