

Message from Former Abbot Chōken Ōtani (Shaku Jōnyo)

Biography

March 27, 1930	Born in Kyoto
July 30, 1996	Selected as Successor to the Abbot
July 31, 1996	Assumed the position of Abbot
November 21, 1996	The Succession Ceremony
June 30, 2020	Resigned as Abbot

“At all times, [the great compassion is untiringly] shining upon me”

On June 30th of this year, I resigned from the position of Abbot of the Shinshū Ōtani-ha.

During the twenty-four years I served as Abbot, I was able to experience such historic events as the 500th Memorial for Rennyo Shōnin, the 750th Memorial for Shinran Shōnin, and the renovation projects of the Founder’s Hall and Amida Hall. I have also experienced many tragedies, most notably the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, a catastrophe in which we all shared the grief of the victims.

In retrospect, it is solely due to the virtues of the Buddha and our spiritual forebears on the Buddhist path, as well as to the warm and unwavering support extended to me by our fellow seekers that I was able to perform the duties of Abbot for such a long period of time. On this occasion, I wish to express my deepest appreciation for the tremendous support I received from all of you.

It is my sincerest wish that our new Abbot continue to devote himself to listening to the Dharma together with our fellow seekers, be active in our communities, and ensure that the teaching of the *nenbutsu* clarified by Shinran Shōnin will continue to be passed on to the future generations to come.

Shaku Jōnyo