

Renowned Zen teacher Joshu Sasaki accused of misusing his position for sexual favors from female students

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Posted by Administrator

Sweeping Zen, an online news outlet for the Zen community, reports that 105 year old Zen teacher Joshu Sasaki purportedly misused his position as a Zen teacher for his own sexual gratifications with many of his female Zen students.

According to a report by an independent council of Zen teachers assembled to hear the stories of those affected, these sexual encounters were often initiated "in the formal setting, privacy, and 'face-to-face' encounters of the sanzen room."

I have decided to come forward now because to allow this kind of abuse to go unacknowledged, when so many of us know it has been happening is, in my opinion, inexcusable. I will not be silent any more. -- Eshu Martin, former Zen Student of Sasaki

Sanzen is a ritualized private meeting between a Zen student and Zen teacher. Their report also stated that there were reports of coercion and that Sasaki would at times frame the sexual contact as being a form of Zen teaching, or otherwise beneficial to the student.

SNAP PROVIDES INDEPENDENT SUPPORT CONTACT FOR SURVIVORS OF ZEN ABUSE

Barbara Dorris of SNAP (Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests) has graciously offered to serve as an independent contact person for women who experienced the behavior of Joshu Sasaki currently under discussion.

An item on the Sweeping Zen website says, "Barbara (Dorris of SNAP) has been dealing with people who have been involved with clergy for many many years and is completely trustworthy. She also is not a Buddhist cleric or affiliated with any Buddhist institution that might have vested interest in whatever reports might be received."

Barbara can be reached at: (314) 862-7688.

[Read the Sweeping Zen Article 'Everybody Knows' by former Sasaki student Eshu Martin](#)

[Read the report by independent council of Zen Teachers](#)