

JANUARY 30, 1979

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

THE ENCLOSED LETTERS ARE BEING SENT TO YOU WITH OUR SINCERE CONCERN FOR A SERIOUS PROBLEM THAT HAS BESET OUR SANGHA FOR SOME TIME NOW. IN OUR HEARTS, WE CARRY NO PERSONAL ANIMOSITY TOWARDS EIDO ROSHI, OUR TEACHER, BUT WE FEEL HIS CONDUCT AND ATTITUDE HAVE BECOME A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR THE WELFARE OF THE SANGHA, THE ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY, AND FINALLY FOR THE TRADITION AND INTEGRITY OF ZEN PRACTICE.

EIDO ROSHI HAS BEYOND DOUBT DISGRACEFULLY ABUSED HIS ROLE AS TEACHER AND BETRAYED THE TRUST OF HIS STUDENTS BY CONTINUING TO COMMIT SEXUAL ACTS WITH THE FEMALES OF OUR SANGHA. OUR INDIGNATION REACHES THE SUMMIT REALIZING THAT EIDO ROSHI KNOWINGLY TAKES ADVANTAGE OF GIRLS IN MENTALLY UNSTABLE CONDITION AND EMOTIONAL VULNERABILITY, WHO COME TO HIM SEEKING SPIRITUAL HELP AND GUIDANCE. IN FACE OF THESE DEPLORABLE ACTIONS AND THE DEEP CONCERN OF OUR SANGHA, EIDO ROSHI HAS CONTINUALLY DENIED HIS INVOLVEMENT, AND MAINTAINED AN ATTITUDE THAT HE IS BEYOND QUESTIONING. WE FEEL IT'S TIME TO QUESTION.

IT MUST BE REALIZED THAT OUR TEACHER HAS LOST HIS CREDIBILITY WITH US, AND THE REPURCUSSIONS HAVE SPREAD NOT ONLY IN OUR OWN SANGHA, BUT IN OTHER ZEN CENTERS, AND WILL EVENTUALLY DEGRADE THE NAME OF ZEN PRACTICE ITSELF. WE ARE ALL EMBARRASSED AND HURT SEEING OUR ORDAINED MONKS AND SERIOUS STUDENTS LEAVING OUR SANGHA IN ANGER AND INDIGNATION BECAUSE OF THE PRIDEFULNESS AND EGOTISM OF EIDO ROSHI. ALSO, IN FACT, MANY POTENTIAL FEMALE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN DISCOURAGED FROM CONTINUING THEIR ZEN PRACTICE BECAUSE OF OVERT SEXUAL ADVANCES BY HIM. HOW IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THESE ..."RUMORS"... TO CEASE WHEN THE ACTIONS CONTINUE?

IN CONCLUSION, WE WISH TO REITERATE OUR INTENTIONS FOR THE GOOD AND HARMONY OF THE SANGHA AND ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY. WE FEEL THAT WITH THE GROWING PUBLICITY ABOUT RELIGIOUS CULTS, BRAINWASHING, ETC., AND OUR SOCIETY'S CONCERN, WE ARE NO LONGER FACED WITH MERELY A MORAL QUESTION, BUT QUESTIONS WHICH MAY EVOLVE INTO LEGAL ACTIONS. IT'S TIME WE QUESTION OURSELVES.

FOR NOW, THESE LETTERS ARE ONLY BEING SENT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AS WE ARE PLACING OUR TRUST IN YOU AS INTELLIGENT, CONCERNED PEOPLE TO TAKE ACTION ACCORDING TO THE DICTATES OF YOUR CONSCIENCE. IT IS OUR HEARTFELT REGRET TO BEAR THE TASK AND BRING TIDINGS OF SUCH UNPLEASANTNESS TO YOU, BUT AFTER LONG AND CAREFUL REFLECTION AND THE SADNESS THIS HAS CAUSED US, WE HAVE REALIZED THAT THIS SITUATION IS A PROBLEM THAT WE ALL MUST HONESTLY FACE.

YOUR FRIENDS IN THE DHARMA