

Japanese Buddhism and the Branch Families of the Imperial House during the Early Modern and Modern Transition

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Kajū-ji Temple in Kyōto
(one of a *monzeki* temple)

miyake 宮家

= branch families of the Imperial House

PRE-MODERN TIMES

- limited only four households: Fushimi 伏見宮; Katsura 桂宮; Arisugawa 有栖川宮; and Kan'in 閑院宮
- adoption was allowed
- other than heirs became Buddhist monks at *monzeki* 門跡 temples

MODERN TIMES

- the number of households was unlimited
- adoption was prohibited

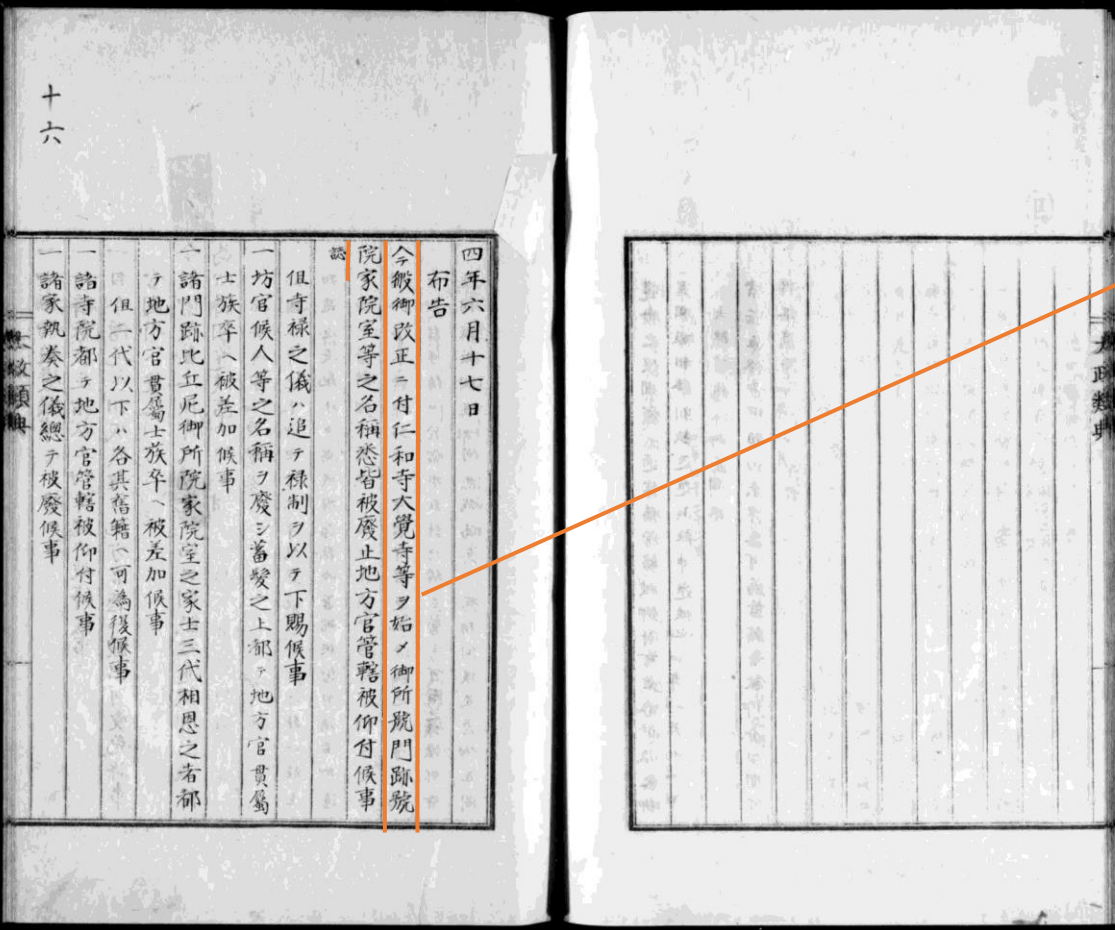
Monzeki Temples for Princes/Princesses

Miya-Monzeki (for princes)

- Rinnō-ji Temple 輪王寺
- Myōhō-in Temple 妙法院
- Shōgo-in Temple 聖護院
- Shōkō-in Temple 照高院
- Shōren-in Temple 青蓮院
- Sanzen-in Temple 三千院
- Manju-in Temple 曼殊院
- Bishamon-dō Temple 毘沙門堂
- Enman-in Temple 圓滿院
- Ninna-ji Temple 仁和寺
- Daikaku-ji Temple 大覺寺
- Kajū-ji Temple 勸修寺
- Chion-in Temple 知恩院

Ama-Monzeki (for princesses)

- Daishō-ji Temple 大聖寺
- Hōkyō-ji Temple 寶鏡寺
- Donge-in Temple 曇華院
- Kōshō-in Temple 光照院
- Reikan-ji Temple 靈鑑寺
- Enshō-ji Temple 圓照寺
- Rinkyū-ji Temple 林丘寺
- Chūgū-ji Temple 中宮寺
- Jijū-in Temple 慈受院
- Sanjichion-ji Temple 三時知恩寺
- Hokke-ji Temple 法華寺
- Zuiryū-ji Temple 瑞龍寺
- Sōji-in Temple 總持院
- Hōji-in Temple 寶慈院
- Honkō-in Temple 本光院



The recent amendment to the law abolishes all titles for *monzeki* temples, including Ninna-ji Temple, and Daikaku-ji Temple, etc.

✘ Shinto is a state belief, NOT a religion.
(policy of the Meiji government)



Was Buddhism completely excluded from the Imperial Family?

Grand Council of State, Meiji 4 (1871). 6. 17



① Prince Akira
(1816-1898)



② Prince Kikumaro
(1873-1908)



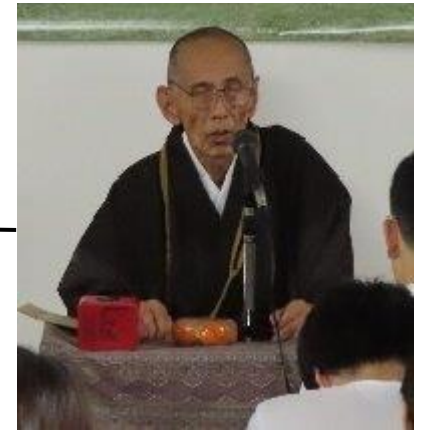
③ Prince Takehiko
(1898-1987)

Kicked out from the Imperial Family in 1947 by American occupation forces

Left the Imperial Family in 1928 and established the Marquess of Tsukuba



Prince Fujimaro
(1905-1978)



Tsukuba Jōhen
(1935-)

Genealogy of Yamashina-no-Miya 山階宮 (1864-1947)

Dual Structure of the Japan's Family Concept

uji 氏 (Clans) = succession

- Male-line lineage (in the main family)
= dynastic continuity (in monarchs)
- ancestral rites

- Father-line lineage is an absolute requirement
- no ability needed

ie 家 (Households) = Inheritance

- family name
- family status
- family jobs
- properties

- male-line, female-line, adoption, whatever
- sometimes ability is important

Conclusion

- The separation of Shinto and Buddhism was a pioneering step in the construction of the modern Imperial system
- Buddhism was NOT excluded completely from the Imperial Family
- Private devotion to Buddhism continued in *miyake*
- Buddhist faith as a family job and identity
- Continuation of the legally abolished notion of '*ie*' in *miyake*
- The relationship between the Imperial Family and religion should be separated into public (government-led) and private aspects
- The example of the princesses, who did not leave *monzeki* temples after the Meiji Restoration, is also important

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Thank you for your attention.

御清聴有難うございました。