

Zumpa Ondo (also Zunpa Ondo - ズンパ音頭)

This dance has been done at Oregon Buddhist Temple for years. We have a video from late 1980's with the teachers group dancing. The first time I danced it was 1991. It's a simple dance and one of the many that came out in the 70's and 80's. The pop music bon odori's of the time. Zumpa (Zunpa) is a made up word that doesn't seem to have any meaning or you can supply your own. The following was written and posted July 21, 2013 by Rev. Kosen Ishikawa, who arrived from Honolulu Jodo Shu Betsuin on Dec. 1, 1999 as the thirteenth resident minister of Koloa Jodo Mission. He became Bishop Kosen Ishikawa in 2019. It provides some observations into the meaning of Zumpa. The article was on the link: <https://www.koloajodo.com/2013/07/21/what-is-zunpa/> Thank you Bishop Kosen Ishikawa for your insight and translation. At OBT we do the dance a little differently but we all have fun.

"I have just uploaded a video of "Zunpa Ondo" with Japanese lyrics and my rough English translation.

I wished to translate this song into English last year, but it took me one year to start it.....and when I actually started this afternoon, it took me only two hours to complete this video.

It reminded me of a saying of "It's all in the first step."

Then, what is Zunpa?

I found many people talking about "what is Zunpa?" but nobody knows the meaning of Zunpa. One of the websites indicated that this song was made in 1973 (lyrics written by Koji Yume) in order for more young people to join in the Bon Dance.

And then, again, what is the meaning of Zunpa?

I don't know if it's correct...but after repeating "Zunpa".... many, many times, I was able to guess Zunpa must be a type of new dance music like Zunba, Samba, or Rumba!

Because it was a brand-new type of Bon Dance song in those days, the word was also made "new" and it was used as it was!

So my answer is.....Zunpa is Zunpa and I discovered it maybe came from the abbreviation of "Japanese Rumba." If you suspect this answer, please try to say "Japanese Rumba" faster over 10 times. "Japanese Rumba" sounds like "...zunpa." "

The two video's below are from 2015 and the last practice we had with Sahomi Tachibana who was retiring. Enjoy 😊
Chris sensei

OBT Teaching Video:

2015 Practice OBT Teaching Video:

<https://youtu.be/Ujmx1o7rVeQ>

OBT Dancing Video:

OBT Bon Odori - 2015 Bonodori Practice Zumpa Ondo

<https://youtu.be/OXuTDxY-p3M>

Translation in 2013 by Rev. Kosen Ishikawa, Koloa Jodo Mission, Koloa Hawaii - now Bishop Kosen Ishikawa

Tsuki wa manmaru jushichi hachi kana

月はまんまる 十七・八かナー

Moon looks so round. (I guess) its about 17 or 18 years old.

Kao ni nikibi no ato ga aru

顔にニキビの あとがある

There are acne scars on the face of the moon.

* kurikaeshi

* くりかえし

chorus

Zunzu zunzu papa nonnoko hei hei

*ズンズズンズパッパ ノンノコヘイヘイ

(no meaning) nonnoko = "cute" and "adorable" in dialect.

Zumpa zunpa de odoroo

ズンパズンパで 踊ろう

Lets dance Zunpa

Zunzu zunzu papa nonnoko hei hei

ズンズズンズパッパ ノンノコヘイヘイ

(no meaning) nonnoko = "cute" and "adorable" in dialect.

Zumpa zumpa de odoroo

ズンパズンパで 踊ろう

Lets dance Zunpa

Benkyo shitereba ofukuro gokigen na

勉強してれば おふくろごきげんナー

My mom (ofukuro) is very happy if I am studying.

Manga yomu no mo oyakoukou

マンガ読むのも 親孝行

Reading even a comic book makes my mom happy

* kurikaeshi

* くりかえし

chorus

Uchi no one-san (ne-san???) okesho ga nagai na

うちの姉さん お化粧が長いナー

My sister is taking a long time to put on her make-up.

Dare ka ii-hito dekita ka na-

誰かいい人 できたかナー

I wonder if she got a boyfriend.

* kurikaeshi

* くりかえし

chorus

Noto ippai anoko no name na-

ノートいっぱい あの子の名前ナー

There are so many, full of her name on my note book.

Kaite mita dake sore dake sa

書いてみただけ それだけさ

I've just written her name... many times... That's it.

* kurikaeshi

* くりかえし

chorus

Paato odore ba sukkato suru yo na-

パッと踊れば スカッとするよナー

I feel refreshing if I dance openly

Zumpa zumpa no Bon-Odori-

ズンパズンパの 盆おどり

So let's dance Zunpa and Zumpa of the Bon Dance

* kurikaeshi

* くりかえし

chorus