

# THE ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY

EIDO T. SHIMANO ROSHI, ABBOT

MOUNTAIN MONASTERY

DAI BOSATSU ZENDO • KONGO JI

BEECHER LAKE, HCR 1, BOX 80

LEW BEACH, NY 12753

TELEPHONE 914 439-4566

CITY ZENDO

NEW YORK ZENDO • SHOBO JI

223 EAST 67TH STREET

NEW YORK, NY 10021-6087

TELEPHONE 212 861-3333

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Dear Dharma Brothers and Sisters:

As all of you are no doubt aware, this year marks the twentieth anniversary of the founding of New York Zendo Shobo-ji. Now, as we approach the close of this anniversary year, we hope you will join with us in expressing our gratitude to Eido Roshi and Aiho for their patience and perseverance over the past two decades.

Having established the two zendos and continued to work with them over the past twenty years, Eido Roshi has recently expressed the need for a leave of absence for rest and revitalization so that he can continue his work in America with renewed vigor. Coming after so many years of dedicated service, the request is certainly understandable. In addition, however, there are compelling family obligations arising from the death of his younger brother last August which make his presence in Japan essential during the coming year.

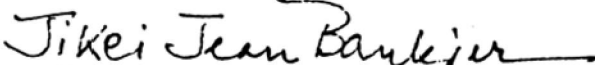
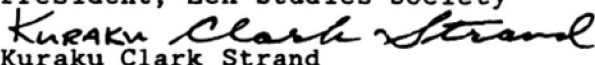
For these reasons, and to give the Sangha a chance to struggle and grow independently, Eido Roshi has decided to take a one year sabbatical beginning in March of 1989. During this time he plans to teach Zen classics twice weekly at Shogen Junior College in Gifu, work he will find stimulating but which will also allow time for private study and practice. Because the college is affiliated with a large Rinzai monastery and the students are mostly priests, he feels his presence there may also establish a valuable liaison which will encourage more Japanese monks to study in America.

Eido Roshi will return to New York in August of 1989, at which time he will conduct an additional 7 day sesshin at Dai Bosatsu Zendo. During the term of his absence, the schedules of both Dai Bosatsu and New York Zendo will continue as usual. Jiro Andy Afable, a Zen Studies Society board member and director of Kashin Zendo, has volunteered to live at DBZ during Fall Kessei so as to assist Junpo in his growing administrative duties.

Upon his return to America in March of 1990, Eido Roshi intends to devote most of his energy to Dai Bosatsu Zendo. For so many years his time has been divided between the two Zendos, several days a month spent just in commuting. He feels that now, following the twentieth anniversary, is the most appropriate time to encourage independence on the part of the New York sangha and to concentrate more fully on developing a strong monastic practice at DBZ.

It is the sincere wish of the board and staff that you will continue to support Dai Bosatsu and New York Zendo in Eido Roshi's absence, both financially and through your continued participation in our training programs. Please also join with us in wishing Eido Roshi and Aiho a rich and rewarding sabbatical in 1989. Let true Dharma continue!

  
Junpo Dennis Kelly  
Director, Dai Bosatsu Zendo

  
Jikei Jean Bankier  
President, Zen Studies Society  
  
Kuraku Clark Strand  
Director, New York Zendo