

# The Phoenix Hall at Uji and the Symmetries of Replication

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In 1053 the Japanese nobleman Fujiwara no Yorimichi (990–1074), of the celebrated Fujiwara family of palace aristocrats and aesthetes, witnessed the completion and consecration at his residential temple, Byōdōin, of a legendary Amitābha Hall. The birdlike configuration of this building yields the name by which it has come to be better known to commentators and worshipers alike, the Phoenix Hall, or Hōōdō (Figs. 1, 2).<sup>1</sup> Situated on the western bank of the Uji River in the scenic town of Uji not far from the ancient capital city of Kyoto,<sup>2</sup> and extensively restored in the twentieth century, the Phoenix Hall is a three-dimensional interpretation of the teachings of an important Pure Land Buddhist scripture, the *Kan Murōju kyō*, or *Visualization Sutra*. As such the Phoenix Hall forms at Byōdōin a sanctified zone for the worship and celebration of the Buddha Amida, or Amitābha,<sup>3</sup> as manifest in his world-realm Gokuraku, or Sukhāvātī, in the western quadrant of the Buddhist cosmos. It is an evocative site, not simply for its physical beauty but also for the enduring human concerns—of life and of family—that have governed its reception in history.

The Phoenix Hall was unprecedented in plan and construction. Unlike most Buddhist architecture of the time, it was not modeled on an earlier temple structure or group of structures, nor did it follow established protocols for an Amitābha Hall. Whereas this was typically either a square building under a pyramidal roof structure, or rectangular in plan with a hip-and-gable roof, the Phoenix Hall was constructed as a square building with galleries extending to each side and a corridor attached at the rear (Fig. 3).<sup>4</sup> Ōta Hirotarō and Shimizu Hiroshi have suggested that Yorimichi, who commissioned and financed the Phoenix Hall, also

invented it.<sup>5</sup> The rationale for such an idiosyncratic production lies in the importance of the *Visualization Sutra* to Yorimichi and his family.

In keeping with its formal title *Bussetsu kan Murōju Butsu kyō*, or *The Sutra on Visualization of Murōju, the Buddha of Immeasurable Life, as Expounded by the Buddha Śākyamuni*, the *Visualization Sutra* explains a set of sixteen visualizations that produce a vision of Amitābha in Sukhāvātī for those aspiring to rebirth there.<sup>6</sup> Aspirants are instructed to contemplate the vision, meditate on Amitābha, and recite his name, thereby earning spiritual merit for future entry into his world-realm. The sutra is visual and visionary in emphasis and has visualization and contemplation of the Buddha as its goals. The initial stages of visualization are intended to generate a feature of Sukhāvātī that appears to the aspirant “whether the eyes are open or shut” (342a3–4, 20) and is then focused upon for deeper contemplation.<sup>7</sup>

The *Visualization Sutra* is a sermon directed by the Buddha to a woman, the virtuous Idaike, or Lady Vaidehī, who has implored him for rebirth in a pure land to escape her travails “in this polluted and evil place teeming with hells, hungry ghosts, and animals” (341a–b). The Buddha appears before her and her female attendants and, “a golden light radiating from his forehead,” illuminates the cosmos and the pure lands from which he asks her to choose for her rebirth (341b21–27). Lady Vaidehī selects Sukhāvātī, “the place of Amitābha,” and asks the Buddha to teach her how to achieve rebirth there (341b29–341c1). The Buddha smiles, a light of five colors emanating from his mouth, and begins the instruction (341c1–2).

He tells Lady Vaidehī that, through ethical behavior and

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1. In documents of the 11th and 12th centuries the Phoenix Hall is called the Uji Midō, “Venerable Hall at Uji”; Byōdōin Daidō, “Great Hall at Byōdōin”; and Byōdōin Amidadō, “Amida Hall at Byōdōin.” This terminology continues into the 17th century, when it is replaced by Byōdōin Hōōdō, “Phoenix Hall at Byōdōin,” now the most widely used designation. For a compendium of primary texts on Byōdōin and the Phoenix Hall from 1052 through 1782 see Ōta H., “Shirō,” in *Byōdōin taikan*, 1, 94–112.

2. In the 11th and 12th centuries, Uji could be reached from Kyoto, overland or by boat, in less than a day, as when Emperor Shirakawa visited in 1087 and 1091, and Emperor Go Shirakawa in 1170. For Shirakawa’s visit, see *Fusō ryakki*, 327 (Ōtoku 4/1087.5.19), and *Go Nijō Moromichi ki*, 2:175

(Kanji 5/1091.10.12); for Go Shirakawa, see *Heihanki*, 5:155a–b (Kaō 2/1170.4.19).

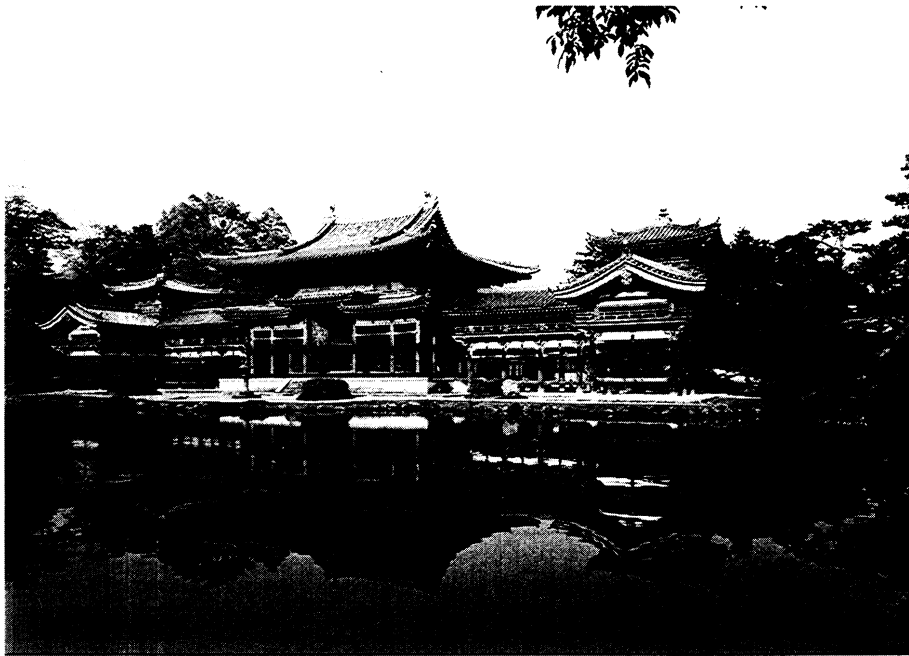
3. Titles of Buddhas, bodhisattvas, and Buddhist scriptures are given first in the conventional Japanese transliterations and then in the Sanskrit, which thereafter are used in the text.

4. Itō, 208; Ōta H., 15; Tanaka, 73; and Ōta S., 264–65.

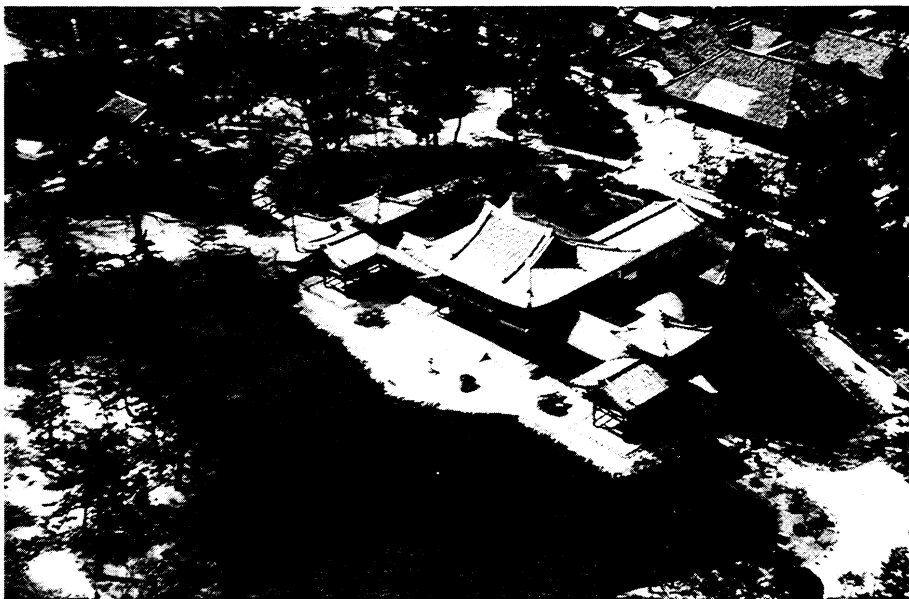
5. Ōta H., 16–17; and Shimizu, 1992, 79.

6. Murōju Butsu, or Amitāyus, “Buddha of Immeasurable Life,” is one of several epithets by which Amitābha is known in scripture. Translations of the *Visualization Sutra* into English are based on *Kan Murōju kyō*, in *Taishō shinshū daizōkyō*, XII, 340–346 and follow the modern Japanese translation in Iwano S., ed., *Kokuyaku Issaikyō*, XLIV, Tokyo, 1970, 57–75. For an English translation, see Ryūkoku Translation Center, *The Sutra of Contemplation on the Buddha of Immeasurable Life as Expounded by Śākyamuni Buddha*, Kyoto, 1984.

7. K. Tanaka, *The Dawn of Chinese Pure Land Buddhist Doctrine: Ching-ying Hui-yuan’s Commentary on the Visualization Sutra*, New York, 1990, xx–xxi, 9–11, 72–76. As Tanaka notes, injunctions to “see,” “behold,” and “visualize” abound in the *Visualization Sutra*, each derivative of the Sanskrit term *anusmṛti*: e.g., in the first visualization aspirants are instructed to “see” or “look at” (J. *gen*; Skt. *darsana*) (342a1,2); “think of” or “imagine” (J. *sō*; Skt. *saṃjñā*) (341c29); “visualize” (J. *kan*; Skt. *vipaśana*) (342a2); and “contemplate” (J. *nen*; Skt. *smṛti*) (342a1) the sun. For discussion of these terms, see Ryūkoku Daigaku, ed., *Bukkyō daijiri*, 6 vols., Tokyo, 1972–73, II, 915–16, 1063, v, 3045, 3764.



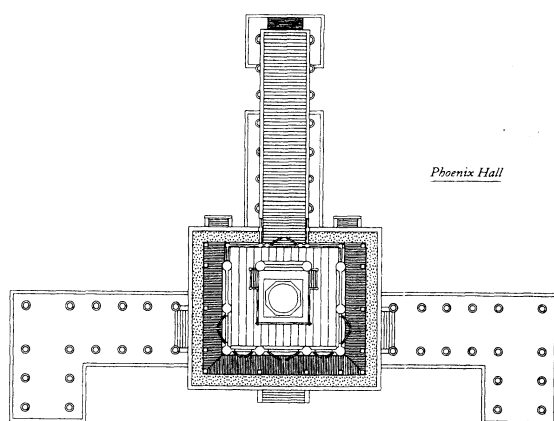
1 Phoenix Hall, Byōdōin, Uji, 1053, view from northeast (photo: Asukaen, courtesy Byōdōin temple)



2 Phoenix Hall, aerial view from northeast (photo: High Level Enterprises)

the power of the Buddha, she and other sentient beings “will be able to see that distant Pure Land as though seeing one’s own face in a mirror held in the hand” (341c20–21). The first of the sixteen visualizations is that of the sun. “Look at the setting sun,” the Buddha says to Lady Vaidehī, “awaken to contemplation, seat yourself properly facing west, and abandon yourself to visualization of the sun” (342a1–2). Twelve visualizations follow by which the physical appearance of

Sukhāvātī is described in hallucinatory detail, from its “trees of jewels, earth of jewels, lake of jewels” (342c10–11) to Amitābha himself, a golden colossus with “eyes like the four oceans, pale blue and clear” (343b17–20). Beside Amitābha to right and left stand the bodhisattvas Kanzeon, or Avalokiteśvara, and Daiseishi, or Mahāsthāmaprāpta, who attend him but are also emanations from his body (342c17–18, 344b6). At the end of the thirteenth visualization, whose



3 Phoenix Hall, ground plan (diagram by Tasha Hall, after *Byōdōin taikan*, I, fig. 12)

focus is the moment of rebirth when the aspirant awakens atop a lotus flower as its petals open, Lady Vaidehī is instructed to see and contemplate Amitābha as a monumental figure rising above the lake in Sukhāvātī (344b26).

The remaining three visualizations address the nine grades of rebirth in Sukhāvātī, with emphasis on the type of persons qualified for each grade and the manner in which, at death, they are “welcomed” to the pure land. Aspirants in the upper three grades are greeted by Amitābha, who appears before them surrounded by bodhisattvas and musicians in a pool of light. Holding hands with bodhisattvas the aspirants are brought to the “palace of seven treasures” where Amitābha resides in Sukhāvātī (344c19, 21–22). Aspirants in the lower grades are welcomed by Avalokiteśvara and Mahāsthāmaprāpta or a golden lotus that shines like the disk of the sun (345c17, 346a21).

No one is excluded from Sukhāvātī so long as he or she is mindful of Amitābha and chants his name. Even the worst of sinners, those who have killed or belong in hell, who have called on Amitābha with a sincere heart are allowed a lowly rebirth in Sukhāvātī inside a lotus yet to bloom in the middle of its lake, where they await awakening (346a8–9). Once the Buddha has taught the sixteen visualizations to Lady Vai-

dehī, she gains insight and is enlightened, and her female attendants learn that they too will reach Sukhāvātī (345a–b).

The *Visualization Sutra* sets forth an affirmative vision of a compassionate Buddha who is prepared to welcome all manner of aspirants to his sumptuous Pure Land, a place “never far away” from those who seek rebirth there (341c5–6). In the time of Yorimichi and his heirs, when some believed that the world was degenerating into a state of anarchy,<sup>8</sup> the *Visualization Sutra* was deeply meaningful. Like many a beloved sutra in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, it was sometimes copied out in gold by its devotees, who then offered the votive transcription to Amitābha. But such copying of the *Visualization Sutra* was minimal by comparison with other popular scriptures, among them the other principal Pure Land texts, the *Muryōjūkyō* (Skt. [Larger] *Sukhāvātivyūha-sūtra*), or *Sutra on the Adornments of the Realm of Bliss*, and *Amidakyō* (Skt. [Smaller] *Sukhāvātivyūha-sūtra*), or *Amitābha Sutra*.<sup>9</sup> Instead, and in keeping with the visionary content of the sutra, devotees of the *Visualization Sutra* commissioned its production as a painting in a mandalalike configuration known as a “transformation,” or *hensō*, of which the *Taima Mandala* is a well-known example (Figs. 4, 5).<sup>10</sup> In this format the principal teachings of the *Visualization Sutra* were translated from the pages of the sutra, where they reside as an ideographic text, to the two-dimensional plane of a painting as a body of graphic images. Yorimichi appears to have desired yet another level of transcription and, expanding on the *hensō* convention, built the *Visualization Sutra* at Byōdōin in the form of the Phoenix Hall.

The iconographical consistency of the Phoenix Hall as a three-dimensional representation of the *Visualization Sutra* is widely noted.<sup>11</sup> But there was neither a precedent for such a spatiotemporal transformation of the *Visualization Sutra*, nor any obvious model to which Yorimichi and his advisers might have turned.<sup>12</sup> In iconographical program as in physical plan, the Phoenix Hall was a novelty. For those who saw it soon after its consecration and in years to follow, it was akin to Sukhāvātī itself. “It is marvelous,” enthused Yorimichi’s descendant Tadazane (1078–1162) while attending a ceremony at the Phoenix Hall in 1118, “a veritable imitation of Sukhāvātī.”<sup>13</sup>

In time the Phoenix Hall itself was transcribed like a benevolent sutra. Emperor Toba (1103–1156) commissioned

8. For example, in 1091 Yorimichi’s grandson Fujiwara no Moromichi (1062–1099) sponsored ten days of sutra chanting at Enryakuji on Mount Hiei near Kyoto in connection with what he described in his diary as “disturbances and strife in our world that do not subside” (*Go Nijō Moromichi ki*, 2:123, Kanji 5/1091.5.13).

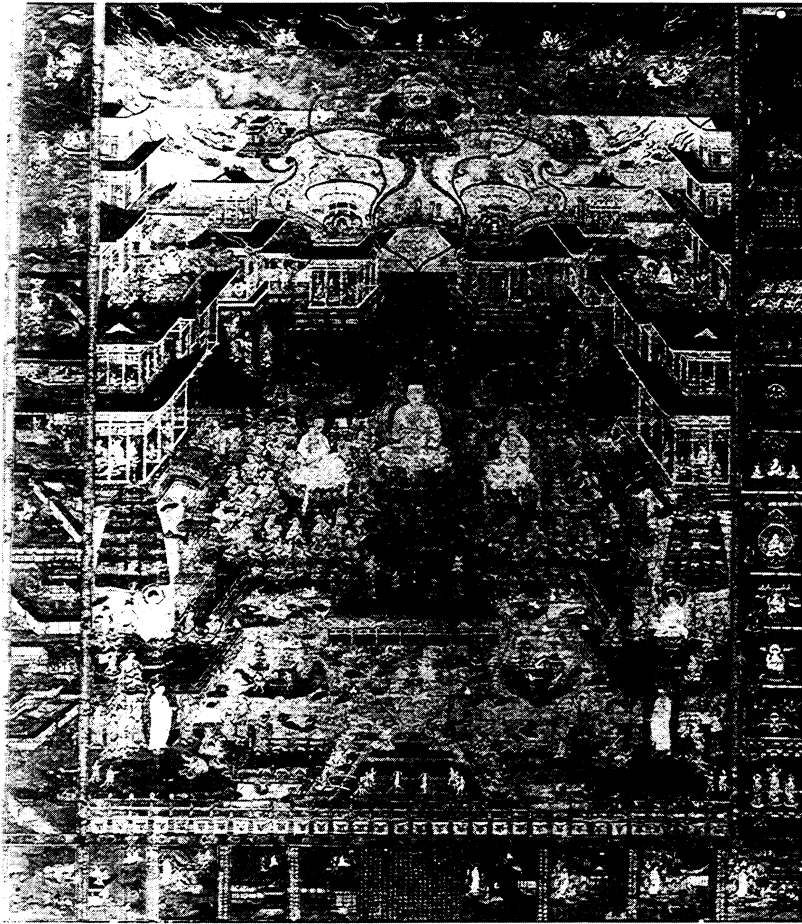
9. For the practice of sutra copying and the most frequently transcribed sutras, see W. Tanabe, *Paintings of the Lotus Sutra*, New York/Tokyo, 1988; Ōyama N., *Nihon no bijutsu*, 156, *Shakyō*, Tokyo, 1979; and K. Mizuno, *Buddhist Sutras: Origin, Development, Transmission*, Tokyo, 1982, 170–171. English translations of the titles of the Larger and Smaller *Sukhāvātivyūha-sūtra* are based on Tanaka (as in n. 7), xvii.

10. For discussion of the *hensō* convention, see J. Okazaki, *Pure Land Buddhist Painting*, trans. E. ten Grotenhuis, New York/San Francisco, 1977, 29–36. For important studies of the *Taima mandala*, see E. ten Grotenhuis, “Rebirth of an Icon: The Taima Mandala in Medieval Japan,” *Archives of Asian Art*, xxxvi, 1983, 59–87; and eadem, *The Revival of the Taima Mandala in Medieval Japan*, New York, 1985. The original *Taima mandala*, a tapestry now extant only in fragmentary form, is located at the temple Taimadera in Nara. Numerous copies of the mandala were produced in the 13th century and later, but none dating to the 11th century has been identified.

11. See Tanaka, 73–75; Shimizu, 1992, 81; Murayama S., *Jōdokyō geijutsu to Mida shinkō*, Tokyo, 1977, 97; Miya T., “Gokuraku saigen,” in Gotō S., ed., *Nihon koji bijutsu zenshū*, xv, Tokyo, 1980, 97; and Akiyama T., “Zengen,” in *Byōdōin taikan*, iii, 11.

12. There is evidence for three-dimensional mandalas in sculptural form, but Pure Land representations are not among them. The group of statues in the Lecture Hall at Tōji in Kyoto is a well-known example; see Takata O., “Tōji kōdō no shōson to sono mikkyōteki igi,” *Bijutsu kenkyū*, ccliii, Sept. 1967, 1–76. Accounts of such mandalas are also seen in diaries, as when Fujiwara no Munetada records a Hokuto Mandala, “North Star Mandala,” consisting of some fifty statues (*Chūyūki*, 3:360b, Tennin 1/1108.6.23). For an illustration of a mandala in sculptural form, see H. Ishida, *Esoteric Buddhist Painting*, trans. E. D. Saunders, Tokyo/New York, San Francisco, 1987, 32.

13. At ceremonies for the consecration of a new pagoda at Byōdōin in 1061 the Phoenix Hall was described as “utterly beautiful” and conducive to meditative reflection on Sukhāvātī (*Fusō ryakki*, 298, Kōhei 4/1061.10.25). Tadazane used the ideograph *mo*, “copy” or “imitation,” to compare the Phoenix Hall to Sukhāvātī (*Denryaku*, 5:83, Gen’ei 1/1118.intercalary 9.22).



4 *Taima Mandala*, 13th century, hanging scroll. Nara National Museum (photo: Nara National Museum, courtesy E. ten Grotenhuis)

such a copy in 1134 for the Toba Palace, a complex of residences and temples on the northern bank of the Kamo River just south of Kyoto proper. The structure was named Shōkōmyōin, "Hall of Victorious Radiance," and when it was dedicated in 1136 it was described as "having been copied after Uji Byōdōin."<sup>14</sup> Another copy of the Phoenix Hall was constructed several decades later, between 1150 and 1170, by the regional warlord Fujiwara no Hidehira (d. 1187) near his private residence, Kara Mansion, in the distant city of Hiraizumi in what is now southern Iwate Prefecture. Called Muryōkōin, "Hall of Immeasurable Light," the building stood on the southern bank of the Kitakami River and, like Shōkōmyōin, was described as "a place entirely copied after Uji Byōdōin" (Fig. 6).<sup>15</sup> Neither Shōkōmyōin nor Muryōkōin survive, having been lost to flooding by the Kamo and

Kitakami rivers, but much is known about the structures through primary records and excavations.

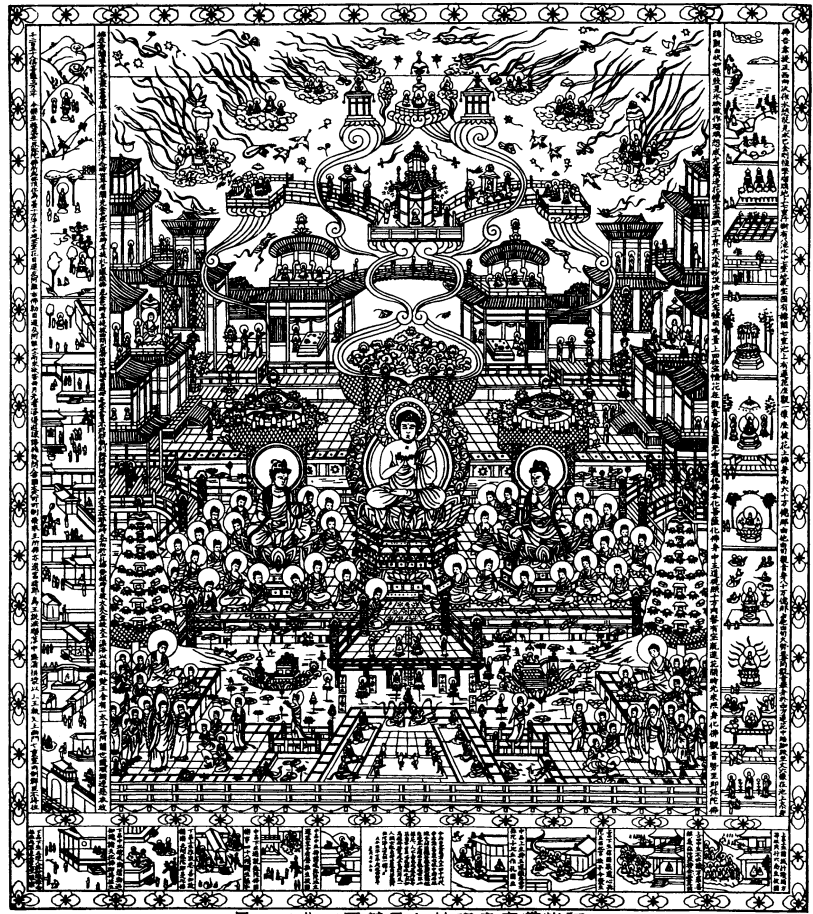
Architectural copying was uncommon at the time that Shōkōmyōin and Muryōkōin were built. Indeed, the Phoenix Hall is one of the very few monuments in premodern Japan to have been copied and to have been so described in contemporary sources.<sup>16</sup> Scholars on occasion have noted the oddity of the replication of the Phoenix Hall at Shōkōmyōin and Muryōkōin, but there has been little discussion of its possible significance.<sup>17</sup> That two powerful men after Yorimichi, one an emperor and the other a warrior, each built near the premises of their main residences an imitation of the Phoenix Hall raises theoretical issues, from notions of textuality to the work of copying and mimesis, with important ramifications for the study of art and culture in ancient Japan.

14. *Chūyūki*, 7:180b (Hōen 2/1136.3.23). The ideograph is *sha*, "copy" or "transcribe."

15. *Azuma kagami*, 354 (Bunji 5/1189.9.17). The ideograph is *mo*, "copy" or "imitation."

16. A similar example of architectural copying is documented for Daichō-

juin, an Amitābha Hall built by Fujiwara no Kiyohira at Chūsonji in Hiraizumi in 1107, which was replicated in Kamakura in 1192 by Minamoto no Yoritomo and named Yōfukuji (*Azuma kagami*, 474, Enkyū 3/1192.11.20; and Sugiyama, 139–40).



5 Diagram of Taima Mandala (courtesy E. ten Grotenhuis)

### Byōdōin

Fujiwara no Yorimichi belonged to an illustrious family with the economic and political stability to encompass such a monument as the Phoenix Hall. He was the first son of Fujiwara no Michinaga (966–1027), an influential statesman and palace aristocrat whose hold over the monarchy through marriage and kinship ties is legendary. Michinaga married several daughters to reigning monarchs in a tactic that insured him direct control over the princes and emperors born to them as his grandsons, and thereby dominated palace society throughout his maturity. As an aesthete Michinaga is the most widely studied aristocrat of the Heian period (784–1185), and historical tales such as *Eiga monogatari*, or *A Tale of Flowering Fortunes*, provide a compelling account of his cultural predilections and his milieu.<sup>18</sup>

Michinaga constructed several mansions and a number of temples,<sup>19</sup> a practice that culminated in his later years in the temple Hōjōji on the western bank of the Kamo River in Kyoto. Hōjōji no longer exists, but much is known about it from *A Tale of Flowering Fortunes* and the diaries of Michinaga's contemporaries.<sup>20</sup> The first structure to be built was an Amitābha Hall called Muryōjuin, "Hall of Amitāyus." Initiated by Michinaga in 1019 and consecrated in 1020, Muryōjuin measured eleven bays in length and housed nine monumental statues of Amitābha with paintings of the nine degrees of rebirth on its doors. As such it was the first instance of what is known as the Nine-Image Amitābha Hall, in which nine large statues of Amitābha as well as a cycle of paintings called *kuhon ōjō zu*, "pictures of the nine degrees of rebirth," were enshrined in an elongated version of the

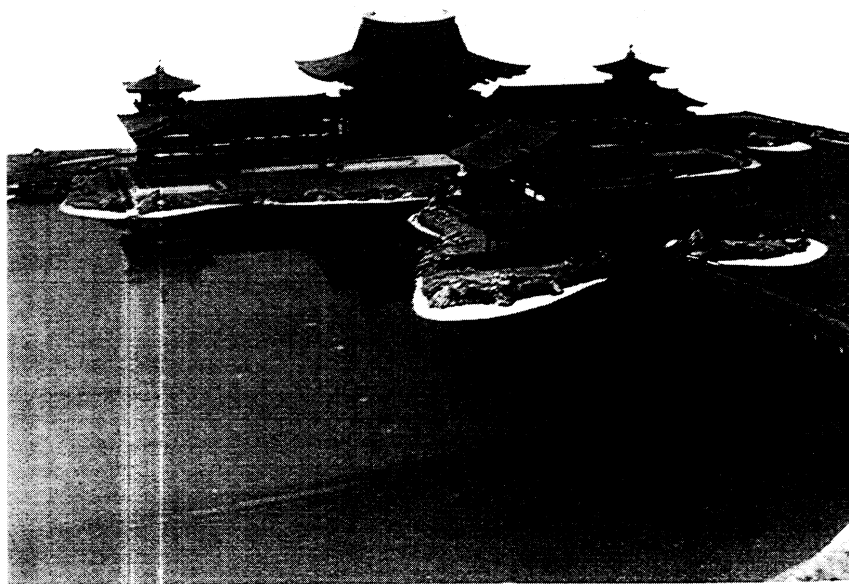
17. See Hamashima M., "Jōdo shinkō to Hokekyō shinkō," in Hamashima M., ed., *Zusetsu Nihon no bukkō*, III, Tokyo, 1989, 31; Itō, 208; and Murayama, 98.

18. For studies of Michinaga, see Akagi S., *Midō Kanpaku Fujiwara Michinaga: Eiga to kensei e no shūnen*, Tokyo, 1969, and Yamanaka Y., *Fujiwara*

*Michinaga*, Tokyo, 1988; for the modern mythologization of Michinaga and his milieu, see Yiengpruksawan, 1994.

19. For other temples constructed by Michinaga, see Sugiyama, 87–93; for residences, see Ōta S., 149–77, 193–203.

20. For studies of Hōjōji, see Shimizu, 1992, 42–68; and Sugiyama, 51–86.



6 Reconstruction model of Muryōkōin, Hiraizumi, 12th century, by Fujishima G. (photo: courtesy Hiraizumi Bunkashikan)

square Amitābha Hall that had been the standard until that time.<sup>21</sup>

The name Muryōjuin, as well as its statuary and paintings, indicate that Michinaga's hall was based on the *Sutra on the Adornments of the Realm of Bliss* (J. *Muryōjukyō*) and the *Visualization Sutra* (J. *Kan Muryōjukyō*). The hall faced east over an artificial lake, in keeping with the scriptural accounts of Amitābha in his world-realm, and is described in glowing terms in *A Tale of Flowering Fortunes* as a richly appointed and colorful hall "glittering in the setting sun."<sup>22</sup> Michinaga frequented Muryōjuin for prayers and chanting and died there in 1027, "his gaze fixed on the nine Amitābha images," his hands holding braided cords attached to the sculptures.<sup>23</sup>

In 1022, after Michinaga added a Main Hall on the northern bank of the lake as well as other ornate structures around Muryōjuin, the complex was renamed Hōjōji, "Temple of the Buddhist Law Attained," to accommodate diversification away from Amitābha as the sole focus of worship. By the time of Michinaga's death Hōjōji contained numerous halls dedicated to various Buddhas and bodhisatt-

vas and situated around a central body of water (Fig. 7).<sup>24</sup> So lovely as to be described in *A Tale of Flowering Fortunes* as similar to Sukhāvati in appearance,<sup>25</sup> Hōjōji also exhibited a number of structural innovations, from extensive use of elongated halls and galleries to their asymmetrical arrangement around a lake after what is known as the *shinden* mode of domestic architecture.<sup>26</sup> Shimizu Hiroshi has argued that the cumulative effect of the richly ornamented Amitābha and Main halls, the lake, and the gardens was intended to produce at Hōjōji "an illusory world" for the enjoyment of its patrons.<sup>27</sup> Certainly this was its reception among nuns visiting Muryōjuin in 1022, one of whom was inspired to exclaim, "It's like being in another world!"<sup>28</sup>

Yorimichi succeeded as head of the Fujiwara on Michinaga's death in 1027 and, having served as regent since 1017, enjoyed several decades of authority at court as uncle to the reigning emperors Go Suzaku (1009–1045) and Go Reizei (1025–1068). Yorimichi married his daughter Genshi to Go Suzaku in 1037, but in this maneuver he was not successful in gaining royal heirs, for Genshi died childless in 1039. In

21. For the evolution of the standard and nine-image Amitābha Hall, see Sugiyama, 113–49; Hamada, 91–95, 111–16; Sugiyama N., "Amidado no keifu," in *Nihon kōji bijutsu zenshū* (as in n. 11), xv, 119–26; and Shimizu, 1992, 230–302. For a listing of *kuhon jō* zu in Amitābha Halls, see Kanno, 153–55. For a contemporary description of Muryōjuin, see *Tale*, II, 564–66 (*Eiga monogatari*, 2:83–84).

22. *Tale*, II, 569 (*Eiga monogatari*, 2:88).

23. *Tale*, II, 762–63 (*Eiga monogatari*, 2:322).

24. In 1025–26 Muryōjuin was moved to a more westerly location to allow new structures to be added along the lake (Sugiyama, 65).

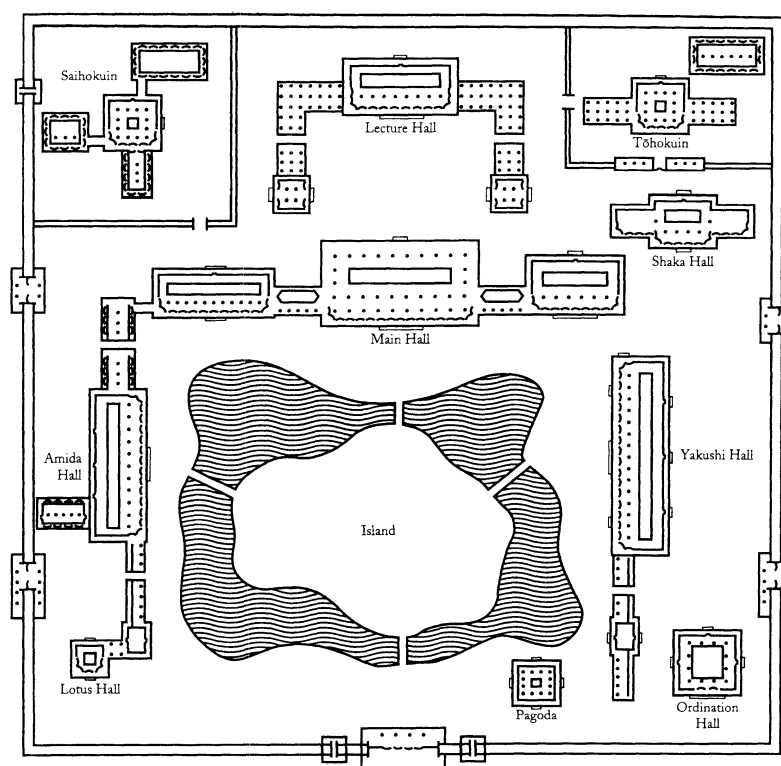
25. *Tale*, II, 564 (*Eiga monogatari*, 2:83).

26. For the origins of the *shinden* mode and an exhaustive study of its evolution and variants as the architectural style favored by the aristocracy for homes and villas, see Ōta S., esp. 1–37, 220–63. As defined by Ōta (17–21) the term *shinden*, literally "sleep palace," refers to the master quarters of a palace complex, to which access is limited to the resident and his or her family.

27. Shimizu, 1992, 65.

28. *Tale*, II, 571 (*Eiga monogatari*, 2:89).

29. Sakai M., *Jōtōmon'in no keifu to sono shūhen*, Tokyo, 1989, 109–15; and Hurst, 93, 101–6. While Hurst claims (102) that the Fujiwara house may have "enjoyed greater power and glory under Yorimichi than it had under



7 Hōjōji, Kyoto, 11th century, plan of temple complex (diagram by Tasha Hall, after Shimizu, 1992, fig. 2-1-4)

1044 a prince called Takahito, unrelated to Yorimichi's lineage and thus largely beyond his influence, was named to the imperial succession by an ailing Go Suzaku. Although Yorimichi objected vehemently, he was outmaneuvered at court by rivals, and his authority began to wane as a new regime took hold. On Takahito's accession as Emperor Go Sanjō in 1067 Yorimichi retired from the regency after a long tenure marked by difficulties in the later years.<sup>29</sup>

Ōta Seiroku describes Yorimichi as having been more inclined to aesthetic and cultural pursuits than Michinaga, whose real interests lay "in the accumulation of political power" and not, as often argued, in the literary and visual arts.<sup>30</sup> In 1021 Yorimichi completed construction of one of the most important residential complexes of the period, Kayanoin, a mansion in Kyoto proper a few blocks east of the imperial compound. In plan Kayanoin Mansion departed significantly from *shinden* convention, for its principal residences and pavilions stood entirely surrounded by the waters

of a lake. According to visitors in 1021 the lake "shone like a mirror."<sup>31</sup> For the authors of *A Tale of Flowering Fortunes* Kayanoin Mansion was "splendid beyond description" and "seemed to belong to another realm."<sup>32</sup>

With his older sister Fujiwara no Shōshi (988–1074), or Jōtōmon'in, Yorimichi also maintained and expanded the Hōjōji complex. He sponsored the repair and consecration in 1030 of its five-storied pagoda, which had collapsed during a typhoon in 1028.<sup>33</sup> Earlier Shōshi had dedicated Tōhokuin, or "Hall on the Northeast," a five-bay square Circumambulation Hall with flanking galleries that, situated in the northeastern corner of Hōjōji, enshrined a statue of Amitābha with the attendant bodhisattvas Kannon, Seishi, Jizō, or Ksitigarbha, and Ryūju, or Nāgārjuna. Tōhokuin formed a pair with Saihokuin, or "Hall on the Northwest," a similar but smaller structure built in 1021 by Shōshi's mother, Minamoto no Rinshi (1040–1114), in the northwest corner of Hōjōji.<sup>34</sup> In the third month of 1050 Yorimichi

Michinaga," circumstances during Yorimichi's tenure, from his daughter's failure to produce a royal heir to the emergence of a rival faction for control over the imperial line of succession, seem to indicate otherwise; see Takeuchi R., *Ritsuryōsei to kizoku seiken*, II, Tokyo, 1958, 305–10.

30. Ōta S., 235–36.

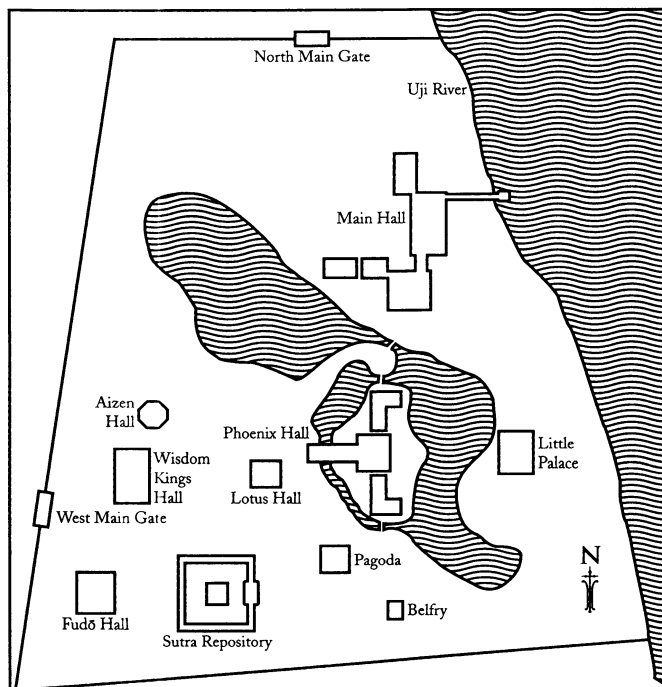
31. *Shōyūki*, 6:47 (Jian 1/1021.9.29). For the Kayanoin Mansion, see Ōta S., 244–52, 276–78.

32. *Tale*, II, 631 (*Eiga monogatari*, 2:157).

33. Sugiyama, 69, 73.

34. *Ibid.*, 61, 74. The Circumambulation Hall, or Jōgyōdō, was one of

several types of meditation hall used in Tendai Buddhism. It served for one of the principal forms of meditation promoted by the Tendai school, called *jōgyō zanmai*, or "Ambulatory Concentration," which involved regular ninety-day seclusion in a circumambulation hall for chanting, circumambulation, and meditation focusing on Amitābha. As such it served the Pure Land movement within Tendai and is the prototype of the Amitābha Hall, or Amidadō. In most cases its object of worship was an image of Amitābha accompanied by four bodhisattvas and, often, paintings of scenes of rebirth. For detailed analysis of the Circumambulation Hall, see Shimizu, 1992, 230–51.



8 Byōdōin, Uji, 11th century, plan of temple complex (diagram by Tasha Hall, after Shimizu, 1992, fig. 2-2-2)

added a new structure to Hōjōji, a Lecture Hall north of the Main Hall with a seven-bay main building and flanking arcades.<sup>35</sup>

On Michinaga's death Yorimichi inherited a number of residences and estates, among them a villa at Uji.<sup>36</sup> Sometime around 1051, as he was approaching sixty years of age, Yorimichi decided to turn the villa into a temple by converting its main residence into a space for worship and adding new structures around it.<sup>37</sup> In the third month of 1052 the Main Hall was consecrated and the villa given the name Byōdōin, "Temple of Equanimity," possibly in reference to the title of an early translation of the *Sutra on the Adornments of the Realm of Bliss*.<sup>38</sup> Although no longer extant, the Main Hall is known to have consisted of four buildings linked by covered walkways in a garden setting overlooking the Uji River (Fig. 8). One building, housing a monumental statue of Dainichi, or Mahāvairocana, served as the main place of worship, and the other three were either used as chapels or lived in by Yorimichi and his guests.<sup>39</sup>

The Phoenix Hall was consecrated a year later in the third month of 1053 in a picturesque setting of water and gardens

just south of the Main Hall.<sup>40</sup> Although no detailed record was made, prompting a complaint by Emperor Toba in 1134,<sup>41</sup> its construction is known through descriptions in primary documents. Architectural historians are confident that much of the hall's original external appearance has been preserved, despite regular restorations and alterations since the late fifteenth century. Today a vast body of scholarship exists on the hall, its garden, and their contents.<sup>42</sup>

The Phoenix Hall occupies an artificial island in a lake that once extended well north and west of its current location to form a waterway isolating the Phoenix Hall complex from that of the Main Hall. At present only a narrow canal separates the island from the bank of the lake to the rear of the Phoenix Hall, but Muraoka Shō and others have shown that in 1053 the distance was greater and the hall was indeed surrounded on all sides by pools of water.<sup>43</sup> Small bridges connected the Phoenix Hall to the northern and southern shores of the lake, but there is no evidence that a bridge spanned this between the front of the hall and the eastern shore. It is believed that the shape of the lake conformed to the Sanskrit "germ syllable" identified with Amitābha.<sup>44</sup>

35. Sugiyama, 73–74.

36. Michinaga had purchased the villa from an associate in 999 (*Shōyūki*, 2:55, Chōhō 1/999.8.9). For Uji as an enclave of aristocratic residences, see Sugiyama, 94–95; and Fukuyama, 7.

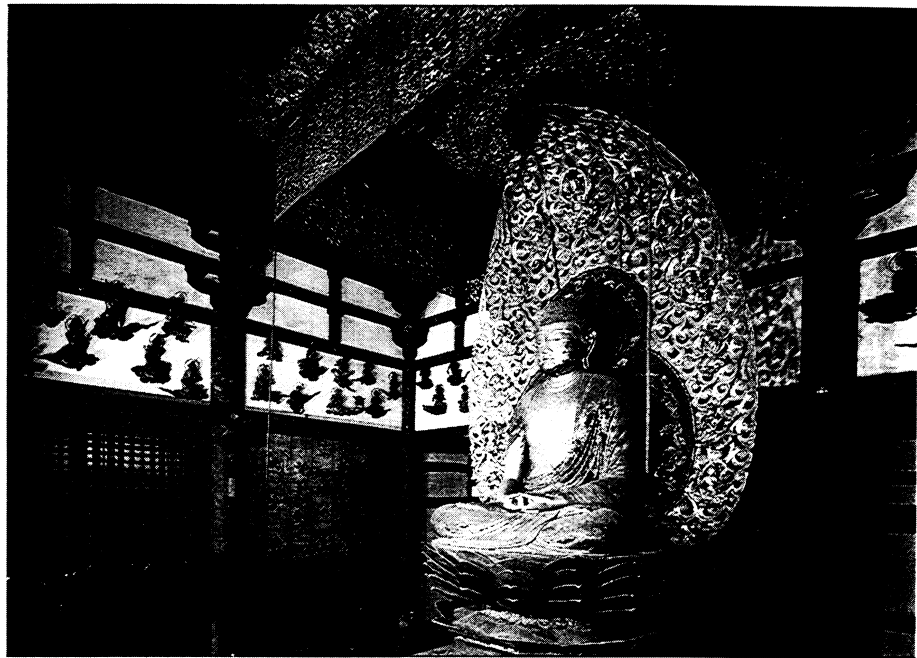
37. The conversion of residences into temples was common in the 11th and 12th centuries. For example, the home of Ikūhōmon'in, the daughter of Shirakawa, was converted into a "Buddhist chapel" in 1097; see *Hyakurenshō*, in Kuroita K., ed., *Shintei zōho kokushi taikō*, xi, Tokyo, 1929, 44 (Jōtoku 1/1097.10.14). It is not known when Yorimichi actually initiated work on the Phoenix Hall, but accounts of other large-scale Amitābha Halls suggest that at least a year was required for construction. Michinaga had pledged to build Murōjūin around the seventh month of 1019, some ten months before its

consecration in the third month of 1020 (Sugiyama, 59–60; and *Shōyūki*, 5:171, Kannin 3/1019.7.17). Construction of the main Amitābha Hall at Sonshōji in Kyoto took two years, and that of a Nine-Image Hall at Rengezōin, also in Kyoto, nine months (*Chūyūki*, 2:312b, Kōwa 5/1103.12.26; 3:63b, Chōji 2/1105.10.19; 6:101b, Daiji 4/1129.8.3; 211a, Daiji 5/1130.7.2).

38. *Fusō ryakki*, 292 (Eishō 7/1052.3.28). The term Byōdō, or "Equanimity," may derive from the title of the second translation into Chinese of the *Sukhāvatīvyūha-sūtra*, the *Muryō Shōjō byōdōkaku kyō*, or more commonly *Byōdōkakukyō* (C. *Wuliang Qingjing pingdengjue jing*), by the Indian monk Lokaksema.

39. Shimizu, 1988, 21; Shimizu, 1992, 73–77; Sugiyama, 96–97; and Fukuyama, 10–11. The figure of Mahāvairocana, which measured seven





9 Interior of Phoenix Hall, with statue of Amitābha (Amida) by Jōchō, 1053 (photo: Asukaen, courtesy Byōdōin temple)

In plan the Phoenix Hall consists of a center chapel with flanking, L-shaped galleries and a “tail” corridor at the back (Figs. 2, 3). Forming a shallow U-shape, the hall opens eastward over the lake and faces the Uji River. The galleries, ranged along a north–south axis that includes the center chapel, terminate on each side in extensions to the east. The “tail” extends westward from the chapel and spans the lake. This “extremely unusual plan,” as Itō Shirō describes it, is not seen in earlier Amitābha Halls, nor was it utilized in other temple or residential architecture through the eleventh century. However, Yorimichi may have designed the Phoenix Hall with earlier projects in mind, such as Kayanoin Mansion and the Lecture Hall at Hōjōji. At both sites the principal structure was U-shaped in plan, and at Kayanoin Mansion the lake completely surrounded the main domicile.<sup>45</sup>

The center chapel of the Phoenix Hall is a one-story building with a hip-and-gable roof. A skirt roof extends around the chapel and gives the hall the appearance of having two stories. Viewed from the exterior the chapel appears to be square, but its sanctuary measures three bays across and only two bays deep (approximately 33 × 26 ft., or 10 × 8 m).<sup>46</sup> In the sanctuary is a large raised dais set against

a reredos formed by two pillars. A space of approximately 10 feet (3 m) separates the dais from the walls of the sanctuary except at the back, where the skirt roof has been incorporated into the sanctuary to yield a space of approximately 6½ feet (2 m).

The galleries to each side of the center chapel form freestanding open arcades with turrets at either end. Each gallery measures five bays, or approximately 46 feet (14 m) from north to south, and three bays, or approximately 29½ feet (9 m) along its eastward extension. The galleries, under a gable roof, have a very low second story—less than 6½ feet (2 m) from floor to ceiling—open on all sides. The turrets also have very low second stories, each under a pyramidal roof.<sup>47</sup> The “tail” is attached directly to the chapel, from which it is accessible through a set of doors behind the dais. About 13 feet (4 m) wide, it extends for seven bays, or approximately 65½ feet (20 m), and opens to the outside through double doors on the west bank of the lake. Unlike the galleries, the “tail” is enclosed by plaster walls, although cusped windows and lattices provide light.

The sanctuary of the chapel is occupied by a monumental statue of Amitābha seated on a lotus-blossom pedestal atop the dais (Fig. 9). The gilt-wood image, carved by the

*shaku*, or approximately 6½ ft. (2 m), was flanked by statues of Shaka (Skt. Śakyamuni), Yakushi (Skt. Bhaisajyaguruvai-dūryaprabhārāja), Daiitoku (Skt. Yamāntaka), and Fudō (Skt. Acala). For discussion of the Main Hall scholars rely on a description of it recorded in 1204 (*Mon'yōki*, in Takakusu J. and Watanabe K., eds., *Taishō shinshū Daizōkyō zuzō*, xi, Tokyo, 1977, 423).

40. *Fusō ryakki*, 292 (Tengi 1/1053.3.4).

41. *Chōshūki*, 2:201a (Chōshō 3/1134.5.13).

42. The definitive study of Byōdōin to date is *Byōdōin taikan*; see also Fukuyama T., *Byōdōin to Chūsonji*, Tokyo, 1964; and idem, *Heian Temples: Byōdō-in and Chūson-ji*, trans. R. K. Jones, New York/Tokyo, 1976. For restorations, which have affected in particular the landscaping of the lake, see Fukuyama, 11–13; Muraoka, 67–68; and Shimizu, 1992, 69.

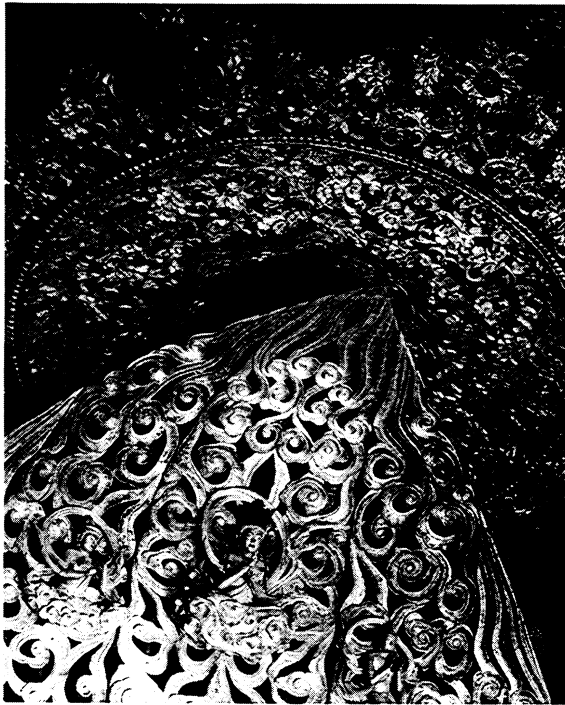
43. Muraoka, 67; and Shimizu, 1992, 71–72.

44. Muraoka, 67. For “germ syllables” (J. *shuji*; Skt. *bija*) as mystical representations of divinities, or parts of them, see E. D. Saunders, *Mudrā: A Study of Symbolic Gestures in Japanese Buddhist Sculpture*, Princeton, N.J., 1985, 23, 209.

45. Itō, 208. For the Kayanoin Mansion as an inspiration for the Phoenix Hall, see Muraoka, 70; and Ōta S., 274–75, 280.

46. Measurements are based on Ōmori K. and Suzuki Y., “Hōōdō,” in *Byōdōin taikan*, 1, 27–28. The center chapel appears to be square because the western extension of its porch has been incorporated as the rear bay of the sanctuary.

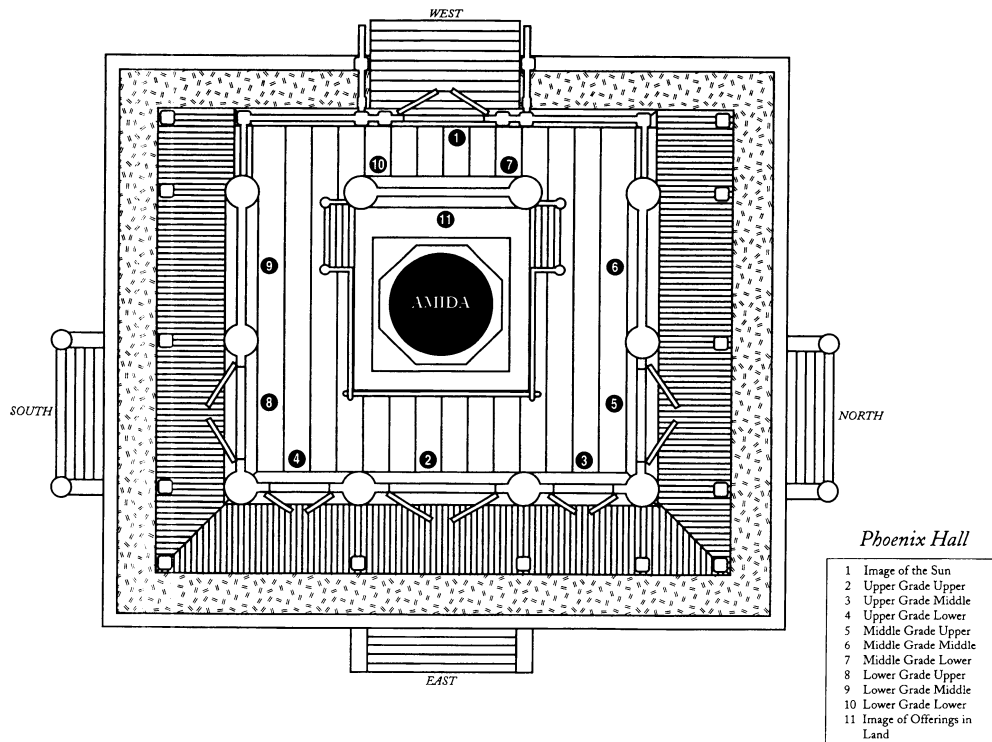
47. Ōta H. (15) notes that an upper story in the galleries and turrets functions “simply to provide balance in the design”; see also Ōmori K. and Suzuki Y., “Yokurō oyobi birō,” in *Byōdōin taikan*, 11, 44–45.



10 Mandorla of Amitābha, Phoenix Hall, with detail of Dainichi (Mahāvairocana) (photo: Asukaen, courtesy Byōdōin temple)



11 *Mudrā* of Concentration, detail of Amitābha, Phoenix Hall (photo: Asukaen, courtesy Byōdōin temple)



12 Diagram of wall and door paintings, interior of Phoenix Hall (photo: Asukaen, courtesy Byōdōin temple)

renowned sculptor Jōchō and consecrated with the hall in 1053, measures 110 inches (278.8 cm) in height, or nearly 16 feet (5 m) including the lotus pedestal and dais, and 92 inches (234.2 cm) at the width of the knee.<sup>48</sup> A flamelike mandorla arches over the statue from behind and brushes the canopied ceiling. A small sculpture of Mahāvairocana occupies the crest of the mandorla (Fig. 10), and twelve figures of what are identified as Hiten, "Hovering Celestials," are ranged from top to bottom on each side.<sup>49</sup> The hands of the Amitābha form a *mudrā*, or symbolic gesture, called Concentration, which represents a state of deep meditation involving "the suppression of all spiritual disquiet in order to arrive finally at the complete concentration on the truth" (Fig. 11).<sup>50</sup> In a significant departure from custom there are no attendant bodhisattvas, nor were there originally, and the Amitābha rests alone, enormous and golden, within its sanctuary.<sup>51</sup>

On the doors and lower wall panels of the sanctuary are the remains, or in some cases later restorations,<sup>52</sup> of a cycle of paintings that depict the nine degrees of rebirth in Sukhāvātī as stipulated in the *Visualization Sutra* (Fig. 12). Cartouches with quotations from the sutra identify scenes. On the three pairs of doors along the east wall, directly in front of the Amitābha sculpture, are remnants of paintings that illustrate the upper three grades of rebirth (Fig. 13); on the doors and panels of the north wall are depictions of the upper two of the three middle grades; on the south wall and doors, the upper two of the three lower grades (Fig. 14); and, on the back of the reredos, the lowest of the middle and lower grades. On each pair of doors is a scene of Amitābha in the sky with an entourage of bodhisattvas and celestial beings, either arriving over a landscape of low hills to claim an aspirant for rebirth, or, in the single case of the south doors on the east wall, departing with an aspirant toward Sukhāvātī. Behind the Amitābha, on the pair of doors on the west wall that open to the "tail" corridor, there is a depiction (now barely visible) of the setting sun in what appears to be a representation of the first of the sixteen visualizations.

The upper panels of the north and south walls to each side of the Amitābha sculpture, and those not directly behind the reredos to the rear, are occupied by fifty-two relief sculptures of bodhisattvas averaging 24–28 inches (60–70 cm) in height (Fig. 15). Each figure is depicted atop a cloud. Most of the

bodhisattvas are shown playing flutes, drums, cymbals, lutes, and other musical instruments, or dancing arms extended with scarves in hand. Other figures hold their hands in gestures of prayer. Since the twelfth century at least, the relief sculptures, which appear to be flying in formation around the Amitābha image, have been called Kuyō Bosatsu, "Reverent Bodhisattvas." The iconography is unclear, although most scholars identify the bodhisattvas as representing the retinue of Amitābha in Sukhāvātī or when he ventures to earth to welcome aspirants to the Pure Land.<sup>53</sup>

It is clear that the *Visualization Sutra* is at once the iconographical template for the Phoenix Hall and the scripture whose principal teachings the building illuminates in three dimensions. From the lake and gardens to the palatial hall itself, where a radiant figure of Amitābha is shown meditating among pictures of rebirth in his world-realm, the Phoenix Hall recalls in numerous ways the descriptions of Sukhāvātī as an object of visualization, contemplation, and desire in the *Visualization Sutra*. Since there are no known articulations of the sutra in architecture or as a three-dimensional mandala, it is likely that Yorimichi, in planning the Phoenix Hall, relied at least in part on pictorializations, among them transformations of a type similar to the *Taima Mandala*.

The *Taima Mandala* is based on an influential commentary on the *Visualization Sutra* by the Chinese monk Shandao (613–681). As Elizabeth ten Grotenhuis and others have shown, its precedents are the painted transformations of the *Visualization Sutra* at the Dunhuang caves in China, such as the early eighth-century mural on the north wall of Cave 217. In the *Taima Mandala* Amitābha is shown presiding over Sukhāvātī from the center of an architectural complex that is U-shaped in plan and has flanking arcades and turrets (Figs. 4, 5). A lake and dance platforms occupy the area in front of the complex, and behind it celestials hover in the sky.<sup>54</sup>

The *mudrā* formed by the hands of the Amitābha in the *Taima Mandala*, Turning the Wheel, indicates that he is preaching. Bodhisattvas in attitudes of listening and prayer are shown gathered around him, while dancers and musicians perform on the platforms in the foreground, and the newly reborn cluster atop lotus blossoms or bathe in the waters of the lake. Along the edges of the scene, in the side and bottom registers of the mandala, are cameolike represen-

48. Measurements are based on Mizuno K., "Amida Nyorai zō," in *Byōdōin taikan*, II, 24; and Konno T., "Daiza," in *ibid.*, 36.

49. Some of the Hiten are of later date; see Konno T., "Kōhai," in *Byōdōin taikan*, II, 44.

50. Saunders (as in n. 44), 87–88.

51. Ōta H., 15. Typically, a statue of Amitābha was accompanied by smaller images, sculpted or painted, of Avalokiteśvara and Mahāsthāmaprāpta, as at Murvōjin.

52. During restorations in 1966–71 the original door paintings were removed and placed for safekeeping in the temple museum, to be returned later on completion of the project. Discussion of the Phoenix Hall paintings is based on *Byōdōin taikan*, III, except where otherwise indicated. For the paintings and their reconstructions see *ibid.*, pls. 2–5, supp. pls. 16–19. For a detailed analysis of the paintings in connection with the *Visualization Sutra*,

see Taguchi E., *Meihō Nihon no bijutsu*, IX, Tokyo, 1982, 116–37; for their significance in the emergence of a Japanese landscape aesthetic, see Akiyama T., "The Door Paintings in the Phoenix Hall of the Byōdōin as Yamatoe," trans. Timon Screech, *Artibus Asiae*, LVIII, nos. 1–2, 1993, 144–66.

53. Taguchi (as in n. 52), 49; and Mizuno, 63. Minamoto no Morotoki (1077–1136), supervisor of the replication of the Phoenix Hall at Shōkōmyōin in 1134, referred to the relief sculptures as Kuyō Bosatsu (*Chōshūki*, 2:191a, Chōshō 3/1134.4.10).

54. For the commentary by Shandao, see *Kan Murōjūbutsu kyōso* (C. *Kuan Wuliangshou fu qingshu*) in Takakusu J. and Watanabe K., eds., *Taishō shinshū Daizōkyō*, xxxvii, Tokyo, 1926, 245–78. For *Taima mandala* precedents, see ten Grotenhuis, 1985 (as in n. 10), 132–52; and Yamamoto K., *Jōdokyō kaiga*, Tokyo, 1975, 185–202.



13 Amitābha with Bodhisattvas (upper grade of rebirth, lower level), left panel of south doors in east wall, Phoenix Hall (photo: Asukaen, courtesy Byōdōin temple)



14 Amitābha with Bodhisattvas (lower grade of rebirth, upper level), left panel of doors in south wall, Phoenix Hall (photo: Asukaen, courtesy Byōdōin temple)

tations of key points of instruction in the *Visualization Sutra*, with the story of Lady Vaidehī in a vertical strip on the left, the thirteen visualizations on the right, and, along the bottom, the nine degrees of rebirth. The first visualization, that of the setting sun, is shown “behind” the Amitābha figure in the upper right corner of the picture.<sup>55</sup>

Formal and iconographic features link the Phoenix Hall directly to the *Taima Mandala* and its precedents in China, as many have noted.<sup>56</sup> The center chapel, with its sculpture of Amitābha atop a lotus, is flanked by arcades with turrets, conforms to a U-shaped ground plan, and opens onto a lake. The sanctuary interior recalls, in splendor and subject, the imagery of the *Taima Mandala* and other transformations of the *Visualization Sutra*. On the three pairs of doors directly in front of the statue of Amitābha, itself a golden representa-

tion of the god at rest in his Pure Land, are depictions of the three upper grades of rebirth. An image of the sun occupies the doors directly behind the sculpture, where it aligns in the spring and summer months with the path of the sun, which at twilight sets behind the Phoenix Hall to silhouette it against the sky.<sup>57</sup> The lake, its surface mirroring the hall, was once the scene of music and dance on boats or platforms, as during a celebration of the *Lotus Sutra* staged by Empress Kanshi (d. 1127) in 1118.<sup>58</sup>

The Phoenix Hall and *Taima Mandala* share a common heritage in pictorialization of the *Visualization Sutra* for purposes of worship and meditation in the system of praxis generally identified as Pure Land Buddhism. In the eleventh century and for much of the twelfth this was still a movement within the larger philosophical frame of Tendai Buddhism,

55. I am grateful to Professor Elizabeth ten Grotenhuis for sharing with me her analysis of dimensionality and spatial configurations in the *Taima Mandala*.

56. Tanaka, 73; Ōta H., 15; Shimizu, 1992, 79–82; and Ōta S., 270–73.

57. Such alignments were attempted at a number of temples based on Pure Land scripture; see Yamaori T., “Tokushū: Kūmyō to byakudō, Raigōzu no kaimei,” in Hamashima M., ed., *Zusetsu Nihon no bukkyō*, III, Tokyo, 1989, 167.

58. *Chūyūki*, 5:79b–80a (Gen’ei 1/1118.intercalary 9.22). I have based death dates for empresses and women of the aristocracy on entries in this, *Denryaku*, and other diaries, since few biographical dictionaries or other

secondary sources supply them. For a list of empresses and princesses, see *Chūyūki*, 6:164–65 (Daiji 5/1130.2.21).

59. Tendai Esotericism, or Taimitsu, is distinguished from Shingon Esotericism, or Tōmitsu, whose primary focus is Mahāvairocana. For a recent survey of Esotericism with emphasis on its visual culture, see Sekiguchi, M., ed., *Zusetsu Nihon no bukkyō*, II, Tokyo, 1988, esp. 212–35. For the integration of Pure Land and Esoteric worship practices, see Hayami T., *Jōdo shinkō ron*, Tokyo, 1987, 187–201.

60. Fukuyama, 13; and Shimizu, 1992, 71. Byōdōin is identified as “independent” in the current directory of temples in Japan (*Nihon Jūin Meikan Kankō Kai*, ed., *Nihon jūin meikan*, I, Tokyo, 1982, 1207).

and it did not emerge as an independent institution until the late twelfth century. Pure Land is nonetheless the system of belief to which the Phoenix Hall is primarily linked by reason of its iconography. In Tendai Buddhism, however, the Pure Land movement was integrated with worship of the *Lotus Sutra*, Tendai's fundamental scripture, and, most important, with what is called Tendai Esotericism. In this form of Esotericism the Buddha Mahāvairocana, as the root Buddha-presence of the universe and the source of secret teachings not accessible to the uninitiated, is merged with Śākyamuni, the Buddha of the *Lotus Sutra*, as the focus of worship and ritual.<sup>59</sup>

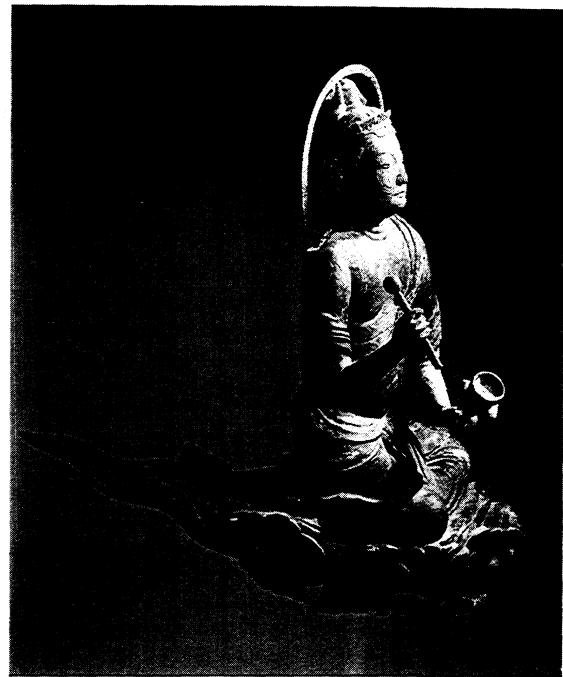
Byōdōin, now independent, was a Tendai temple in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Scholars have emphasized its Tendai Pure Land aspect, with Shimizu Hiroshi arguing that the Phoenix Hall, and not the Main Hall, was in fact the center of the complex.<sup>60</sup> But it is important to remember that Yorimichi, like Michinaga at Hōjōji,<sup>61</sup> situated his Amitābha Hall in close proximity to a Main Hall that enshrined a monumental sculpture of Mahāvairocana, where worship would have required the performative rituals of Tendai Esotericism, such as chanting of mystical formulas, enactment of symbolic poses and hand gestures, and meditation involving visualization and concentration. Indeed Esotericism, specifically meditational practice associated with Mahāvairocana, is essential to an understanding of the Phoenix Hall as a cultural document.

Matsuura Masaaki has proposed that the Phoenix Hall was designed as a hall of worship for Amitābha as an emanation of Mahāvairocana. He believes that the Kuyō Bosatsu represent the bodhisattvas of the *Hachi Mandala*, or *Mandala of Eight*, expounded in the *Muryōju Nyorai kangyō kuyō giki*, or *Manual of Rituals for the Visualization of Amitāyus*.<sup>62</sup> According to the manual, worship of the *Mandala of Eight* is a means of accumulating spiritual merit and, ultimately, attaining rebirth in Sukhāvātī.

If a lay practitioner or a monk seeks to be born in the Pure Land, they must at once receive the teachings of the mandala through its worship, whether by chanting according to the instructions of a teacher, or by preparing a purified altar in a fine spot or place of residence, and hanging above it a *Mandala of Eight*. (*Manual of Rituals*, 67c6–10)

The aspirant then prays, chants, and presents offerings of incense, flowers, candles, and other items to the mandala.

The *Mandala of Eight* is explained in iconographic manuals such as *Zuzōshō* and *Besson zakki*, both completed in the late twelfth century but drawn from much earlier sources. Often



15 Reverent Bodhisattva "Kongōsatsu," upper panel, south wall, Phoenix Hall (photo: Asukaen, courtesy Byōdōin temple)

called an *Amitābha Mandala*, it bears at its center an image of Amitāyus depicted as an emanation of Mahāvairocana, his hands gesturing Concentration and his body clothed in the princely garb emblematic of the Cosmic Buddha. Around Amitāyus are the eight Esoteric bodhisattvas who appear with Mahāvairocana in other configurations. Like the *Taima Mandala*, the *Mandala of Eight* has roots at Dunhuang and in Central Asia, and by Yorimichi's day it was used in the Esoteric rituals of Tendai Pure Land.<sup>63</sup>

Not all scholars accept Matsuura's argument, but most agree that Esoteric elements are integrated into the Pure Land imagery of the Phoenix Hall.<sup>64</sup> The *mudrā* is an example of such syncretism. Unlike that of the Amitābha in the *Taima Mandala*, who is preaching, the *mudrā* of the Amitābha in the Phoenix Hall symbolizes Concentration. In fact, the placement of the hands with palms up, the index fingers forming a circle with the thumbs, is a subcategory of the Concentration *mudrā* that E. Dale Saunders identifies as Mirror Knowledge, "the knowledge of the exposition of the

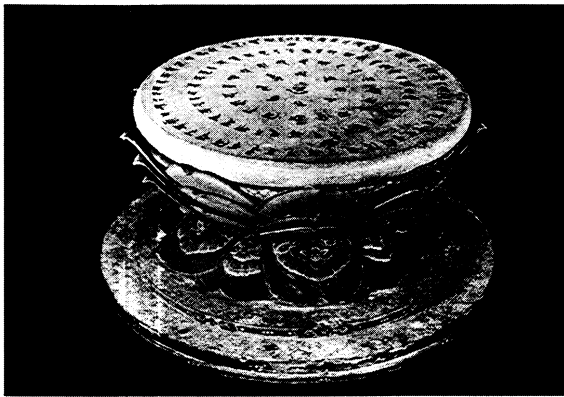
61. The principal object of worship in the Main Hall at Hōjōji was a sculpture of Mahāvairocana that stood some 29½ ft. (9 m) in height (Sugiyama, 62; Shimizu 1992, 46; and *Tale*, ii, 554–55 [*Eiga monogatari*, 2:69–70]).

62. Matsuura, 39–45. Matsuura begins his argument (38–39) by noting that a number of the relief sculptures have ink inscriptions that identify them as Esoteric bodhisattvas, e.g., Kongōsatsu, or Vajrasattva (Fig. 15); see also Mizuno, 62–63.

63. Zuzōshō, in Takakusu J. and Watanabe K., eds., *Taishō shinshū Daizokyo zuzō*, iii, Tokyo, 1932, 8c; *Besson zakki*, in *ibid.*, 96c, 103a; Yoritomi M.,

*Mandala no kanshō kiso chishiki*, Tokyo, 1991, 78–79, 144–45; and Matsuura, 39–40. For the names of the eight bodhisattvas, which vary, see Matsuura, 39, 43–44. For a 13th-century example of the *Mandala of Eight*, see Sawa R., ed., *Mikkyō bijutsu taikan*, ii, Tokyo, 1984, fig. 65.

64. Mizuno, 62–63; Nishikawa S. and Mizuno K., "Hōdō no chōkoku," in *Byōdōin taikan*, ii, 8–10. Both the Phoenix Hall and its Amitābha sculpture are treated as monuments of Esoteric Buddhism in Sawa R., ed., *Mikkyō bijutsu taikan* (as in n. 63), ii, 224–25. Recently Sudō Hirotsu has described the Phoenix Hall as a form of *Amitābha mandala* (Sudō H., *Amida shōju raigōzu*, Tokyo, 1994, 84).



16 Moon disk (*gachirin*) with Sanskrit inscription, retrieved from cavity of Amitābha sculpture, Phoenix Hall (photo: Asukaen, courtesy Byōdōin temple)

Law through 'perspicacity' (*myōkan*), which vouchsafes the understanding of the whole teaching."<sup>65</sup> It is also the *mudrā* of Amitāyus as an emanation of Mahāvairocana in a state of deep concentration that through its catatonic singularity creates and binds the universe, a notion reminiscent of the unified field of particle physics.<sup>66</sup>

There is evidence that, at the Phoenix Hall, the conflation of Amitābha with Mahāvairocana was intentional. The sculpture of Amitābha certainly lends itself to interpretation as a symbolic emanation of the Mahāvairocana in the Main Hall nearby. The *mudrā* of the small statue attached to the peak of the mandorla of the Amitābha figure, Wisdom Fists, indicates that it is the Mahāvairocana of the Diamond World, or Vajradhātu. As such it represents the adamant wisdom of the Cosmic Buddha, of which the universe is formed. Ritual convention and iconography stipulate its juxtaposition with a Mahāvairocana of the Womb World, or Garbhadhātu, the noumenous realm of knowledge, and indeed such is provided in the Amitābha, who is an emanation of that form of Mahāvairocana. It is also likely that the solar imagery of the Phoenix Hall, from the sun on the doors behind the Amitābha to its orientation toward the track of the setting

sun, encompasses the symbology of Mahāvairocana as the *Buddha solaris*.<sup>67</sup>

Visualization, contemplation, concentration, and the pursuit of a transformative state of meditation govern the system of signification at the Phoenix Hall in its Pure Land and Esoteric dimensions. Not only is the *Visualization Sutra* a scripture about meditation, but the symmetry of Amitābha and Mahāvairocana itself draws on the notion that pure concentration yields a unified ontotheological and phenomenological state. The moon disk, or *gachirin*, sealed within the sculpture of Amitābha since the time of its consecration, belongs to this order of meaning (Fig. 16). On its face are written in classical Siddham script the two mystical formulas, one "lesser" and the other "greater," chanted during meditation on Amitāyus as prescribed in the *Manual of Rituals*.<sup>68</sup> That the Phoenix Hall rises above a lake whose shape once recalled the germ syllable for Amitābha further encourages a meditational interpretation. It is through concentration on this vowel—the "ah" of both Amitābha and Mahāvairocana—that awakening to Buddhahood occurs, for, according to the *Dainichikyō*, or *Great Sun Sutra*, it is "the heart and mind of all mantras."<sup>69</sup>

A meditational agenda at the Phoenix Hall raises issues of intentionality. Mindful of the hall's Pure Land focus and the representations of "welcoming" scenes on its doors, scholars have assumed that the sanctuary was used for *nenbutsu*, or Buddha-invocation, during which the name of Amitābha is chanted repeatedly by aspirants either stationary before an icon of Amitābha or circumambulating it.<sup>70</sup> Such *nenbutsu* is encouraged, as part of contemplation of Amitābha, in the *Visualization Sutra* and other Pure Land texts, as noted, and it was introduced to aristocrats of Michinaga's generation through the teachings of the Tendai monks Ryōgen (912–985) and Genshin (942–1017). In 985 Genshin compiled a collection of essays and quotations from scripture called *Ōjō yōshū*, or *Essentials of Rebirth*, in which were laid out the prerequisites and means to rebirth in Sukhāvātī. Through the eleventh and twelfth centuries this was used as a sourcebook for Pure Land imagery and practice, and it is recognized as having contributed to the popularity among aristocrats of *nenbutsu* as a religious rite.<sup>71</sup>

*Nenbutsu* in the time of Yorimichi, as it does today,

65. Saunders (as in n. 44), 92.

66. Kaneko H., "Hōdō Amida Nyorai zō to kansō," *Museum*, CCCXXV, Apr. 1978, 4; and Hamada, 83. For the concentration *mudrā* in Amitābha statuary, see Tamura R., "Jōin Amida Nyorai zō o meguru shomondai," *Bukkyō geijutsu*, LXV, Aug. 1967, 1–14. I use the model of catalepsy and Buddhist concentration after Bernard Faure, "The Zen Icon," paper given at the Conference on the Buddhist Icon in Its Monastic Context, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ont., 1994.

67. For the Diamond and Womb worlds and their indexing as mandalas, see Yoritomi (as in n. 63), 106–38; and Ishida (as in n. 12), 33–46. Ten Grotenhuis has explored the structural and iconographical associations of the nine grades of rebirth of the *Taima Mandala* with the nine assemblies of the mandala of the Diamond World (Conference on the Buddhist Icon in Its Monastic Context, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ont., 1994). Elsewhere she has argued convincingly for a paradigm of pre-Buddhist political and sacred geography, in particular that of ancient China, as critical to the emergence of the nine-sectored hierarchy of space in the *Taima Mandala* (E. ten Grotenhuis, "The Sacred Geography of Amitābha's Pure Land," paper given at the New England East Asian Art History Seminar, Harvard

University, Cambridge, Mass., 1994). See also eadem, *The Sacred Geography of Japanese Mandalas*, forthcoming.

68. Kaneko (as in n. 66), 4–6; Mizuno K., "Amida Nyorai to sono shōgon: Nōnyūhin," in *Byōdōin*, II, 25–26. The formulas are identified in Japanese as the *Muryōju Nyorai shin shingon*, or *True Mantra of Amitāyus*, which is also called the *Amida shōju*, or *Little Amitābha Incantation*; and the *Muryōju Nyorai konpon darani*, or *Root Dhārāni of Amitāyus*, also called the *Amida daiju*, or *Big Amitābha Incantation*. For the texts of the formulas, see *Manual of Rituals*, 71b–72b; *Zuzōshō* (as in n. 63), 8c–9a; *Besson zakki* (as in n. 63), 95a, 96b–c, 97a–b. For the full moon as a ground for visualization, see T. Yamasaki, *Shingon: Japanese Esoteric Buddhism*, Boston/London, 1988, 100–101, 213–15.

69. E. ten Grotenhuis, "The Byōdōin Garden: Layers of Reconstruction," paper read at the annual meeting of the College Art Association, New York, 1994; *Great Sun Sutra* (J. *Dainichikyō*, full title *Daibirushana jōbutsu jinben kaji kyō*; Skt. *Mahāvairocanābhishambodhi-vikurvitādhisthāna-vaipulya-sūtreन्द्रa-rāja nāma dharmaparyāya-sūtra*), in Takakusu J. and Watanabe K., eds., *Taishō shinshū Daizōkyō*, XVIII, Tokyo, 1928, 38a26. For meditation on the A-syllable, see Yamasaki (as in n. 68), 190–215; and Mochizuki S., *Mochizuki bukkyō daijiten*, I, Tokyo, 1929, 24–25.

70. Murayama (as in n. 11), 96–97; Morse, 99; Murai Y., "Ōchō kizoku to

involved performative worship. Chanters do not necessarily sit quietly before an image of Amitābha, and indeed circumambulation, prostration, and even ecstatic dance have always been encouraged.<sup>72</sup> It is true that Michinaga, engaged in *nenbutsu* at Muryōjuin, secluded himself in a narrow space in front of the main Amitābha, but he was extremely ill at the time.<sup>73</sup> More typical were *nenbutsu* rites such as those held regularly at Hosshōji, when devotees, among them emperors and empresses, entered the Amitābha and Circumambulation halls to chant and pray.<sup>74</sup>

The structural idiosyncrasies of the Phoenix Hall militate against too ready an identification of its sanctuary as a ritual space for *nenbutsu* in the standard manner. Comfortable movement around the large Amitābha is difficult for more than one person, and circumambulation around the hall is discouraged by the existence of the lake and by the layout of the building itself. The Amitābha seems withdrawn and distant despite its lovely visage, not at all the welcoming manifestation of a Buddha to be celebrated through chant and song. It presents instead a figure of pure meditation, to which the solemn *mudrā* bears witness. There is no evidence that the sanctuary of the Phoenix Hall was used for organized *nenbutsu* either in the time of Yorimichi or later.

Across from the Phoenix Hall, on the eastern bank of the lake, are the foundations of a structure identified as the Little Palace, or Kogosho, that is mentioned in various sources as the vantage from which Yorimichi and his heirs gathered to observe the structure and its garden. Such viewing of the Phoenix Hall was crucial to its role at Byōdōin, with virtually all visitors to the complex making a stop at the Little Palace. Indeed, the organized viewing of the Phoenix Hall from a distance, usually at the Little Palace but occasionally from the banks of the lake, was the principal modality of its reception. The Phoenix Hall was not used for the main ceremonies at Byōdōin, which invariably took place in the Main Hall or at other structures. When it did figure in activities at the temple, as in the celebration of the *Lotus Sutra* sponsored by Empress Kanshi in 1118 mentioned earlier, the Phoenix Hall served largely as a backdrop for the monks, courtiers, musicians, and dancers gathered in front of it or along its open galleries, on the shores of the lake, and in boats and on

platforms on the lake itself. During such festivities Kanshi and her entourage watched from the Little Palace.<sup>75</sup>

It has been suggested that the Phoenix Hall was the private oratory of Yorimichi,<sup>76</sup> accessible only to him, and by definition outside the framework of more public Buddhist ceremonial. Like Michinaga at Muryōjuin, Yorimichi may have retreated behind a set of screens set up inside the Phoenix Hall directly in front of the Amitābha, to chant and pray in seclusion. Certainly the paintings would have been conducive to sustained reflection on rebirth in Sukhāvātī and thus intense self-criticism and self-cultivation. Possibly Yorimichi entered the sanctuary through its west doors, having traversed the "tail" corridor as the most direct route from his residence in the vicinity of the Main Hall, to engage there in prayer and meditation directed to personal needs and goals.

The idea that the Phoenix Hall was intended to serve Yorimichi "in private" may account for the anomalies of its construction, as Ōta Hirotarō, Ōta Seiroku, and Shimizu Hiroshi suggest when they describe the building as an "invention" dictated by circumstances and protocols not typical of other architectural projects, even those engendered by Yorimichi himself.<sup>77</sup> Yorimichi certainly drew on a variety of sources for the hall, from palace architecture in China to the audience halls of the imperial compound in Kyoto.<sup>78</sup> Its parallels with the Kayanoin Mansion, noted by most scholars,<sup>79</sup> confirm the presence of a domestic component. The sources for the actual design of the Phoenix Hall, such as transformations of the *Visualization Sutra* or manuals of Pure Land imagery, are not known. Yorimichi may have collected such materials from visiting Chinese merchants, who on occasion sold works of art to the Japanese royal family and to courtiers.<sup>80</sup> Possibly versions of the *Taima Mandala* or other Pure Land mandalas were available to him through family or temple connections.

The result was an architectural transformation at the Phoenix Hall where form and function literally embodied the teachings of the *Visualization Sutra*. Shimizu notes in this context that the Phoenix Hall is the first example in Japan of a building meant to be appreciated entirely from its exterior.<sup>81</sup> The position of the Little Palace across the lake from the main façade supports his contention. Even today a glimpse of the face of the Amitābha through the oval window

jōdo shinkō," in Gotō S., ed., *Nihon koji bijutsu zenshū* (as in n. 11), xv, 95; Nakano G., "Byōdōin Hōdō," in Nakano G., ed., *Nihon bijutsu zenshū*, vii, Tokyo, 1978, 139; and Miyamoto C., "Amidado to Jōdo te'ien," in Gotō S., ed., *Nihon bijutsu zenshū*, vii, 155.

71. For *nenbutsu*, see Ōjō yōshū, in Ishida M., ed., *Genshin Ōjō yōshū*, Tokyo, 1991, 345–60.

72. For *nenbutsu* practices, see Hamada, 65–67, 75–76; Yamada S., "Kōshiki: Bukkyō geijutsu no sōgō," in Hamashima, ed. (as in n. 57), 258; and Fujii M., "Jōdokyō to girei," in Hamashima, ed. (as in n. 57), 342–43.

73. *Tale*, ii, 760 (*Eiga monogatari*, 2:322).

74. See, e.g., *Go Nijō Moromichi ki*, 1:57 (Ōtoku 1/1084.3.11); and *Chūyūki*, 2:197a (Jōtoku 2/1098.9.22), 6:294b (Chōshō 1/1132.3.10).

75. Shimizu, 1992, 77; Shimizu, 1988, 21; and *Chūyūki*, 5:79–81 (Gen'ei 1/1118.9.22). On visits in 1132 and 1134 Emperor Toba viewed the Phoenix Hall from a route along the shore of its lake and from the Little Palace, as did Emperor Go Shirakawa in 1158 (*Chūyūki*, 6:332a, Chōshō 1/1132.9.24; *Chōshūki*, 2:200b, Chōshō 3/1134.5.13; and *Heihanki*, 3:51a–b, Hōgen 5/1158.10.18). For a reconstruction of the formal route of access at Byōdōin, see Shimizu, 1992, 71–72. For ceremonies in the Main Hall and other chapels, see *Fusō ryakki*, 328 (Kanji 2/1098.2.22); *Chūyūki*, 1:293a (Kahō

2/1095.9.30); and *Denryaku*, 1:204 (Kōwa 5/1103.3.11), 4:185 (Eikyū 3/1115.9.30), 258 (Eikyū 4/1116.9.19).

76. Ōta H., 15. Akiyama (as in n. 11), 15, maintains that the painting on the eastern face of the reredos, behind the Amitābha sculpture, was commissioned by Yorimichi toward the end of his life as a confirmation of his personal devotion to Amitābha; the scene shows three men with offerings to the Buddha. The role of the Phoenix Hall as Yorimichi's principal prayer chapel, or *jibutsudō*, is by no means certain; Shimizu, 1992, 74–75, has emphasized that the *jibutsudō* was in fact part of the Main Hall complex.

77. Ōta H., 16–17; Ōta S., 274; and Shimizu, 1992, 79.

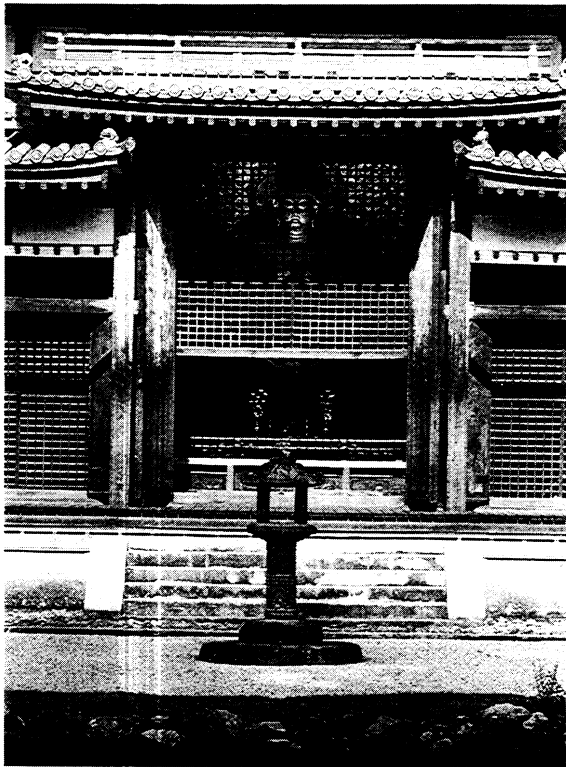
78. Ōta H., 17; Tanaka, 76–79; Shimizu, 1992, 79; and Ōta S., 265–70, 280.

79. See, e.g., Muraoka, 70; and Ōta H., 17.

80. For contact between Kyoto aristocrats and Chinese merchants, see *Hyakurenshō* (as in n. 37), 23 (Eishō 1/1046.10.3, Eishō 3/1048.8.11), 24 (Eishō 5/1050.9.17); *Nihon kiriyaku*, in Kuroita K., ed., *Shintei zōho kokushi taizei*, xi, 1929, 234 (Chōwa 4/1015.2.12); and *Shōyūki*, 8:131–32 (Chōgen 2/1029.3.2). Yorimichi also corresponded with Japanese monks studying in China; see *Nihon kiriyaku*, 283 (Chōgen 5/1032.12.23).

81. Shimizu, 1992, 79.





17 Phoenix Hall, view from east (photo: Asukaen, courtesy Byōdōin temple)

in the lattice of the central doors to the Phoenix Hall, no doubt designed with such an effect in mind, stimulates prayers, *nenbutsu*, and exclamations of admiration from beholders on the eastern shore of the lake (Fig. 17).

The Phoenix Hall thus becomes the focal point of the forms of visualization and meditation promoted in the *Visualization Sutra*, which are themselves pathways to purification and rebirth. The mantras inside the sculpture of Amitābha, written as they are on the face of an opening lotus blossom evocative of rebirth in Sukhāvātī, confirm the emphasis on observation and meditation at the Phoenix Hall as routes of access to the Pure Land. According to the *Manual of Rituals* (71c19–27), they yield the visions of Amitābha in Sukhāvātī that generate fields of merit and epiphany. Their physical presence within the sanctuary of the Phoenix Hall, inside the golden icon that is its center of gravity and the point of departure for *nenbutsu*, emphasizes the visionary

scheme of the hall. The Phoenix Hall is both a votive image, the object scanned by the eyes and mind during ritual and prayer, and a mnemonic by which that image is sustained.<sup>82</sup> It may well be that, like a sutra or a poem, the Phoenix Hall was meant to be read and remembered, not entered.

How and why the Phoenix Hall was conceived in this manner bears investigation from the discursive ground of its sociohistorical determinants, where the relationship of text to history, so troubling to critical theorists yet so compelling, must be engaged. Much has been written about the Phoenix Hall as a sign invested with the strength and legitimacy of the lineage to which Yorimichi belonged as head of a family of regents to the throne.<sup>83</sup> In this sense a statement about power, the Phoenix Hall emerges as an important monument, elaborate and expensive, of a family of aristocrats with a special claim to authority in the contingent realms of politics and culture. It becomes a symbol of their dominion.

Such an interpretation is convincing if it is assumed that the Phoenix Hall was intended first and foremost as a monument with a public purpose. But it is important to remember that contemporary records, from the personal diaries of courtiers to state-sponsored histories, have little to say about the Phoenix Hall but much in regard to other temples and halls, at Byōdōin and elsewhere. Even records associated directly with Yorimichi and his lineage contain few references to it, citing instead the events staged at the Main Hall or among its residences, as noted. For these reasons another reading is warranted that departs from, but does not necessarily conflict with, the conventional understanding of the Phoenix Hall as a representation of power and legitimacy.

Georges Duby has written that every language “has a word equivalent to ‘private,’ a zone of immunity to which we may fall back or retreat.” For Duby this private realm is

a place where we may set aside arms and armor needed in the public place, relax, take our ease, and lie about unshielded by the ostentatious carapace worn for protection in the outside world. This is the place where the family thrives, the realm of domesticity; it is also a realm of secrecy. The private realm contains our most precious possessions, which belong only to ourselves, which concern nobody else.<sup>84</sup>

The ideological effects of its imagery and rich appointments notwithstanding, the Phoenix Hall invites analysis as a manifestation of private life and private concerns as defined by Duby. To the extent that such concerns can be identified, they offer a fruitful interpretative strategy for the exegesis of the Phoenix Hall as a cultural product.

The year that Yorimichi converted his villa at Uji into the

82. I am grateful to Professor Walter Cahn for the suggestion that mnemonics may provide a clue to the Phoenix Hall and its reception.

83. Shimizu, 1988, 18; Nakano G., “Jōdokyō shinkō to Fujiwara bunka,” in Hamashima, ed. (as in n. 57), 132; Minamoto T., *Nihon byōutsushi ronkyū*, Tokyo, 1982, 43, 46; Ishida I., “Chūsonji konryū no katei ni arawareta Ōshū Fujiwarashi no shinkō to seiji,” in Hiraizumi Chōshi Hensan Iin Kai, ed., *Hiraizumi chōshi, Sōtsu-Ronsetsu hen*, III, Tokyo, 1988, 448–49; J. Stanley Baker, *Japanese Art*, London, 1988, 68; Morse, 101; and Yiengpruksawan, 1991, 342.

84. G. Duby, “Foreword to a History of Private Life,” in P. Veyne, ed., *A*

*History of Private Life: 1. From Pagan Rome to Byzantium*, Cambridge, Mass./London, 1987, viii.

85. Sutra recitations and other rites were held at the Kamo Shrine and in the imperial compound in Kyoto in the first, fourth, and seventh months (*Fusō ryakki*, 292, Eishō 7/1052.1.26, 4.7, 7.17).

86. *Fusō ryakki*, 292 (Eishō 7/1052.1.26, 8.25).

87. J. Nattier, *Once upon a Future Time: Studies in a Buddhist Prophecy of Decline*, Berkeley, 1991, 3, 5, 65–66; for Buddhist *eschata* and the “disappearance of the Dharma,” see esp. 28–64, 90–118.

88. *Fusō ryakki*, 292 (Eishō 7/1052.1.26). It is unclear why 1052, and not



temple Byōdōin, 1052, was a momentous one. He had just turned sixty, a rite of passage that brought with it intimations of approaching old age and death. Epidemic raged in the capital in the months shortly before and after the consecration of the Main Hall at Byōdōin, with sutra recitations and other rites staged to enlist the gods in its containment.<sup>85</sup> A decision was made to change the era name in the hopes of evading more suffering, and before the year was out fire had ravaged one of the holiest of sites, the beloved temple Hasedera. Many became convinced that they had lived to witness the extinction of Buddhism as predicted by the Buddha.<sup>86</sup>

In a recent study Jan Nattier has examined what she identifies as “the Buddhist prophecy of the decline of the Dharma,” which originated in India in the second century A.D., and was later formulated in East Asia into three periods of “devolution.” As Nattier notes, Dharma in this sense refers to Buddhist teachings, practices, and institutions, and its decline and extinction signify the death of Buddhism.<sup>87</sup> Men and women of Yorimichi’s generation believed that the final period of decline, identified in contemporary texts as Final Dharma, or Mappō, had begun in 1052. “In the first month of that year we entered the Final Dharma,” wrote the author of *Fusō ryakki*, or *Fusō Chronicles*.<sup>88</sup> The Phoenix Hall was consecrated fourteen months later.

Kaneko Hiroaki has explored the notion of the Final Dharma as a determining factor in the development and reception of the Phoenix Hall. He bases his analysis on the *Manual of Rituals* as a source of imagery on the eradication of pollution and bad karma and on the achievement of rebirth in Sukhāvātī as a form of release. In the *Manual of Rituals* (67b29–67c3) Mahāvairocana explains to the bodhisattva Kōngōju, or Vajrapāṇi, that the world is stained by the Final Dharma and its denizens burdened with evil karma. He instructs him in the Amitāyus mantras, teaches him the “three mystical gateways”—body, mouth, mind—that configure *nenbutsu*, and explains that, through such praxis, rebirth in the Pure Land becomes possible and thus escape from the world of the Final Dharma is assured (67c3–4).

Kaneko believes Yorimichi knew the *Manual of Rituals* and used its teachings, with their strong Esoteric dimension, as a guide in concentration and meditation on Amitābha and Sukhāvātī at the Phoenix Hall. In this sense the Phoenix Hall, surrounded by water and with a river flowing nearby, was at once a three-dimensional manifestation of the *Visualization Sutra*, a representation of Sukhāvātī, and the purified and purifying object of contemplation expounded in the *Manual of Rituals*. The name Byōdōin, “Byōdō Temple,” itself may reveal Yorimichi’s concern with the *Manual*, for it recalls how Mahāvairocana describes for Vajrapāṇi the in-

sight that is attained through the act of visualization during chanting of the Amitābha mantra. “One knows within oneself the Buddha nature,” Mahāvairocana says of visualization, “one understands the equality [*byōdō*] of the Dharma and the nonself” (*Manual of Rituals*, 71b23–24). In a world troubled by disease, calamity, and intense fear,<sup>89</sup> and one moreover conceived as lost to the Final Dharma, the solace offered in such a celebration of Amitābha and his world-realm as the Phoenix Hall cannot be discounted for its force as an object of heartfelt longing.

Empress Kanshi, who staged the *Lotus Sutra* celebration at Byōdōin in 1118, was the second daughter of Yorimichi. In 1050 she entered the palace of Emperor Go Reizei and in 1051 became his empress. Modern scholars have shown little interest in Kanshi,<sup>90</sup> and they have not commented on the correspondence of her enthronement to the construction of Byōdōin by her father. But Kanshi was an important figure at court and, as it happened, at Byōdōin as well. Diary records confirm that she spent much of her time at the complex until her death in 1127. It was Kanshi, in fact, and not her brothers or nephews who claimed Uji as a domicile. She was joined there on a regular basis by the women of note who comprised her extended family, among them Minamoto no Reishi (d. 1114), wife of the regent Moromichi, and Minamoto no Shishi (d. 1148), who, once the consort of Shirakawa, had been given in marriage to Yorimichi’s great-great-grandson Tadazane. It was also Kanshi who sponsored most of the important ceremonies at the Phoenix Hall after the death of her father in 1074.<sup>91</sup>

That Kanshi is rarely mentioned in connection with the Phoenix Hall and Byōdōin, despite primary material that amply demonstrates her direct association with the complex, seems a remarkable lapse. It also reveals the extent to which the realm of private life, inaccessible and unwieldy even under the best conditions of analysis, is routinely read out of the cultural maps with which the past is negotiated, where all roads seem to lead to power struggles among men. But for the Phoenix Hall it is precisely such an engagement with the private, where Walter Cahn locates “meanings attached to family structure and familial obligations,”<sup>92</sup> that yields clues to its proper exegesis, whether in the context of a world believed to be ending, or among the women whose bodies and hearts sustained the families of men such as Yorimichi.

In 1069 Yorimichi is credited with having initiated the first celebration at Byōdōin of the *Issaikyō*, “All the Sutras,” in which recitations, lectures, prayers, and other services were held to venerate the Buddhist canon, or Tripitaka.<sup>93</sup> In 1070 the observance, given the name Issaikyōe, or Tripitaka Devotions, was designated an annual event to take place on

some other of the many calamitous years in the 11th and 12th centuries, was identified in this manner.

89. I am grateful to Professors Neil McMullin and Timon Screech for their comments on the role of fear in the cultural productions of the Kyoto elite in the 11th and 12th centuries; see also Yiengpruksawan, 1994, 448–50.

90. The historian Sakai Misao mentions her briefly in relation to Yorimichi; see Sakai (as in n. 29), 111–12.

91. In his diary Tadazane describes Kanshi as living at the Byōdōin complex; see *Denryaku*, 3:108 (Ten’ei 1/1110.10.2), 181 (Ten’ei 2/1111.10.27), 4:121 (Eikyū 2/1114.9.19), 5:63 (Eikyū 5/1117.12.21). For Reishi and Shishi at Uji, see *ibid.*, 1:64 (Kōwa 3/1101.8.13), 102 (Kōwa

4/1102.1.24), 199 (Kōwa 5/1103.2.20), 2:12 (Chōji 1/1104.9.18), 3:220 (Ten’ei 3/1112.4.5), 4:258 (Eikyū 4/1116.9.17). In addition to the *Lotus Sutra* lectures and devotions of 1118, Kanshi sponsored a poetry contest in the vicinity of the hall, various memorials, and the annual celebrations of the Buddhist canon to be discussed presently (*Go Nijō Moromichi ki*, 1:280, Kanji 3/1089.8.23; *Denryaku*, 3:234, Ten’ei 3/1112.5.26, 4:242, Eikyū 4/1116.5.15, 5:83, Gen’ei 1/1118.intercalary.9.22; and *Chiyūki*, 5:79–81, Gen’ei 1/1118.intercalary.9.22).

92. Personal communication, 1994.

93. *Fusō ryakki*, 307 (Enkyū 1/1069.5.28).

the third day of the third month.<sup>94</sup> Kanshi was the main sponsor of the Tripitaka Devotions in years to follow, which suggests that she was as instrumental as her father, Yorimichi, in their development and institutionalization at Byōdōin. Indeed, through 1127, when she died at Uji at the age of ninety-two years, Kanshi was the principal figure at the Devotions, the presence of her great-nephew, Tadazane, and other male descendants of Yorimichi notwithstanding.<sup>95</sup>

Diary accounts indicate that the Tripitaka Devotions were an elaborate affair. Participants arrived at Byōdōin to be escorted in a procession around the Phoenix Hall, viewing it from the path that skirted the eastern and southern shores of the lake, or stopping at the Little Palace for prayers and observation. Musicians and dancers performed along the shore of the lake or on boats and platforms on its surface. The Phoenix Hall was clearly the center of attraction at the Tripitaka Devotions, but the sanctuary was not utilized during services, which instead were held behind the Phoenix Hall at the Kyōzō, or Sutra Repository.<sup>96</sup> As a beautiful backdrop to the celebrations and an object of appreciation in its own right, conducive to ruminations on Amitābha and his Pure Land, the Phoenix Hall in this context certainly fulfilled an iconographical program as a votive image. Possibly it is for such reasons that the date of the Tripitaka Devotions coincided with the month in which the Phoenix Hall had been consecrated.

Kanshi, Reishi, and the other influential women of the Fujiwara family also staged at Byōdōin, sometimes within the Phoenix Hall itself, memorials to their husbands and other close male relatives.<sup>97</sup> The *Lotus Sutra* rites sponsored in 1118 by Kanshi were probably intended to memorialize Fujiwara ancestors in general, and most of Yorimichi's descendants were in attendance. That the Phoenix Hall figured in such memorial and penitential rites for Yorimichi and his heirs suggests a strongly private dimension to the function and reception of the chapel at Byōdōin.

There is convincing evidence that neither the Tripitaka Devotions nor the annual memorial services at Byōdōin were events attended by notables outside the main Fujiwara household and its retainers. Unlike *nenbutsu* practices at Hosshōji or other temples, where members of the royal family and nobles joined in celebrations of Amitābha, ceremonies at Byōdōin were concerned with the members of Yorimichi's lineage and dominated by its women. By the twelfth century the Tripitaka Devotions were so famous as to

be mentioned in virtually all court diaries, but participation was limited to a small audience. In 1141 the empress Taikenmon'in (1101–45) initiated Tripitaka Devotions at her own temple complex in Kyoto, Hōkongōin, in imitation of those at Byōdōin, perhaps because access to the Uji complex was so difficult.<sup>98</sup> The memorials at Byōdōin, like the Tripitaka Devotions, were a family affair largely confined to persons closely affiliated with the Yorimichi line. Tadazane assiduously attended the memorials even as he served as regent, to the irritation of Emperor Shirakawa and others at court.<sup>99</sup>

Kanshi's husband, Go Reizei, made a trip to Byōdōin in 1067, but other visits by emperors and empresses were rare except in the case of princesses with ties to Kanshi.<sup>100</sup> Shirakawa, as emperor and retired emperor, traveled only five times to Uji, and Toba did not pay it a visit until 1132.<sup>101</sup> During these years Shirakawa, Toba, and their empresses made frequent excursions to shrines and temples throughout the capital region, often passing Uji en route to their destinations. But they did not stop at Byōdōin, nor were they among the participants at its Tripitaka Devotions, for which the Fujiwara were wont to turn out in force.<sup>102</sup>

Shirakawa and Toba belonged to an imperial lineage at odds with that of Go Reizei, and it is possible that Go Reizei's wife, Kanshi, allowed only occasional visits by Shirakawa and Toba to Uji out of loyalty to her husband and his family. Tadazane himself did not have the best of relations with Shirakawa. But it seems equally likely that, because Byōdōin and the Phoenix Hall in particular belonged so thoroughly to the realm of private life, they were not on the agenda for royal excursions. Instead, the Byōdōin complex was the province of domestic Fujiwara business and ceremonials, the place where Tadazane and Shishi took their children to play on the path around the Phoenix Hall, or brought furnishings from home to decorate the site during festivals. Thus, Tadazane greeted with horror the news that a contingent of monks from Kōfukuji in Nara, the pugnacious tutelary temple of his family whose wars with other temples were legendary, was expecting to be put up at Byōdōin in preparation for yet another march on Kyoto and its civilian government in 1116.<sup>103</sup>

It is true that the Phoenix Hall came to symbolize, and perhaps even to embody, the prestige and legitimacy of Yorimichi's lineage, and as such it was on many levels a statement about mandate in the public sphere. But inquiry

94. *Kanchūki*, in Zōho Shiryō Taisei Kankō Kai, ed., *Zōho shiryō taisei*, xxxiv, Kyoto, 1965, 155a (Kōan 5/1070.3.1). See also *Denryaku*, 1:78 (Kōwa 3/1101.10.22), for the third day of the third month as the formal date for the Tripitaka Devotions.

95. For Kanshi's prominent role at the Devotions, see *Denryaku*, 1:299–300 (Chōji 1/1104.3.3); and *Chūyūki*, 2:339b–340a (Chōji 1/1104.3.3), 5:38a–b (Gen'ei 1/1118.3.3). Her death date, and age at death, are based on *Chūyūki*, 5:320a (Daiji 2/1127.8.14).

96. For descriptions of the Devotions, see *Denryaku*, 1:299–300 (Chōji 1/1104.3.3), 2:78 (Ten'ei 1/1110.5.26); and *Chūyūki*, 5:38–39 (Gen'ei 1/1118.3.3).

97. For examples of memorial services for Yorimichi and his son Morozane (1042–1101), see *Denryaku*, 1:48 (Kōwa 3/1101.4.13), 1:102 (Kōwa 4/1101.1.26), 3:7 (Tennin 2/1109.2.2); and *Chūyūki*, 2:151b (Kōwa 4.1.26).

98. *Heihanki*, 1:13a (Hōen 7/1141.2.28). It should be noted that Taikenmon'in was on poor terms with Tadazane.

99. For example, in 1111 Shirakawa ordered Tadazane to remain at court

despite his expressed desire to attend memorial services at Byōdōin (*Denryaku*, 3:32, Ten'ei 2/1111.2.13).

100. *Fusō ryakki*, 304 (Jiryaku 3/1067.10.5); *Taiki*, 1:63b (Kōji 1/1142.2.5); and *Denryaku*, 3:38 (Tennin 2/1109.6.24), 4:121 (Eikyū 2/1114.9.19).

101. *Fusō ryakki*, 327 (Ōtoku 4/1087.5.19), 328 (Kanji 2/1088.10.12); *Go Nijō Moromichi ki*, 2:175 (Kanji 5/1091.10.12); and *Chūyūki*, 6:332a (Chōshō 1/1132.9.24).

102. *Chūyūki*, 2:339b (Chōji 1/1104.3.3). For example, Shirakawa, Toba, and Taikenmon'in on their many outings to the Kumano Shrine apparently never stopped at Uji or Byōdōin, although they passed within sight of it; see *Chūyūki*, 5:288a (Daiji 2/1127.2.18). It is not true, as is often claimed by scholars influenced by Ivan Morris, *The World of the Shining Prince* (1964; Harmondsworth, 1986) that members of the royal family and aristocrats traveled little in the 11th and 12th centuries; diaries and other accounts confirm the opposite to have been the case, with excursions to famous places and local temples commonplace.

into its substrata, for the most part private and hidden, yields a fruitful avenue of exploration. Like the text of which it is a transformation in three dimensions, the Phoenix Hall, once given form within a specific natural and cultural landscape, invites the glosses of private readings. It is at once the site of an act of merit generated by Yorimichi, perhaps to celebrate his sixtieth year, or to ease the entry of a daughter held dear, Kanshi, into the uneasy fabric of palace society; a place of symbolic escape from disease and disorder; and the silent object of pure observation that, like the calling out of Amitābha's name at twilight, affirms the Buddha's presence nearby. In this sense the Phoenix Hall is a great deal more than the physical manifestation of a strategy of legitimation. It is a votive image that, poetic and comforting, sustains a private cosmos replicating Sukhāvātī, itself the domicile of Amitābha.

### Shōkōmyōin

In the third month of 1136 Toba held the consecration ceremony that marked the completion of Shōkōmyōin, a hall described as utterly beautiful by those in attendance, and one whose realization was more than likely greeted with a sigh of relief by all concerned.<sup>104</sup> Some two years had elapsed since the project was first initiated at the Toba Palace early in 1134. Minamoto no Morotoki was the project supervisor and recorded in his diary, *Chōshūki*, the various difficulties that periodically brought construction to a halt and incensed Toba. Once completed, however, Shōkōmyōin apparently fulfilled its brief as an imitation of the Phoenix Hall and, as noted, was so described in accounts of its consecration.<sup>105</sup>

Around 1130 Toba became interested in the Toba Palace on the northern bank of the Kamo River just south of Kyoto proper, and by 1131 he had decided to move the ashes of his father, Shirakawa, to the complex.<sup>106</sup> The area had always been popular with aristocrats, for it was scenic and easily reached from the city, and under Shirakawa an attractive section of wetlands along the river bank was developed into a residential complex with several compounds.<sup>107</sup> When Toba in the fourth month of 1134 initiated discussion of the construction of a replica of the Phoenix Hall at the Toba Palace,<sup>108</sup> he had already selected a site north of his main domicile there, just as Yorimichi had chosen for his own hall a spot not far from the Uji residence that was subsequently converted into the Main Hall at Byōdōin. Possibly Toba selected the Toba Palace for Shōkōmyōin because it was not far from Uji, which was a short boat trip away.<sup>109</sup>

Toba approached the construction of Shōkōmyōin with obsessive interest. Around him was gathered a contentious group of financiers, advisers, architects, painters, sculptors, and sundry others who met regularly to discuss the project, which at several points was nearly abandoned because of local flooding and even the arrest of the head artisan for murder (*Chōshūki*, 2:190–91, 196–97, 198, 202, 207–8, 215–16, 284, 295–96). Visits were made to Uji, the Phoenix Hall was studied and sketched, and any alterations to its plan were carefully considered (2:195a, 198a). Both Toba and Morotoki regularly emphasized the need to “copy” the Phoenix Hall even as new features were introduced (2:197a, 216a). Toba was particularly attentive to measurements, ordering that the roof be lowered a few inches, and forcing the head sculptor to recarve sections of the Amitābha statue (2:194a, 197a, 202–3, 276–77, 285a).<sup>110</sup>

The formal statement of consecration provides a thorough description of Shōkōmyōin as it looked in 1136.

Sincerely offered is one hall of tile roof, two stories, and one bay of four sides. Enshrined within is a golden statue of Amitābha that measures one *jō* and six *shaku*. A figure of Mahāvairocana is affixed to the mandorla, along with the Twelve Kōbutsu [Twelve Buddhas of Light] and Twenty-Five Bosatsu [Twenty-Five Bodhisattvas]. The Lesser Amitābha Mantra is written in Sanskrit characters on the surface of the attached mirrors. The canopy contains eight figures of Hiten. On the four pillars are paintings of the deities of the Womb and Diamond mandalas. On the doors on four sides are paintings of the nine degrees of rebirth in Sukhāvātī and scenes of the welcomings. In the aisle on four sides are two-*shaku* five-*sun* statues of the bodhisattvas Fugen [Samantabhadra]; Monjushiri [Mañjuśrī]; Kokūzō [Ākāśagarbha]; Miroku [Maitreya]; Jizō [Kṣitigarbha]; Kaie; and Yuima Koshi [Vimalakīrti]; and 223 two-*shaku* statues of all the Great Bodhisattvas, dragon attendants, and eight classes of guardians. On the wall behind the Amitābha are paintings of the Twenty-Five Bodhisattvas and the nine degrees of rebirth in Sukhāvātī. In the second story are enshrined 7-*shaku* 5-*sun* gold statues of the bodhisattvas Kongōhō [Vajradharma]; Kongōri [Vajratikṣṇa]; Kongōin [Vajrahetu]; and Kongōgo [Vajrabhāṣā]; and 32 four-*shaku* 5-*sun* polychrome statues of the Gīgaku Bosatsu [Bodhisattvas of Music and Dance].<sup>111</sup>

In *Chōshūki* (2:190–191, 206b, 276–77) Morotoki confirms

103. *Denryaku*, 1:299 (Chōji 1/1104.3.1), 2:12 (Chōji 1.9.18), 13 (Chōji 1.9.24), 4:234 (Eikyū 4/1116.3.17), 254 (Eikyū 4/1116.8.15). The wars between Kōfukuji and other temples contributed much to belief in the Final Dharma.

104. For the consecration ceremony, see *Chūyūki*, 7:179–80 (Hōen 2/1136.3.23); for the consecration address, see *Honchō shoku monzui* (“Toba Shōkōmyōin kuyō”), in Kuroita K., ed., *Shintei zōho kokushi taiketsu*, XXIX, Tokyo, 1941, 212–13. In later years the ceremony was described as having been one of the most elaborate ever (*Taiki*, 1:224a, Kyūan 3/1147.8.2).

105. For discussion of Shōkōmyōin, see Sugiyama N., *In no goshō to miō*, Nara, 1962, 109; Shimizu, 1992, 311–14; Ōta S., 456; Murayama, 154–58; and Matsuura, 35–38. Shōkōmyōin was destroyed by fire in 1242 and the site later lost to flooding (*Hyakurenshō* [as in n. 37], 194, Ninji 3/1242.7.1).

106. The ashes were installed in a pagoda at the Toba Palace in keeping with the wishes of Shirakawa on his deathbed (*Chōshūki*, 1:300b, Daiji

4/1129.7.16, 2:104a, Tenshō 1/1131.4.12, 121–22, Tenshō 1.7.9). Toba himself would later be interred at the complex, as he had planned as early as 1145 (*Taiki*, 1:167a, Ten'yō 2/1145.12.17; and *Hyakurenshō* [as in n. 37], 71, Hōgen 1/1156.7.2).

107. For the Toba Palace, see Ōta S., 443–74; Sugiyama (as in n. 105), 98–116; and Murayama, 146–76. The Kamo River now flows south of the palace site.

108. *Chōshūki*, 2:190–91 (*Chōshō* 3/1134.4.10). Subsequent citations from *Chōshūki* are given in the text when they pertain to Shōkōmyōin.

109. Tadazane and Shishi often traveled between Uji and the Toba Palace by boat along the Kamo and Uji rivers, as did Shirakawa on his visit to Byōdōin in 1091 (*Denryaku*, 4:259, Eikyū 4/1116.9.23; and *Chūyūki*, 1:55b, Kanji 5/1091.10.12).

110. For a discussion of the alterations, see Morse, 109.

111. *Honchō shoku monzui* (as in n. 104), 211.

that Shōkōmyōin had an upper story with four bodhisattvas and numerous other sculptures throughout the building, including mirrors and at least thirty-eight relief figures attached to the mandorla. He also records changes to the flooring of the galleries (2:285a).

Recently Shimizu has argued that Shōkōmyōin resembled the Phoenix Hall only slightly. He cites the second story; structural features such as plank flooring and what he interprets as freestanding turrets (Morotoki's text is by no means clear); and hundreds of sculptures on its interior, along with representations of the Diamond and Womb worlds on the pillars of the sanctuary.<sup>112</sup> The argument is based on the assumption that the interior of the Phoenix Hall today is substantially what it was in 1136, but no such assurance exists. Even Toba, as noted, complained because Tadazane could not produce an original account of the design and construction of the Phoenix Hall (*Chōshūki*, 2:201a). Aside from the Amitābha statue and the paintings of the nine degrees, what the interior of the Phoenix Hall actually looked like in 1053 is a matter of conjecture. It is by no means impossible that sculptures originally stood in its outer aisles, that many more were mounted on its upper walls or otherwise placed among the rafters, and that paintings of the Diamond and Womb worlds, now lost or repainted, once occupied the pillars in an iconographical configuration consistent with Amitābha as an emanation of Mahāvairocana.

From the exterior the Phoenix Hall appears to have an upper story owing to its skirt roof. A person viewing the building from a boat or the eastern shore of the lake will not necessarily be able to determine whether it is in fact a two-storied building, nor will the composition of its interior be clear. Morotoki records that, preparatory to alterations in the height of Shōkōmyōin, Toba examined it from a boat, that is to say, from a position outside the hall (*Chōshūki*, 2:197a). Shimizu places too great an emphasis on the internal details and structural composition of Shōkōmyōin, none of which is immediately visible from its exterior. Shōkōmyōin may well have had an upper story, but, when viewed from the outside, so does the Phoenix Hall.

Shimizu also downplays the concern with copying that is evident throughout Morotoki's account of Shōkōmyōin. Toba visited Uji as work began on Shōkōmyōin (*Chōshūki*, 2:200–201), and Toba and Morotoki sent artisans to the Phoenix Hall and later examined sketches of the complex (2:195a, 198a). Morotoki on occasion even seemed anxious that the format of the Phoenix Hall be followed (2:197a, 216a). Toba's decision to have the roof of Shōkōmyōin lowered and his reluctance to have an additional bay constructed in each gallery (2:191a) indicate a strong desire to

repeat the plan and size of the Phoenix Hall. The effort was successful, for, as noted, Shōkōmyōin on its consecration was described as a copy of the Phoenix Hall. Even Shimizu at one time acknowledged that Shōkōmyōin preserved the identifying features of the Phoenix Hall.<sup>113</sup>

What possessed Toba to build a replica of the Phoenix Hall and to persevere in the endeavor despite serious setbacks and advice that he abandon it? Samuel C. Morse has suggested that Toba, enamored of the power that had accrued to the Fujiwara, associated as the lineage was with Byōdōin and the Phoenix Hall, built Shōkōmyōin as a symbolic appropriation of their ancient mandate as the paramount ruling family.<sup>114</sup> There is certainly truth to this claim that Shōkōmyōin, as a mark of legitimation, emulated what might be called the cultural capital of Yorimichi's famous lineage, and that Toba as an astute statesman saw reason to accumulate such stock in his own right.

There are, however, factors that underlie the *telos* of Shōkōmyōin as an act of copying that originate in the same order of private life that subtends the Phoenix Hall. Toba relied on the advice of Yorimichi's great-grandson Tadazane throughout the design and execution of Shōkōmyōin. When Toba visited the Phoenix Hall in 1134, it was Tadazane who escorted him around the complex (*Chōshūki*, 2:200–201), and it was to Tadazane that Toba turned during disputes among artisans and designers at Shōkōmyōin (2:207b, 277a). Toba had known Tadazane since childhood, when Tadazane had treated Toba with affection despite the apparent dislike he held for Toba's father, Shirakawa.<sup>115</sup> Toba could not have been happy when a deep rift developed between Shirakawa and Tadazane in 1120, to result in Tadazane's removal from government and his self-exile to Uji. It is often argued that the dispute began when Tadazane refused to give his only daughter, Taishi (1095–1155), in marriage to Toba, but the situation in reality seems to have been much more complicated.<sup>116</sup> Like Yorimichi on the accession to the throne of Go Sanjō in 1067, Tadazane appears to have withdrawn to Uji with the expectation that he would live out the rest of his life at Byōdōin. In years to come Tadazane would be given the epithet Ujido, "Lord of Uji," a title that he shared only with Yorimichi.<sup>117</sup>

Shirakawa dominated palace society even in retirement, and it was not until his death in 1129 that Toba was able to rehabilitate Tadazane, although the Fujiwara leader never again served as regent, the post having passed to his son, Tadamichi (1097–1164). In 1132 Toba made an official visit to Uji, to be escorted around Byōdōin by a delighted Tadazane, who soon resumed his role as a player in court

112. Shimizu, 1992, 311–14.

113. Shimizu, 1988, 22.

114. Morse, 108–13.

115. Tadazane was Toba's senior by twenty-five years. Among his many acts of kindness toward Toba as a child were frequent gifts of toys, as in 1107, when he presented the young prince with a wooden horse and sword (*Denryaku*, 2:223, Kajō 2/1107.9.16, 228, Kajō 2.10.7).

116. Entries in Tadazane's diary indicate that by 1118 he was already on poor terms with Shirakawa (*Denryaku*, 5:77, Gen'ei 1/1118.9.5; 79, Gen'ei 1.9.28; 81, Gen'ei 1.9.9). Tsunoda Bun'ei (*Taikenmon'in Fujiwara no Shōshi*, Tokyo, 1987, 34–39) has argued that Tadazane was disgusted by Shirakawa's

relationship with the young Fujiwara no Shōshi, or Taikenmon'in, and with the latter's promiscuity, even as Shirakawa married her to his son, Toba. Tadazane's refusal to allow the entry of his daughter, Taishi, into Toba's palace probably had much to do with his dislike for both Shirakawa and Taikenmon'in, who had at one time been betrothed to his son, Tadamichi, but had spurned him; also, Tadazane's own wife, Shishi, had once been a concubine of Shirakawa and had borne him a child. For a thorough report on court politics in this period, see Hurst, 147–62.

117. For Yorimichi as Ujido, see *Denryaku*, 1:43 (Kōwa 3/1101.1.29), 198 (Kōwa 5/1103.2.13); for Tadazane, see *Heihanki*, 1:36a (Kyūan 5/1149.10.23), 3:46a (Hōgen 3/1158.10.15).

intrigue.<sup>118</sup> Within the year Taishi was betrothed once more to Toba, to enter the palace in the third month of 1134 as the third of Toba's empresses.<sup>119</sup> A month later work began in earnest on Shōkōmyōin with the ceremonial raising of its ridgepole (*Chōshūki*, 2:191b). The association of Taishi with Shōkōmyōin seems to parallel closely that of Kanshi with the Phoenix Hall, but it has escaped the notice of historians. In 1139 Taishi took the formal title Kayanoin, after the Kayanoin Mansion where she resided from time to time when not at Uji with her parents. It is possible that Toba, fully cognizant of Taishi's background, built on her behalf, and at the time of her entry into his quarters, an imitation of a beautiful structure that she held dear and that reminded her of the homes in which she had grown to adulthood.<sup>120</sup> Perhaps she planned to hold there Tripitaka Devotions like those she had attended as a child at Byōdōin.<sup>121</sup>

The four large statues that occupied the upper story of Shōkōmyōin are identified in the statement of consecration as representations of important Esoteric bodhisattvas, but Morotoki records that in the original plan they were intended to depict Avalokiteśvara, Mahāsthāmaprāpta, Kṣitigarbha, and Nāgārjuna (*Chōshūki*, 2:288a). As such the configuration of bodhisattvas around the figure of Amitābha would have been consistent with the iconography of a Circumambulation Hall, which, as noted, at Tendai temples was the seat of meditations on Amitābha and Sukhāvātī. Two such halls had been built at Hōjōji, one (mentioned earlier) by Minamoto no Rinshi in 1021, the other by Yorimichi's elder sister, Shōshi, in 1030. Perhaps Taishi, as the most prominent woman of the Fujiwara lineage of her day, thought to follow in the footsteps of her illustrious ancestors by encouraging Toba to build at Shōkōmyōin, not just a replica of the Phoenix Hall, but a structure that, in the discreet privacy of its interior, could be used as a Circumambulation Hall for retreats and meditation.

It may well be an accident of history, but it is nonetheless striking that, as in the case of the Phoenix Hall, Shōkōmyōin was constructed at a time of sickness and social instability. Diarists describe the years 1134 and 1135 as unparalleled in their horrors, from civil disorder to famine, epidemic "in the extreme," and a city that had grown crowded with the dead and dying. Two months before the consecration of Shōkōmyōin, in 1136, Fujiwara no Munetada (1062–1141) wrote in his diary, *Chūyūki*, of the babies he saw abandoned throughout Kyoto, and several weeks before the event he noted once more the corpses, foundlings, and beggars that lined its streets. Munetada is prone to speak at such times of signs of the extinction of the Dharma.<sup>122</sup>

Under these circumstances it is reasonable to suppose that Shōkōmyōin was for Toba and his new wife, in the moment it

replicated the Phoenix Hall, a place not necessarily dictated by strategies of legitimation. Like the Phoenix Hall it can be compared to a votive image framed by the private needs of the men and women who from time to time used it as a focus of meditation and sought a modicum of peace within its precincts as their society grew more troubled. A memorial aspect, also reminiscent of the Phoenix Hall, may well have been incorporated into the reception of Shōkōmyōin, for the pagoda in which Shirakawa was interred, and where the ashes of Toba would be deposited in 1156, stood just east of the hall.<sup>123</sup>

A special resonance links the Phoenix Hall and Shōkōmyōin, its source the often concealed ground of women's praxis. Both buildings were three-dimensional realizations of a sutra about a woman, Lady Vaidehī, and her quest for insight and rebirth beyond the realm of suffering. There is every reason to believe that a vestige of the world of Kanshi and Taishi, while only of peripheral concern to most modern commentators, is to be found at the Phoenix Hall and Shōkōmyōin, where the universe of private life intersected with the public sphere, as would also hold true of Muryōkōin.

### Muryōkōin

The sponsor of Muryōkōin was neither an aristocrat nor an emperor; in fact, he was regarded as a barbarian.<sup>124</sup> Despite his surname Fujiwara no Hidehira was a product of the hinterland, having come to power at Hiraizumi as the third in a dynasty of warlords who from the late eleventh century had held sway over much of northern Japan from their base at the confluence of the Koromo and Kitakami rivers. Hidehira was to be the last of the Hiraizumi Fujiwara, as this military house is known to history, and his temple, Muryōkōin, was the final project in a century of avid sponsorship of regional Buddhism and Buddhist culture by his family. When Hidehira succeeded as head of the domain on the death around 1157 of his father, Motohira, three luxurious temples already existed in Hiraizumi. One was Chūsonji, built by his grandfather Kiyohira (d. 1128) on the summit of the low mountain that marks the northwestern edge of Hiraizumi; the others were Mōtsūji, sponsored by Motohira and completed by Hidehira, and Kanjizaōin, sponsored by Motohira's wife, both on the main road leading into the city from the south.<sup>125</sup>

Hidehira initiated work on Muryōkōin sometime between 1157 and 1187, when he succumbed to illness and old age as Hiraizumi faced attack by the warlord Minamoto no Yoritomo (1147–1199), new ruler of Japan, and a man determined to wrest control of the north from the Hiraizumi Fujiwara. Scholars assign to Muryōkōin a tentative date of

118. *Chūyūki*, 6:331a–b (Chōshō 1/1132.9.24).

119. *Chōshūki*, 2:155a (Chōshō 2/1133.6.2); and *Chūyūki*, 7:89b (Chōshō 3/1134.3.19).

120. For Taishi at Uji and Kayanoin Mansion, see *Chūyūki*, 6:228b (Daiji 5/1130.9.25); and *Denryaku*, 1:63 (Kōwa 4/1102.10.13), 300 (Chōji 1/1104.3.3).

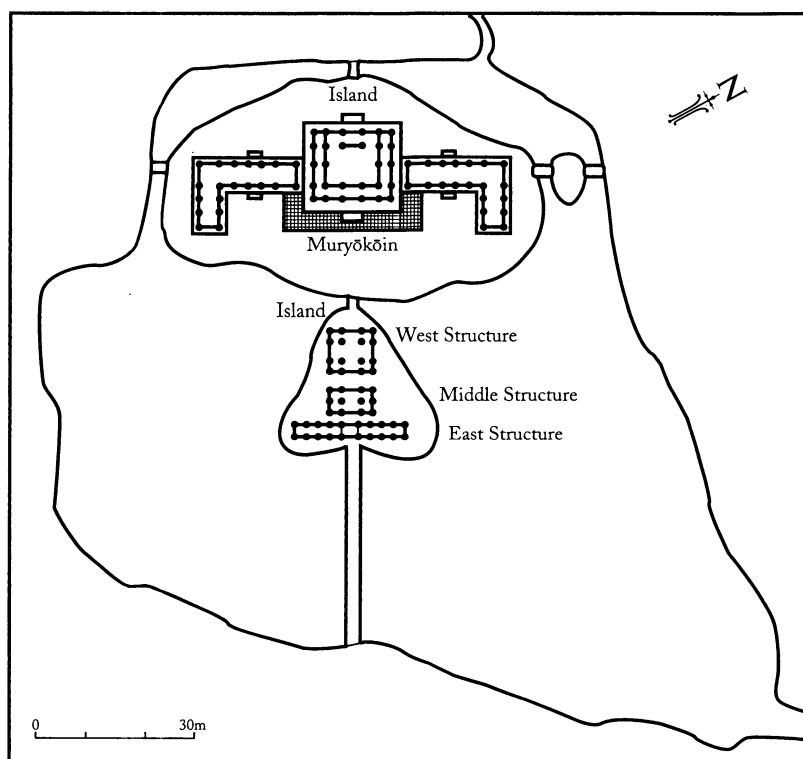
121. See, e.g., *Denryaku*, 1:300 (Chōji 1/1104.3.3). Interestingly, there seems to be no record of Tripitaka Devotions at Byōdōin in 1136.

122. *Chūyūki*, 7:56b (Chōshō 2/1133.7.21), 122a (Chōshō 3/1134.12.30), 154b (Hōen 1/1135.6.21), 163b (Hōen 1.8.24), 177a (Hōen 2/1136.1.28), 178a (Hōen 2.3.1); and *Chōshūki*, 2:270a (Hōen 1.4.22), 275b (Hōen 1.5.1).

123. In fact, Toba and Morotoki discussed the pagoda in their plans for Shōkōmyōin (*Chōshūki*, 2:208a, Chōshō 3/1134.6.19).

124. Kujō Kanezane, a grandson of Tadzane, described Hidehira as "that savage from the northern provinces" (Kokussho Kankōkai, ed., *Gyokuyō*, 3 vols., Tokyo, 1906–7, II, 102, Kaō 2/1170.5.27).

125. For the Hiraizumi Fujiwara and their cultural projects, see Fujishima G., ed., *Chūsonji*, Tokyo, 1971; and Sudō H. and Iwasa M., *Chūsonji to Mōtsūji*, Tokyo, 1989. The Hiraizumi Fujiwara belonged to the Hidesato lineage of the Fujiwara family; see *Sonpi bunmyaku*, in Kuroita K., ed., *Shintei zōho kokushi taikai*, LX, Tokyo, 1962, 386–87.



18 Muryōkōin, Hiraizumi, 12th century, plan of temple complex (diagram by Tasha Hall, after Fujishima G., ed., *Chūsonji*, Tokyo, 1971, fig. 19)

1170, when Hidehira was appointed to high office.<sup>126</sup> The single contemporary description of the hall, in a petition to Yoritomo contained in the Kamakura history *Azuma kagami*, is so succinct as to suggest that it was still under construction as late as 1189, when the document was compiled by Hiraizumi monks seeking shogunal protection for their temples. However, it is also possible that the authors of *Azuma kagami* were reticent about Muryōkōin because, unlike the other Hiraizumi temples, it was part of a private residence belonging to Hidehira.

Muryōkōin no longer exists; like Shōkōmyōin it was lost to the river near whose banks it was built. Its appearance is known through the description in *Azuma kagami* and on the basis of modern study of the site (Fig. 18).<sup>127</sup> The account in *Azuma kagami* is indeed brief.

Muryōkōin, the New Hall, was built by Hidehira. On its walls and doors on four sides are paintings of the main teachings of the *Visualization Sutra*; Hidehira himself has

painted the scenes of hunting. The main icon is a one-jō six-shaku sculpture of Amitābha. There is a three-story pagoda. The precinct is beautiful. It is a place copied in full after Uji's Byōdōin.<sup>128</sup>

Excavation of the site in 1952 confirmed that the plan of Muryōkōin followed for the most part that of the Phoenix Hall. Facing east, it stood on an island situated at a point oriented toward the western shore of a lake created in the shape of a Sanskrit syllable, and it consisted of a center chapel, measuring three narrow bays across and two bays deep, flanked to north and south by L-shaped corridors extending toward the lake. Just south of Muryōkōin was what the authors of *Azuma kagami* identify as Hidehira's "daily residence," Kara Mansion.<sup>129</sup>

As in the case of Shōkōmyōin, a number of Muryōkōin's features indicate that it departed somewhat from the Phoenix Hall. That Hidehira painted scenes of hunting on the walls of Muryōkōin is puzzling, although not inconsistent

126. Araki, 234. In 1170 Hidehira was named military governor of the north (*Gyokuyō* [as in n. 124], i, 102, Kaō 2/1170.5.27; and *Heihanki*, 5:163b, Kaō 2.5.25).

127. For studies of Muryōkōin, see Fujishima G., "Hiraizumi no bunka to Chūsonji," in *Chūsonji* (as in n. 125), 196–97; Araki S., "Hiraizumi no kenchi," in Mizuno K., Suzuki K., and Itō S., eds., *Nihon bijutsu zenshū*, vi, Tokyo, 1994, 201–2; Araki, 183–85; Kanno, 151–52, 182–83; and Ōta S., 278–79.

128. *Azuma kagami*, 354 (Bunji 5/1189.9.17).

129. Ibid.; and Araki, 180, 183–84.

130. For discussion of the hunting scenes, see Kanno, 152–53, 156–62; and Yiengpruksawan, 1991, 343.

131. Araki, 184.

132. *Azuma kagami*, 353 (Bunji 5/1189.9.17); and *Taiki*, 2:101–2 (Ninpyō 3/1153.9.14).

133. Yiengpruksawan, 1991, 342–43.

with the last meditation in the *Visualization Sutra* (346a13), where killers are described as eligible for rebirth in Sukhāvātī through faith in Amitābha. Such scenes are found neither at the Phoenix Hall nor in depictions of the nine degrees of rebirth in other Amitābha Halls, and they may derive from an idiosyncratic interpretation of the sutra by Hidehira to accommodate both personal belief and a northern heritage that celebrated hunting as indicative of military prowess.<sup>130</sup>

Muryōkōin differs slightly from the Phoenix Hall in plan as well as in the subject matter of its paintings. Study of the foundations has shown that Muryōkōin contained an extra bay in each gallery, making it approximately 36 feet (11 m) larger than the Phoenix Hall from north to south.<sup>131</sup> No evidence exists of a “tail” corridor (but this may well be due to flood damage). There was another island in the lake directly east of the center chapel. On this stood three structures, closely aligned along an east–west axis governed by the chapel.

It is unclear why Hidehira chose to build a replica of the Phoenix Hall near his main domicile in Hiraizumi. The argument can be made that he was impressed by the cultural productions of the powerful Fujiwara lineage associated with the Phoenix Hall, that of Yorimichi, and sought to match them by appropriating one of the most famous of Fujiwara monuments as a sign of his own power. Both Kiyohira and Motohira had administered landholdings in northern Japan for Tadazane and Yorinaga, direct descendants of Yorimichi, and Motohira had ties to Tadamichi, whose calligraphy graced the ceremonial placard that hung at the entrance to Mōtsūji.<sup>132</sup> Without doubt Hidehira knew not only of the Phoenix Hall but also of the significance it held for the family that had lived and worshiped within its precincts for more than a century. To assume, however, that such significance was primarily political or ideological,<sup>133</sup> and that Muryōkōin was the core construct in a symbology of rule, establishes an unnecessarily limited framework for its analysis.

Kanno Seikan has proposed that the island at the center of the lake at Muryōkōin was intended to serve as a site for meditation. It stood across the water from Muryōkōin just as the Little Palace at Byōdōin faced the Phoenix Hall from the eastern shore of its lake. In each case the worship hall, as an embodiment of the *Visualization Sutra*, set before its beholders a vision of Sukhāvātī, which, in keeping with the teachings of that sutra, ideally guided practitioners into a state of deepening concentration symbolized by the hands of the Amitābha.<sup>134</sup> As such, Muryōkōin lends itself to analysis as a place and a building not necessarily governed by dictates of power.

Quite possibly, even, it existed as a zone of refuge from the

anxieties of power. As Hidehira was forced by a weakening central government into a position hostile to Yoritomo, war became a certainty. Like the Phoenix Hall and Shōkōmyōin for their own sponsors in times of perceived instability, Muryōkōin provided for Hidehira a votive image of “another world” where conflict and violence did not exist. A person engaged in meditation on the island in the lake might well have awoken from trance to an illusion of having been reborn on the waters in front of Amitābha’s palace in Sukhāvātī, a domain far removed from the “teeming hells” of the everyday world.

In this context Kanno has argued convincingly that, like the Phoenix Hall, Muryōkōin was designed with the sky at twilight in mind. He has calculated that the peak moment of observation, when the sun sank behind the hall to silhouette it against the evening sky, occurred in Hidehira’s day in the lunar month when ceremonies were held in memory of Kiyohira and Motohira. As such, he maintains, Muryōkōin was conceived as both the memorial temple of the Hiraizumi Fujiwara and a representation of the Pure Land into which, by prayer and merit, they would be delivered.<sup>135</sup>

Who would tend the memorials once Hidehira was gone? Not surprisingly the Phoenix Hall provides a precedent in its primary resident, Empress Kanshi, as does Shōkōmyōin in the person of Taishi. Hidehira took a Fujiwara woman from Kyoto as his wife. She arrived in Hiraizumi early in the 1150s with her father, Fujiwara no Motonari (ca. 1120–?), who, after nearly a decade as a local governor, opted not to return to Kyoto. As Tsunoda Bun’ei has shown, Motonari belonged to a highly political Fujiwara line collateral to that of Yorimichi, and his half-brother, Nobuyori (1133–1159), was on intimate terms with Emperor Toba. Despite pedigree, status, and very close ties to the imperial house through female relatives who served as wet nurses to royal offspring, Motonari elected to live out his life in Hiraizumi, first as a confidant of Motohira, and later as adviser to Hidehira. Motonari’s decision to remain in Hiraizumi is usually attributed to Nobuyori’s arrest and execution for a failed coup d’état on the death of Toba in 1156.<sup>136</sup>

Nothing is known about Hidehira’s wife, nor is she considered to be one of the reasons her father never returned to Kyoto. Nonetheless, her influence seems to have been considerable. Coincident with her presence in Hiraizumi is the appearance at its temples of imagery associated with the Phoenix Hall. Kanjizaiōin, sponsored by Motohira’s wife around the time of his death in 1157, bore on the walls of its sanctuary paintings of sacred sites around the capital, among them the Phoenix Hall.<sup>137</sup> Since Motohira’s wife was a local woman,<sup>138</sup> it is likely that she learned in detail about such

134. Kanno, 173, 178–84. Araki (185–86) argues that the island was used for music and dance.

135. Kanno, 176–84, 189–92.

136. Tsunoda B., *Ōchō no kiseki*, Tokyo, 1983, 162–65, 171–72; and idem, “Fujiwara no Hidehira,” *Rekishi dokuhon, Bessatsu*, xvii, no. 9, 1993, 48–50. The date of the marriage is estimated on the basis of the age at death, thirty-five years, of their son Yasuhira in 1189 (*Azuma kagami*, 347, Bunji 5/1189.9.3).

137. The sites were those of the Hachiman Gohōjōe, or Festival of Releasing Birds and Animals at the Hachiman Shrine; Kamo no Matsuri, or Festival of the Kamo Shrine; Kurama; Daigo Sakurae, or Cherry-Blossom Viewing at Daigo; Uji Byōdōin; Saga; and Kiyomizudera. See *Chūsonji shuto sojōan*, in Hiraizumi Chōshi Hensan Iin Kai, ed., *Hiraizumi chōshi, Shiryōhen*, i, Tokyo, 1985, 95a.

138. *Azuma kagami*, 354 (Bunji 5/1189.9.17).

places, and the Phoenix Hall in particular, from someone who had actually seen them, perhaps a Fujiwara daughter-in-law.

Hidehira's wife, possibly with her father as adviser, may also have had a role in the design and planning of Muryōkōin. Her paternal grandfather, Tadataka, had been one of the primary financiers of Shōkōmyōin.<sup>139</sup> Recently Kanamaru Yoshikazu has suggested that Muryōkōin was modeled, not directly on the Phoenix Hall but on its imitation at Shōkōmyōin, and indeed the similarities are striking, from construction of the halls directly north of the main domicile of the sponsor to structural changes in the galleries.<sup>140</sup> Perhaps most compelling, Hidehira's wife at Muryōkōin echoes the other women of the Phoenix Hall paradigm. Like Kanshi and Taishi, she was given in marriage to a powerful man, and in her wake, perhaps even as a form of dowry proffered by a doting father, there came a splendid realization in architecture of the *Visualization Sutra*. For a woman brought from the polish of Kyoto to settle in a territory not unlike the American Wild West, where her husband and sons in years to come would engage in battles that would destroy them, what better place for solace than a three-dimensional representation of Sukhāvātī that replicated, in form and in function, the temples she had known in childhood as part of the heritage of her family?

In its genealogy Muryōkōin must be understood as constituted in large part by an order of experience situated behind the scenes of power struggle that hold the attention of most historians. This is Duby's "realm of domesticity," where Muryōkōin, like the Phoenix Hall and Shōkōmyōin, is the precious possession of its sponsors in the idiosyncratic privacy of their home and desires, a domain of memorials to ancestors, personal meditation on a compassionate Buddha in a time of need, individualized expressions of faith or possibly penitence (the hunting scenes), and, perhaps, reminiscence.

### Replications

The Phoenix Hall through its replications is a monument both curious and compelling. It is at once a building and a scripture, its point of departure a visionary text whose goal is realization, and reification, of a mental image of the transcendent realm of Amitābha in Sukhāvātī. As such the Phoenix Hall takes form before its beholders as an object of longing, the desire for which can only be fulfilled through the double release of enlightenment and the death of a subject. Consequently, it yields several "thicknesses of art," to borrow from Marcel Proust,<sup>141</sup> that enrich its reception and interpretation as a cultural monument.

That the Phoenix Hall is a votive image, intended for observation from afar, seems evident on the basis of miniatur-

ized aspects such as the low upper stories of the galleries and turrets, and the illusion of two stories for a center chapel in fact having only one. It can be likened to a theme park with Sukhāvātī the object of depiction and pleasurable examination from a path that must be ever external to it. Possibly this is the reason why the Phoenix Hall was imitated while other temples and halls were not. For, as a "miniature Sukhāvātī" in a parklike setting, it became copyable, a "surface" readily transcribed elsewhere, with later replications charged with nostalgia for the primary monument.<sup>142</sup>

Replication, in all of its overdetermination, seems to be in large part a strategy of preservation. The acts of copying associated with the Phoenix Hall were also acts of coping. Whether in the replication of the paradise set forth by a beloved sutra or of paradisaal buildings invested with its imagery, copying brings to mind what Michael Taussig in another context has called "the magical power of replication."<sup>143</sup> Redundancy, in ritual as in cybernetics or a military aircraft, localizes and stabilizes its charge, be it information or the unseen forces of the divine. Just as in times of epidemic and disaster, as intimations of the Final Dharma grew manifold, sutras were transcribed by the thousands at the imperial palace or in the homes of courtiers,<sup>144</sup> so it might be argued that copies of the Phoenix Hall, as a transformation of the *Visualization Sutra* and an image of Sukhāvātī, offered to their sponsors a moment of respite, even comfort, through the very redundancy of the act of transcription.

In redundancy lies the ground of mimesis, which yields an unexpectedly rich exegesis of the Phoenix Hall through its transcriptions. René Girard in *Violence and the Sacred* provides the unlikely conceptual model that, applied to Shōkōmyōin and Muryōkōin, leads to an enhanced analysis of the phenomenon of copying associated with the Phoenix Hall. Girard isolates desire, conflict, and mimesis as the primary drives by whose triangulated dynamic the ecstatic condition of many religions is formed. He speaks of a godlike Dionysus as an object of longing that is a "chimera," ever elusive, and desire for him as simply the desire for what another man has. Thus Dionysus, as in *The Bacchae* of Euripedes, disappears "as the men who sought to bend him to their uses turn on one another with murderous intent."<sup>145</sup>

Violence at Shōkōmyōin and Muryōkōin seems a complete absurdity until Girard's mimetic triad is introduced. The peacefulness of the Pure Land imagery hides a negative ground of conflict and competition.<sup>146</sup> Both monuments were built by men in imitation of other men with whom, or more accurately with whose political interests and public transcripts of mandate, they were at odds. Toba may have enjoyed cordial relations with Tadazane, but ultimately the two men stood in opposition, with Toba maneuvering to

139. Chūyūki, 7:180b (Hōen 2/1136.3.23).

140. Kanamaru Y., "Shinden-zukuri to suihen," in Ōishi N., ed., *Nihonshi no naka no Yanagi no Goshō seki*, Tokyo, 1993, 22.

141. M. Proust, *Remembrance of Things Past*, trans. C. K. Scott Moncrieff and Terence Kilmartin, 3 vols., New York, 1982, 1, 43.

142. I am grateful to Jennifer G. Purtle for the idea of the theme park.

143. M. Taussig, *Mimesis and Alterity*, New York/London, 1993, 2.

144. See, e.g., Chūyūki, 3:31–33 (Chōji 2/1105.3.30).

145. R. Girard, *Violence and the Sacred*, trans. Patrick Gregory, Baltimore, 1989, 143.

146. Viengpruksawan, 1994, 449–53.



dominate and even remove from power those affiliated with the Fujiwara lineage of Yorimichi. As a regional warlord Hidehira, whether it was in emulation of Tadazane or Toba that he built Muryōkōin, knew them also as threats to the integrity of his domain.<sup>147</sup>

The replication of the Phoenix Hall by men who were ultimately rivals of its founding family, yet who married women of that family, seems an act both desperate and perfectly reasonable. It is not one whose primary impetus is to be found in the public spectacle of legitimation. Rather, the act of mimesis here belongs to the private (and sometimes nightmarish) realm, a kind of morning after, of longing for a wish-image that, meant to satisfy desire and for a moment countenanced in the thrill of a monument built and relished, instead slips away as it is appropriated, just as the realm of Amitābha recedes ineluctably before those who would have it.

The drama of desirous males does not, however, encompass all of the phenomena of replication surrounding the Phoenix Hall. In the opening passages of the *Visualization Sutra* (341a–b) a royal woman, troubled by the rivalries and politicking of her husband and son, calls out to the Buddha for release from her sufferings, and in response he grants her a vision of Sukhāvātī and the assurance of rebirth there. In this sense the Phoenix Hall and its copies perhaps represented, for Kanshi, Taishi, and Hidehira's now nameless wife, a parallel universe that, like Sukhāvātī, offered escape from the travails of daily life. In that universe of women's praxis were held the rites by which whole families were sustained, from penitential readings of the *Lotus Sutra* and memorials to the dead to annual festivities celebrating the Buddhist canon. At the Phoenix Hall, at Shōkōmyōin, and at Muryōkōin, the women of the Fujiwara entered the domain sought by Lady Vaidehī, where the golden form of Amitābha rose above the purifying waters of a lake. Here Sukhāvātī took form as a "generalized religious goal" in the sense proposed by Gregory Schopen, as not only a place or a pure land, but also a state of mind.<sup>148</sup>

When the lake at the Phoenix Hall is still and the light from the sun clear, the building and the face of the sculpture, framed in the oval of its window, are reflected on the surface of the water. It is a scene that evokes the power of reflection in Buddhist practice, with the heart and mind mirrored in the object of contemplation. It also recalls the many descriptions in *A Tale of Flowering Fortunes* of the mirrorlike surfaces, from the lake to polished wood floors, on which the halls and fixtures of Hōjōji are seen in "beautiful reflections." The ideograph used for such reflections, *sha*, or "copy," is the same as that by which Shōkōmyōin and Muryōkōin are identified as imitations of the Phoenix Hall.<sup>149</sup>

Are Shōkōmyōin and Muryōkōin "mirrorings" of the

Phoenix Hall? Is the Phoenix Hall itself a reflection of Sukhāvātī brought to bear upon the world of desire? Such questions, with their implications of artifice and inversion, recall Theodor Adorno's observation that the "oldest means of enlightenment" is the ruse.<sup>150</sup> Perhaps this is why the Buddha smiles as he begins to explain for Lady Vaidehī the sixteen visualizations by which she will see the Pure Land like her own face in a mirror.

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147. Even as Kiyohira and Motohira administered Fujiwara lands near Hiraizumi, they were engaged in constant disputes with Tadazane and his son, Yorinaga, over revenues and control of the territories; see *Taiki*, 2:101–2 (Ninpyō 3/1153.9.14, 3.9.17), and *Ukaishō*, in Zōho Shiryō Taisei Kankōkai, ed., *Zōho shiryō taisei*, xxv, Kyoto, 1965, 215–16 (Ninpyō 3.9.14).

148. G. Schopen, "Sukhāvātī as a Generalized Religious Goal in Sanskrit Mahāyāna Sūtra Literature," *Indo-Iranian Journal*, xix, nos. 3–4, 1977, 177, 181, 197, 201.

149. *Tale*, ii, 553, 556, 569 (*Eiga monogatari*, 2:68, 84, 88).

150. T. Adorno, *Negative Dialectics*, trans. E. B. Ashton, New York, 1992, 141.

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