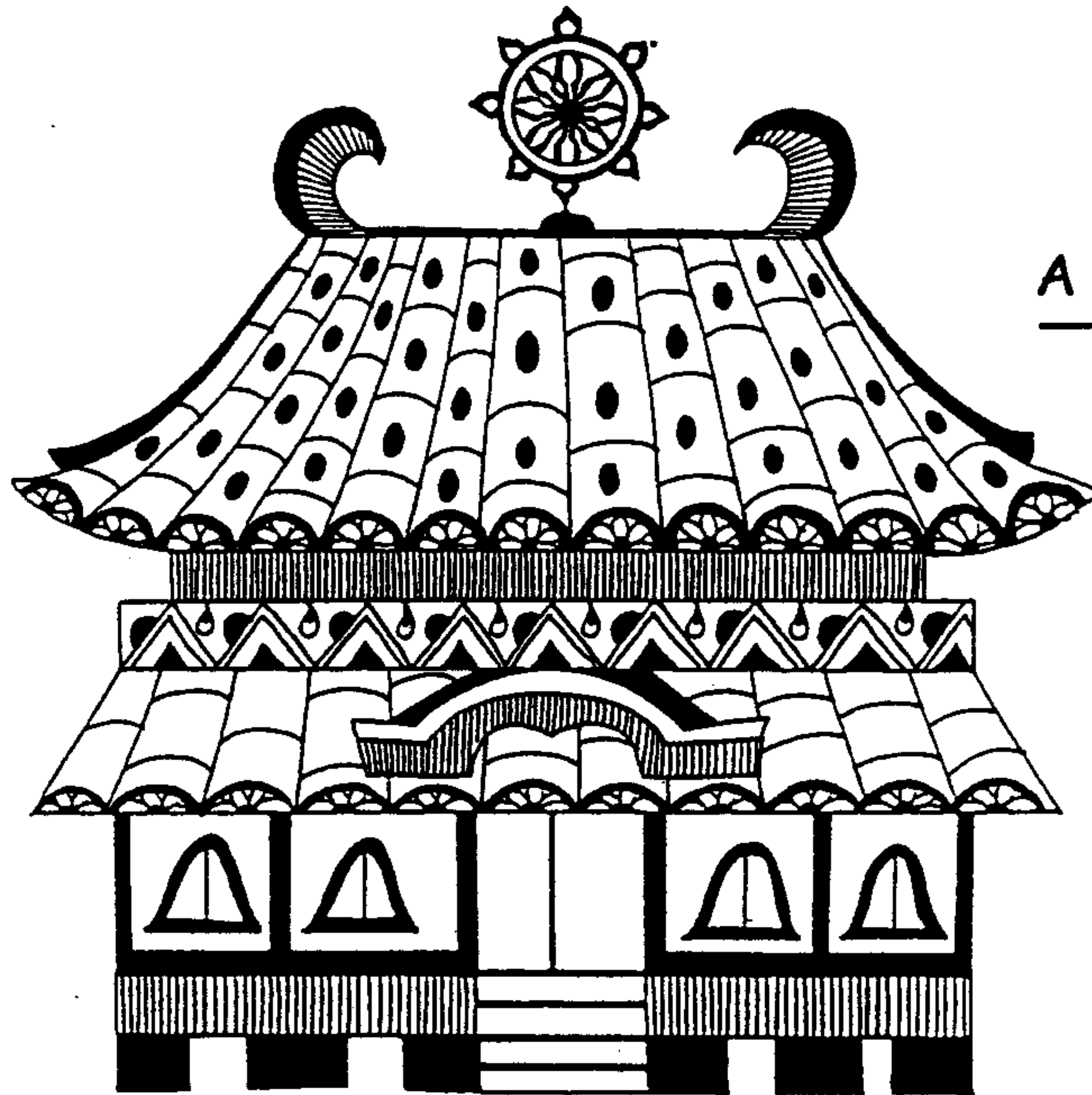


Konnichiwa. It is Sachiko.  
Let me now tell you about  
the temple where I worship.



My temple is a very nice building with  
a large garden. Inside the temple the  
worshippers offer flowers and gifts to the Buddha. We call worship 'puja'.  
The temple is also the place where monks give readings from the Buddhist holy  
book which is called the 'Tripitaka'.



A Buddhist temple

The most important part of the Buddhist temple is the shrine where a statue of the Buddha is kept. The shrine is decorated with candles and flowers. A bell or gong is used to tell people when it is time to begin the puja.

Buddhists also meditate in the temple. Meditation means sitting very still and emptying your mind of all thoughts so that you can concentrate on things which are really important.