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Zenvägen

October 15, 1990

Professor Deane Shapiro Jr.
Department of Psychiatry and Human Behaviour
University of California
Irvine
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Shapiro,

I had the pleasure to attend to the conference on Psychotherapy, Meditation and Health in the Netherlands in March this year. The conference report, and especially your paper has attracted much interest among the teachers of the meditation association to which I belong, "Zenvägen" (The Zen Way).

A summary of your article became kind of an incentive to a whole day's talk on the matter of symbols, rituals and religious interpretations of the meditative experience among us, and we agreed upon asking you for the permission to translate and reprint your article in our newsletter (of which I am enclosing a copy).

I do not know if the copyright of the article or conference paper is transferred entirely to East-West Publications or if it still possible to get your permission to use the article once again. I am certain that a publication in our (internal) newsletter, which is not for sale, will have no negative influence on the eventual sale of the printed report; on the other hand probably promote the sales of the report itself.

Your article is quite long and I dare to ask if the whole scientific apparatus would be necessary to include in this case; that is if the references could be omitted (except, of course, in quotations). I remember that your presentation was shorter than the paper itself. Do you by chance have a shorter version or manuscript that we could translate, it would be excellent.

"Zenvägen" is a non-confessional association with c. 600 Swedish and Norwegian members. Aside from formal za-zen in retreats and sesshins we have a program of T'ai chi, Calligraphy and different aspects of body works like Feldenkrais and the like. From the foundation in 1971 we worked for many years in close connection with a Christian retreat center but had to leave five years ago after severe ideological disagreements. Still, the question of the cultural heritage and a set of symbols and/or rituals is vivid among us, and your article is very important to us, I think.

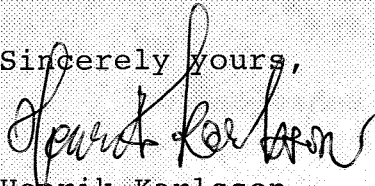
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It would be a great honour to us if you would permit us to translate and reprint your paper.

I am looking forward to your reply.

Sincerely yours,



Henrik Karlsson

(member of the board; editor of "Zenvägen")