

GLOSSARY OF WORDS AND TERMS USED AT TASSAJARA

Densho The large bell hanging next to the **han** and drum outside of the **zendo**, used to announce the time for services and ceremonies.

Doan The person who rings the bells during service or **zazen**.

Dokusan A formal interview with an Abbot or Senior Dharma Teacher.

Doshi The priest who officiates at **zazen**, service or ceremonies.

Engawa The wooden walkway surrounding the **zendo**.

Firewatch The person who extinguishes the outside lanterns at 10:30 p.m. and checks guest rooms to make sure that no one has fallen asleep with a lamp burning.

Gassho (Literally: "palms together") A **mudra** expressing nonduality. The palms are joined so that the fingertips are at the height of the nose. The hands are approximately one fist width away from the face.

Ino The meditation hall (**zendo**) manager and supervisor of monk's conduct, one of the seven positions of the **senior staff**.

Han Fifteen minutes prior to the scheduled time of **zazen**, the timekeeper known as the '**tenken**' begins striking this wooden sounding board with a mallet.

Inkin A portable bell. It usually sits atop a lacquered wooden handle and has a drape of material that covers the user's hand. It is used in ceremonies and in any service where a portable bell is needed.

Jikido The person who lights the outside lanterns before **zazen**, strikes the echo **han**, and sounds the work drum and bell before work meeting.

Jiko The attendant who carries incense for the **Doshi**.

Jukai Also known as 'lay ordination, or 'bestowing the Precepts', this ceremony is an initiation into the practice of the sixteen Bodhisattva Precepts for lay practitioners. During the ceremony, initiates receive the Precepts and a **rakusu** from a lineage-holding Teacher or Abbot.

Jundo Broadly speaking, 'jundo' can mean any ritual circuit or circumambulation. At Tassajara each morning, the **Doshi** visits four different altars on his/her way to the **zendo**, to make bows and offerings of incense. This jundo begins with the first rolldown of the **han**, and ends as the **Doshi** enters the **zendo** with the third rolldown. After offering incense and bowing at the altar, the **Doshi** walks around the **zendo** behind the meditators, in what is called

the 'kentan', or 'inspection of the sitting platform'. As the **Doshi** passes, each resident raises his/her hands in **gassho** without bowing; this joins **Doshi** and sitters in mutual acknowledgement.

Kaisando The Founder's Hall, which is the memorial building for the founder of Tassajara, Shunryu Suzuki-roshi. On the evening of the 3rd of the month and the morning of the 4th of the month, memorial services are held there for the Founder.

Kinhin Walking meditation, usually between two periods of **zazen**.

Kokyo The 'cantor' or chant leader.

Kyosaku A wooden stick, roughly a yard long and flattened at one end, sometimes carried by senior practitioners in the **zendo** during **zazen**. Sitters may request to be hit on the shoulders to help refresh the body and mind.

Mokugyo (Literally: 'wooden fish') A traditional Japanese temple instrument played during services to set the pace of certain chants.

Mudra A ritual hand position or gesture.

Okesa From the Sanskrit "Kashaya," a rectangular, patched robe made and worn as monks have done since the Buddha's time. It encircles the body and is draped over the left shoulder, leaving the right shoulder uncovered. It is given to a new priest during the priest ordination ceremony.

Practice Discussion A formal or informal private interview with a practice leader.

Practice Leader A person who has been **shuso** and who is empowered to hold **practice discussions**.

Rakusu A small version of Buddha's patched robe, suspended from cloth straps and worn around the neck. Usually, each initiate sews his or her own and receives it from the Preceptor during lay ordination.

Ryo A Japanese word meaning 'chamber' or 'section', for example, the **doan** ryo ('instrument player section') or the **tenzo** ryo ('head cook section').

Seiza A sitting position where one kneels and sits back onto the heels. This is the standard position for morning service.

Senior Staff The temple administrators: Director, **Ino**, **Tenzo**, Treasurer, **Shika**, Work Leader and Plant Manager.

Service A period of bowing, chanting, and making offerings to the Buddhas and Ancestors.

Sesshin (Literally: 'gather or touch the mind') An intensive meditation retreat usually lasting 1-7 days.

Shashu A **mudra** used when standing or walking in formal practice situations. The left hand gently makes a fist around the thumb and is held against the body at the solar plexus (right below the breastbone); the right hand gently covers the left.

Shika The guest manager of the monastery, one of the seven positions of the **senior staff**.

Shuso The Head Monk of a practice period.

Sutra A scripture regarded as having been spoken by the Buddha.

Tan The raised platforms for sitting in the **zendo**.

Tanto The Head of Practice of the monastery.

Tatami Japanese-style, thick straw floor mats.

Tenken The timekeeper who sounds the **han** and **densho**, announcing service and **zazen**, and plays the **mokugyo** during service.

Tenzo The Head Cook of the monastery, one of the seven positions of the **senior staff**.

Wake-up Bell About 30 minutes before morning **zazen**, a person runs through Tassajara ringing a loud handbell, waking everyone.

Zabuton A large, rectangular mat made of fabric-covered cotton batting, usually placed under the **zafu**.

Zafu A round cushion used for **zazen**.

Zazen A Japanese word meaning 'seated Zen' or 'sitting meditation'.

Zendo The meditation hall.