



A CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE ORDINATION CEREMONY

Shown here is a scene from a contemporary Japanese ordination ceremony for granting the perfect and sudden precepts (*endonkai* 圓頓戒) carried out by the Jōdo 浄土 school. It is a photograph of the head-shaving ritual, the central ritual of the ordination ceremony through which a lay person becomes a Buddhist believer. From right to left, the people are undergoing *kanjō shasui* 灌頂洒水 (the ritual of having water sprinkled on the head), having the head touched by a razor (symbolizing the shaving of the head), and having a *wagesa* 輪袈裟, a simplified *kesa* (monastic robe), placed around the neck. The photograph is from a ceremony that took place on September 11, 2010 at Seiryōji 清凉寺 in Kyoto, the temple popularly known as the Saga Shakadō 嵯峨釈迦堂.

Photograph courtesy of Saitō Takanobu.