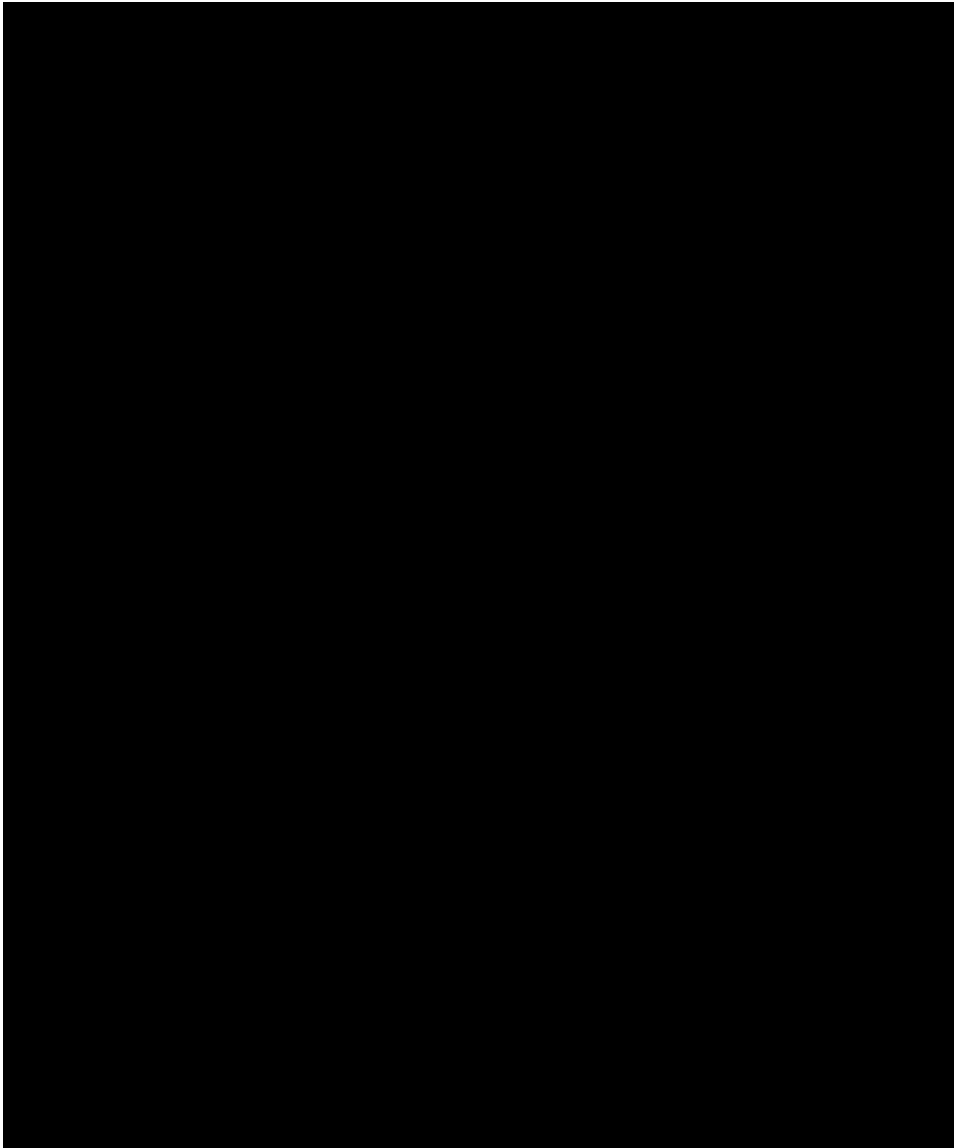


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PORTAIT OF KYŌNYO

This portrait of Kyōnyo 教如 (1558–1614), a twelfth-generation descendant of Shinran 親鸞 (1173–1262) and the first abbot of Higashi Honganji 東本願寺, was completed in the first year of Kan'ei 寛永 (1624). The inscription on the back of the portrait indicates that it was given to Ryōka 了可 (n.d.) of Entokuji 圓徳寺 in present-day Osaka by Kyōnyo's son and successor Sennyō 宣如 (1604–1658). Since it was painted just ten years after Kyōnyo's passing, the painter probably knew Kyōnyo and thus it can be considered a good likeness of this imposing figure, who worked for the preservation of the Honganji institution in the turbulent years as Japan transitioned from the Warring States period (1467–1568) to Tokugawa 徳川 rule. In commemoration of his four hundredth memorial service, the article included below by Ueba Akio introduces his life and the events that led up to the foundation of Higashi Honganji.