

Shimano

Ring of Bone Zendo
August 17, 1984

Dear Rōshi Sama

similar letter sent

Please pardon me for bothering you again so soon with another letter. I just got a letter from Anne, in which she summarized Paul's letter containing your statements about the Shimano affair. Thank you very much for responding, and for your own advice about keeping my own eye clear. This is a caution that I cannot hear too often.

I did not write to Sōchū Rōshi because I don't feel that I am really in communication with him. I believe that we are good friends, but over the years he has never answered any of my occasional letters. Most recently, my letter of condolence and my donation to Ryūtakuji in April went unanswered. However, I will take your advice and write to him. Would you also please send him all the material I sent to you (I do not have copies here), and give him a telephone call after he has had a chance to receive them?

Although I will be happy to receive your advice or his in the matter, the thing I really seek is information. Did or did not Sōen Rōshi withdraw Shimano's Inka Shomei? There is a pervasive rumor that he did, but I cannot verify it.

I am not emotionally involved in this issue; I dismissed Shimano from my mind many years ago. However, as a Zen leader, it is my responsibility to know the facts in such an important matter, particularly in view of the general problem of scandals in Zen centers in this country.

I have written recently to Kyūdō Rōshi (formerly of Israel) and now in New York to see if he has the facts. Perhaps he also will write to Sōchu Rōshi.

As you know, there is instant communication between Zen centers in this country. The various scandals have affected many people, resulting in emotional disturbance, even mental collapse in some cases. Students as far away as Australia and Europe are troubled. If the leaders of the centers have the correct information about these matters, they are better equipped to deal with all the upsets.

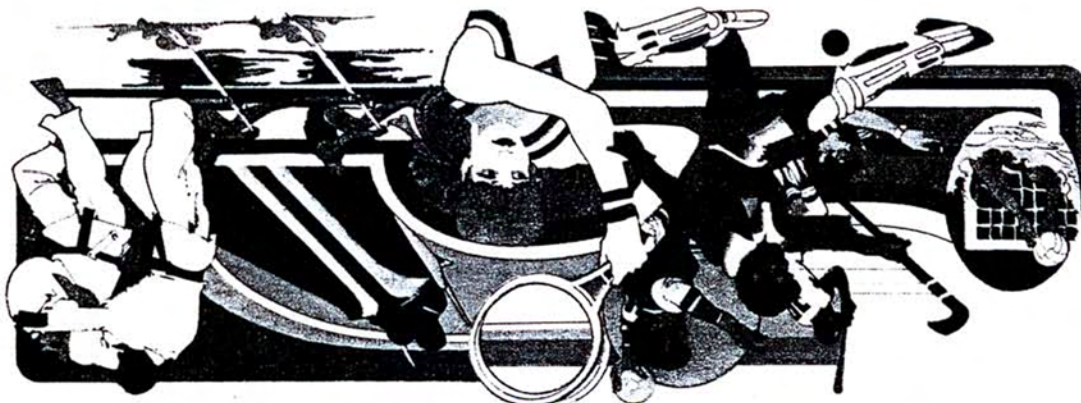
Anne and I have decided to come to Japan for the first two weeks of November. If it is not convenient for you and Mrs. Yamada for us to stay with you, and we know how your family circumstances make hospitality for others not possible, then we will get Paul and others there to hustle around for a place for us. We long to see you and Mrs. Yamada there in Kamakura, to do zazen with the Sangha, and, if possible, a zazenkai or even a sesshin.

I send you best wishes for good health from all the oak trees in my front, back, and side gardens.

Gasshō *Chitōm*

Additional message area

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② Second fold

AEROGRAMME - VIA AIRMAIL - PAR AVION

Yamada Kouji Rōshi
1-6-5 Hase
Kamakura 248 JAPAN



Atken c/- Snyder
18442 MacHab Cypress Rd.
Nevada City CA 95959 USA



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