

Lectures 15-16
Everything Zen & The Ashikaga and the Arts

1. Zen Buddhism: From Chinese Origins to Japanese Patronage

a. Ch'an (Zen) Buddhism's general character

- From Sanskrit word “dhyâna” meaning “ceremonial renunciation or release”; “meditation”
- Based on Bodhidharma's sudden enlightenment and teaching, 5th c.?

b. Intro to Japan:

- **Eisai** (1141-1215) brings **Rinzai** Sect. And tea!
- **Dôgen** (1200-1253) brings **Sôtô** Sect

c. Special Character of:

- **Rinzai Zen**—katsu, striking, and kôan
- **Sôtô**—zazen

d. Hôjô's patronage of Rinzai Zen in Kamakura period (Gozan system)

e. Peak support under Ashikaga Yoshimitsu (1367-1395/1408).

2. Ashikaga Yoshimitsu (1368-1408) and the dual way of *bu* and *bun*

a. Culture for politics: cultivating legitimacy & “yuppie warriors”

b. Zen and the arts

(See visual examples in online textbook, chapter 5 “The Visual Arts”.
For Nô, see Seami selections and *Atsumori* among the electronic readings)

3. Politics, Zen, and Nô theatre

a. The politics of Nô theater: Yoshimitsu and Zeami (Seami, 1363-1443)

b. Zeami's theory & practice of Nô

- “The flower is the mind; the seed is the performance.”
- **Yûgen** (define and discuss)