



VILLAGE ZENDO

Dear Sangha, in person and online,

No-one, as Monty Python puts it, expects the Spanish Inquisition. Even less did I expect to be asked to be Shuso for 2023's summer Ango. I am honored and rather terrified.

The position of Shuso seems to involve both supervisory and grunt-work responsibilities. I've never had a managerial job in my life, and expect to exhibit most of the unintended mistakes of new supervisors. Much of my Zen life has been practicing by myself; I'm an expert at little tricks to get me through sesshin. Neither of these bode well for my stint as Shuso, which I see as sitting for and with the Sangha, not for me.

What gives me confidence and hope is the kindness and supportiveness that Village Zendo has shown me over the past years since I became Enkyo roshi's student. From past experience, even as a "commuter" student, I know I can count on the Sangha to give me a nudge here and some support there as I learn, on the job, to help hold the sesshin "envelope." That confidence is the main reasons that, when invited to be Shuso, I took a deep breath and refrained from running screaming in the opposite direction.

Thank you all.

This Ango will be the first unmasked one since Covid-19, and will consist of two dai-sesshins, back to back. The first of these will be in silence and without dharma talks, a very pure and sharp-edged form of practice. The second will also be in silence, but with the daily talks that we all enjoy and benefit from. I expect the energy level from this combination to be intense and wonderful. The study text will be Dogen's *Mountains and Rivers Sutra*.

I respectfully invite you to join as much as you can of this Ango, to settle into time as mountains and as rivers.

Gassho,

Kim (Kimu) Sorvig