

Overseas Influence & the Imperial State

21H.154, Session 3

Periodization

- Yamato Period: 250-710 CE
 - Kofun (“Ancient Tombs”) period: 250-550 CE
 - Reform/Asuka period: 550-710 CE
- Nara period: 710-784 CE



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JE, Ch. 7, “What Used to Be Called Shinto”



Shamaness-Himiko-Queen Mother of the West-Amaterasu?



Kofun Period: 250 -550CE

matsurigoto (政
):

“worship”

and

“government”



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“Nintoku” Daisen Tomb, Osaka (ca. mid. 400s)



--- Modern international boundaries

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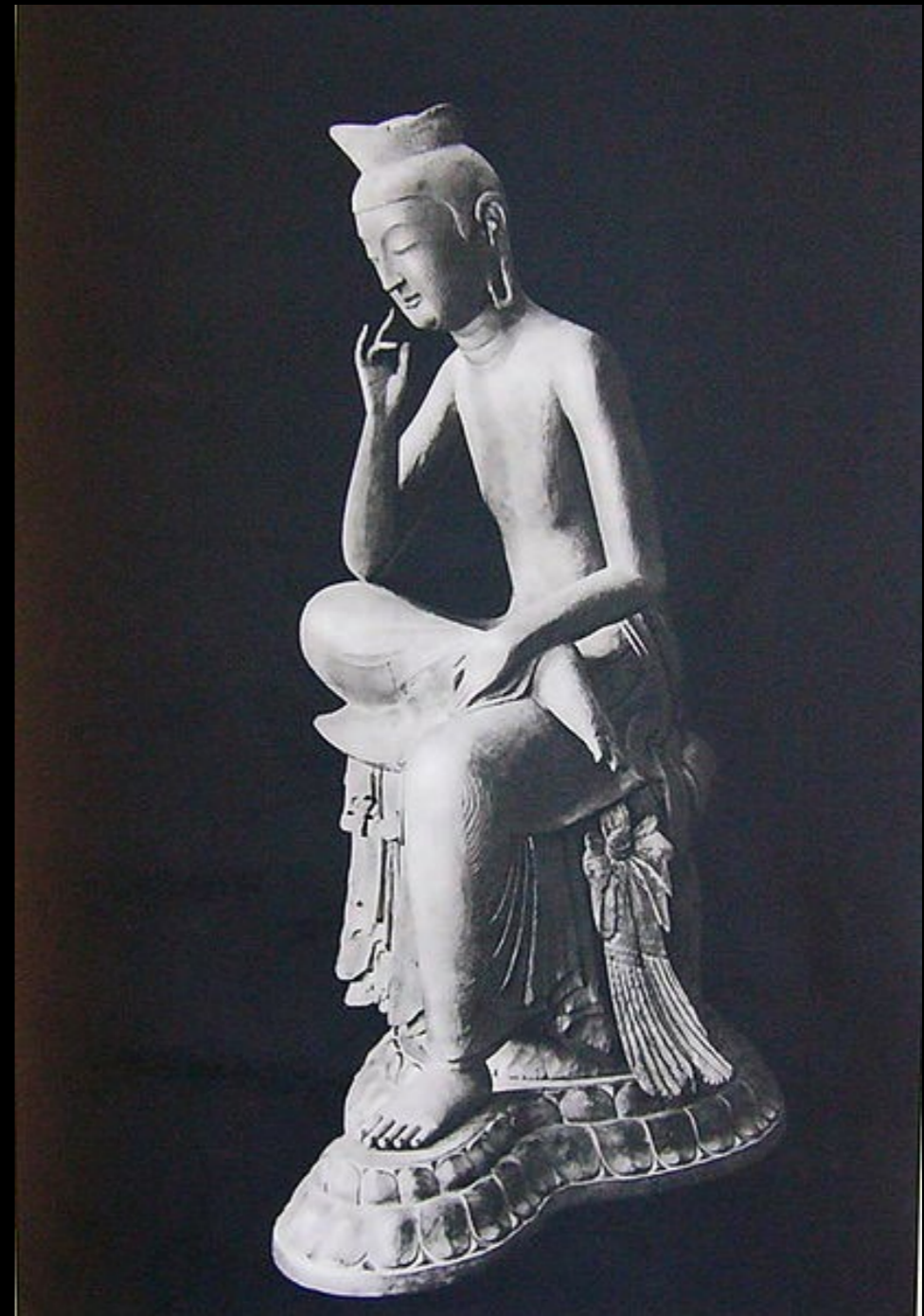


Be and Uji

- *be*: “craftspeople and payers of taxes in kind”
overseen by *muraji (uji)*
- Japan divided and rule by competing clans (*uji*) each
with *ujigami* (clan gods)=Shintō deities
- *kabane* system (hereditary proximity to ruler)
 - *Ō-omi* (Great Imperial Chieftain): Soga
 - *Ō-muraji* (Great Deity Chieftain): Nakatomi,
Mononobe

Transitions in the 6th century
(a.k.a. “Age of Reform”/Later
Yamato/Asuka Period, 550-710)

- 552: introduction of Buddhism via the King of Paekche (Korea)



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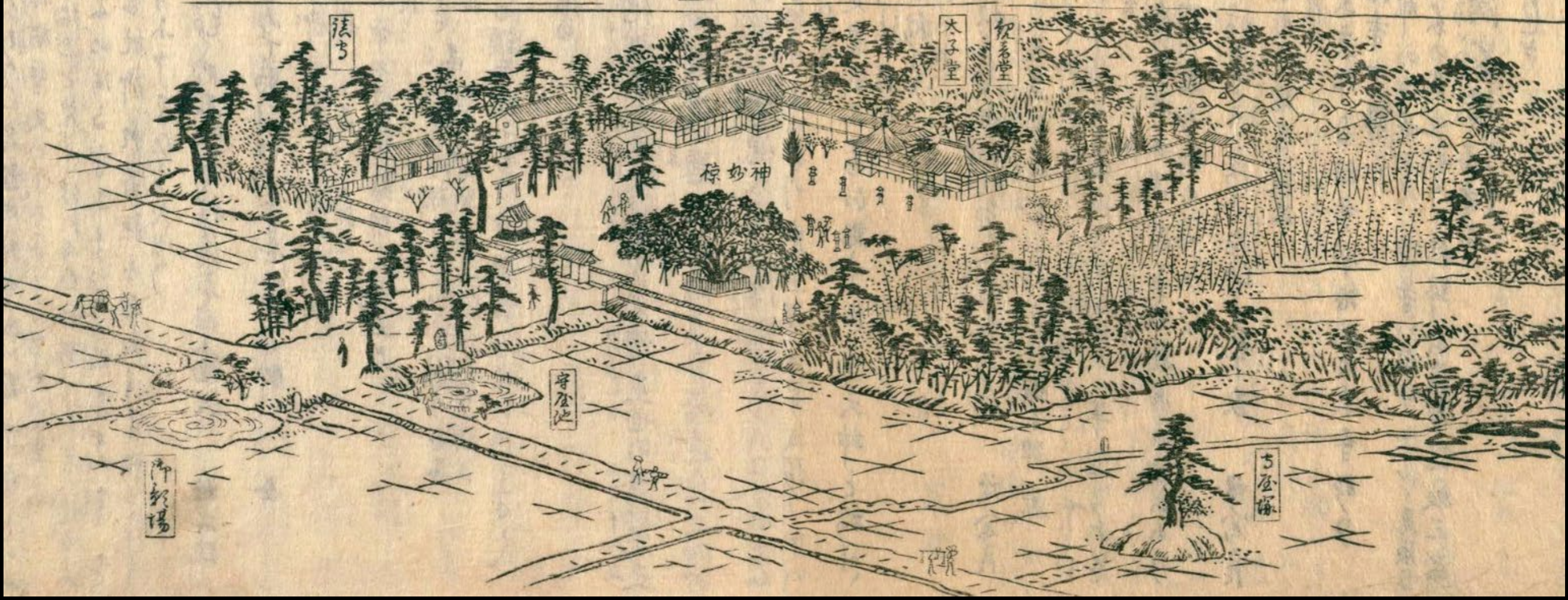
下太子
將軍寺
神妙様

むくの 実や
のりん坊を
あまれば
浪花八十四
魚丈

飛井真観名



庫裏



Soga Clan

- Buddhism sponsored by “Great Imperial Chieftain” Soga clan
- 587: Soga-no-Umako’s victory over “Shintoist” Mononobe
- Centralizers vs. local chieftains

Why Buddhism?

- Buddha as protector of state
 - Support existing hierarchy
 - Single religious hierarchy
- Not exclusive: allow for syncretism
 - *kami* as supporters of Buddha
- Advanced technology and culture: civilization

Prince Shōtoku (574-622)



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Prince Shōtoku (574-622)

- Regent for Queen Suiko (r. 592-628)
- Related to Soga clan
- Admirer of China
- Founded and resided in Hōryūji temple
- Never reigned



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“Shōtoku” Reforms

- Merit-based “cap ranks” system
- “Seventeen Articles” of 604
- 3 missions to China (607, 608, 614)
- “The Child of Heaven in the land where the sun rises addresses the Child of Heaven in the land where the sun sets.” (SJT, p.11)

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21H.154 / 21G.554 Inventing the Samurai
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