

## **Portrait of Kakujin Shinno**

This is a statue of Kakujin Nyudo Shinno (1588–1648), a prince who entered the priesthood at Ninnaji at the age of 13. At the time the temple was still in a dilapidated state, as much of it had been burned down during the Onin War (1467–1477); it remained in disrepair for many years thereafter. Kakushin was determined to return the temple to its former glory.

When Tokugawa Iemitsu happened to visit Kyoto in 1634, Kakushin sought an audience, urging the ruling shogun to help in finding funds and in granting permission to rebuild it. Kakushin was successful in his quest, and Iemitsu—whose father, Hidetaka, had bestowed his seal of patronage on the temple 17 years earlier—agreed to support the temple's reconstruction. Although the process was delayed for several years and construction did not begin in earnest until 1640, after six years of labor the temple stood complete once more. More fires have ravaged the temple since, but the layout remains essentially the same today.