

Kyōshō

曉鐘

The Awakening Gong

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Dies ist ein Exzerpt vom "Opening Comments" aus der offiziellen Zeitschrift der Sanbo-Zen Society "Kyosho" (Nr. 386, 2018). Hier erzählt der Abt des Sanbo-Zen, Yamada Ryouin Roshi, über das im Domicilium gehaltene Kenshukai (Fortbildungsseminar für die Zen-Lehrer des Sanbo-Zen) im Sommer 2018. Der Artikel ist nur leicht redigiert -- ohne interne Personennamen -- ausgelegt.



Opening Comments:

YAMADA Ryōun

Report on the Kenshukai in Weyarn

This year's kenshukai for those who have finished the koans was held from the second to the eighth of August in Weyarn, Germany. Weyarn is situated about 40 kilometers southeast of Munich. It is a town with a population of about 4,000 people. It is a beautiful place blessed by an abundant natural setting of deep woods and clear streams. Walking through those deep woods one has the illusion of being in the world of German fairy tales (*Märchen*).

This was the first time for me to visit Weyarn, however, it has a deep connection with Sanbo Zen (formerly called Sanbo Kyodan). Bogdan and



The Domicilium in Weyarn over the River Mangfall (The “Sanbo Zendo Weyarn” is on the ground floor of the building in front).

Helena Snela are a couple who have been members of Sanbo Zen for a long time (both are now Zen Teachers). Almost forty years ago they came to Germany from Poland and in Weyarn, a place blessed with natural environment, in 1986 established an institution for social work centered around zazen. It happened that one of the participants who had been doing zazen asked to be able to spend his final days doing zazen. This was what prompted the couple to start a hospice (terminal care). At the same time their aspiration for the Way was profound enough to invite an approved teacher of zazen to come and teach a formal course in zazen. That first teacher was a disciple of

Koun Roshi and had practiced at San'un Zendo and become an Associate Zen Master of the Sanbo Kyodan. He was a Jesuit priest from India, Fr. Ama Samy. Responding to the request of the Snelas, Fr. Samy directed Zen at Weyarn until the former abbot of the Sanbo Kyodan, Kubota Roshi took over. From 1997 to 2015 over a period of 18 years Kubota Roshi traveled to Weyarn to conduct a sesshin. For the last ten of those years he was accompanied and assisted by Sato Migaku Roshi. In 2015 Kubota Roshi entrusted the work to Sato Migaku Roshi. So now at present Sato Roshi is leading the training at Weyarn.

During this time the hospice work of the Snelas continued to grow so that now there are always seven or eight terminal care patients here. In addition to the facility for terminal care patients, there has been added a place for visiting families to stay, a hall for seminars and meetings, and two refectories. I also heard that the hospice this couple built recently won the national prize as being one of the best in Germany. Now their fine son, Sebastian, is managing the daily tasks of the entire work. No matter what the circumstances, starting up a new work is not just a matter of course. Engaged in business as I am I experience that difficulty on a daily basis. All the more so in the case of starting a hospice in a foreign country the difficulty is more than usual. There is no doubt in my mind that the success of these two people in introducing zazen and giving their all so that terminal care patients could spend their last days in peace is due to their Bodhi-mind. With great respect I tip my hat to both of them.

Another remarkable thing is that this February a part of the facility was remodeled into a very fine zendo. Ever since Sato Migaku Roshi took over, the number of practitioners coming here has steadily increased. At the same time the desire to build a zendo grew stronger so that once the proposal was made the necessary funds were raised immediately. It is a very fine zendo, keeping the flavor of a traditional zendo, and being able to accommodate as many as 60 sitters. It is a great joy to see how the Dharma energy of Sato Roshi combined with the Bodhi-mind of this couple has brought this zendo to fruition. I was deeply moved to realize that now in Europe Sanbo Zen had another key place.

The kenshukai this time made use of the new zendo as well as the attached facilities for lodging and seminars. As every year, participants

were divided into two groups, 2A and 2B, with 2B using three days from the second to the fourth and 2A using three days from the sixth to the eighth. 2A refers to the first group of the second generation, while 2B refers to the group after that in the same second generation. On the middle day, the fifth, both groups met together for a report on the activities of the world-wide Sanbo Zen, and a coordination meeting was held to discuss matters pertinent to running Sanbo Zen International. In the afternoon those who wished went sightseeing in the neighboring area.

I would like to repeat again, as I do for each report of a kenshukai, that this meeting is for those who have finished the *Transmission of Light* and I have approved. The format is one of open discussion on each koan with me tying it all together at the end. It is a type of koan study workshop. I also gave dokusan for all the participants of both groups. In group 2A there were 26 participants and 27 in group 2B. Besides them there were six first generation disciples of Koun Roshi including Gundula Meyer Roshi. In all, including myself, there were exactly 60 participants. From Japan the only formal participant beside myself was Sato Migaku Roshi.

..... Each year the level of koan study gets progressively deeper and this year's was no exception. The whole atmosphere was excellent with the facilities, including the new zendo, combining with the quiet surroundings to make a wonderful brightness. Our kenshukai here benefited greatly from such a setting.

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For this kenshukai Sato Roshi made an all-out effort with the backup of the Snelas. Marlis Müting and, above all, Hannelore Müller gave great support for many practical matters. And besides these, many people of the Weyarn group contributed to help. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you who made this kenshukai possible. I really appreciate all that you did.....

(translated by Jerome CUSUMANO)

Kenshukai Participants in Weyarn/Germany 2018



Groupe 2A



Group 2B