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Koko An August 24, 1964

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Dear Roshi Sama:

This is the last of my letters about the important matter which has concerned us for the past month. I will wait for your letter giving your final opinion and suggestion for the future.

Today Ikenaga San came, the priest of Myohoji who took care of Tai San after he moved from Koko An. He had some bitter words from Tai San, that Aitken had been unmanly in not discussing the accusation before going to Japan, etc. He knew the whole story from Tai San's point of view, and he said Tai San had told this story to "two or three" old timers of Koko An.

I told him a little of how things had developed after the accusation had been made by the doctors, and expressed my regret that I had not had an opportunity to explain to Tai San why I had gone to Japan while telling him I was going the other direction; how I had tried to keep my presence in Japan a secret and failed, etc.

I don't want to write any more about it. I will wait for your letter. I can't write anything but a polite letter to Yasutani Roshi which won't say anything, because he will need a translator. So you see, I don't know what either of you two Roshi are thinking. Perhaps if I don't hear from you in a month or so, I will ask Itsuko San to call on you to get your opinion.

Friday evening [redacted] invited us to the movies, so we had her over for dinner first. Dr. Furukawa had told her that we knew everything, but she still wanted to be friends. She made no reference to the affair, except to remark that "One must be a victim of passion before one can conquer passion." Maybe so. She is thinking of leaving Hawaii and moving back to California.

We are continuing our meetings, and our twice-daily zazen. Yesterday was the fourth Sunday, so we had zazen all day, but only Herb, Anne and I sat in the afternoon. Three other people, all of them just occasional visitors, came in the morning.

The whole thing hinges on the matter of mental health. If the girls had come to their priest in search of sex, and had found sex, then surely there would have been no mental breakdown afterward. But, the way Dr. Smith expresses it, they came in search of Zen and found sex, and therefore broke down.

[redacted] visited us yesterday on pass, as she does each week, but she seemed quite a lot worse, and was not able to sit. She is starting a new therapy course at the hospital, and it leaves her quite depressed. I suppose this is natural at the beginning. Anne went over to see her this afternoon.

Please take a moment and write to us, Roshi; only a short letter would be enough.