

INTAIN MONASTERY

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near Lake, Star Route
Gaston Manor, NY 12758
Phone 914 439-4566

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1st 67th Street
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Phone 212 861-3333

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THE ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY

March 27th, 1984

Mrs. Chester F. Carlson
133 Crescent Hill Road
Pittsford, New York 14534

Dear Dorris:

I'm sorry if my letter of February 17th was not sufficiently explicit about our legal intentions regarding the sale of our present parsonage, the townhouse. As I endeavored to explain, it was necessary that the new apartment be purchased in the Roshi's name because co-operative apartments are required to be purchased by individuals, not organizations. Thus the Roshi was forced to make a personal loan of \$160,000 before he could be accepted as a tenant; in turn, the Zen Studies Society will reimburse him when the townhouse at 356 East 69th Street is sold. By a legal agreement between the Shimanos and the Zen Studies Society, the new apartment becomes the property of the Society just as the townhouse has always been the property of the Society. The Roshi's and Yasuko's tenure and relationship to the new apartment continues as it has in the townhouse, and if for any reason they vacate the apartment, being the property of the Society, we would be obliged to sell it. All proceeds from a sale would belong to the Zen Studies Society. There will be no so called "survivors pension" or gift to anyone.

This exchange of the townhouse for the new apartment does not "provide" for a significant benefit to the Roshi and his wife. In fact, as agreed to by the Board of Trustees, it does provide a great benefit to the Zen Studies Society in helping to further its mission in the west, the work that you and Chester were so instrumental in starting.

In simple terms, Dorris, we are selling a large, difficult to maintain townhouse and replacing it with a much more modest, easy to maintain accommodation for the Roshi and his wife. At the same time, we are providing funds to support the functions and the future of the Society. It cannot possibly benefit anyone but the Society and it also, since we have always been appreciative of your help and interest, continues to be important to us that you understand our plans. I regret any correspondence that may have been misleading, such as the Roshi's letter of December 21st or mine of January 21st, for they are inaccurate and have been eliminated from the plans of the Board.

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THE ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY

Mrs. Chester F. Carlson

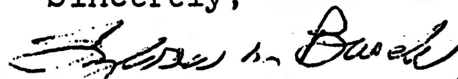
All assets belonging to the Zen Studies Society, whether derived from the sale of property or by way of gift or contribution, will forever belong to the Society and cannot be used for any purpose except to further the aims and tenets of the Society. This is the law and we of the Board of Trustees are bound by it.

I am sorry that you prefer us not to use the Carlson name, We will, of course, abide by your wishes although our intention was to honor Chester and yourself.

Please excuse the delay in my reply, but it took time to assemble the Board for a meeting and then, on March 10th we learned of the sudden death of Nakagawa Soen Roshi.

I hope this letter spells out our plans in a more understandable way and answers some of the questions that were concerning you.

Sincerely,


Sullivan Busch,
for the Board