

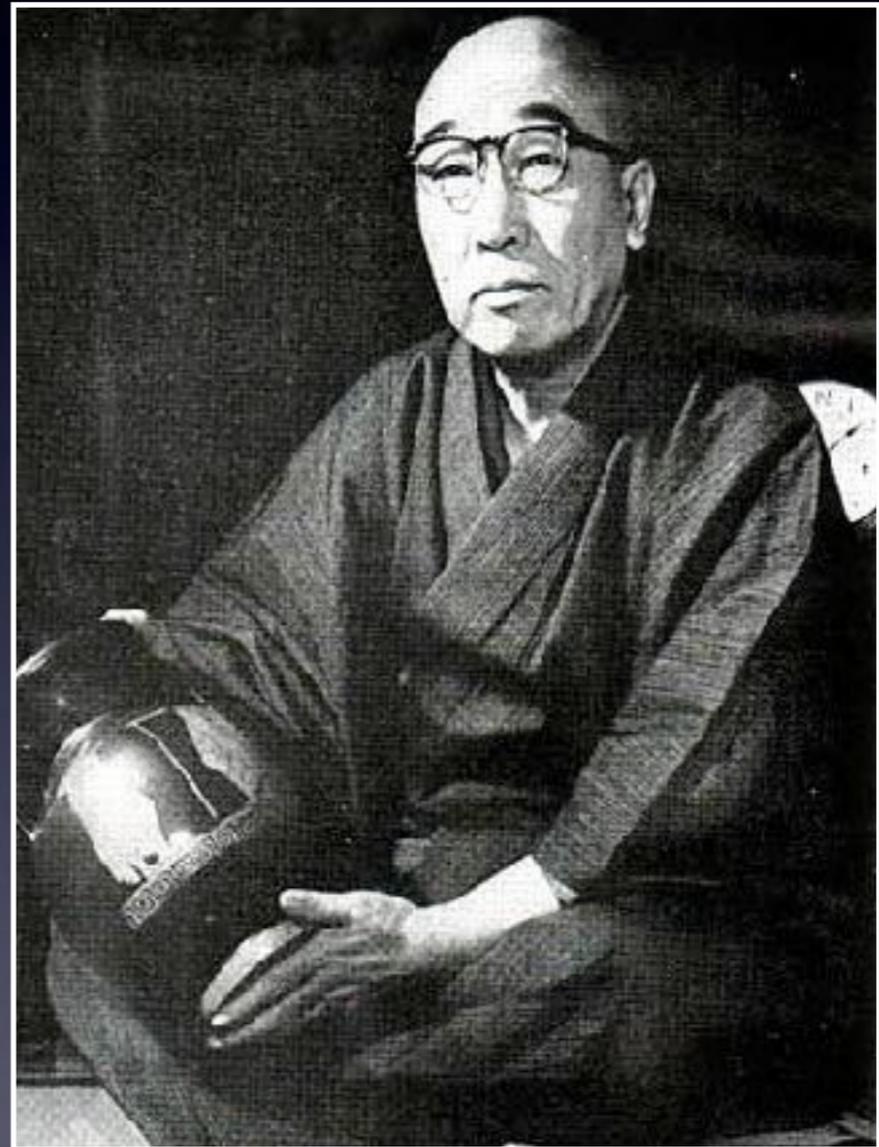
# Akutagawa Ryunosuke

- Fragmentation of the Self
- Crisis of Representation
- “In a Grove”
- “Rashomon”
- Suicide 1927



# *ero-guro-nansensu*

- Edogawa Ranpo
- Detective Stories
- “Daydream”
- The Human Chair
- *The Blind Beast*, 1931
- *The Vampire*, 1930



# The Problem of Culture

# Cultural Particularism

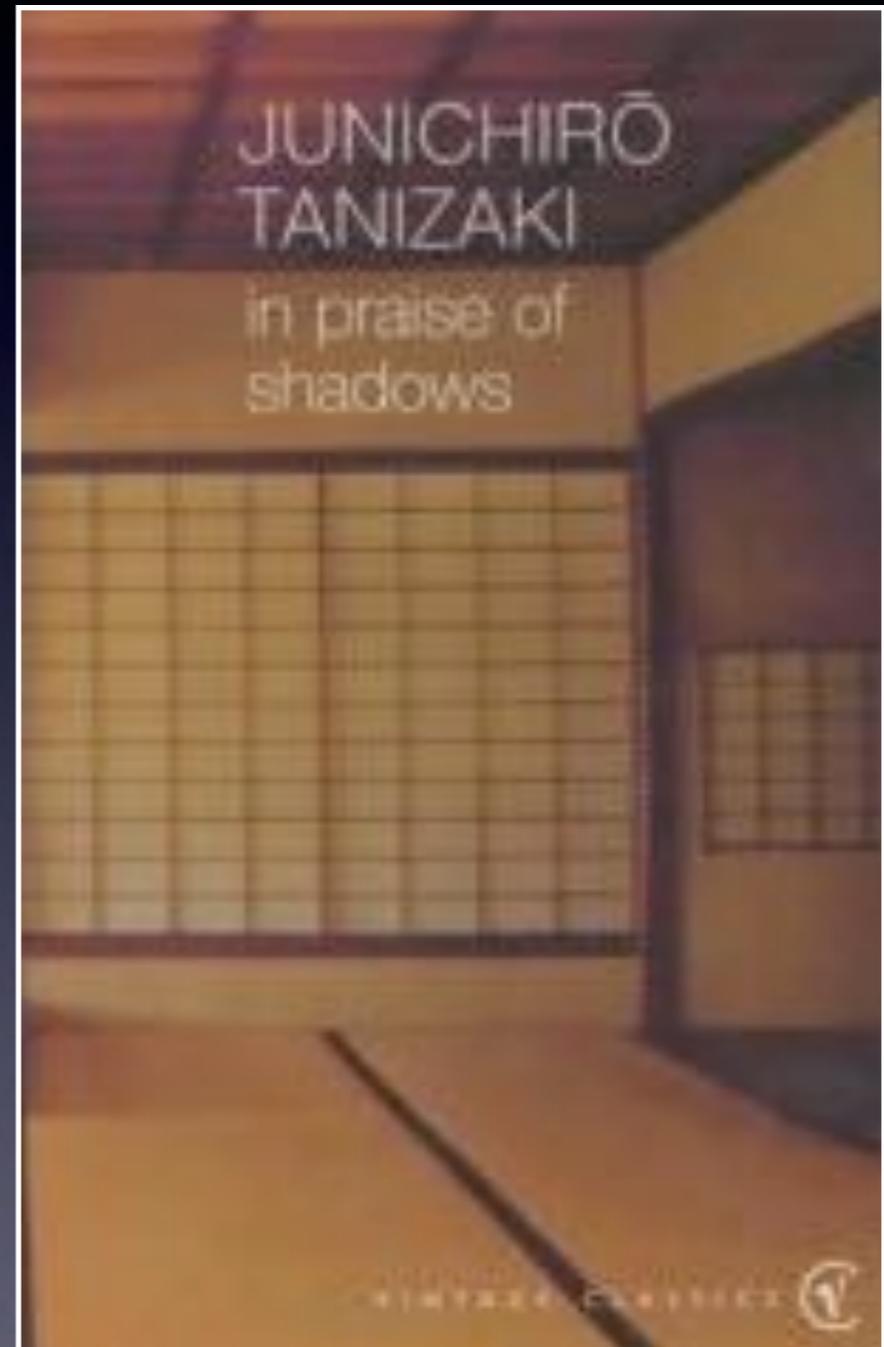
# Yanagita Kunio

- Folklore
- Ethnic Studies/folklore (*minzokugaku*-民族学)
- *Tales of Tono* (1910)
- Find that which has been untouched by the modern
- Japanese culture as bounded, enduring
- Mountain villages & Okinawa

*Jomin* - the “abiding folk”

# Tanizaki Jun'ichiro

*In Praise of Shadows (1935)*



# Modernity vs. Culture

A few years ago I spent a great deal more money than I could afford to build a house. I fussed over every last fitting and fixture, and in every case encountered difficulty. There was the shoji: for aesthetic reasons I did not want to use glass, and yet paper alone would have posed problems of illumination and security. Much against my will, I decided to cover the inside with paper and the outside with glass. This required a double frame, thus raising the cost. Yet having gone to all this trouble, the effect was far from pleasing. The outside remained no more than a glass door; while within, the mellow softness of the paper was destroyed by the glass that lay behind it. At that point I was sorry I had not just settled for glass to begin with. Yet laugh though we may when the house is someone else's, we ourselves accept defeat only after having a try at such schemes. (p. 2)

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Modernity — Culture

Glass — Paper

Utility — Aesthetics

Harsh — Mellow

Light — Shadows

West — Japan

# Tea house





# Hideyoshi tea house

1587

# Modernity vs. Culture

But I am grumbling.

I am aware and most grateful for the benefits of the age. No matter what complaints we may have, Japan has chosen to follow the West, and there is nothing for her to do but move bravely ahead and leave us old ones behind. But we must be resigned to the fact that as long as our skin is the color it is the loss we have suffered cannot be remedied. I have all written this because I have thought there might still be somewhere, possibly in literature or the arts, where something could be saved. I would call back at least for literature this world of shadows we are losing.....

# Watsuji Tetsuro

- East-West Encounter has not been a defeat
- *Climate* (風土) 1935
- Monsoon and Desert peoples
- Passivity and Passion
- Japan as higher (Hegelian) synthesis

