



PHOTOGRAPH OF NONOMURA NAOTARŌ AT SIXTY YEARS OLD

Nonomura Naotarō 野々村直太郎 (1871–1946) was a Jōdo Shin 浄土真 priest of the Nishi Honganji 西本願寺 denomination and a professor of religious studies at Ryukoku University in Kyoto. In 1923 he authored a series of articles entitled “Jōdokyō kaishinron” 浄土教改新論 (Renewal of Pure Land Buddhism) in which he argued that ideas like Amida 阿弥陀 Buddha and birth in the Pure Land are nothing more than myths and declared that Pure Land teachings based on such ideas are superstitions. Such provocative views shook the worlds of Jōdo Shin Buddhism, as well as that of Buddhism more generally, to their cores.

Courtesy of Sōō Gakusha 相応学舎