



The Demons Sermon on the Martial Arts: And Other Tales

By William Scott Wilson

Shambhala Publications. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 224 pages. Dimensions: 7.4in. x 5.2in. x 0.7in.This collection of parables written by an eighteenth-century samurai is a classic of martial arts literature. The tales are concerned with themes such as perception of conflict, selftransformation, the cultivation of chi (life energy), and understanding yin and yang. Some of the parables seem light and fanciful, but they offer the reader valuable lessons on the fundamental principles of the martial arts; The Mysterious Technique of the Cat is iconic. The demon in the title story refers to the mythical tengu, who guard the secrets of swordsmanship. A swordsman travels to Mt. Kurama, famous for being inhabited by tengu, and in a series of conversations he learns about mushin (no-mind), strategy, the transformation of chi, and how the path of the sword leads to the understanding of life itself. The author, Issai Chozanshi, had a deep understanding of Taoism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Shinto, as well as insight into the central role of chi in the universepoints that are succinctly explained in William Scott Wilsons fine introduction and extensive endnotes. This is essential reading for anyone who wants to truly understand the philosophical underpinnings of martial arts,...



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