

TERMS

RING OF BONE ZENDO

Zendo: Zen hall. In Ring of Bone's case, it also serves to name the temple as a whole and the sangha itself.

Dōjō: the Japanese pronunciation of a Chinese phrase meaning "tao place." That, in turn, translates the Sanskrit term *bodhimanda*, which means "seat of awakening." Now commonly used to designate practice sites for various Asian martial art forms.

Hōjō: means roughly "ten-foot square" and designates the teacher's quarters. The place where one consults the teacher in private.

Zazen: literally "seated Zen." Central to Zen practice.

Kinhin: a form of walking practice punctuating periods of zazen.

Sesshin: translates as "to touch or convey the heartmind." Extended period of formal practice, usually multiple days.

Sutras: teachings attributed to the Buddha. A brief selection of these are chanted during most practice events.

Dokusan: a formal meeting with the teacher at one's own instigation. Rarely occurs outside zazen or sesshin. Also known as *sanzen*.

Zafu: the standard round cushion used during zazen.

Zabuton: the large square, padded mat used under a zafu.

Teishō: a Dharma presentation given by a master during sesshin.

Jikijitsu: the leader who times sittings and leads kinhin. The jikijitsu sits next to the door used to enter and exit the zendo.

Jisha: the leader responsible for attendance, work, and the dokusan line. The jisha sits directly opposite the jikijitsu, next to the door used to exit the zendo for dokusan.

Ino: leader of sutra services, meals, and tea.

Tanto: oversees the zendo and the work of the other dōjō leaders during formal practice events.

Tenzo: leader responsible for meal planning and for overseeing meal preparation during sesshin.

Densho: the very large bell hanging between the zendo and the kitchen. Used mainly to sound a ten-minute sequence signaling the beginning of an event in the dōjō.

Han: a board struck with a mallet to announce the gathering for teishō and in several other ceremonies.

Umpan: the flat “cloud gong” used mainly to announce meals.

Shijo: the bell that the jikijitsu uses to begin and end sitting periods.

Kansho: the bell used at the head of the dokusan line, answering signals from the teacher.

Inkin: a hand-held bell used by the ino and the jikijitsu.

Kyosaku: literally “admonishing stick.” A long flat stick periodically offered by the tanto during zazen. Applied to a muscular area of the shoulders, it is used in the Diamond Sangha only by request.