



Buddhism's Impact on Shinto

- ◆ The introduction of Buddhism produces religious organization; Shinto priests began to consolidate practices and keep records of them.
- ◆ Buddhism, as primarily a Chinese import, provides an alternative aesthetic in the arts and literature of early Japan; naturalism and simplicity are Shinto-defined, and therefore, Japanese aesthetic ideas.

Shinto & Buddhism in Japan

- ◆ Shinto & Buddhism amalgamated over time in Japanese culture
- ◆ Shinto aesthetics: simplicity, naturalism; therefore shrines were wooden and local gods were considered to be the manifests of Buddhist saints and deities
- ◆ Buddhist aesthetics: complexity, universality: so temples tend to be more elaborately-designed with obvious Chinese influence