

Calligraphy



Soen Ozeki (*A priest of Daitoku-ji Temple Daisen-in*) Born in Nara Prefecture in 1932, Soen Ozeki entered the Buddhist priesthood at the age of 18. After graduating from Nara University of Education he wandered as a monk for seven years before becoming a priest at Daitoku-ji Temple, Daisen-in in Kyoto in 1965 when he was only 33. Since then he has frequently spoken on the truths of life to students of primary schools, junior high schools, high schools, and university, as well as the general public. Not only has he spoken in Japan, but also overseas in cities like Paris and New York. His books include: *Fudoshin*, *Sukkiri Zen*, *Yumoshin*, *Funpatushin*, *Shin Fudoshin*, *Anta ga Ichibannannya*, *Hito ha Daredemo Jozu ni Shineru*, and *Shukaku Ichijo*. Countless people have been encouraged by his talks, which though profound, are delivered with compassion and humor.



Daisen-in Scenic National Treasure

Daisen-in, considered the head monastery of the Kita faction of Daitoku-ji and highly positioned in the Daitoku-ji group, is located to the north of Daitoku-ji in Shino, which is north-west of Kyoto. Built by Daisei Kokushi in 1509, the monastery evokes the Zen culture of those days through its architecture, gardens, and paintings. At Daisen-in some significant important cultural assets, such as a karesansui garden (abstract garden composed of trees, stones, and sand) and Shiki Sansui Zu painted by Soami.

A song of Gratitude.

The whole family, harmonious and devout.
Aware of debts to our parents and ancestors.
Revering Nature, grateful for society.
Always humble, learning from others.
Able to give, demonstrating kindness.
Making one's motto: "A bright life."
Overlooking other's faults, correcting one's own.
Moderate in speech, not getting angry.
Gentle, kind, honest.
Let's appreciate the joy of life.
Patient. Peaceful.
Not getting angry.
Careful in speech.
This leads to a long life.

Soen Ozeki