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**01. Ginkaku-ji, or 'Temple of the Silver Pavilion', Kyoto.
This is a beautiful Zen temple. The Dhayana tradition, known
in Chinese as Chan and in Japanese as Zen, was first
established in China by Bodhidharma from India in the sixth
century. Photograph by Benoy K Behl**



02

**02 Kodai-ji, Kyoto. The temple was established in 1606.
Its garden is designated by the Japanese Government as a
historical site and place of scenic beauty. Photograph by
Benoy K Behl**



**03 Saraswati shrine, Ginkaku-ji, Kyoto. Saraswati is a deeply
revered deity in Japan. The 12th century Japanese Prime
Minister Fujiwara no Moronaga (1138-1192) had the title Myoo-
nin (Myoo is an epithet of Saraswati), as he was an expert in
playing the lute. Photograph by Benoy K Behl**



**04 Saraswati shrine in the middle of the water, covered
in the fiery colors of Autumn, Eikando Zenrin-ji, Kyoto.
Photograph by Benoy K Behl**



**05 Saraswati Pond, Eikando Zenrin-ji, Kyoto. Japan
preserves beautifully the association of Saraswati with water.
Photograph by Benoy K Behl**





**07 An exquisite image of Saraswati in the
Asakusa shrine, Tokyo. In 1836, when a
guidebook to the Edo area, or present-day Tokyo
was written, Saraswati was the most popular
deity in the area. Photograph by Benoy K Behl**



08 Todai-ji, Nara. In historical records, the first Indian mentioned in Japan is Bodhisena, who consecrated the Big Buddha at Todai-ji in 752 CE. He was born in South India and was invited by Emperor Shomu of Japan, while he was in China. He is honored as one of the four great saints of Todai-ji. Photograph by Benoy K Behl



09. Todai-ji, Nara. Photograph by Benoy K Behl



**10 The Big Buddha seated on a lotus platform,
Todai-ji. This is the world's largest bronze statue of
the Buddha Vairochana. It is known in Japanese
as 'Daibutsu'. Photograph by Benoy K Behl**



11 Daiyuzan-Saijo-ji, near Odawara. This is one of the most beautiful Zen temples and is located atop a hill covered with tall trees. Photograph by Benoy K Behl



12. Autumnal leaves in the garden of the Daiyuzan-Saijo-ji, near Odawara. Photograph by Benoy K Behl



13. Garuda, in the Daiyuzan-Saijō-ji complex, near Odawara. The 'vahana' of Vishnu is often seen in Buddhist temple across all of Asia. Photograph by Benoy K Behl



14. Another representation of Garuda, Daiyuzan-Saijo-ji complex, near Odawara. Photograph by Benoy K Behl



**15 Krishna, Todai-ji, Nara. He is made on a large octagonal lantern tower of the 8th century, dating back to the origins of the temple. A Krishna is also seen in the paintings of the Buddhist Kizil Caves, in China.
Photograph by Benoy K Behl**



16. Daiyuzan-Saijo-ji, near Odawara. The beautiful environment of this great Zen temple awakens joy and peace within us.



17 Main Gate, Tofuku-ji Temple, Kyoto. This is the largest gate of a temple in Japan and is a 'National Treasure'. The temple was built in the 13th century and was rebuilt in the 15th century, after it was destroyed by fire. Photograph by Benoy K Behl



18. Hongan-ji Temple, Kyoto. The temples exquisite garden and architecture evoke a sense of the sublime within us.



**19 Paintings in the interior of the Hongan-ji
Temple complex, Kyoto. These beautiful
paintings are designated as a 'National Treasure'.
Photograph by Benoy K Behl**



20 Saraswati shrine, Tenryu-ji complex, Kyoto. Famous Japanese poets, such as Miyako no Yoshika of the 9th century, are known to have turned to Saraswati for inspiration. Photograph by Benoy K Behl



21. An autumnal sonata of leaves in the garden of the Tenryu-ji complex, Kyoto. Photograph by Benoy K Behl



22. Autumnal leaves in the garden of the Tenryu-ji complex, Kyoto.
Photograph by Benoy K Behl



23. Nature and architecture merge beautifully in the Daiyuzan-Saijo-ji, Zen temple near Odawara. Photograph by Benoy K Behl



24. Autumnal leaves in the garden of the Daiyuzan-Saijo-ji, near Odawara. Photograph by Benoy K Behl



25 Autumnal leaves in the garden of the Tenryu-ji complex, Kyoto.
Photograph by Benoy K Behl



**26 A visitor in traditional clothes at the
Eikando Zenrin-ji, Kyoto. The Japanese tradition of
aesthetics is reflected in both the garden of the
temple and in the traditional dress. Photograph by
Benoy K Behl**