

Statement Affirming Joshu Sasaki as Abbot of Jemez Bodhi Mandala (Bodhi Manda)

Letter from Jiun Hosen (Christiane Ranger), Osho, dated June 15, 2013 (“Hosen letter”), states that:

...the board of trustees has documentation on file dating from June 1989 whereby Hosen was appointed Abbot of Bodhi Manda Zen Center by the Abbot of Rinzai-ji and Sisters Institution of Joshu Zen Temple, Mt. Cobb Sai Sho Zen ji and Kozen ji.

However, there does not appear to be any evidence of the appointment of Hosen as Abbot of Bodhi Manda Zen Center (“Bodhi Manda”). Nor does there appear to be any substantiation of the assertion that Joshu Sasaki Roshi ever resigned as Abbot of Bodhi Manda.

The minutes of the Board of Trustees dated June 7 and 24, 1989 (“1989 Minutes”) provided by Hosen provides in pertinent part as follows:

5. Joshu Sasaki Roshi then stated his intention to resign from the Board of Trustees, effective as of the adjournment of this meeting. Following a discussion, Ron Uilkie was unanimously elected to the Board of Trustees to fill the vacancy.

This only pertains to the resignation of Joshu Sasaki Roshi from the Board of Trustees. The paragraph immediately following paragraph 5 provides as follows:

6. It was then discussed that, Joshu Sasaki Roshi having formerly resigned as Abbot of Bodhi Mandala Zen Center, that the position was vacant. The Board unanimously agreed to propose Jiun Hosen as Abbot of Bodhi Mandala Zen Center. It was then reported that the Abbots of the Sister Institutions, Joshu Zen Temple, Mt. Cobb Sai Sho Ji and Kozen Ji, had been contacted, and each joined in proposing Jiun Hosen as Abbot. The following resolution was then adopted.

Unlike in paragraph 5, the above paragraph does not state that Roshi stated his separate intention to resign as Abbot of Bodhi Mandala, which is a separate position from the position on the Board of Trustees. The above language in paragraph 6 seems to assume that the intention to resign from the Board of Trustees automatically leads to the resignation as the Abbot, which is an incorrect assumption. Roshi has no record of ever resigning as Abbot of Bodhi Mandala.

In addition, note that Roshi’s position was not an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees, as the resolution indicated that Ron Uilkie (who was/is obviously not the Abbot) was elected to fill the vacancy.

Furthermore, Roshi, was (and is) the Abbot of Mt. Cobb Sai Sho Ji, and he was never contacted about by the Board of Trustees of Bodhi Mandala about who to propose for the next Abbot of Bodhi Mandala. Therefore, it is absolutely incorrect that the Abbot of Mt. Cobb Sai Sho Ji was contacted with regards to this topic, and he never joined in the proposal that Hoshi be appointed as the next Abbot of Bodhi Mandala.

Statement Affirming Joshu Sasaki as Abbot of Jemez Bodhi Mandala (Bodhi Manda)

Finally, the resolution which Hosen points out as the resolution appointing her, provides as follows:

- *RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees and the Abbots of Joshu Zen Temple, Mt. Cobb Sai Sho Ji and Kozen Ji, jointly **propose** to the Chief Abbot of Rinzai-ji that Jiun Hosen be approved as Abbot of Bodhi Mandala Zen Center and Jemez Bodhi Mandala. (emphasis added).*

Note that the resolution is only phrased as a proposal to the Chief Abbot of Rinzai-ji, who is Joshu Sasaki Roshi. Such proposal was never made to the Chief Abbot of Rinzai-ji, and therefore, approval of such proposed appointment never occurred.

Based on the above, the 1989 Minutes do not serve as evidence that appointment of Hosen as the Abbot of Bodhi Manda occurred as argued in the Hosen letter.

There are also separate and additional evidence that Joshu Sasaki Roshi remained as the Abbot of Bodhi Manda.

Some of the documents which evidence this are as follows:

- * The amended Bylaws adopted by Bodhi Mandala Corporation was signed by Joshu Sasaki as President and Coordinator and dated June 25, 1989, and was stamped received by the N.M. Corporation Commission on June 28, 1989. This contradicts the above statements copied from the combined minutes of the Board of Trustees dated June 4 and 24, 1989. If Joshu Sasaki Roshi had in fact resigned, he could not have legally signed the amended Bylaws, since the Bylaws state that the Abbot of Bodhi Mandala is the President of the Corporation.
- There are numerous documents issued by Bodhi Manda since 1989 which provide that Joshu Sasaki is the Abbot and that Jiun Hosen as the Vice-Abbess of Bodhi Manda. Such documents include, but are not limited, the announcements, newsletters, and even a letter signed by Hosen herself in January of 2011.

Based on the evidence above, it is therefore affirmed that Joshu Sasaki Roshi has been and remains the Abbot of Jemez Bodhi Mandala (Bodhi Manda) Zen Center.

As the Abbot of Jemez Bodhi Mandala, per Article V: Section 3 of the Bylaws of this organization, Joshu Sasaki has the authority to appoint and remove at will a Vice Abbot and such religious officers as may be determined by the Abbot to be appropriate.