

Heian Japan and *Jigokumon* (Gate of Hell)

I. *Nippon* (Ch. *Jih-pen*) = Source of the Sun

A. Uji Period — ca. 300–552

1. rice (from China)
2. paper (from China)
3. ink (from Korea)
4. ideographs and calligraphy (from China)
5. religion — Shinto (importance of Kami)
6. political views (differ from Chinese)

B. Age of Reforms — 552–710

1. Buddhism Introduced — 552 (or 538)
 - a. Mahayana
 - b. becomes state religion — 685
2. Shōtoku Taishi (regent: 593–622)
 - a. “the Son of Heaven in the Land Where the Sun Rises”
 - b. Seventeen Article Constitution — 604
 - c. adopted Chinese calendar — 604
 - d. twelve ranks for court officials
3. Taika (Great Reform)
 - a. all land put under public ownership/based on Tang system — 646
 - b. nation-wide system of post roads
 - c. uniform system of taxation

C. Nara Period — 710–794

1. geomancy used to select site of capital
2. Horyūji — seat of Buddhist power

D. Heian Period — 794–1185

1. capital moved to Heian-Kyo (Kyoto)
2. formalized court etiquette
3. poetry writing (31 syllables; limited topics)
4. memoirs, diaries, and the world's first novel
 - a. Murasaki Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji* (*Genji Monogatari*)
 - b. Murasaki Shikibu, *Diary and Poetic Memoirs*
 - c. Izumi Shikibu, *Diary* (*Nikki*)
 - d. Sei Shōnagan, *Pillow Book* (*Makura no Sōshi*)
 - e. Sarashina, *As I Crossed a Bridge of Dreams*
5. Fujiwara Epoch — 866–1160 (power behind the throne)
6. Taira Clan Ascendancy — 1068–1180
 - a. Lord Kiyomori (1118–1181)
 - b. Hōgen Uprising (1156)
 - c. Heiji Uprising (1160)
 - (1) *Heiji Monogatari*
 - (2) Emperor Nijō (reign name “Heiji” = reign of peace)
 - (3) monk-counsellor Shinzei (Fujiwara Michinori)

- (4) Minamoto Yoshitomo (1123–1160)
- (5) Fujiwara Nobuyori (1133–1160)
- 7. Gempei War (1180–1185)

E. Kamakura Period — 1185–1333

II. Relationship of Shinto to Buddhism

A. Types of Buddhism That Developed in Japan

- 1. Nichiren
- 2. Ji – relies on mantras to achieve paradise
- 3. Jodo – relies on mantras to achieve paradise
- 4. Shin – relies on mantras to achieve paradise
- 5. Zen – Indian type, contemplative, rejects things of this world
- 6. Tendai – magical, emphasis on spells, charms, incantations
- 7. Shingon – magical, emphasis on spells, charms, incantations

B. *Nihongi* – earliest recorded use of “*Shin-dō*” (= way of the gods)

- 1. also *kami no michi* (= way of the Kami)
- 2. contrast with *Butsu-dō* (= way of the Buddha)
- 3. Hachiman – *kami* who protected the Buddha// by 738, a *bodhisattva*

C. Taihō Code (*Taihō Ritsuryō*) (701)

- 1. Office of the Kami (*Jingikan*)
- 2. Registers of shrines (*Kanshahō*)

D. *Kojiki* (*Record of Ancient Matters*) (712)

- 1. Amaterasu – Sun goddess
- 2. divine origin of imperial family

E. Harmonization of Buddhism and Shinto

- 1. Tendai and Shingon schools
- 2. Concept of *honji-suijaku*
 - a. *honji* = “original substance” or “true nature”
 - b. *suijaku* = “manifest traces”

III. *Jigokumon* (*Gate of Hell*) (1953)

A. Film Info

- 1. based on play “Kesa’s Husband” by Kan Kikuchi (b. 1889)
- 2. dir. Teinosuke Kinugasa (1896–1982)
- 3. main characters
 - a. Moritoh – brave but boorish soldier
 - b. Kady Kesa – beautiful and elegant wife of Wataru
 - c. Wataru – aristocrat, member of Imperial guard

B. Comparison with *Rashomon* (1950)

- 1. dir. Akira Kurosawa (1910–1998)
- 2. *jidai geki* – “costume plays”

Poems of the Heian Court

The robe of haze
Now worn by Spring must indeed be woven
Of threads of gossamer,
For the slightest breath of the mountain wind
Seems to rend it into shreds.

– Ariwara Yukihira (818–893)

How I long to hear
Whether the flowers have yet fallen—
If only there were someone
Come fresh from my native village
To tell me of the cherry blossoms there.

– Lady Ise (fl. ca. 935)

Though formerly I heard
About the road that all must travel
At the inevitable end,
I never thought, or felt, today
Would bring that far tomorrow.

– Narihira (825–880)

A thing that fades
Without its color visible
Is the flower of the heart
Of a man of the middle
Of the world.

– Ono no Komachi (fl. ca. 850)