

Inka given to Ben Claessens

On January 19 2025, Maurice Genko Roshi gave his successor Ben Claessens Sensei 'Inka Shōmei', in the Sōtō and Rinzai Zen tradition the 'Final Seal of Approval'. The ritual was unannounced and took place after a Shuke Tokudo ceremony for two students at a Zen retreat led by Genko Roshi.

The term 'Inka' comes from the Rinzai Zen tradition. Because the tradition in which Maurice Roshi stands has both a Soto and a Rinzai line, a successor in that line can receive Inka and also pass this on to his own successors.

Inka is considered to be the final confirmation of the Dharma transmission. From that moment on, as a Zen teacher, after years of practice and teaching, you truly leave home and go your own way. With Inka also comes the formal title of 'Roshi'. It is a Japanese concept that at its core stands for *old teacher* or *old master*.

Inka is often seen as a sacred and deeply personal moment within Zen practice, and it is about more than a formal title; It symbolizes a deep spiritual connection between successor and teacher.

Ben Claessens Roshi received a new rakusu and a third Dharma name, Gendo (*Esoterical Way*), upon receiving Inka.