

ZEN CENTER

PROGRAM FOR THE PRELIMINARY OPENING CEREMONY OF ZENSHINJI, TASSAJARA ZEN MOUNTAIN CENTER

1:00 p.m. Monday July 3, 1967

I. Enshrining Ceremony of Buddhas and Patriarchs

conducted by Bishop Togen Sumi, Roshi,
head of Soto Zen school in America

II. Dedication Ceremony for Buddhas and Patriarchs

guests already seated

The ceremony begins with three rounds of the Densho, the great bronze bell,

On the first round all of the students lead by the new priest from Japan-Kobun Chino, Sensei, enter the Zendo and Buddha Hall; on the second round the priests enter; and on the third round, lead by Dainin Katagiri, Sensei, Bishop Sumi, Roshi, enters.

The third round will be followed by seven beats, at which time the Doshi, Shunryu Suzuki, Roshi, enters.

Philip Wilson- Katsuzen- makes a ceremonial statement.

Sweet, hot water, green tea, and cakes are offered to Buddha.

The Shingyo, Prajna Paramita Sutra, is recited by everyone.

Bishop Sumi, Roshi, presents a recognition letter from Soto Zen headquarters in Japan to the Doshi and acknowledges Zenshinji, Tassajara Zen Mountain Center as a Soto Zen Buddhist Monastery.

Celebration addresses:

Bishop Sumi, Roshi
Telegrams and letters of congratulation are read in Japanese and English by Chino, Sensei;
George Hagiwara, President of Sokoji;
Richard Baker- Zentatsu- President of Zen Center.

Thank you address: Doshi, Shunryu Suzuki, Roshi.

15 minute interval- iced tea is served

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III. Opening of the Zendo

guests seated outside.

The ceremony begins with three beats of The Han (wood sounding board).

On the first beat The Doshi leaves his residence and begins his walk to the Zendo.

At the same time all of the students line up outside the Zendo entrance.

The three beats will be followed by seven hits of the small bell at which time Doshi enters and checks the Zendo.

After he comes out Katagiri, Sensei, introduces the Chant For the Ten Buddhas by declaring that:

Now we are opening the Zendo. You should all make your best effort to practice the Way as if you are trying to extinguish your hair afire. Keep in mind the transiency of the world and do not waste your time. Each one of you should be mindful, and practicing this the Buddhas and Divine Beings will protect us- Buddha, Dharma and Sangha. The supporters of the Sangha will have great mind. For these reasons we will now recite the ten names of Buddha.

The chant for the Ten Buddhas is recited.

Students enter the Zendo and sit in their places for a short period of zazen.

Doshi addresses the students

Ceremony ends. A simple meal will be served.