



Genjo Marinello

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Overall a good summary of the tragic history of ZSS and it's founding abbot Eido Shimano. Indeed the current Abbot, Shinge Roko Sherry Chayat has done little to reach out to those most harmed or alienated over the decades. It is true that ZSS has employed the Faith Trust Institute and An Olive Branch to good effect to start, but has never followed up with an organizational apology (such as Rinzai-ji has made), a long overdue and promised forensic audit, or democratic reorganization of the bylaws ("new" bylaws have not even been made public). Neither has ZSS sponsored any further reaching out to those most harmed or alienated. No detailed account of Eido Roshi's wrong doings has been investigated by ZSS, let alone made public, except as can be derived by their counter suit to his complaint that he has not been paid enough.

Shinge Chayat has admitted to me that she has experienced "unexpected physical molestation" from Eido Shimano, and though she categorically denies having an "affair" with him, many people claim to have heard her directly say otherwise, including her ex-husband. In any case, it is clear that she too has been abused and taken in by him, publicly to this day expressing gratitude for "Eido Roshi's uncompromising and penetrating Dharma Eye, which reveals directly the luminous power of the unconditional mind" while privately calling him a "psychopath."

Eido Shimano Roshi was just that an "Old - Child", the literal translation of "Roshi." It is said that to penetrate koans one must learn to call on one's inner seven year old and a sage beyond your chronological years. I have no doubt that Eido Shimano learned to tap just this much. But his behavior has proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that there has never been sufficient integration or maturation of his broken personality to allow for much compassion, empathy, or even the ability to keep his own randy inner teenager in check. If this is all that Zen has to offer, we should lay it down. However, I believe that Zen training and practice does have the potential to mature and become a more integrated vessel catering to the whole person. In fact, Shinge has made many improvements to the training at ZSS. Nevertheless, in my mind, this lineage has a long way to go. I'm not disheartened by this fact because in my view humanity itself hasn't yet come through its own adolescence.

By continuing our quest to individually and collectively mature, endless progress can be made, where one day we really can live up to our potential to be the deep voice of the Dharma. Up to this point, all we can say is not yet. Occasionally, there are bright points of light and insight that show us the way forward.

Reply