

Lecture 18
“Everything Zen, everything Zen, I don’t think so...”

1. From Chinese Origins to Japanese Patronage

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

- “dhyâna” (“ceremonial renunciation or release”; “meditation”)
- Zen Patriarchs: Master-Disciple lineage.
- contemplation is wisdom (not a path to wisdom).

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 Zen**—*zazen*

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

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

2. Yoshimitsu’s “National Endowment for the Arts”: embodying *bu* & *bun*

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

b. Zen and the arts

- See examples in Smits. For Nô, see ER Seami, “Atsumori”

3. Politics, Zen, and Nô theatre

a. The politics of Nô theater: Yoshimitsu and Zeami (Seami)

b. Zeami’s theory & practice of Nô

- “practice and realization are identical” (*shushô ittô*)
- “The flower is the mind; the seed is the performance.”
- *yûgen* (subtle profundity, elegant simplicity, quiet beauty)