



Carol
Global Moderator

Posts: 8184
Joined: Tue Feb 03, 2009 8:52 pm
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
antispam: No

PM

Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
by **Carol** on Sun Aug 19, 2012 10:30 am

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NOTICE TO ZFI MEMBERSHIP ON THE EIDO SHIMANO TOPIC

Thank you to everyone for their patience as the ZFI moderation team has reviewed the options moving forward. We have heard from members concerning closing this topic -- both pro and con -- and we have tried to take into account their desires, needs and views.

We have decided to reopen the topic for one purpose: to provide a place for reporting **new information** concerning changes in the Shimano/ZSS situation that may occur.

If you have such a report for posting **please send it by PM to "GLOBAL MODERATORS."** We will not approve opinion pieces or commentary or discussion. The moderation team may edit any post to eliminate commentary or opinion from an otherwise factual news report before approving it.

Moving forward, we will not allow open-ended discussion on this topic, for the following reasons.

The ZFI Shimano thread has too often been characterized by name-calling, sensationalism, games of telephone ("I was told X by Y that Z said..."), and other posting behavior that sits on the border of ZFI Terms of Service violations. (We encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with the [ZFI TOS](#) for context.) Given that the Shimano affair itself concerns matters of secrecy, observer bias, abuse of power, truth, lies, institutional mistrust, and human frailty, it is sadly unsurprising that a topic devoted to that affair has produced just those effects.

ZFI is inadequate to the task of overseeing such a volatile discussion for several reasons:

- Volunteer moderators can only oversee the TOS of ZFI, a tool that is inadequate to adjudicating the complexities that are inherent in this situation.
- Internet discussion forum topics are inadequate to the human responsibility we have to the individuals and institutions involved, responsibilities the moderation team takes seriously through our Buddhist vows.
- ZFI topics are repositories of posts by both known and anonymous members. Many voices are left out, including those at ZSS against whom very serious personal and spiritual charges are levied, the women who have been directly injured over the years, those who wish to remain students of Eido Shimano, those working without and within various institutional transformations, and many others who for whatever reason choose not to post here.

While we will post relevant, new factual information on the topic, we also recognize that any discussion forum topic would be woefully inadequate to the epistemological demands of this situation; we hope that no one will harbor the delusion that what is posted here is somehow "the Truth", with a capital "T." It is not. To encourage the broadest possible perspective on the matter, we wish to remind members that there are other places on the internet for the collection and weighing of the facts of the Shimano/Zen Studies Society situation, including:

- [Sweeping Zen](#), which reports and posts commentaries on this subject;
- [An Olive Branch](#), which is currently working with ZSS on their difficulties;
- [Myoan Grace Shireson](#), who met with and held a gathering for women harmed by Eido Shimano;
- [The Shimano Archive](#), where voluminous documents and commentaries are posted and updated regularly;
- [Playfulmoon.com](#), a website put up by Eido Shimano's current students with announcements of his activities and retreats;
- [The Zen Studies Society](#), where Eido Shimano was formerly abbot and Shinge Roshi is the current abbot, which may from time to time post status updates;
- [Cho Bo Ji Zen Temple](#) in Seattle, where Genjo Marinello Osho, a dharma heir of Eido Shimano and former ZSS board member, is the Abbot.

Those seeking discussion of the situation can post comments on the blogs that permit such discussion; Sweeping Zen, for example, currently permits such comments.

The moderation team of ZFI recognizes that sexual abuse, abuse of power, and other ethical transgressions are serious issues in Zen, in Buddhism, in religion, and in society. We encourage our members to read about and explore these issues, to ask deep questions in their own sanghas about how to handle such problems (and prevent them in the first place), and to seek outside professional help should such problems arise.

Finally, as news of other sex scandals will inevitably surface, we will carefully screen announcements of such cases to insure that they are carefully sourced, credible, and within our Terms of Service. If so, we will permit them to be posted as a source of information for potential students seeking teachers.

The ZFI Moderation Team

P.S. For a commentary on our decision please visit [Sweeping Zen "Is Zen Forum International becoming like E-Sangha?"](#) and add your comments there!

Things are not what they appear to be, nor are they otherwise. --The Lankavatara Sutra



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Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot

by **Carol** on Sun Aug 19, 2012 11:02 am

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Photos of the Obon and Sanmon Gate Ceremonies at Dai Bosatsu Zen Monastery provided by Genkaku.



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Those who are not logged-in members of ZFI see the following:



Carol
Global Moderator

Posts: 8199
Joined: Wed Feb 04, 2009 2:52 am
Location: Santa Rosa, CA
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Re: Teacher Sexual misconduct -Eido Tai Shimano, ZSS, and ot
by **Carol** on Sun Aug 19, 2012 5:02 pm

Photos of the Obon and Sanmon Gate Ceremonies at Dai Bosatsu Zen Monastery provided by Genkaku.

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DBZ 2012_Sanmon_1a.jpg

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