

April 1st, '87 Midnight

A little miracle has happened: The conversation with Yamada Roshi tonight in peace and harmony. After dinner he asked me whether it would be okay with me if his wife joined us. (I have never been asked such a thing before). Of course fine with me. Nobody else, just the three of us.

YR had a copy of "Transmission, . . ." ¹ in his hand: a lot marked, here and there comments, notes – so he really has read it carefully. Not in the least angry – on the contrary. He asked me to partially rephrase it, since he wished to publish it in English and Japanese in the "Kyō Shō", and it would be better if one didn't know who wrote it, now in April Masamichi San is coming for a brief visit and he will receive a copy of the current version.

Mrs. Yamada mainly quiet, and when she did say something, then in a gentle and constructive way.

Almost right at the start of the conversation YR said: ". . . this is my fault . . .", and I thought I am not hearing properly.

When I said the training should be stricter at all costs, he laughed: "Then everybody runs away . . ." and I: "Jiki-ni subekaraku ho-o tsukushite tami naki koto-o kan sezarubeshi" (Shōyō-roku 14) = "It is indispensable to maintain the Dharma exhaustively, even if all people disappear!"

Following this I told him about the Kendō-Master Ando who, after a course lasting several days and which M. had participated in too, was reported saying: "Up to now I thought Europeans should be trained less strict than Japanese people; but now I see that it is the other way round: one has to train them even stricter than Japanese."

All this and much more went on smoothly. I had two completely changed people in front of me. YR asked me for assessment and help for the wording of test-questions for "completed people" etc., etc.

This conversation – I think the first genuine one after the one I had with him 23 years ago – took more than two hours. At the end he thanked me saying: "I have learned a lot" and Mrs. Yamada agreed calmly and without a culturally formal tone in her voice.

Whether something is really going to change now is a different question. It is essential that we keep on going, visualizing internally, praying, and I in a different way acting too. The reworking into an impersonal essay will require

¹ "Transmission, ancient and contemporary", Koun-An Roshi, Febr. 1987

some time. For those passages taken out I will put in this or that other very apt and telling quote, i.e. the one mentioned above.

The day after tomorrow that American and I will go through his reworking of his letter – the “paper” will then be handed over with good timing and it will take the same line.

Out of all this rubble, my old, venerated Master may he now indeed come forth again. And may things turn in such a way that thousands of people won't be misled!

Thanks to you, my dear Chan-companions who are helping in this process and who have already helped a lot, as you can see. In front of Sri Sai Baba grateful incense is burning long since.

Copy please to: Monica, Schumachers, J. Eggert, perhaps: Böbels, Eva v. d. Wippel. Paula gets a copy from me here.

Koun-An

(ed.: nota bene - see under English manuscripts 03 *Answer to Jan. 14 (Jan. 21, 1988)* and 09 *Saving People (Febr. 2, 1988)*)