



THE WAY OF THE NINJA

June 2019

Secret Techniques

Masaaki Hatsumi

Author of *Japanese Sword Fighting*, *Unarmed Fighting Techniques of the Samurai*, *The Complete Ninja*, *Stick Fighting* and *Advanced Stick Fighting*.

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224 pages; 254 x 178mm; 450 b/w photos
20 illustrations. Published by Kodansha USA.

" What made you choose this book? Was it some desire to learn 'winning' techniques? If so, there is something I have to tell you: in the long run, those who focus on winning inevitably taste the bitterness of defeat. The important thing in the martial arts is not to win - it is to survive.

The most vital techniques in Budō are those which preserve life. That is why the ultimate secret of the martial arts is said to be "to win without fighting". It is my sincere hope, therefore, that this book will help you to understand two major principles. One is that ninjutsu is the very

backbone of the martial arts; the other that ninjutsu shows us the true, divine intent of the martial arts... A ninja was someone whose very existence expressed the spirit of Budō. He would protect himself not with techniques of assassination, but rather of sensation and awareness. He would avoid unnecessary conflict, and even if armed with a blade, would find a way to win without staining it. These are the true techniques of ninjutsu. This is the art in which ninja trained, persistently, throughout their lives."

– Sōke Masaaki Hatsumi

PRECEPTS OF PERSEVERANCE IN THE MARTIAL WAYS

- Learn first that whatever hardship you may have to endure is but temporary
 - Always behave correctly
- Do not fall prey to avarice, indulgence or egoism
- Sorrow and hate are both part of life; understand that they too are gifts from the gods
- Never stray from the path of the spirit, nor that of the martial arts; be ambitious in the ways of both pen and sword



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THE WAY OF THE NINJA

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The essence of ninjutsu is explored by the world's most famous living ninja Grandmaster.

Ninja spirit is founded in the principle of bearing adversity and forbearing revenge. Thus, the fundamental rule of the ninja when faced with attack is to evade it naturally and disappear using *Ninpō Taijutsu* concealment skills. Only when no other option is available would a ninja use natural principles and methods to fell an opponent.

Ninja did not value survival for fear of death; they exercised endurance throughout their secretive lives in order to protect their families, their clans and to honour their commissions. Their harsh training endowed them with a tough but pliant spirit, and martial skills adaptable to any situation, together with a sense of acute awareness that had universal application.

A ninja shows no *intent* to fight. He perseveres not with some 'noble cause', but simply in a spirit of endurance of the cruelties of both life and death. His life is a solitary path in a cycle of life and rebirth, bound on either side by the act of *Isshī Sōden* – transmission of his skills to a single disciple.

In his classic work Masaaki Hatsumi reveals the hidden secrets and truths about this mysterious and fascinating Japanese martial art. He looks at the traditions, training, and techniques, then shows how this knowledge will lead readers to an understanding of two essential principles: that ninjutsu is the very foundation of the martial arts; and that ninjutsu illuminates its true spiritual significance. Now in paperback, the book features detailed demonstration photos, sidebars on many topics related to ninjutsu, and new material by Hatsumi explaining the relevance of ninjutsu in today's world.

SALES

- * The author is the foremost living practitioner of ninjutsu, with a devoted international following.
- * At 86, he still teaches, runs workshops, and operates his Bujinkan Dōjō in Chiba, Japan.
- * In addition to teaching martial arts students, Hatsumi has taught classes to police forces around the world.
- * This book is considered the "must read" as an introduction to ninjutsu, both in practice and spirit.
- * A lower-priced paperback will make the work more accessible to younger and price conscious readers.
- * Sidebars present key information on such topics as "Art and the nature of genius", "Ninja advice an martial artistry" and "Transcending good and evil in literary and military arts".
- * Very wide appeal: huge interest in Ninja among Manga and Anime fans as well as martial artists and those fascinated by Japanese history and culture generally.
- * In the same way that business leaders and others have sought inspiration in *The Art of War* and the writings of Musashi, Ninjutsu is increasingly being turned to as a source of guidance.
- * Hatsumi will add new material for this paperback edition, explaining the relevance of ninjutsu in the 21st century.



Born in 1931, **Masaaki Hatsumi** progressed through various martial arts before meeting his mentor, Takamatsu Toshitsugu, Head of the Togakure sect of ninjutsu. He studied ninja techniques with Toshitsugu and other members of the Takamatsu family for fifteen years. On attaining the highest level of *ninpō*, Hatsumi became the 34th Grandmaster (*Sōke*) of Togakure-ryū Ninjutsu and eight other arts, which Hatsumi unified into the **Bujinkan** system. While travelling the world, teaching thousands of individual students as well as classes of law enforcement professionals, he received numerous accolades from politicians and spiritual leaders of many nationalities. Hatsumi continues to teach and hold workshops on ninjutsu at Bujinkan, just outside of Tokyo. He remains head of the 900-year-old Togakure school of *ninpō*, the ninja fighting arts.

