

東香山 大乘寺

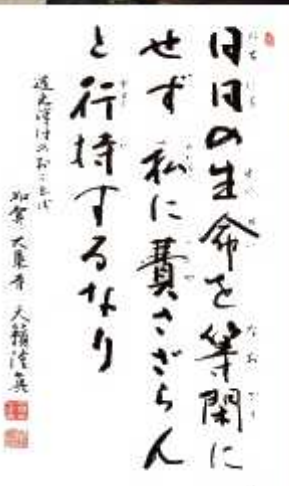
Tōkōzan Daijōji is a Zen temple of the Soto Zen school. It was built in 1261 by the 3rd Head Priest of Eiheiji temple, Tettsu Gikai Zenji (1219-1309). He received the teaching from his master Dogen Zenji (1200-1253) and continued his training in very modest and simple way. After travelling to China he came back to Japan and renewed the building of Eiheiji monastery.



Daijōji is one of the main representative temples among Eiheiji's lineage. Keizan Jokin Zenji (1268-1325), the disciple of Tettsu Gikai Zenji, was the second abbot of Daijōji.

He founded Sojiji, the second Head Temple of the Soto Zen school.

Therefore Daijōji is a temple with special links to both Head temples, Eiheiji and Sojiji.



During the Edo period, about 300 years ago, Daijōji was moved to the present location. The 26th abbot Gesshu Soko Zenji and the 27th abbot Manzan Dohaku Zenji were important reformers of the Soto sect. From that time Daijōji is known as "Kiku Daijō", meaning strict Zen training monastery. Until the present time Daijōji had many outstanding teachers, like Watanabe Genshu Zenji (Head Priest of Daihonzan Sojiji), Shimizu Koryu Roshi (Seido of Daihonzan Eiheiji), Itabashi Koshu Zenji (Head Priest of Daihonzan Sojiji), Sawaki Kodo Roshi (Seido of Daijōji).

Daijōji was built in the typical style of Shichido Garan, the arrangement of seven buildings typical for a Zen temple. The Buddha Hall is designated as a National Important Cultural Asset and some of the other buildings are designated as Ishikawa Prefecture Cultural Assets.

Daijōji welcomes foreigners for participation in Zazen and foreigners are also welcome for training in the monastery.

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