

Reference for Stéphane Vien, by Ohashi

January 22, 2015

Mr. Stéphane Vien first came to take my workshop when I was teaching in Montreal, Canada in the early 1980s. He then decided to come to New York City to continue in the Ohashiatsu Institute's graduate program. Over the next 5 years or so, he commuted by bus and stayed at the YMCA.

After graduation, Stéphane still wanted to continue his study with me. So he returned to New York City many times. He also spent many summers with us, attending our Summer Retreats at the Dai Bosatsu Zendo Temple in the Catskills in upstate New York.

Recently, in 2012, Stéphane invited me to come to Montreal to teach. I found that he was the same aggressive and demanding student as before. Whenever Stéphane comes to study with me, he always asks me to teach him more. He is so aggressive and demanding. He is so dedicated. Over the last 40 years, I have taught more than 40,000 students all over the world, but I have never encountered a student so aggressive and so dedicated as Stéphane Vien.

I feel so scared to teach a student like Mr. Stéphane Vien. This is because I must study, experience, and advance so much before he finds out that I do not know what I am teaching him. I find that Mr. Vien is like the "probation officer" checking up on what I don't know and what I do know about my work!

For so many years, Stéphane has also given me lots of spiritual fear, intellectual pressure, and occupational harassment. I hate this kind of student, but at the same time, I honor and respect this kind of student the most.

Without the kind of student like Mr. Vien, I would never be motivated – motivation usually from fear – to enrich my teaching over the last 40 years.

I became "the Ohashi," a famous, respected, and successful "Sen Sei" because I have students like Mr. Stéphane Vien.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ohashi". The signature is written in a cursive, fluid style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.