

To: Rinzai-ji Board of Directors

My name is Gregory Campbell.

As some of you may remember from the early 1970's until the early 1990's, I was Sasaki Joshu "Roshi's" most frequent translator. I was recently astonished to learn thru the World Wide Web the remarkably crude, completely unenlightened, and possibly illegal behavior of Sasaki "Roshi" with some of his female students.

Sasaki "Roshi" recently celebrated half a century of "teaching" in the West and now he sits in the remarkable ruins of his own creation. *It takes time but Karmic echoes always return.* There is, however, something which troubles me more than this sad story which has been regularly repeated in American Zen Centers.

I bitterly recall how often "Roshi" would rant and rave in public talks about how his most "stupid" students were therapists. In those early years my marriage was collapsing and I desperately needed therapeutic guidance. But influenced by "Roshi" I allowed myself to indulge in the alluring fantasy that meditation practice with "Roshi" would somehow heal the "concentration camp" experience that was my childhood. *In other words, I believed in him.* Over the years I witnessed his students, similar to me, naively yet sincerely hopefully going to him for advise concerning relationship problems. He consistently had exactly two words of advice: *"More Zazen"*.

In those days the Cimarron Zen Center - as it was called then - even sold T-shirts which said: *"More Zazen"*! To some degree, "Roshi" in his astonishing *hubris is responsible for the collapse of relationships and even families that with merely some small amount of intelligent and compassionate direction, may have been healed.*

I am also deeply troubled by the suicide of one of his students in New Mexico. I was told by someone who was present at the time that this woman who had become a nun under "Roshi" went to him asking for advice. "Roshi" said something like, *"I don't care what you do."* So she soaked the interior of her car with gasoline and set

it on fire with her self inside! As far as I know no funeral for this tragic Soul was ever offered ...

Most, if not all, of the formal translations I did for “Roshi” were either audio or video recorded. Over the decades a sizeable library developed.

I hereby state I never granted my permission for these recordings to be used and it is my urgent wish that they all be destroyed.

Sasaki “Roshi’s” 50 years of dishonesty and deception is an almost unbelievable disaster. I deeply regret my blindness in having been a part of it for so many years.

In closing I wish to deeply apologize to *all the sincere, trusting, and good-hearted students* who came into contact with Sasaki “Roshi” and believed as I did he was not only Enlightened but also honest. Tragically, *he was neither.*

If we are involved with a “spiritual teacher” for say some 30 years as I was and then that teacher is shown to be a complete fraud in some sense all those years have been wasted.

But as long as our intention was honorable at least the Karmic burden is not ours...

Signed on December 8th 2012 - the date celebrated in Japan as the Enlightenment of The Historical Buddha