

## Inspiration from a visit to Eiheiiji (Temple of Eternal Peace):

*Varant, a Dharma friend from the States who has attended retreats there and has lived as a monk in Rinzai monasteries for 10 years, recently had a chance to visit Dogen's Eiheiiji (Temple of Eternal Peace). He kindly sent Jeff and a few others his spontaneous inspiration. His name as a monk is Jiun:*

My *dai-senpais* (seniors) in the dharma,

Along with three other fellow monks I was in Fukui for the past 4 days helping out at our roshi's temple Seidaiji. Yesterday evening before being dropped off at the station, our kind driver obliged with my wishes and went completely out of her way to show us Eiheiiji (at least from the outside). It was past 5 in the evening, and we only had a couple of minutes to get out of the car, bow, read a short chant and get back in the car. There were no tourists, nor monks. We barely saw anything, (maybe for the better) but I was moved. And the poet in me scribbled these words:

*eternal peace  
a mind at rest  
crossing oceans  
erecting pillars  
a single man's aspiration  
still visible, still tangible  
still within reach  
stop the suffering  
stop the delusion  
walk the original road  
I went to China  
I came back  
I entered the cold mountains  
left my bones for those  
who will come after  
Don't think your resolution is insufficient  
Don't think your karma is too heavy  
Don't think your sins are too grave  
Don't think your mistakes are too many  
In the depth of winter  
we raised buildings and halls  
in the middle of the burning world  
a sign remains  
still here*

外道の慈雲 (Wayward Jiun)  
九拜 (Nine Bows)