

**From:** Seiju <[seiju@azc.org](mailto:seiju@azc.org)>

**Subject:** Possible resolution of Bodhi situation

**Date:** March 31, 2014 at 3:05:13 PM PDT

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Dear Dharma brothers and sisters,

The situation at Bodhi remains unclear. If you read the attached emails, you will see that the Board's request for Seido to work with the Board resulted in a highly qualified "yes."

The Board is acting under the understanding that Roshi resigned years ago as Abbot of Bodhi and is no longer Abbot. The Board is willing to work with Roshi's stated directive; but Roshi, even as Abbot of Rinzaï-ji, cannot dictate Bodhi's future without the consent of the Board. He lost that authority when he resigned as Abbot of Bodhi.

Roshi's response called for expanding the Bodhi Board, and we agree. However determining Board members is a Board matter. Roshi has no say in Bodhi Board members; nor do any of the others alluded to in Roshi's letter.

It is the wish of the Board to act in the best interests of Bodhi and its relationship with Rinzaï-ji. But we insist on recognizing Roshi's resignation from Bodhi and its implications. This is part of Bodhi's history and the sangha's history.

To resolve this impasse, we, the current Board, propose to expand the Board by inviting the following oshos to become part of the Board and guide its future:

Dokuro, Eko, Eshin, Gido, Kigen, Koyo, Myokyo, Sokai, and Yoshin

I have left Seido and Gento off this list because they are already involved. Other oshos not listed I consider to be retired from active practice.

For those who accept the responsibility, a meeting will be held at Bodhi as soon as can be arranged. This group will meet with the existing Board and be welcomed as members. The primary business will be determining what is best for Bodhi and Rinzai-ji. The newly constituted Bodhi Board will make their decision, and that will be done.

Whatever the Board decides, even if it is to completely follow Roshi's directives, it will be the Board's decision.

Please consider this. You can resign at the conclusion of the meeting, if you wish.

But I prefer you to consciously make your own best determination of how Bodhi develops. Bodhi is a resource for all of Rinzai-ji. To say it simply: I trust your collective judgment more than what I have heard from Rinzai-ji and Roshi, and more than just relying on the current Board.

I also see many advantages of having senior practitioners oversee the evolution of Bodhi. Bodhi is a treasure and I am sure you will care for it.

Gassho,

Seiju

Roshi's March 28th letter and Jundo's March 12th letters were referenced.