



DIAMOND SANGHA

Haiku, Hawaii, Maui

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Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind, by Shunryu Suzuki, edited by Trudy Dixon, with an introduction by Richard Baker. Walker/Weatherhill, New York: 1970. 5" x 8". 134 pp. \$4.50.

The beginner's mind, the beginner might suppose, is a stage to be entered, completed and then transcended. The mature student understands that the professional sage loses the spirit of readiness of the beginner.

"In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities," Suzuki Roshi says, "but in the expert's there are few."

We lose the beginner's mind when we master the schedule and learn to use our minds independently of the sutra we are reciting. The beginner moves from bell to bell without thinking, the expert knows exactly what time it is.

It is the beginner's mind we must cultivate throughout our practice, on our cushions and in our daily activity. "When we have no thought of achievement, no thought of self, we are true beginners," the Rōshi says.

Shunryu Suzuki is the genius of the San Francisco Zen Center, which has developed in 12 short years out of a conventional expatriate Buddhist "church" into an organization involving hundreds of regular students at six centers, including Tassajara Zen Mountain Center in Carmel Valley.

But numbers are not significant. The

DIAMOND SANGHA NEWS

Sesshin with Soen Roshi With less than six days to spare in Hawaii, Nakagawa Soen Roshi led a fine, five-day sesshin at the Maui Zendo for 28 Maui and Honolulu members of the Diamond Sangha, October 4 to 8, 1970. The little house was completely filled, and the zendō overflowed into the vestibule. Total rearrangement was in order after the Rōshi arrived, and the Maui Zendo program retains the changes he instituted. We look forward to his return in February, and again in August.

Rental of the Peahi Chapel The Maui Zendo has rented the Peahi Chapel of the Mormon Church, a large, two-room building located between the Zendō and the nearby Banana Patch Community, on a month to month basis, for a dollar per year. As the property was unused for several years, we must go through a process of public hearing and deliberation by State and County authorities before we can develop the building and grounds. The red tape is unraveling, and we hope to have everything cleared up by early February. Our plan is to create a half-way house for disaffected young people who need a place to stay while they get their heads together. There will be a work schedule, and participation in zazen at the Maui Zendo will be invited on a voluntary basis.

News from Mr. Sekida Mr. Sekida writes that he is putting together a book on Zen in Japanese, and wants to remain in Japan until it is finished, probably