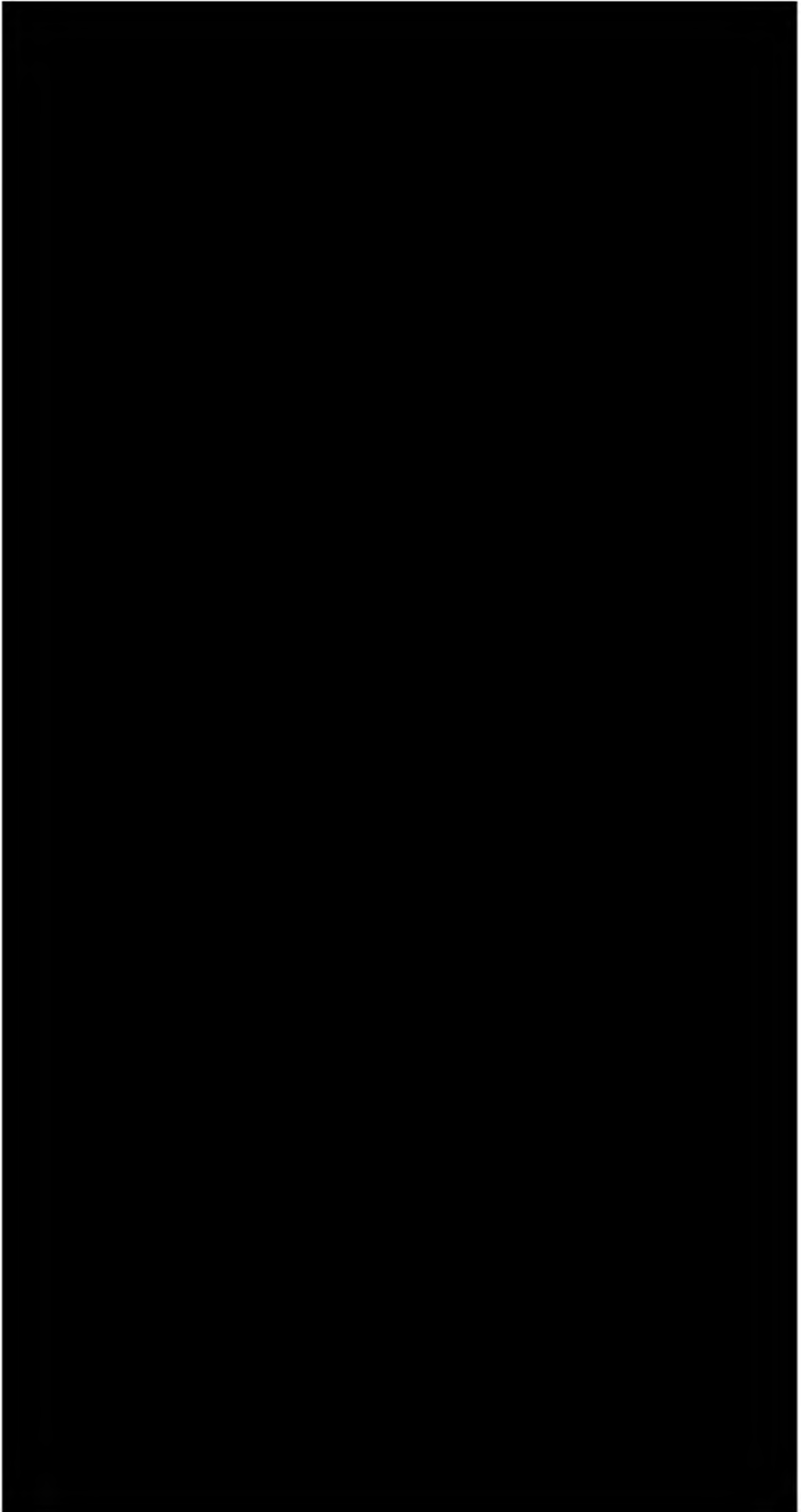


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## CALLIGRAPHY BY NISHIDA KITARŌ

Nishida Kitarō (1870–1945), the greatest philosopher produced by modern Japan, was also known for the excellence of his calligraphy. Specimens of his work are prized by collectors and connoisseurs of the art. Since his death, several editions of reproductions of his calligraphy have been published, the latest and most comprehensive of which appeared two years ago.

The ink-rubbing reproduced here was taken from an engraving on a large stone tablet erected as a memorial by his disciples at a site in the mountainous region of Nagano in central Japan.

The inscription consists of two sayings. The first, in Chinese, appears in a sermon given by the T'ang Zen master Tokusan. (The italicized words are those which are inscribed on the tablet.)

When you have "no matter" in yourself, you do not engage in illusory seeking; what you acquire by means of such seeking is in fact no acquirement. You must be with *no-matter in mind* and *no-mind in matters*. Then you will be void and yet a spiritual void, empty and yet a wondrous emptiness.

(Keitoku dentō roku, vol. 15)

The second saying, in Japanese, is Nishida's own.

*To think by becoming the things themselves;*

*To act by becoming the things themselves.*

These words occur frequently in the philosophical essays and other works of Nishida's later years. They can be said to express Tokusan's meaning in more real and concrete terms from Nishida's philosophical standpoint of the "self-identity of the absolutely contradictory."