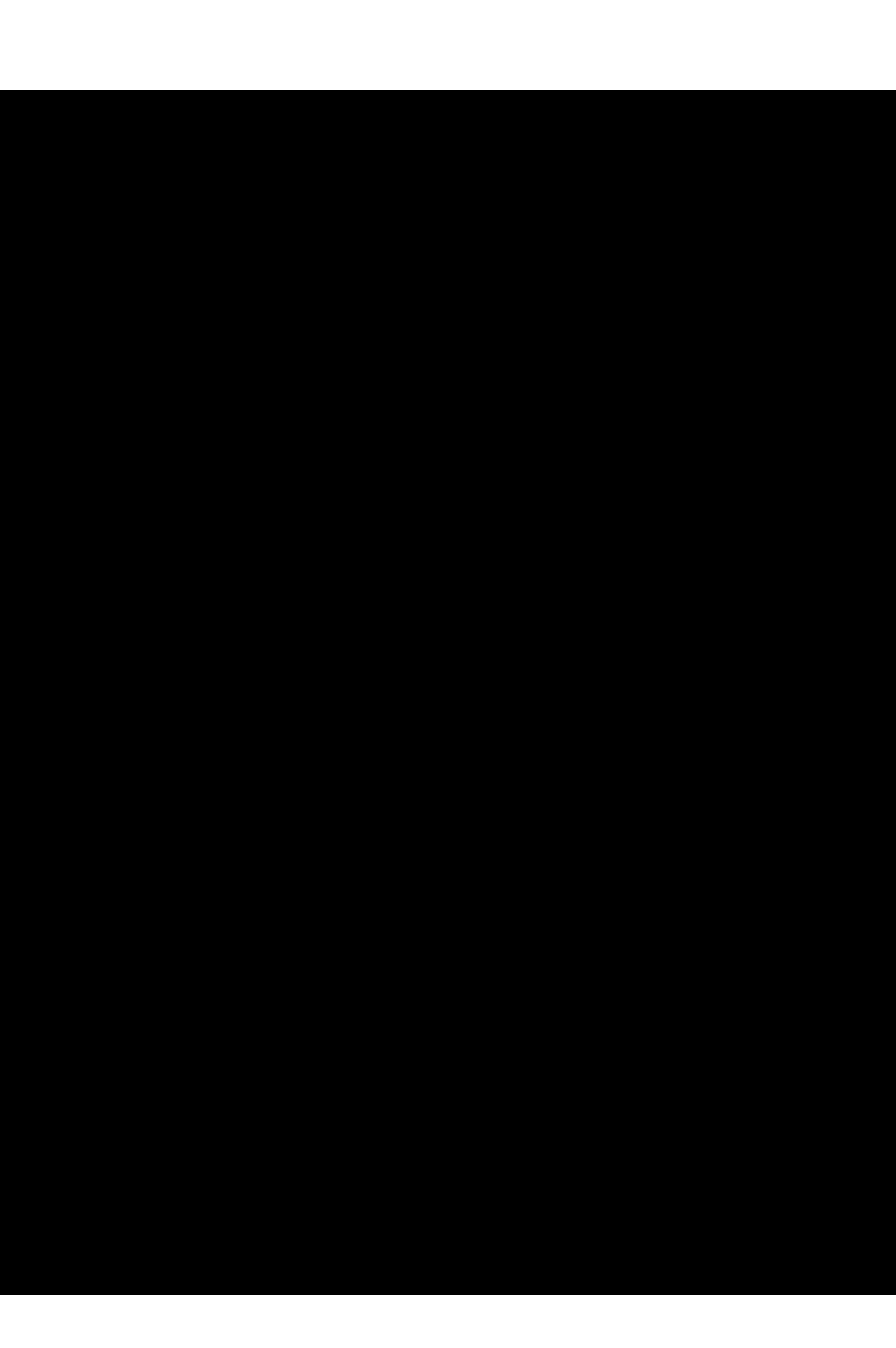


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RENNYO SHŌNIN

Rennyō (1415–1499) was the eighth head priest of the Honganji Temple of the Jōdo Shin sect, which recognizes Shinran (1173–1262) as its founder. Within the Honganji, Rennyō is revered as the restorer of Shinran’s teaching; under Rennyō’s leadership the Honganji emerged as the most widespread and powerful religious movement in medieval Japan.

According to an inscription on the reverse of the painting, this portrait depicts Rennyō at the age of seventy-seven, and was given by Rennyō to a disciple named Kyōjō. The upper half of the original painting also contains a portrait of sect founder Shinran.

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