## Tea and Zen Have One Taste –

Practicing Tea Ritual

Tea Bowl named *Buji*, "Nothing to Do" by Tanaka Genya







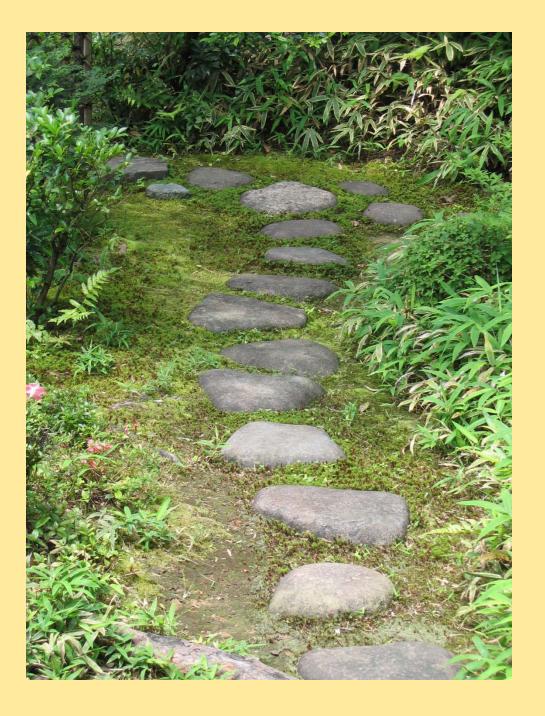
Kitchen Crew

Preparing tea for guests is similar to learning tea ritual.



Tea Preparation Area at Kōtō-in

A successful tea gathering symbolically follows the journey of the Zen adept as he or she leaves the ordinary world . . .





... Rests in a liminal space ...



... Is purified ...

... and enters the place of practice.











Sumidemae - The arrangement of charcoal





The meal offered to the guests during the first part of a formal tea gathering is based on temple fare.



懐石

Kaiseki



One of the ways that nature is brought into the tea room is through a seasonal sweet served after the meal.





After the meal and break in the garden, guests are summoned back to the tearoom with the same kind of gong used to call monks to "dharma combat" with their spiritual teacher (rōshi).





An old Korean Tea Bowl



Thick Tea Container named *Unsui*, Clouds and Water



Brocade Bag for the Thick Tea Container



Tea Scoop named Dai Yu Ho, "Big Mountain"

Some of the utensils used to prepare thick tea

The sharing a bowl of thick tea is the high point of a tea gathering—ideally a kind of shared *kensho* or seeing one's true nature.





Thick tea is followed by thin tea.







Tea Master Gary Cadwallader makes tea in the park

## References:

Girardot, N.J. 1983. *Myth and Meaning in Early Taoism: the Theme of Chaos.* Berkeley: Univ. of California Press.

Sen Soshitsu XV 1978. Cha no Sugata (Tea as it really is). *Urasenke Newsletter.* 15.