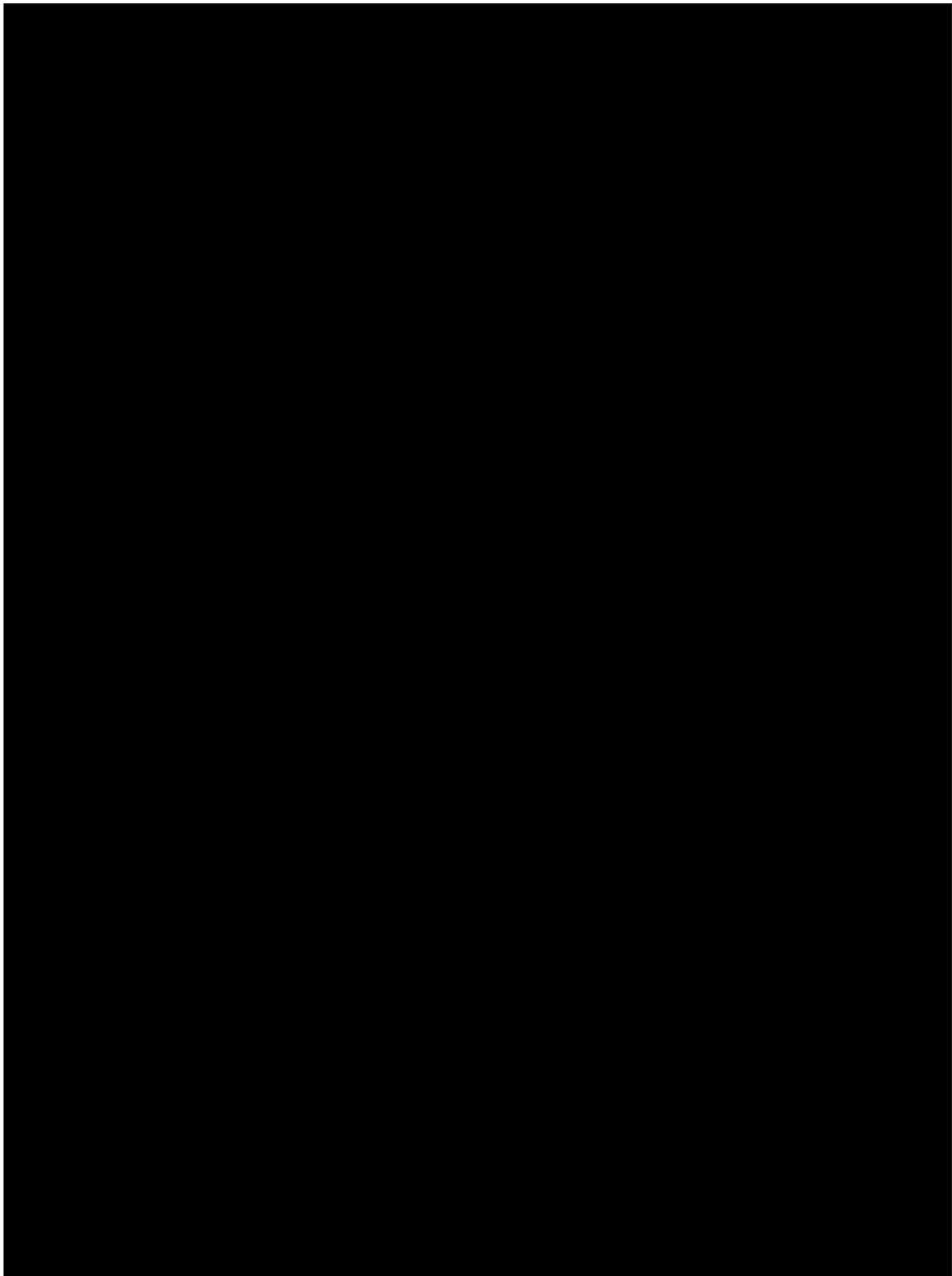


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NISHIDA KITARŌ, 1870–1945

Retired from the university in Kyoto where he established what is known as the Kyoto school of philosophy, Nishida devoted himself to thinking and writing, as shown in this wartime photograph taken in February 1943. Nishida was seventy-two at the time and living in Kamakura through the arrangement of D. T. Suzuki, his friend from school days in Kanazawa, who was living in another section of the city. Aged and stricken with rheumatism, Nishida strove to be productive even in his final years. The numerous treatises he left behind deal with various philosophical themes, some touching on political issues, that divulge his notion of the dialectical world and the logic of place. In June 1943, in compliance with a request made by the government's Institute of National Policy, Nishida started to compose his disputed *The Principle of the New World Order*, in a desperate bid to influence the leaders of the militarist government. In February 1945, amidst air strikes made by B-29 bombers, he began his final treatise, *The Logic of Topos and the Religious Worldview*.

Nishida died on 7 June 1945, just two months before the end of the war. A poem he wrote when he first moved to Kyoto is given below.

*When I die,
Bury me in the hills of my ancient land,
That in dream I may take up the discussion
With friends of old.*

Courtesy Iwanami Publishing Co., Tokyo