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MRS. CHESTER F. CARLSON

133 CRESCENT HILL ROAD  
PITTSFORD, NEW YORK 14534

February 8, 1984

Mrs. Jean Bankier  
122 East 61st Street  
New York, New York 10021

Dear Mrs. Bankier:

Certain correspondence has been sent to me which is dated January 28, 1984 from Eido Shimano, Roshi along with a copy of correspondence to the Board of Directors which is dated December 21, 1983 and a letter written to Eido Roshi and Yasuko from Sylvan Busch dated January 21, 1984 which deserves some comment by me. This is particularly so because my intentions are being expressed in that correspondence which I don't think are totally accurate.

Historically, I made a gift to the Zen Studies Society in the approximate amount of \$3,500,000.00. The purpose was to foster their goals. As part of the consideration, it was my wish that the property at 356 East 69th Street should not be sold and that it would be retained as a home of the Roshi and his wife. I meant exactly what I said at that time. I now understand that the property is up for sale and that the Roshi has purchased an apartment across the street for \$160,000.00. He now looks to the Zen Studies Society to be reimbursed for that \$160,000.00 out of the proceeds of the sale of the property at 356 East 69th Street which is the property of Zen Studies Society and not Eido Roshi's.

It was never my intention to make a gift of \$160,000.00 to the Roshi. If the property at 356 East 69th Street is in fact sold (which would be against my wishes and not part of the original intention of the gift) the proceeds of the sale should be returned to me, The Chester and Dorris Carlson Charitable Trust for disposition in accordance with the original intent of my gift. To give any portion of it to the Roshi for the purchase of his property would be against my original intentions and, in fact, may place the original gift and the tax consequences in jeopardy.

## 2.

Very simply, I want it clearly understood that I do not authorize the sale of the property at 356 East 69th Street but if it is sold, the proceeds of the sale of the property should be returned to me, The Chester and Dorris Carlson Charitable Trust and I will place it in the foundation. No portion of the selling price should be given to Roshi for the purchase of his apartment. If he chooses to purchase an apartment, he does so with his own funds and without any encouragement or expression from me that he is to be reimbursed either from my personal funds or from the sale of the property on 356 East 69th Street.

I see no obligation on behalf of the Zen Studies Society to make any gift to Roshi's wife. While the Roshi has his obligation to provide for his wife he can do so by the purchase of life insurance as many other husbands have done for their wives. I have to assume that the benefits to the Roshi have also been shared by his wife through the years and I do not see any basis for making any separate provisions for her out of the proceeds of the sale of this home. One consideration in buying 356 East 69th Street was that Roshi's wife did not want to live at the Zendo. They have been provided with a very fine home these many years.

I must make one more personal observation. A number of key members of the Board of Directors have resigned over the past few years and information has come back to me that an atmosphere and behavior inconsistent with Zen teachings has taken place in and around the Zen Studies Society. Perhaps this statement becomes clearer when I reiterate for everyone's edification the statement, and indeed an important condition, in my letter of October 21, 1974 where I state "It is only because of the spiritual stature of Eido Roshi that I give any funds for the New York Zen Studies Society. If it were not for him, I should not have been interested". Indeed, I do not share that same confidence that I once did and this is so because many reliable sources have reported to me that the spiritual stature of the Zen Studies Society has been compromised over the years because of Eido Roshi's behavior.

Let me summarize my position to everyone:

1. I do not feel that the property at 356 East 69th Street should be sold but if there is a valid pressing business purpose to do so, the proceeds of the sale of that property should be returned to me, the Chester and Dorris Carlson Charitable Trust and I will place it in my foundation.

3.

2. That Eido Roshi is free to purchase property for \$160,000.00 but no portion of it should be paid for by the Zen Studies Society, a tax exempt organization. It should be treated as a personal investment by him with no obligation whatsoever on behalf of the Zen Studies Society and I certainly do not authorize any portion of the proceeds of the sale of 356 East 69th Street to be used for that purpose.
3. Finally, I do not have the same enthusiasm and confidence in Eido Roshi that I once had. Apart from statements made to me by others who have since left the Zen Studies Society, a simple review of the recent correspondence of January 28, 1984, December 21, 1983 and January 21, 1984 as compared with my original intentions outlined on October 21, 1974 seriously cause me to reevaluate my total position.

This letter was not an easy one to write but obviously one that is long overdue. I would ask that nobody contact me personally except in writing. I naturally would expect to receive a reply to this letter from Sylvan Busch, President of the Board of Directors.

Very truly yours,

*Doris Carlson*

Mrs. Chester F. Carlson

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