

The Most Venerable Archbishop Yukei Matsunaga  
The Chief Abbot of Sohonzan Kongobuji  
The Chief Administrator of Koyasan Shingon Buddhism

**Statement of request for Mr. Ryushin Yamagishi to be appointed  
Head Priest of Shojoshinin**

Ryushin Yamagishi (formerly Sasano) has been performing the work of Head Priest since the late Head Priest Shungaku passed away in April 2003. In August 2004, he became the adopted son of Madame Yoshiko Yamagishi, the widow of former Head Priest Shungaku Yamagishi.

Although the followers consider Ryushin Yamagishi to be the Head Priest of Shojoshinin, Kosho Kuri, who is the Head Priest of Kongosanmaiin, is indicated as the Head Priest of Shojoshinin on documents submitted to the Honzan (Head Temple).

After the sudden death of the late Head Priest Shungaku Yamagishi, Head Priest Kuri became the nominal Head Priest of Shojoshinin. As a promise to the persons concerned, he was to convey the position to Ryushin Yamagishi after one year.

Despite his promise, Head Priest Kuri failed to keep his word and filed suit in March 6, 2006 with the Wakayama District Court against Madame Yoshiko Yamagashi and Ryushin Yamagishi to have them vacate Shojoshinin.

Because Ryushin Yamagishi was to be given the position of Head Priest after one year, he does not consider this to be a matter of money. We are aware that there have been cases at Koyasan in the past where a huge amount of money was paid to solve similar issues. This is totally against the teachings of Kobo-Daishi.

Ryushin Yamagishi is enduring the breach of promise and the litigation by Head Priest Kuri, and continues to carry out his services as Head Priest. He does not have extensive assets and is a respectable priest as the followers all know.

We request and ask that the Honzan (Head Temple) will influence Head Priest Kuri to reconsider his unreasonable conduct in remaining in the position of Head Chief of Shojoshinin, which gives the impression that he is seeking monetary gain, and allow Ryushin Yamagishi to assume the position of Head Priest of Shojoshinin in reality and in name.

Date:

Address:

Name: