

Outline Chronology

(including publication dates of important works)

- 1900 Born February 27 in Noto, Ushizu-chō, Ishikawa prefecture, Japan, the only child of Nishitani Yonejirō and Kayo.
- 1906 Age 6 The family moved to Tokyo. Entered Sarugaku Primary School.
- 1907 Age 7 Moved to Ichigaya, Tokyo; re-entered primary school at Ichigaya.
- 1912 Age 12 Entered Waseda Middle School.
- 1914 Age 14 Death of his father Yonejirō on December 13.
- 1917 Age 17 Graduated Middle School. Travelled to Hakodate, Hokkaido to recuperate from illness.
- 1918 Age 18 Advanced to Daiichi Kōtō Gakkō (Upper Middle School), enrolled in German course.
- 1921 Age 21 Graduated Kōtō Gakkō. Entered Kyoto Imperial University, Faculty of Literature, Department of Philosophy.
- 1924 Age 24 Graduated from Kyoto Imperial University. Appointed lecturer at Kyoto Kōtō Kōgei Gakkō (the present Kyoto Kōgei Sen'i Daigaku). Married to Karasawa Fumi, from Matsumoto, Nagano prefecture.
- 1926 Age 26 Appointed lecturer at Daisan Kōtō Gakkō. Son Yūsaku born.
- 1927 Age 27 シェリング, 自由意志論 *Sheringu—Jiyū ishi ron*
[Schelling: On Free Will]
A Japanese translation of *Philosophische Untersuchungen über das Wesen der menschlichen* by Friedrich Schelling. In *Tetsugaku Koten Sōsho*, Vol. 4
(Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten).
- 1928 Age 28 Appointed part-time professor at Ōtani University, Kyoto.
- 1929 Age 29 Daughter Sayaka born.
- 1932 Age 32 Appointed lecturer at Kyoto Imperial University, Faculty of Literature.
- 1933 Age 33 Appointed lecturer at Kyoto Imperial University, Faculty of Law. Daughter Sayuri born.
神秘思想史 *Shimpi shisō shi*
[A History of Mystical Thought]

THE EASTERN BUDDHIST

- In *Kōza Tetsugaku*
(Tokyo: Iwanami).
- 1935 Age 35 Promoted to Assistant Professor of the Faculty of Literature at Kyoto Imperial University.
- 1937 Age 37 Travelled to Germany as a research scholar sent by the Ministry of Education to attend the University of Freiburg. Daughter Mayumi born.
- 1939 Age 39 Returned from Germany.
- 1940 Age 40 根源的主体性の哲学 *Kongenteki shutaisei no tetsugaku*
[The Philosophy of Fundamental Subjectivity]
(Tokyo: Kōbundō).
- 1941 Age 41 Daughter Toshiko born.
世界観と国家観 *Sekai-kan to kokka-kan*
[A World View and a National View]
(Tokyo: Kōbundō).
- 1943 Age 45 Promoted to Professor, Faculty of Literature at Kyoto Imperial University.
- 1945 Age 45 Received degree of Doctor of Literature (*Bungaku hakushi*).
- 1947 Age 47 Forced to resign from Kyoto University as a result of a purge instituted by Allied Occupation Forces.
- 1948 Age 48 神と絶対無 *Kami to zettai mu*
[God and Absolute Nothingness]
(Tokyo: Kōbundō).
- 1949 Age 49 ニヒリズム *Nihirizumu*
[Nihilism]
(Tokyo: Kōbundō).
ロシアの虚無主義 *Roshia no kyomu shugi*
[Nihilism in Russia]
(Tokyo: Kōbundō).
宗教と政治と文化 *Shūkyō to seiji to bunka*
[Religion, Politics and Culture]
(Kyoto: Hōzōkan).
- 1951 Age 51 現代社会の諸問題と宗教 *Gendai shakai no shomondai to shūkyō*
[Religion and Social Problems in the Modern Age]
(Kyoto: Hōzōkan).
- 1952 Age 52 Reinstated as Professor at Kyoto University.
- 1955 Age 55 Death of his mother Kayo on March 26.
- 1961 Age 61 宗教とは何か *Shūkyō to wa nanika*
[What is Religion?]

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- (Tokyo: Sōbunsha).
- 1963 Age 63 Retired from Kyoto University. Appointed Professor at Ōtani University.
- 1964 Age 64 Appointed Professor Emeritus of Kyoto University. Visiting Professor at the University of Hamburg, Germany.
- 1965 Age 65 Elected member of the Japan Academy. Appointed editor of the *Eastern Buddhist* (New Series).
- 1969 Age 69 Lectured on the "I-Thou Relation" to the Japanese Emperor. Attended East-West Philosophers' Conference in Honolulu. Visiting Professor at Temple University.
 禅における「人」と「法」 *Zen ni okeru 'nin' to 'hō'*
 ["Person" and "Dharma" in Zen]
In Zen to Honshitsu to Ningen no Shinri
 (Tokyo: Sōbunsha).
- 1970 Age 70 Awarded the Second Order of the Sacred Treasure (勲二等瑞宝章). Attended international conference on hermeneutics at Syracuse University.
- 1971 Age 71 Retired from Ōtani University; continued as part-time lecturer. Served as chairman (until December 1989) of CORMOS, an annual conference on the role of religion in contemporary society.
- 1972 Age 72 Awarded the Goethe Medal (Gold Award) from the Goethe Institute, West Germany.
- 1975 Age 75 この永遠なるもの *Kono eien naru mono*
 [The Eternal]
 (Kyoto: Yūkōsha).
- 1979 Age 79 Travelled to the USA to lecture on *The Blue Cliff Records* at the Mt. Baldy Zen Center, California.
- 1980 Age 80 風のころろ *Kaze no kokoro*
 [The Mind of the Wind]
 (Tokyo: Shinchōsha).
- 1982 Age 82 Received Award for Cultural Merit (*Bunka Kōrōsha*).
 佛教について *Bukkyō ni tsuite*
 [On Buddhism]
 (Kyoto: Hōzōkan)
- 1984 Age 84 Received the Cultural Award from The Society for the Promotion of Buddhism. Death of his wife Fumi on August 3.
- 1985 Age 85 西田幾太郎 *Nishida Kitarō*
 [Nishida Kitarō]
 (Tokyo: Chikuma Shobō).
- 1986 Age 86 禅の立場 *Zen no tachiba*

THE EASTERN BUDDHIST

[The Standpoint of Zen]

(Tokyo: Sōbunsha).

寒山詩 *Kanzan shi*

[The Poetry of Kanzan]

(Tokyo: Chikuma Shobō).

1987-89 Age 87-89 正法眼藏講話 4 vols. *Shōbōgenzō kōwa*

[Talks on the *Shōbōgenzō*]

(Tokyo: Chikuma Shobō).

1988 Age 88 Received the Institute of Oriental Philosophy Scholarly Achievement Award.

1990 Age 90 Publication of the first series of his *Collected Writings* in 13 volumes completed. (Tokyo: Sōbunsha). On November 24, he died peacefully in his sleep at 6:15 a.m. The same day he was posthumously granted the Senior Grade of the Fourth Court rank; the Second Order of the Sacred Treasure (正四位勳二等旭日重光章).