

## Gyorikis Zuisse ceremony

As you know, every Zen teacher adept must complete the Zuisse ceremony. Here he is the abbot in the two main temples of Soto Zen, Eihei-ji and Soji-ji, for one night each. At the end of November 2023 the time had come for me, first Eihei-ji than Soji-ji. In the morning you can lead the main ceremonies as a so-called “Doshi”.

A very moving experience in a large, beautiful and venerable setting. Everything takes place in the early morning in the dark. You are accompanied by an entourage by lantern light. It was also extremely quiet in Eihei-ji, only the dripping of dew from the roofs and the babbling of the stream could be heard. It's freezing cold and it's like you're outside because often there are no doors or windows. Only candlelight on the altars. I will never forget this!

In Soji-ji it wasn't quite as archaic and romantic, but I liked the way they conducted the ceremonies more. In my opinion, more natural. Or it is my preference for the color red that makes me prefer this ceremony.



Afterwards you will be welcomed by the Zenji, the “Pope” of Soto Zen. Both, in Eihei-ji and Soji-ji, told me, that I now have great responsibility as a teacher to teach the Dharma correctly and maintain the beginner's mind. In fact, I now realize that this is a big task.

And then there is the incomparable, legendary abbot's breakfast. It is said that Tenzo gets up at 1:00 a.m. to prepare breakfast.