

INVITATION TO "SHINSAN-SHIKI" CEREMONY

TO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE TEMPLE

GREETINGS:

This is the time of season when all living things quaver with life. And we are exceedingly joyous to write this note of invitation to you.

It has been already three years since we have had the pleasure of receiving and welcoming our present resident minister, Master Shunryu Suzuki. As you know, he came to us from Japan on May 22, 1959. Since then, with his encouragement, we have been blessed with revitalized energy to work in harmony for the development of our Temple. We are exceedingly grateful for this renewed strength to take pride in our ancestral teachings, to promote the well-being of our membership and of our Temple, and to further expand and deepen the understanding of Zen Buddhism in America.

(continued on the other side of page)

In order to encourage our efforts further, we are holding a SHINSAN-SHIKI ceremony for Master Suzuki, whose declaration of the new pulpit will be authenticated by Roshi Reirin Yamada, Archbishop of the North American Soto Mission, in cooperation with various ministers under his jurisdiction. The ceremony, to pray for happiness of mankind and for prosperity of Zen Buddhism, will take place at our Temple on Sunday, May 20, at 12 o'clock noon, in accordance with the program enclosed herewith.

It is devoutly hoped that you will honor us with your presence at this auspicious occasion.

May, 1962

Board of Directors

SOKOJI TEMPLE
1881 Bush Street
San Francisco 9

COPY OF THE LETTER FROM BISHOP REIRIN YAMADA
ZENSHUJI SOTO MISSION
123 South Hewitt Street
Los Angeles 12, California

April 25, 1962

Dear Sirs:

I am very grateful that all of you are making the vow to keep the enlightened life in accord with Zen Buddhism and the precious heritage of your ancestors.

As all of us are aware, Sokoji Temple is the place where you maintain your true happiness which is unchanging and everlasting, and where you deepen your firm and profound satisfaction that is bottomless. It is indeed a pleasure to know that the time has come for Reverend Shunryu Suzuki to have "Shinsan-shiki" at Sokoji Temple as the officiating priest dispatched by the main monastery in Japan.

"Shinsan-shiki" is the ceremony in which the priest, who has been newly ordered as a head of the temple, prays before the Buddha and the ancestors of your family. In brief, he prays that, as he has become a responsible man serving in this temple may the Buddha and the Buddhas protect him and support him in the order and completion of his duties. At the same time, he asks that the other priests who have a connection with the temple and the members of the temple will

please help him both materially and spiritually so that he can perform his duties in the best possible way.

This significant "Shinsan-shiki" will take place at Sokoji Temple on May 20, 1962. All of the members and their friends are invited to attend the ceremony. With your cooperation, participation and understanding, I am certain that we will make the "Shinsan-shiki" both successful and memorable.

Sincerely yours,

Reirin Yamada

Archbishop of Soto-shu in North America
Soto-shu Daikyoshi, Ph.D

"SHINSAN-SHIKI" CEREMONY PROGRAM

---(Part I)---

Sunday, May 20, 1962, From 12 Noon

1. ANGESHO (where the newly encharged Master of the Temple takes off his foot-gear for a short respite) will be at the home of Mr. George Hagiwara, Chairman of the Board of Directors. Departure from Angesho will be taken by Sokan (Archbishop), new Master, various ministers, and Shigetoshi Fujii, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Los Angeles Zenshuji Betsuin, will be at 11:30 a.m. and will arrive at 11:40 a.m. at the corner of Post and Buchanan Streets (in front of Soko Hardware Store).
2. PARADE ORDER: Depart assembly area at 12 noon for Sokoji by way of Post Street and Laguna Street, arriving at Temple at 12:30 p.m.
 - a) Five-Color Banner, b) Mr. Sunematsu Kuwahara, c) Mr. Hideo Hoshino, d) Mr. Fujii of Los Angeles Zenshuji Temple, e) Mr. Hagiwara of Sokoji Temple, f) Kambu, Directors, Fujinkai, g) Zen Center members, h) Ministers, i) Archbishop Nitten Ishida, Rev. C. Terakawa, Bishop Eizan Kishida, j) Buddhist flags, k) Chigo, l) Archbishop Reirin Yamada, m) Assistants to Archbishop, n) new Master, Shunryu Suzuki, o) Assistants to Master Suzuki, p) General parade participants.
3. SANMON Ceremony in front of Temple.
 - a. Incense-offering and gatha by Master Suzuki in front of the Temple.
 - b. Memorial picture-taking.
4. SHINSAN-SHIKI Ceremony:
 - a. General participants enter Temple.
 - b. Ministers enter Temple.
 - c. Archbishop Reirin Yamada, Newly Encharged Temple Master, Shunryu Suzuki followed by Buddhist flags, Chigo, and Assistants of Archbishop and Master Suzuki.
 - d. Greeting by Chairman, Mr. Tsunematsu Kuwahara.
 - e. Devotion and Gatha by Master Suzuki in front of Buddha.
 - f. Master Shunryu Suzuki receives Seal of Temple.
 - g. Master Shunryu Suzuki departs from Hall. (General participants will remain seated for the second part of the Ceremony).



"SHINSAN-SHIKI" CEREMONY

---(Part II)---

SHUKKOKUKAIDO: Declaration of New Pulpit by New Master of Sokoji Temple.
BYAKUTSUIN-SHI (Master who gives ultimate authentication to the declaration) will be Roshi Reirin Yamada, Archbishop of the North American Soto Mission.

1. Entrance of Newly Encharged Temple Master.
2. New Master wears, for the first time, Kesa (robe) presented to him by Temple members.
3. Declaration of official appointment.
4. New Master of Temple mounts the pulpit. Master Suzuki offers incense three times to thank Buddha's blessings, and pray for world peace, national well-being, and happiness of Temple members.
5. BYAKUTSUI MYO: As Byakutsui-shi, Roshi Reirin Yamada strikes the wooden hammer and gives ultimate authentication to the new Master's declaration.
6. GREETINGS:
 - a) Roshi Reirin Yamada.
 - b) Master Kenko Yamashita, Messenger from Daihonzan Eihei-ji Temple.
 - c) Master Shuyu Kurai, Messenger from Daihonzan Sojiji.
 - d) Reverend Chonen Terakawa, of San Francisco Buddhist Temple, representing all Buddhist sects in San Francisco.
 - e) Shigetoshi Fujii, representing the North American Soto Mission.
 - f) Shichinosuki Asano, President of Nichi Bei Times, representing guests.
 - g) Nisaburo Komiya, representing Sokoji Temple.
 - h) Kuniichi Akedo, representing Monterey Branch of San Francisco Sokoji.
 - i) Fuyuko Kawajiri, representing Sokoji Fujinkai.
 - j) Grahame Petchey, representing San Francisco Sokoji Zen Center.
7. CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS: Sakae Kawajiri, in charge.
8. RECOGNITION AWARDS.
9. MEMORIAL SERVICE of Zenji Hosen Isobe, the Temple's Founder, officiated by Roshi Reirin Yamada.
10. MEMORIAL SERVICE, honoring ancestors of Temple members, officiated by Roshi Reirin Yamada.
11. GOWASAN chanting by Sokoji Fujinkai members.
12. SERMON by Roshi Reirin Yamada.
13. RESPONSE by Master Shunryu Suzuki.
14. RESPONSE by George Hagiwara.
15. CLOSING REMARKS by Eijitsu Sugaya.

SHINSAN-SHIKI CEREMONY PROGRAM

-- (Part I)---

Sunday, May 20, 1967

From 12 Noon

3. SANMON a. (At Front Door) Like the birds I came -
No road under my feet,
A golden-chained gate
Unlocks itself.
4. SHINSAN-SHIKI e.
- (At Butsudan) For his beautiful thirty-two marks,
Fruit of countless kalpas of practice,
Both worlds of beings pay homage
To the lotus-eyed World-Honored One.
- (Daigan) Daigan has crushed
The devil's myriads,
Sparing all Buddhists
To rejoice and prevail.
- (Patriarchs' Hall) The Indian blossom
Bore fruit in China.
- (At Master's Room/Altar) In the district of nothing, exist
Flowers, moon and monastery.

---(Part II)---

SHUKKOKUKAIDO: 3. Declaration of official appointment.

(Before Mounting Pulpit)

This towering seat of Buddha
Is hard and difficult to climb -
Now that I am Master
With total grasp of Dharma,
Do not wonder how I reach that height.

4. (After Mounting Pulpit)

No former saint or patriarch knows the value of this single piece of incense from Kuobuddha's secret collar. Now I offer it to Buddha, praying for world peace and the welfare of the country and its citizens. That people of every cosmos cultivate the right cause of prajna-paramita, and follow the wondrous bodhi practice through life after life, is my supplication.

Now I offer this one piece of incense to Buddha, praying that all supporters of this temple and Buddhists of the ten directions concentrate on Buddhism, and petition their longevity and happiness in future lives.

"SHINSAN-SHIKI" CEREMONY
(Part II -- Continued)

May 20, 1962

After I lift this one piece of incense,
It is still there;
Although it is still there
It is hard to lift.
Now I offer it to Buddha
And burn it - with no hand,
Repaying the benevolence of this temple's
Founder, successive patriarchs, and my
Master Gyokujun Soon Daiocho.

If you want to discuss the first principle, even with a shower of blows from the stick and a katsu like thunder, in spite of blinking your eyes, you will reach only the seventh or eighth.

If Buddhism's purport depended on sermons or sutras, it would not have been necessary for Shakamuni to hold up the flower, nor for Kasho to smile and receive it.

I began to study Buddhism at an advanced age and now I find myself master of this temple. I received much aid in my Zen practice, but I do not know from whom:

"Ten quarters, three worlds, all Buddhas,
Venerable ones, Bodhisattvas, Mahasattvas,
Maha Prajna Paramita."

To the venerable guest priests from many temples, and to the esteemed friends who have studied with me and helped me, I express limitless gratitude for forgetting themselves and honoring me by attending this ceremony. I hope that I shall not lose my merit.

I recall what Dogenzenji Kosodaishi said at his first pulpit:

"I had not visited many monasteries
When I happened to meet my master, Tendo Nyojo
And I instantly realized that our eyes were level and
our noses vertical;
I was not fooled by anyone after that,
And instantly returned to Japan with empty hands."

This is what I have been studying for many years, and what I also have recognized. Please give me your guidance from now on. I am sorry to have kept you standing so long.