

December 1, 1982

Dear George,

Greetings from California! It must come as a surprise to you hearing from me after all this time, but not as much as it surprised me not hearing from you in face of the recent developments with "Mr. Shimano" and the Zen Studies Society. Here we are party time again at the zendo, and nobody even thought to invite old Kozen.....even though I have been waiting for this party for four years! Anyhow George, it must be a little dull these days sitting around waiting for the article to come out - so let's you and I kick the ball around a little more and unflinchingly face a few more "sordid facts."

Right now it seems strange to me that during my brief reign as the l'enfant terrible of the New York Zendo salons, we never had an opportunity to exchange pleasantries - for I understand that you were among my severest critics. And now that you are the rising star, the new lion of the society..... there are a few things I would like you to know.

I left Dai Bosatsu Zendo because I distinctly realized that Eido Roshi was mentally deranged and that he was committing criminal actions with his continuing sexual involvement with his female students. At the time, I was resident director (head monk) and had been recently ordained, so I felt that I could not invest my efforts and life with a man who could at any moment be thrown into jail. My original intention was merely to leave D.B.Z., but on the night I was packing to leave I found [redacted]'s letters - I remind you, in a public place - and this changed everything.

To this day I sincerely regret that I involved [redacted] in this affair, although at the time it was clearly the only thing I could do. (By now you might agree.) The unique element in the [redacted] letters was that they were down on paper and plainly showed Eido Roshi's sickening method of involving Buddhist practice with the seduction of young mentally unbalanced women. Along with the letter that I wrote (with Bunyu's help) these letters could be documented and read again the next time Eido's misdeeds came up. The decision to mail the letters to the Board came after several weeks of weighing many questions. What finally decided us to send the letters and for a time remain anonymous, was that we realized that the Board was too stupid to do anything and that inevitably another scandal would happen.

So the first thing I would like you to know George, is that I laid the foundation for what you are doing now. I was

the first one ever to speak out truthfully of Eido Roshi's actions. I was the one who called on the Board of Trustees to act like responsible intelligent people instead of abject flunkies. I was the only one ever to challenge him on legal grounds for banning people from the zendo, and I returned to the zendo and faced him. (I'm not bragging George, really I'm not, I am just beginning to develop my point.)

By now it should be obvious to anyone having read your compiled documents (by the way, Baker Roshi gave them to me) that Eido Roshi is a very sick man. In the face of his continual social offenses he continues to deny his involvement and only sees himself a victim of other people's plots. His letter where he "unflinchingly faces" twenty years of accusations is a masterpiece in not answering anything and telling everyone what a wonderful, nice humble guy he is. I am tempted to say that he is either a paranoid schizophrenic or a sociopath, but when I look at the range of his symptoms: delusions of grandeur, delusions of persecution, compulsive lying, sexual abnormality, little man's complex, a religious calling with an ability to seriously hurt people without either conscience or regrets - it is hard for me to find the name of a mental disease that he doesn't have!

At this point I firmly believe that he is not responsible for what he does - he is innocent by reason of insanity. To expect Eido Roshi to feel either shame or repentance is as cruel and misguided as asking a paraplegic to tap dance!

(Right about now I'm starting to get to the whole point of this letter George, so keep your eyes open.)

It would seem from the communications that I read, that you are finally aware of the international reputation of Eido Roshi. But are you also aware of the reputation of the Board of Trustees for the Zen Studies Society? It is a well known fact that the only two requirements for being elected a Board member is that you are an imbecile and a coward. By now, even you should realize that there is no other way that Eido Roshi could function. And you were the President! Congratulations!!!

So now a little light has accidently snuck into your dim wits and maybe now you begin to ask yourself "Gee! If a maniac like Eido Roshi is leading this group - what the hell kind of people support him?" Let me tell you George.

Although during my entire stay at D.B.Z. there was never any incidents of trouble from me (except that I'm a little dim-witted myself), you and the other blockheads on the Board found it appropriate to reply to my questioning of Eido Roshi with the basest slander and lies about me. It was said that I had "gone mad," "flipped out," that I was an "egomaniac," involved in a "private vendetta with Eido Roshi," that I

"wasn't invited back," and many others. Also, when [REDACTED] wrote a letter at my request, expressing her own personal experiences with Eido Roshi, and what she was told by other women, she was made out to be an irresponsible tramp, a liar, and mentally unstable. Neither have I forgotten the way you gangsters treated Daiko Chuck Carpenter.

(Hold still George, I think I see you flinching a little bit.)

So here we have it. All of a sudden you've begun to see what your responsibility is. (Actually, you needed to wait for seven years for Soen Roshi to give you the O.K.) So now we're going to give you both barrels of it. In order for you to defend Eido Roshi for fifteen years, you had to attack the people that questioned him.....On this day, the one thing I find it impossible to forgive Eido Roshi for, is that through his cunning manipulation of his student's greed, hate, and delusion he was able to make them act this way. At the same time I would like to re-examine on whose door "shame" gets written on.

In all fairness I suppose there is one more question that needs to be asked right now "Jeeze Kozen, what makes you think that anybody wants you coming around again with your song and dance and graveyard jokes?" Nothing at all George, nothing at all.

Your Friend in the Dharma,

PETER KAUFMAN

Peter Kaufman

P.S. This letter is also intended for the other bags of shit on the Board in 1979:

Korin Sylvan Busch
Rinko Peggy Crawford
Koun Robert Shoenholt
Wado Vicky Gerdy
Chigetsu Ruth Lillianthol
Myoan Maureen Freedgood

And for the bags of shit that are on it now.

P.P.S. It may interest you to know that for the last four years I have continued my practice as a monk and have led a resonably happy, healthy, productive life. Sometimes in my dreams, I find myself still waiting for some kind of apology.