

Minutes of a meeting between Bodhi Mandala Board of Trustees and Joshu Sasaki Roshi's representatives, held on July 6, 2013 at Rinzai-ji Cimarron Zen Center

Attendees:

- Bodhi Mandala Board: Jiun Hosen Osho, Jim Houle MD
- Rinzai-ji shika: Eshin Godfrey
- Roshi's representatives: Jack Drake, Myoyuu Okazaki

Minutes:

A meeting was previously scheduled between Roshi and the Bodhi Mandala Board of Trustees, without John Killip DDS, who was unable to attend. However, at the last minute, Roshi requested that the meeting start without him, with Jack Drake and Myoyuu acting as his representatives.

Myoyuu opened with a review of the three objectives sent by Hosen in requesting the meeting with Roshi:

1. to renew our commitment to our Founder Kyozan Joshu Roshi
2. to listen to his concerns about Bodhi Manda Zen Center and hear his recommendations.
3. to present to the Roshi our future plan on Bodhi Manda Zen Center

Jim brought up the letter from Roshi to Hosen informing her of Roshi's plan to appoint Gido as Administrative-abbot and stated the boards opposition to this appointment and their belief that Hosen was the best choice for abbot of Bodhi Mandala Zen Center. Roshi's letter of proposed directives was passed out to all attendees and time was taken to read it.

Debate regarding Hosen's claim to the position of Abbot of the Zen Center, vs. Roshi's claim to be the current Abbot. Jim said that Roshi's directives were regarded as a threat to Bodhi's survival and pointed out Bodhi's status as an independent Center - while Roshi may provide direction, he does not have the authority to dictate.

Jim stated that they take Roshi's recommendations about the purpose of the center seriously as their purpose was to further Roshi's Zen. Hosen stated she had no problem with the suggestions for beginners practice and zazenkai - however stated the need for long retreats. Eshin pointed out that Roshi made a clear distinction between training and practice. For example, Vancouver Zen center is for practice, not training (not a dojo).

Eshin summarized that the key point appeared to be that the board objects to Roshi's appointment of Gido as Administrative-abbot and wants to keep Hosen in place. Jim pointed out the board knows Hosen, trusts and respects her. Doesn't know Gido's commitment to New Mexico, what his interest is and wanted to know why Roshi has concerns about Hosen's capabilities.

Eshin pointed out that at other independent zen centers, the Oshos took the title of abbot, and asked Hosen why she didn't if she was appointed. Hosen responded that she did it out of respect. Eshin said that was misleading. Hosen said at the time, she felt unqualified to call herself the abbot and also Roshi insisted "I'm still the Abbot". There was no doubt in Hosen's mind that Roshi was still the Abbot, but she signed all the legal paperwork. Eshin stated the legal position vs. the de facto position was the cause of all the problems set forth today. Jack stated that legality may not matter at all because spiritual position takes precedence over legal form.

Myoyuu to Hosen: Ultimately it's between you (Hosen) and Roshi, you are his disciple, you cannot hide behind the board, it's between you and Roshi.

Myoyuu suggests that if Roshi has a problem with Hosen being abbot, Hosen could work as President, which is a very important position. Jack pointed out it was a more powerful position. Hosen stated she did not want power, but to serve.

Break while waiting for Roshi to get ready to receive visitors. Myoyuu leaves to go up to assist with Roshi.

Follow-on meeting upstairs with Roshi

Attendees:

- Joshu Sasaki Roshi
- Translator: Myoren Yasukawa
- Bodhi Mandala Board: Jiun Hosen Osho, Jim Houle MD
- Rinzai-ji shika: Eshin Godfrey
- Roshi's representatives: Jack Drake, Myoyuu Okazaki

Minutes:

Summary of the meeting presented to Roshi. Board accepts proposals for Bodhi Mandala, with the exception of not having Hosen as Administrative-abbot.

Jim: The board feels the best way forward is with Hosen as Administrative-abbot for continuity.

Roshi queries Eshin and Myoyuu for opinions, then takes restroom break.

Myoren summarizes board's concerns to Roshi.

Jim: board feels Hosen is the best choice for administrative abbot.

Roshi is silent, Myoyuu asks for a reply.

Roshi gives Dharma talk about what is and what is not. Asks Hosen for her reply. Hosen says she follows and obeys Roshi. Roshi says it is a good response.

Jim stated he disagreed, but accepted what Hosen said.

Roshi talks about why his voice doesn't come out. Also spoke on listening instead of jabbering so communication is clear.

Dharma talk on "time is money, so where is money? I have money, I don't have money..."

Roshi said Hosen answered him well, so asked her to state it again. Hosen: "I follow my teacher until I die"

Roshi asked Hosen: "Do you know about death, have you ever experienced death?" Hosen: "Yes"

Roshi: "Great answer. When you experience death, God will resolve everything... A true rich person is not a rich person. Jack never talks about or worries about money. Doctors focus on working, don't think about money. This is the state of peace of mind. I die with God, I appear with God, I die with God - true zen practice is to die together and appear together."

"Those who cannot let go are always thinking, not free at all. Completely free person is never tied up with thinking."

Roshi to Hosen: "Oshos were expected to come to beginning Seichu, but you always ignored. You only talk, but you never die."

Roshi to Jim: "Why do I cough? Doctor?" Jim: "You swallowed down into lungs" Roshi: "You are doctor, but not enough"