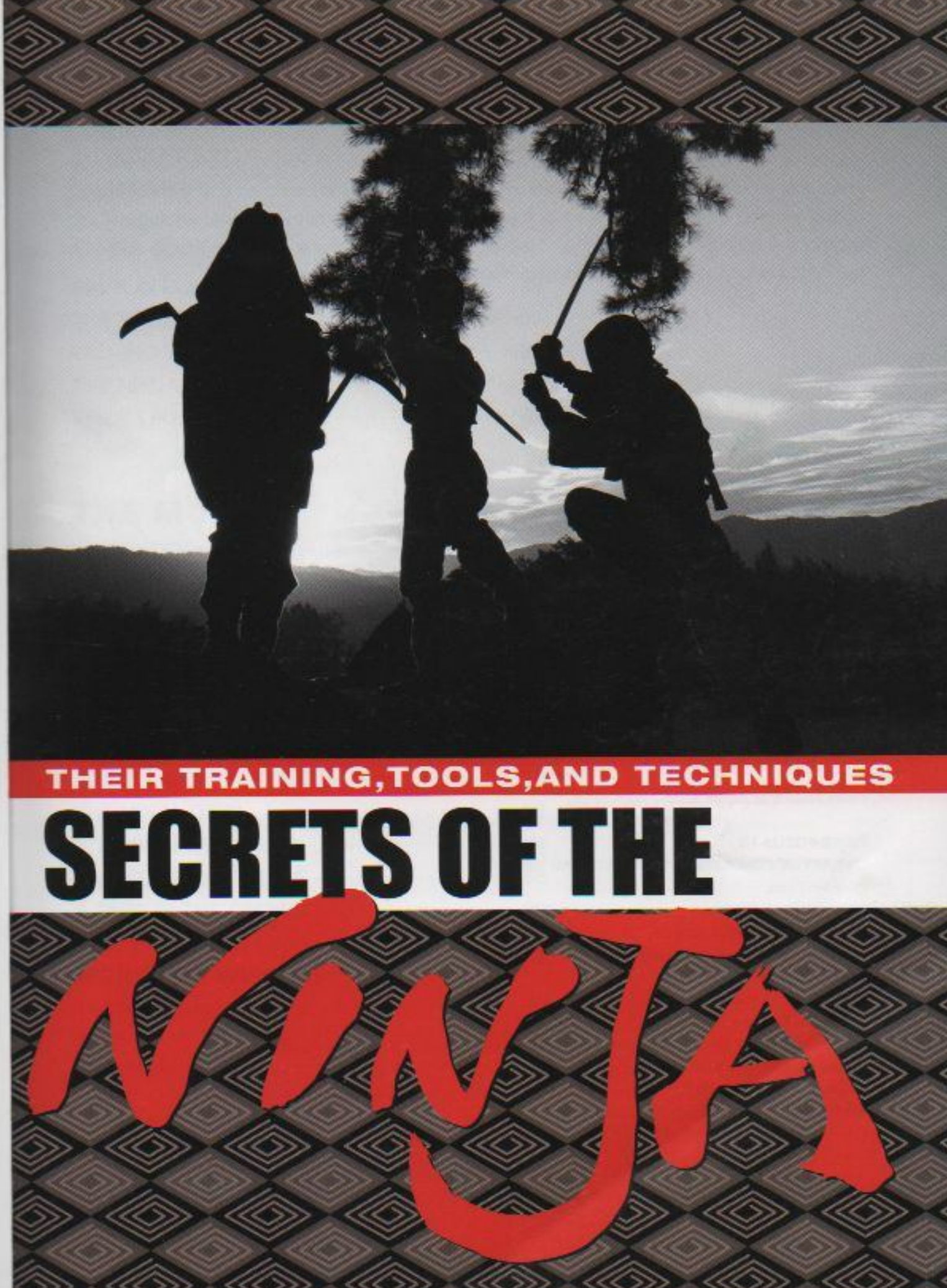




THEIR TRAINING, TOOLS, AND TECHNIQUES

SECRETS OF THE

ニンジャ



THEIR TRAINING, TOOLS, AND TECHNIQUES

SECRETS OF THE

NINJA

ABUNAI! DANGER!

Some of the skills, techniques, and weapons described in this book are dangerous and should NOT be tried at home or anywhere else. Please DO NOT harm yourself or anyone else by trying the moves it took decades for skilled professionals to master. By all means, meditate and enjoy as much *tofu* as your doctor feels is reasonable. But please DO NOT ambush your friends or start hurling *shuriken* around. If you want to learn more about *ninjitsu* or martial arts, we suggest you contact a school or *dojo* in your area. Neither DH Publishing nor any of its contributors accepts responsibility for damage or injury incurred attempting techniques described in this book.

SECRETS OF THE NINJA

Text and illustrations © 2002 by cocoro books.

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without the written consent of the publisher.

Published by DH Publishing Inc.

Address: 2-3-3F Kanda Jimbocho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0051 Japan

www.dhp-online.com

cocoro books is an imprint of DH Publishing Inc.

ISBN 0-9723124-6-3

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOG NUMBER 2002113861

Printed in China.

Printed by C&C Offset Printing Co., Ltd.

Producers: Koichi Okamoto, Hiroshi Yokoi

Designer: Ichie Takahashi

Editors: Jennifer Cahill, Michie Itoh

Translator: Clive Victor France

Editorial Assistants: Takako Aoyama, Tomokazu Nagai, Tomoko Sakashita, Yuki Wada, Shinichiro Nakano

Photographer: Hidetoshi Shimazaki

Illustrator: Kazumi Watanabe

Special thanks to: Iga Sect Ninja Association "Kurondo,"

Ueno City Tourist Association, Ninja Museum of the Iga Sect

C O N T E N T S

INTRODUCTION4

PHOTOGRAPHS6

THE BASICS

BACK IN BLUE: THE UNIFORM26

THE TOOLBOX30

TALKING THE TALK: CODES AND SIGNS36

THE NINJA WORKOUT40

WALK LIKE A NINJA42

THE MOVES

MEDITATION46

NINJUTSU: FIGHTING, HIDING,
AND MAKING A GETAWAY50

AT HOME AND AWAY

NINJA IN THE HOUSE: LIFESTYLES OF THE
DEADLY AND INVISIBLE76

THE NINJA DIET82

ASSASSIN WELLNESS84

TRICKS OF THE TRADE86

A FACE IN THE CROWD90

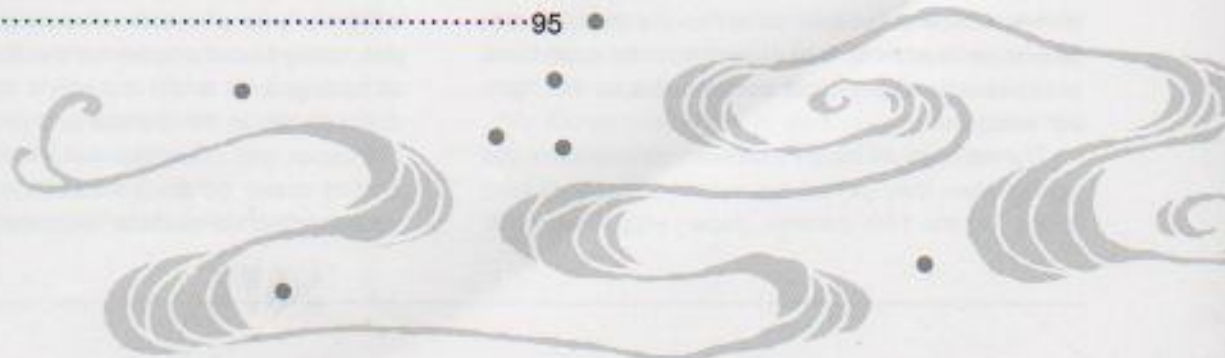
WORDS OF WISDOM

THE WAY92

THE NAME OF THE NINJA93

PHRASEBOOK94

INDEX95



INTRODUCTION



I'd like to think that not only has my work with the Iga Ninja Sect Association, *Kurondo*, found a wide audience, but it has given me a deeper understanding of the ninja world. But I must admit that much of what I know of *ninjutsu*, the art of the ninja, has come from meeting Jinichi Kawakami, who's known as the "last ninja." Kawakami is the 21st *Bando* of the Koka Ninja Sect, and even today he follows the practices passed down to him through the many generations. These include a daily five-hour regimen of mental and physical exercises, and a strict ninja diet, which has at its core the soybean curd, *tofu*. It's with him in mind that I want to teach the world what it really meant to be a ninja.

To do this, I organize ninja shows and workshops for *Kurondo*, and in the course of my work have toured Singapore, China and Australia. On these travels I have often been asked such questions as, "What *dan* are ninja?" It seems that outside Japan, the way of the ninja is thought to be a form of martial art, something like *karate* or *judo*. But ninja have no *dan* or level, and there are, unfortunately, no black or brown belts. What I hope to do in this introduction is to illustrate the many facets of the ninja tradition.

Although the actual beginnings of *ninjutsu* have been lost in time, let's try and begin at the roots. The earliest records we have can be found in the 6th century text, *Ninjutsu Hisho Ogi-den*, which describes a man known as Otomono Hosori. He is believed to have served the legendary figure Shotoku Taishi, who was said to possess, among other talents, the ability to hear and answer questions simultaneously from ten different people. It is thought that the ninja Otomono Hosori in fact found out the questions beforehand and prepared the answers for his "gifted" master.

The ninja would have to wait almost another 1,000 years before they gained the notoriety that they have today. In the 15th century, Japan was thrown into

turbulence when military factions across the country rose up against the emperor, ushering in nearly a century of wars that came to be known as the era of Warring States.

Although the tenets of *ninjutsu* changed little over the centuries, the ninja's work varied considerably depending on the period. To clearly understand the breadth of these assignments, we must look at the Warring States era. It was then that the practices of *ninjutsu* became clearly defined, and when the ninja, as a distinct force alongside troops in the field, were most active. Each *daimyo*, or feudal lord, retained a unit of 40 to 50 ninja, although in some cases the number reached as high as 200. According to the task at hand, the required number of men would be called up and sent out before battle to infiltrate enemy lines, spread false rumors, and establish links with possible turn-coats. When fighting broke out, the ninja took to arson, setting ablaze the enemy's castles and fortifications. If a castle stubbornly resisted this onslaught, they would burrow underneath and then charge in to wreak havoc. On these escapades, they worked mostly in groups, risking their lives in daredevil feats which we'd associate today with elite units like the Green Berets. Their work was on a contract basis, and although the money was good, when the battle was over they returned to their quiet village lives, raising families and tending the fields.

With the onset of the Edo era, peace was finally restored. Not surprisingly, this cessation of hostilities wasn't particularly welcomed by the ninja -- constant war was a lucrative source of income. To survive, many became spies for the *Bakufu* government or bodyguards to the country's *daimyo*, an image that persists in TV dramas and movies to this day. But Japan was changing, and the ninja still had their part to play. As firearms became commonplace, gun-toting ninja squads were established. When

Without Sound, Without Smell, Without Name -- The Great Ninja in the Shadows of History

By Hiromitsu Kuroi

Commodore Perry arrived in 1853, the ninja were sent in to pry inside his ship. Records of what they found survive today. The ninja, though a part of the *samurai*, were in the lowest class. In the warrior class, where name meant everything, the ninja were looked down upon as "those without sound, without smell, without name." As this snub suggests, the ninja, whose secret activities were instrumental in changing the course of Japanese history, would remain forever in the shadows.

The start of the *Meiji* era (1868) is said to mark the dawn of Japan's modern period. The new government turned its attention to the military, creating a national army to counter the rising European powers in Asia. Not surprisingly, its officer ranks were staffed mostly by former *samurai*, who despised the ninja for their spying and dirty work. Ultimately, the ninja lost their place in society. Finding little to hold them to the cities, the ninja melted back into the countryside, returning to their villages where many became involved in local police work. Those who had mastered the use of gunpowder now put their skills to use making fireworks, while others with knowledge of medicine became doctors and pharmacists.

Perhaps you have heard of the "Iga Sect" or "Koka Sect." These are the names of schools in *ninjutsu*. As I'm a student of the Iga Sect, much of what I have introduced here is *Iga ninjutsu*. However, the *Koka* Sect is equally well known, both sects having been active during the Warring States era. New sects, such as *Nakagawa*, *Negoro* and *Hojo*, only began to appear during the *Edo* era, when the ninja followed their *daimyo* masters into the Japanese hinterland. The roots of *Iga* and *Koka* are basically the same, but as the ninja disappeared, each chose to preserve different parts of *ninjutsu*.

Infiltrating enemy lines and spying was one thing, but no ninja story would be complete without men-

tioning *kunoichi*, the female ninja. The name itself deserves an explanation. "Ku," in Japanese, means "nine," and "ichi" means "one." According to ancient Chinese texts, female spies were known as "*kuichi*," the "ku" in this case indicating the nine orifices -- eyes, nostrils, mouth, etc -- of the body. Women have one extra, thus, when they were brought into service this became "*kunoichi*." The ninja worked in the shadows, often with the support of *kunoichi*. Her job, while not always obvious, was vital. As maids working in kitchens at enemy castles, they could collect valuable information that would enable their ninja brothers to gain access. They could act as guides letting the ninja into the castle and leading them to their prey. And, when necessary, they could put their sexual charms to use in the gathering of intelligence.

And what about *ninjutsu* itself? As I have explained, in the course of their work, the ninja gambled with their lives. But it meant little to their masters if they didn't return alive. Because of this, the emphasis in *ninjutsu* was not on fighting, but survival. The risks were mostly calculated -- to kill their victim, ninja would choose poison over armed combat where possible. Constant training of the body and mind, eating well, maintaining good health, understanding hygiene, and having a thorough knowledge of medicinal plants; these were the precepts of *ninjutsu*. When I consider how convenient science and technology have made our lives today, I can't help but also feel we have lost a certain understanding of essential human abilities. The ninja strove not only for physical well-being, but for mental strength and an intellectual understanding of survival. Although there is much in *ninjutsu* that is physically dangerous, there is also much that, given the stressful society we live in, we could learn from.

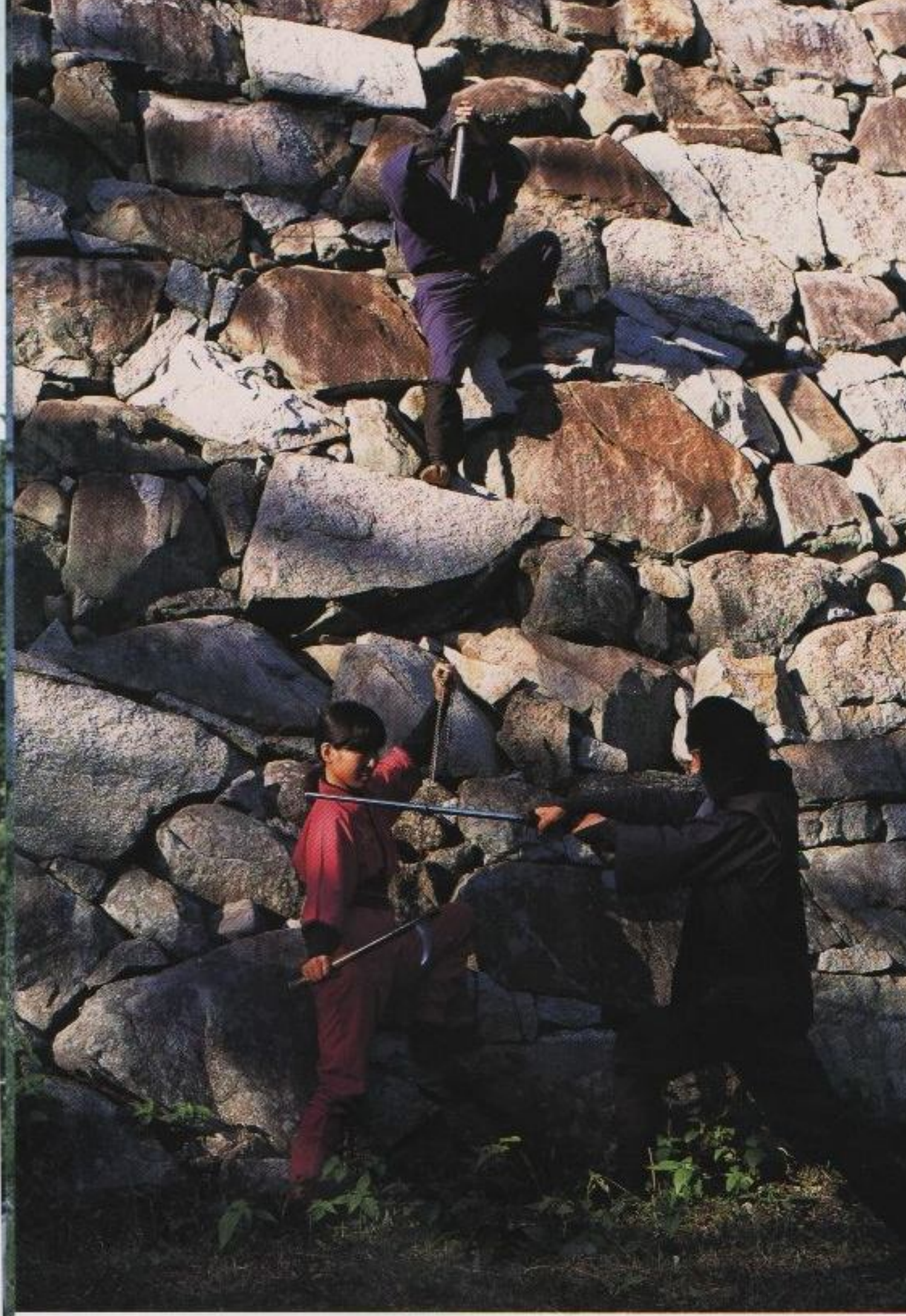








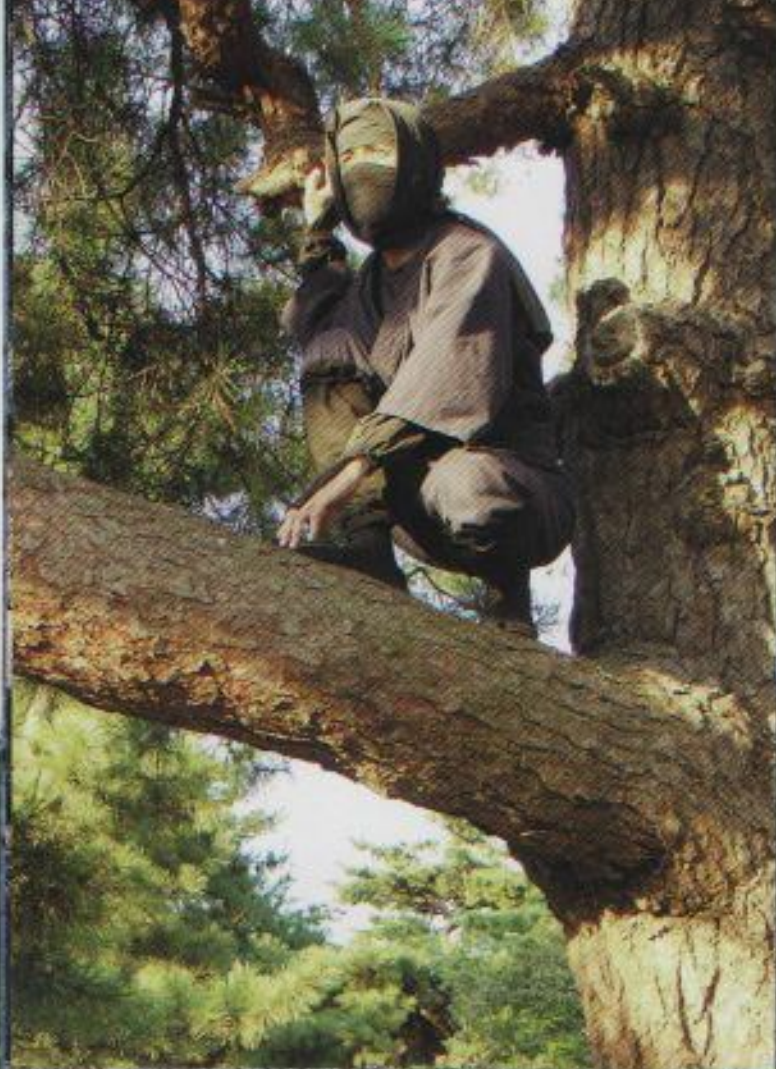






In combat the sickle could prove as deadly as the sword.

















The kusari-gama was a chain with two sickles on the end. Like a flying blender, it was deadly effective against the enemy.



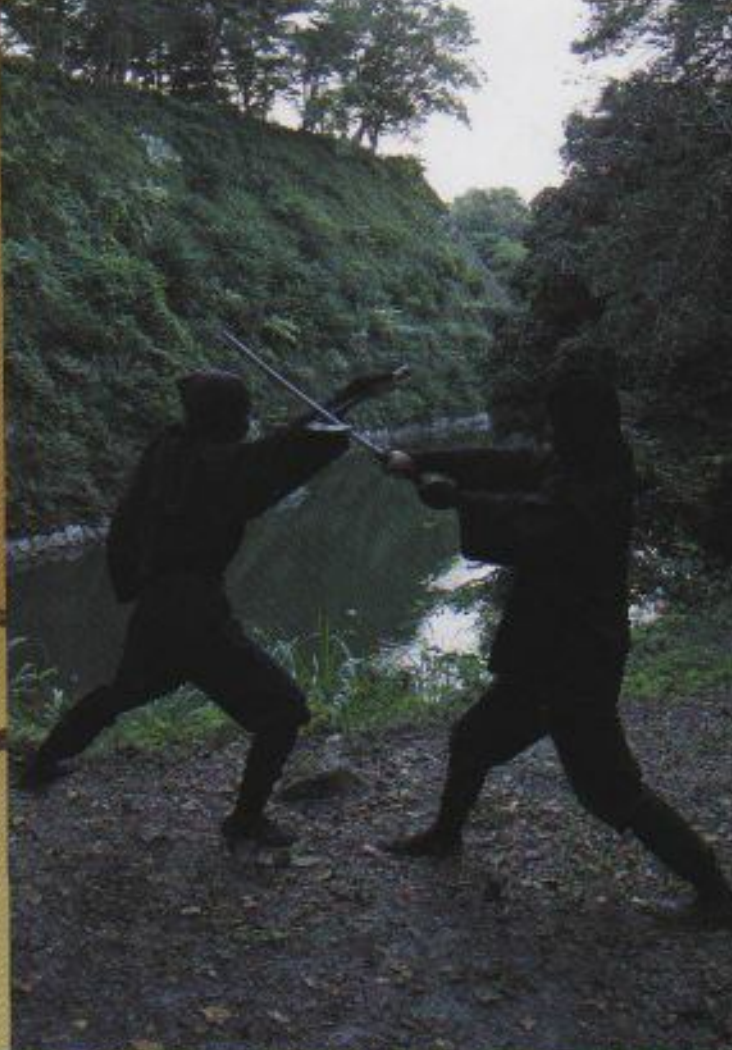
A pair of metal hoops with sharp teeth on the inner and outer edge were used for fighting.















Clothes, Equipment, Codes, Exercise, and Stealth

THE BASICS

**A few things a ninja needs
before heading over the palace walls.**

BACK IN BLUE: THE UNIFORM

Wash and wear versatility-- it moves, it camouflages,
and it never goes out of style.



When we think of the ninja stalking their victim at night, we imagine them dressed all in black. In fact, dark blue was the first color of choice. In the bright moonlight, black stands out like a sore thumb. Other colors in the ninja wardrobe included brown and gray, which they would don according to the brightness of the moon. They also kept a set of reversible clothes, which allowed for an immediate disguise if spotted by the enemy.

The Outfit

Uwagi Jacket

The ninja kept such things as medicines, gunpowder and needles in the many pockets of the *uwagi*.



Zukin Hood

A cloth, about 30 cm in width, which acted as a hood.



Fukumen Mask

A cloth mask to disguise one's features. It also muffled any breathing sound that might give them away.



Tekoh Gloves

To hide and protect the hands. They also helped to keep them warm in winter and the mosquitoes away in summer.



Hakama Pants

Narrow, pleated trousers that were easy to move in.

Kyahan Leg Wraps

These have pieces of string, tied around each leg, in which the ninja would carry *bojo-shuriken*.



THE TOOLBOX

Though not quite boy scouts, Ninjas were always prepared.



Weapons



Tsui-giri Picks

Large picks used for both fighting and carving spyholes in walls.



Torinoko Smoke Bomb

Gunpowder was wrapped with a sheet of paper like a firecracker, and a paper fuse was attached. It could be used as a hand grenade or smokescreen.



Hyakuraju Strung Firecrackers

Small cases of gunpowder were strung together and lit to let off a series of small explosions. With this the ninja could make enemies believe there was an armed battalion.



Ibushi-ki Smoke Pot

A flute-like ceramic cylinder with eight holes along the side and one at the top. When gunpowder was poured in and lit, a curtain of smoke rose from the holes.



Tetsu-bishi Iron Makibishi

One type of *Makibishi*. This one is a simple iron pyramid.



Tennen-bishi Nature Makibishi

This hard seed was used as is, the pointed parts being quite sharp. Not only light to carry, it was also free, a feature which made it popular in the ninja world.



Tetsu-bishi Iron Makibishi

This *makibishi* has two sharp, V-pointed blades on a metal bar.



Shinobi-kumade Grass Rake

Originally used to gather grass, this simple instrument was an ideal ninja tool. With a rope attached, it was used to scale roofs and walls, or as a weapon.



Tetsu-bishi Iron Makibishi

This *makibishi* is a sharp, four pointed tetrapod. When dropped, one point will always stick up.

Kakushu Iron Block

Like brass knuckles, this was held in the hand and used to bludgeon an opponent. It could also defend against sword attacks.



Shuriken Throwing Star

The most famous of the ninja weapons. Altogether there are ten types, including the four-pointed "*shiho-shuriken*," the eight-cornered "*happo-shuriken*," and the "*bojo-shuriken*."

* *Makibishi* are tiny weapons like thumbtacks. Ninja spread them on the ground when beating a retreat to slow down pursuers.





Tekko-kagi Iron Claws

A multi-purpose instrument: In battle it could be used as defense against a sword, and when scaling walls it could be attached to the hand like a four-spike crampon.



Maru-kagi Round Key

Another item for jimmying open a big lock.



Karakuri-kagi Trick Key

Shaped like a figure "7," it was used for huge locks to storehouses with thick mortar walls.



Kagi-nawa Hook Rope

Just like the grappling hook, this was used climbing up and getting down.



Ikari-kagi Grappling Hook

Tied to the end of a rope, this metal anchor would be thrown over walls or onto roofs, allowing the ninja to go up and away.



Uchi-kagi Prying Hook

Held in both hands, the hook was driven into a wall to help the ninja climb. It could also be used to open doors.



Kasugai Cramp

Used to make footholds in walls and big trees by driving the points in vertically. It could also be used for a stuck sliding door.



Tsubo-giri Forked Pick

This item was believed to be used to cut round holes in walls; when a stick is inserted in the hole at the end, the bar can be moved around in a circle like a compass.



Maki-hashigo Roll-up Ladder

The pointed, top part of this portable pulley was thrown over a wall, and the rest drawn up like a bucket from a well.



Shikoro Mini-Saw

A double-edged saw blade that could be used to cut through hedges or the bars of a cell. The ninja had a choice of small, medium or large.



Kiri Pick

Smaller than the one on the market, this easy-to-conceal blade was used to cut holes.



Saku Lock Pick

A tool for picking locks.

Odds and Ends



Missho-ire Secret Document Holder

Made to look like the sheath of a small sword, it contains instead a pipe in which secret documents could be concealed from the enemy.



Kayaku-ire Gunpowder Holder

Used to carry a small supply. The leather bag beside it is believed to have contained a tobacco pipe.



Hoguchi Tinder Box

This box kept hot coals. Just a pinch was needed to start a fire.



Seoi-bukuro Shoulder Bag

The ninja's daypack was a net bag of strong rope for carrying tools. He slung it over his left shoulder to allow the right hand freedom of movement.



Tenohira-taimatsu Hand-held Torch

This compact torch was made from pine resin and bamboo skin, keeping it alight even in the rain.



Gando Search Light

A kind of flashlight in which a candle is cleverly fixed to two hoops that move, keeping the candle upright at any angle.





Zouri Sandals

A style of slipper made of braided rope with cotton soles. Used for walking in absolute silence.



Kusuri-ire Medicine Pouch

These kinds of pouches were used by ordinary people as well. The left one bears the name of the medicine. The right one has the kamon, or family crest on it.



Tobacco-ire Tobacco Pouch

The ninja used this pouch not for tobacco but for gunpowder. On the job the ninja was a non-smoker -- the smell would have given him away.



Kunal Spade

A handy, portable shovel for digging your way in or out.



Noroshizutsu Flare

A handy device used to alert the ninja's allies to where the enemy was hiding. When stuffed and set on fire, it would emit a stream of smoke.



Sulto Air Pipe

When hiding in water, they placed the top of the bamboo pipe above the surface of the water and breathed through it like a snorkel.



Oritatami-nomi Folding Chisel

A single-edged chisel that could be folded up and concealed.

TALKING THE TALK: CODES AND SIGNS

Here's how to get the message without blowing your cover.



Passwords



In the cloak and dagger world that the ninja inhabited, telling friend from foe could mean the difference between life and death. This is where passwords came into play, instrumental at such times as delivering secret documents or contacting allies behind enemy lines. The words they used -- motifs from nature, poetic associations, antonyms -- they borrowed from the vernacular, modifying them on a daily basis to avoid detection.

Such passwords included word associations in nature:

Japanese	Japanese in English	English
山—森	Yama—Mori	Mountain—Forest
日—月	Hi—Tsuki	Sun—Moon
花—実	Hana—Mi	Flower—Fruit
海—塩	Umi—Shio	Sea—Salt
谷—水	Tani—Mizu	Valley—Water
火—煙	Hi—Kemuri	Fire—Smoke
山—川	Yama—Kawa	Mountain—River

Passwords were also taken from poems such as tanka:

Japanese	Japanese in English	English
雪—富士	Yuki—Fuji	Snow—Mt. Fuji
花—吉野	Hana—Yoshino	Flower—Yoshino (a region for flowers)
煙—淺間	Kemuri—Asama	Smoke—Mt. Asama (a volcano)
萩—宮城野	Hagi—Miyashirono	Bush Clover—Miyashirono (another flower region)

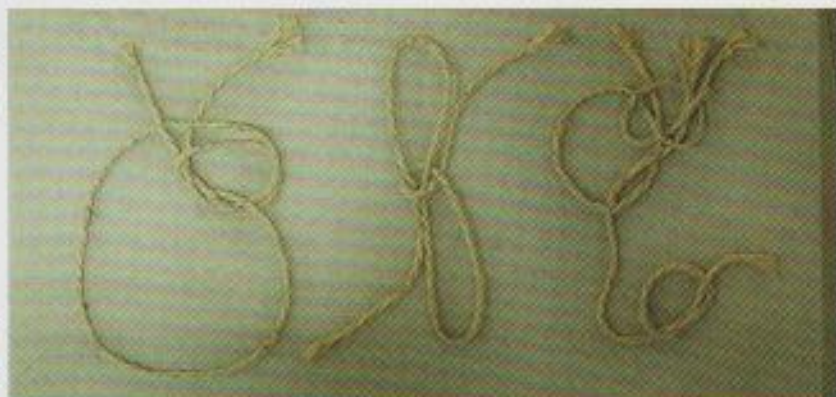
Secret Code



Secret messages were conveyed with the use of elaborate codes that would be overlooked by anyone but the recipient. The ninja's ploys included rice grains dyed different colors (*goshiki-mai*), knotted rope (*yuinawa-moji*), and letters that only their allies could understand.

Goshiki-mai Five-Color Rice

Rice grains were dyed blue, yellow, red, black or purple and arranged in different combinations or patterns. With this technique, the ninja could make over 100 different codes.



Yuinawa-moji Rope-Code

Rope with a particular number or style of knots could serve as a coded message. These would be hung in conspicuous places, such as from the eaves of a roof.

艳 i	焔 ro	焔 ha	艶 ni	焔 ho	色 he	艶 to
精 chi	精 ri	精 nu	精 ru	清 wo	倩 wa	精 ka
横 yo	横 ta	横 re	横 so	横 tsu	横 ne	横 na
赫 ra	赫 mu	赫 u	赫 i	赫 no	赫 o	赫 ku
柏 ya	柏 ma	柏 ke	柏 fu	柏 ko	柏 e	柏 te
檎 a	檎 se	檎 ki	檎 yu	檎 me	檎 mi	檎 shi
檎 e	檎 hi	檎 mo	檎 se	檎 su	檎 n	檎 -

Shinobi-Iroha Ninja Alphabet

The Ninja made their own 48 letters with a combination of parts of Chinese characters. These 48 letters were used as secret codes for Iga and Koga Ninjas.



Kamiyo-moji

ワ wa

ラ ra

ヤ ya

マ ma

ハ ha

キ i

リ ri

シ i

ミ mi

ヒ hi

ウ u

ル ru

ユ yu

ム mu

フ fu

エ e

レ re

エ e

メ me

ヘ he

ヲ wo

ロ ro

ヨ yo

モ mo

ホ ho



These were letters used in ancient Japan before the ideographic system (*kanji*) was introduced. They made an ideal code as few, if anyone, could understand them.

THE NINJA WORKOUT

Ever see a flabby ninja? Didn't think so. This regimen kept them in fighting condition.



Full Body Workout



1. Get into the push-up position with the fists clenched.
2. From the push-up position, push up off of the ground with the toes. It's harder than it looks.



Aural Workout

The ninja spent much of their time with one ear pressed to the floor or ceiling, listening in on other people's conversations. For this a keen sense of hearing was vital, and one way to develop their aural powers was by concentrating on the sound of a needle dropped on a whetstone. As their hearing improved they would increase the distance at which they dropped the needle.

Visual Workout

To improve eyesight, the ninja had a number of peculiar techniques. One was to stare for long periods of time at the flame of a candle. Ouch. Another was to walk back and forth between a dark room and a lit one to enable his eyes to adjust quickly in sudden changes of light.



Strengthening the Arms

The ninja's hands and arms were weapons and they needed to be kept in perfect condition. They would work the arms, shoulders and fingers by hanging from a branch until they dropped.



Strengthening the Fingers

1. Open the hand and extend the arm.
2. Bend the first and second joint of each finger.
3. In that position, clench the fingers tight. Do this repeatedly to strengthen the fingers and the hand's grip.



Jump Training

1. Dig a hole and stand in it. Really.
2. Without bending the knees, jump out. Begin with a shallow hole of about 3 cm deep, and gradually make it deeper. With constant training the ninja was able to leap nimbly over an assailant.

WALK LIKE A NINJA

Move with maximum speed and stealth on any turf.



Shinobi-ashi

On Tiptoe

This is perhaps the easiest of the ninja walks. Without making a sound, begin by placing your fourth toe on the ground and immediately follow up with the middle toe, and then lastly your heel.



Uki-ashi

Floating Foot

For this one, you walk only on the tips of your toes, with your heels never touching the floor. Although perfect for a sneak attack, it can be pretty tough on the toes.



Inu-bashiri

Dog Walk

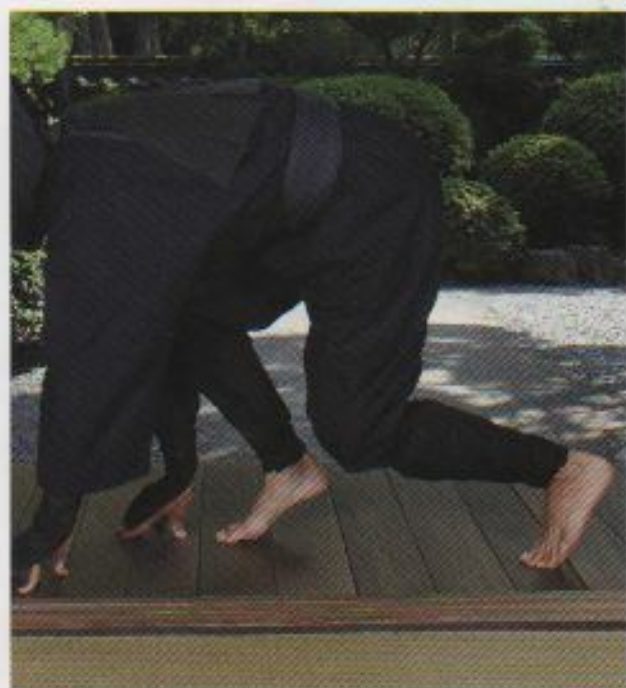
This method is used to creep through low places on all-fours, like a dog. Drop down to your hands and knees, then alternately place your hands firmly on the ground and move forward.



Kitsune-bashiri

Fox Walk

Like the Dog Walk, this is also on all-fours. However, it's a fox-like noiseless scamper on only the toes and fingertips. You'll really need to train your toes and fingers to master this walk.



Yoko-bashiri

Sideways Walk

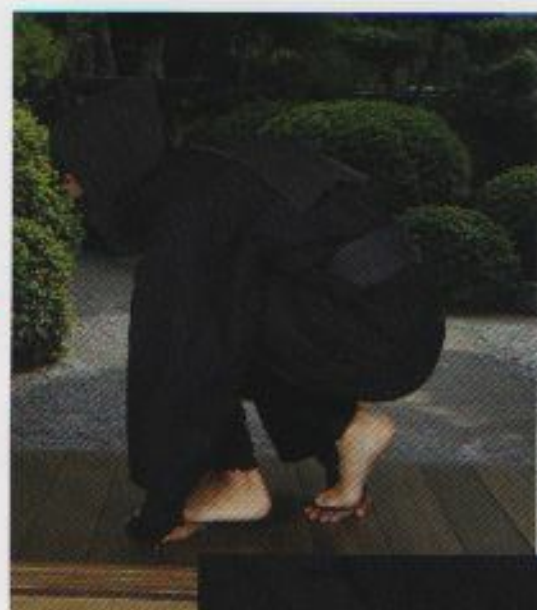
First press your back firmly against the wall. Then, facing the direction you want to go in, open your arms and legs out as wide as you can. Cross your far leg and arm over your forward ones and repeat, sidling along like a crab. This allows you to travel further with fewer steps.



Shin-so-toh-ho

Deep Grassy Rabbit Walk

In the most silent of methods, you place the balls of your feet on the backs of your hands and, bent over in that position, walk forward on your hands. It requires many years' practice and a lot of stamina.





Meditation and Ninjutsu

THE MOVES

Old-school ninja martial arts for dispatching enemies and living to tell about it.

MEDITATION

Fire up your *Ki* for battle or unwind after a long day of toppling shogun.



In is most effective for calming and relaxing the mind.

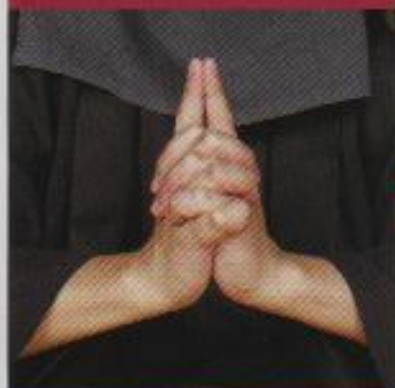
The ninja's life was one of physical danger and mental stress. You can imagine. To overcome these hardships, they practiced a form of meditation using symbols known as *In*. They combined this with a method of autosuggestion called *Kuji Goshin-hou*, which they believed gave them certain powers. The roots of *In* lay in receiving spiritual energy from the sun and the moon. As the sun rose at dawn they would face the sun; in the evening, they would look toward the moon. Even before battle, the ninja practiced this meditation.

In would be performed each morning and evening.



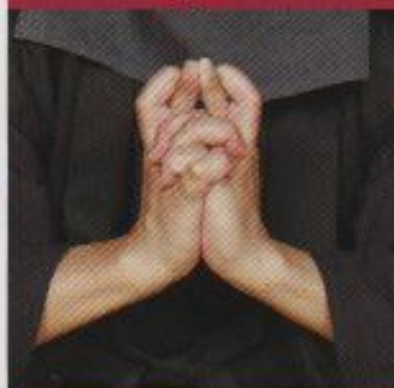
The Kuji Goshin-hou In Technique

Rin



Press the palms of both hands together and lock the fingers. Raise the index fingers so they stand together.

Pyou



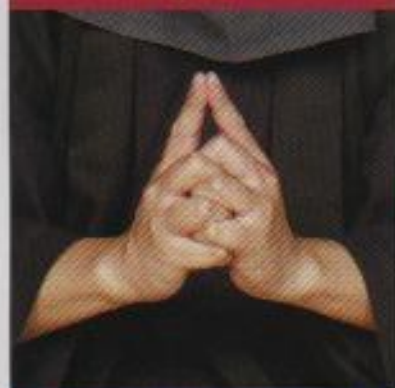
Raise the middle finger. Coil the index finger around it.

Tou



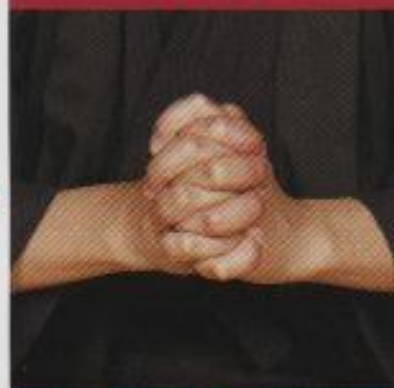
As with the Rin technique, lock the fingers of both hands together. Raise the thumbs so they stand touching. Now do the same with the little fingers.

Sha



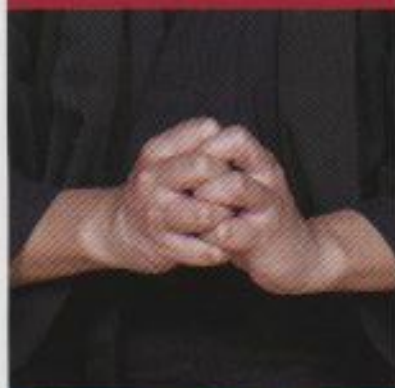
Press the palms of both hands together and lock the fingers below the palms. Raise the index fingers so they stand together.

Kai



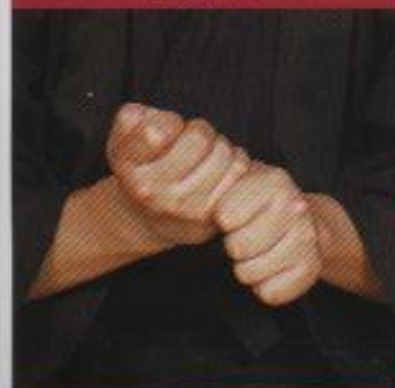
Place the flat of the palms and fingers together as in prayer.

Jin



Lock the fingers together below the palms, so that the knuckles join.

Retsu



With the thumb sticking up, clench the fingers of the right hand. With the left hand, grasp the thumb of the right.

Zai



Press the tips of the thumbs together while holding the hands apart with the fingers spread open.

Zen



Lightly clench the left hand. Rest it in the right hand.

Toh-in



This technique was developed from the hand exercises of *Kuji Goshin-hou* to increase the ninja's power. It was practiced with a sword or, when no sword was available, with the left hand. He would begin by shouting "Ah!" while swinging his sword down in a vertical motion. This would be followed by "Ki!" as his sword cut through the air in a horizontal swing. With this introduction over, he would continue swinging his sword vertically then horizontally as he recited the rest of the mantra -- "Sa! Ta! Ka! Ha! Wa! Ya! E!"

Norito



When praying for the health of his family and safety on his travels, or more immediate concerns, such as favorable weather or recovery from injury, the ninja would swing his sword just like for *Toh-in* while chanting, "So Ra Chi Yu Ra Chi Ku Ku Re Ah."

For more power, the ninja would combine *Kuji Goshin-hou* with *Juji-hou*. They would practice *Kuji Goshin-hou* and then draw a wish in one word.



Heaven. When expressing oneself to another of higher or revered status, it would enable the speaker to employ the appropriate manner.



Dragon. To guarantee safety when travelling by river, sea or in another country.



Tiger. For safety in the mountains or when returning from a place unknown.



King. To enable the ninja to put everything into a set task.



Life. To allow the ninja to eat something that they dislike.



Victory. To secure victory in battle or competition.



Justice. For the ninja or their family's speedy recovery from illness.



Demon. For bravery when travelling at night or passing through a place believed to be haunted.



Water. To enable the ninja to overcome envy and depression.



Big. For appreciation of the good things in life.

NINJUTSU: FIGHTING, HIDING, AND MAKING A GETAWAY

Centuries of fighting dirty have yielded great techniques for both offense and defense.



Martial Arts

Kagi-nawa Hook Rope



1 Hold a bundle of rope in the left hand to block enemy's attack or just use it to trip him up.



2 Using your other hand, strike the enemy in the belly and drive the hook into his clothes and flesh.



3 With his sword now out of action, you make your move, strangling him with one left twist of the rope while pinning his right arm firmly against your body.



4 While twisting your opponent's arm, move behind him and tie his arm behind him. He'll be unable to move without the hook digging deeper into his wound.

Kanawa Fighting Hoops



1 The *kanawa* is a set of hoops with nasty notched blades attached to the inside and out (the handle area is wrapped in cloth). As your opponent wields his sword, swing the *kanawa* into action.



2 Catch the attacker's sword in the teeth of the *kanawa*, and you can pull him off his feet.



3 To trap him, bring the *kanawa* down over his arms.



4 Step back and hook the other *kanawa* around his neck, immobilizing him, or finish him off.



1 Traditionally used for cutting branches, this large pair of shears is only referred to as *mantoh* when used as a weapon. The handles are gripped tightly as you lunge at your enemy.



2 The blades are then opened, and held horizontally to scissor your attacker's sword as it swings in for the kill.



3 You then give it a twist to knock him off balance.



4 Step in to trap and hold him with the blades around his neck, or just snip him like a daisy.

Tekagi Metal Claw



1 Although the *tekagi*, a set of four metal claws worn on the hand, was originally used by farmers for gathering grass, it doubles as a nasty ninja weapon.



3 With your free hand try to block the swing of his sword.



5 Take him out in one swipe by going for a weak point like the neck or face.



2 When meeting your enemy, conceal your *tekagi* hand in your clothes.



4 Immediately, attack his sword arm with the *tekagi*, rendering it badly mauled and unable to hold a sword.

Nicho-gama Sickle



1 The *nicho-gama*, a type of sickle, is yet another farmer's implement used with deadly effect by ninja. Makes you wonder about farmers. One is usually held in each hand. When attacked, the left-hand sickle catches the swinging sword.



2 You then bring the right-hand sickle down hard between your opponent's hands on the sword.



3 Follow this with an upward twist to quickly relieve him of his sword.



4 Quickly move behind him so the two sickles can be slashed across his neck for the coup de grace.

Chigirigi Staff



1 The *chigirigi* is a weapon cunningly disguised as a blind man's staff.



2 First, use the *chigirigi* to deflect the attacker's sword.



3 When he tries to strike again, whip the sword down and out of harm's way with the chain hidden inside the stick.



4 Flip him over with your foot, and push him to the ground with the stick.



5 Take his short sword away and stab him with it.

Shakujou Walking Stick



1 The shakujou is another seemingly harmless implement used as a walking stick by itinerant Buddhists in the mountains.



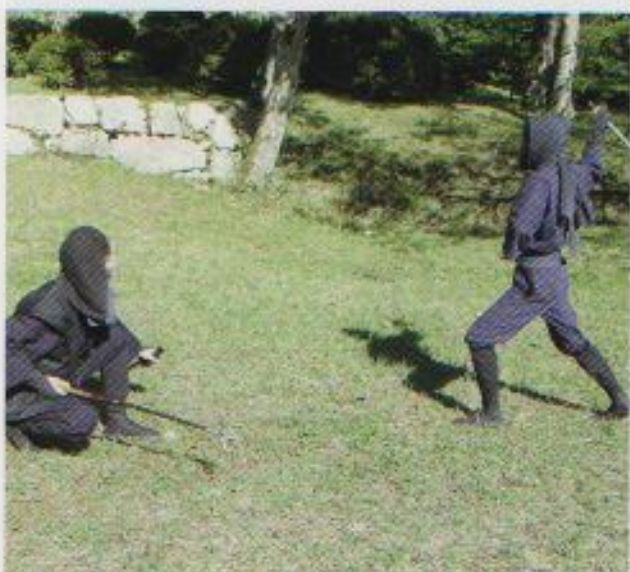
3 Hook the metal point at the top of the stick onto your opponent's hilt or fingers. Pull back to take his sword away.



5 Once you've knocked aside the smaller blade he has drawn, you move in for the kill your new sword.



2 The stick can stop a sword mid-swing.



4 You then stab your opponent with the stick, back away, and grab his sword.

Kusari-gama (Male) Ball and Chain



1 Kusari is a type of chain. Add a weight at one end and a sickle at the other, and you've got a kusari-gama. Swung with force, it will make any assailant back off.



2 Gentlemen, to knock him off his feet, simply whack him across the head with the weight.



3 Now that he's off-balance, wrap the chain around his sword.



4 Pull the chain up and over his head, so that his sword is against his back.



5 Once he's tied up with the chain, you can take his short sword and deliver the fatal wound.

Kusari-gama (Female) Ball and Chain



1 Ladies, first deflect the strike of your attacker's sword with the kusari-gama held in the right hand.



2 As the sword is knocked down, swing at his neck with the chain.



3 With the chain now coiled around his neck, pull it tight to choke him.



4 Step behind him to avoid his falling sword and finish him off with the sickle. You go, girl.

Jumonji-nawa

Figure Ten or Cross Rope



- 1** This technique allows you to snare your opponent with a length of rope and a bamboo pipe. Beforehand, fill the bamboo pipe with an eye irritant. When your assailant appears, blow the powder into his eyes.



- 3** Tugging on the rope to strangle him, loop the other end around his right arm.



- 5** Wind the rope at the center of his back, and tie his wrists behind him. The rope forms a cross, the *karyū* for ten.



- 2** While he's temporarily blinded, pummel him with your fists to knock the sword out of his hand, then throw the noose around his neck.



- 4** At the same time, put his left hand through the loop to form a figure "oo" on his back.



1 Before the fight, throw a length of rope over a branch of a tree, and hide the coil behind you.



3 Smash his hand with your knee to make him drop his sword.



5 Pull the other end of the rope to hoist him off his feet. Tie it to the tree, and hang him high.

Tobi-nawa

Flying Rope



2 Block his sword with your arm.



4 Smash your elbow into his back to bring him down hard, then deftly loop the rope around his neck.

Ebi-nawa Shrimp Rope



1 To start off, jump out of the way of your opponents striking sword and bring your elbow down onto the hit.



2 Now grab his arm with your right hand, and knee him hard in the solar plexus.



3 Grab the opponent's wrist from behind and pull his arm hard. This should make him drop his sword.



5 Loop the other end around his left leg and again pull tight until he's bent backwards like a cooked shrimp.



4 Throw the noose that you've already prepared over his right hand and pull it tight.



1 Begin by rendering your assailant sword-less with a smash of your knee to the back of his hand.



3 Yank the arm up and down behind his back.



5 Twist his left arm behind his back and truss it up tight. The rope should now form a V-shape (or the inverted kanji character for "eight").

Gyaku-hachimonji-nawa

Upside-down Figure Eight Rope



2 Kick him hard in the stomach to double him up in pain and then slip the noose of the rope over his right hand.



4 From behind, loop the rope around his neck.

Ichimonji-nawa Figure One Rope



- 1** From the side, bring your knee up hard on your opponent's arm. This surprise should cause him to drop his sword.



- 2** A swift kick to the stomach will knock him off his feet, allowing you to slip the noose around his right wrist. These moves are the same as *gyaku-hachimoni-nawa*.



- 3** Yank his right elbow up over his shoulder.



- 4** From behind, noose over his left wrist and pull tight. The result should resemble a number "1."

Mutoh-dori Bare-handed



1 When sure of where your attacker's sword is heading, lunge forward and grab the hilt with both hands.



2 Drag his arms and sword down to the ground hard.



3 Without letting go, clasp your legs around his arms and twist them down.



4 In this position, hold his arms with your legs, snatch the sword, and stab him to death.



- 1** This ingenious weapon is a type of blow-pipe that uses a dart made from a sewing needle wrapped in paper. It is extremely accurate. The tip of the needle is dipped in a poison, such as aconite, which kills the victim before he can even open his mouth.



- 2** Put a rolled sheet of paper inside a flute which you can use in a disguise, and place the needle inside the paper.



- 3** Seal the note holes with your fingers, and assess the enemy's position.



- 4** Stand with your legs apart for balance. Place the flute to your mouth. Aim with your left at the end of the flute. And then, with one strong puff, shoot the dart at the unsuspecting victim.



Shuriken

In combat, a distance of three or four meters puts the swordsman at a clear disadvantage. This is the time to break out the *shuriken*. From cross-shaped weapons to spikes, these flying weapons come in different shapes and sizes, and can be thrown from a standing, sitting or lying position.

Shiho-shuriken Four Point Shuriken



1 The *shiho-shuriken* has four sharp points. When throwing, one point is clasped in the hand while the extended forefinger rests over another. Only the top of the point is sharpened to prevent injury from throwing it.



2 It is thrown from the right hand held high. The left hand is held out in front to gauge the distance of the target.



3 As the left hand is pulled back, the weapon is thrown overhand from the right. Put a forward spin on it with the extended finger as it leaves the hand.

Bojo-shuriken Spike Shuriken



1 This shuriken is shaped like a spike. There are two ways to throw this shuriken. One is called *Jika-uchi*, where you throw it sharp end forward. The other is *Han-uchi*, where you throw it the other way around.

2 Basically the arm action is same as *shiho-shuriken*. For short distances, throw it *jika-uchi*. For long distances, throw it *han-uchi*.

3 As the throwing arm swings down into a horizontal position, the thumb's grip loosens, releasing the weapon.



Yonoyami-uchi Double-Shuriken Throw



This is the technique for throwing two shuriken at the same time but for two different distances. It is used at night or when the enemy's distance is hard to determine.

Nawa & Kama Sickle Grappling Hook



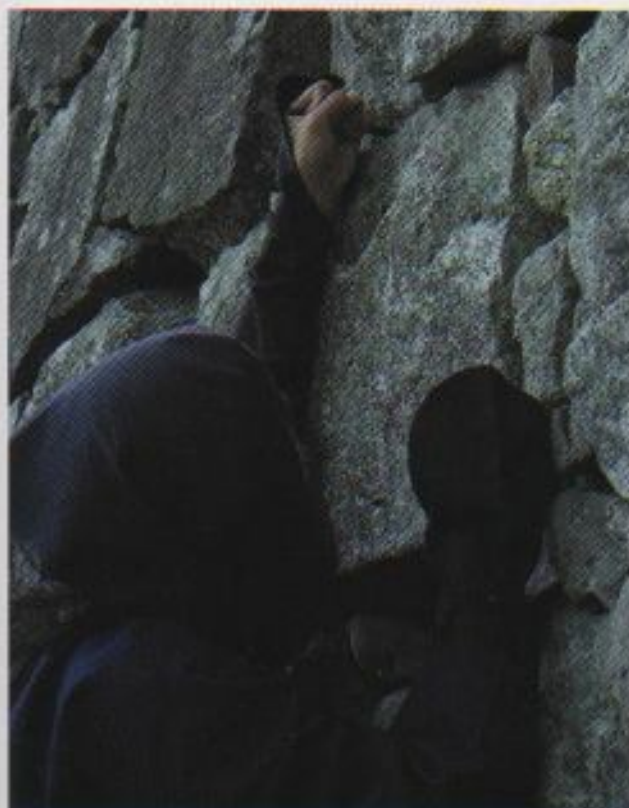
1 The combination of these simple tools can be very effective when scaling high walls. Affix three sickles angled 120 degrees apart to form a grappling hook, and tie them to the end of a long piece of rope.



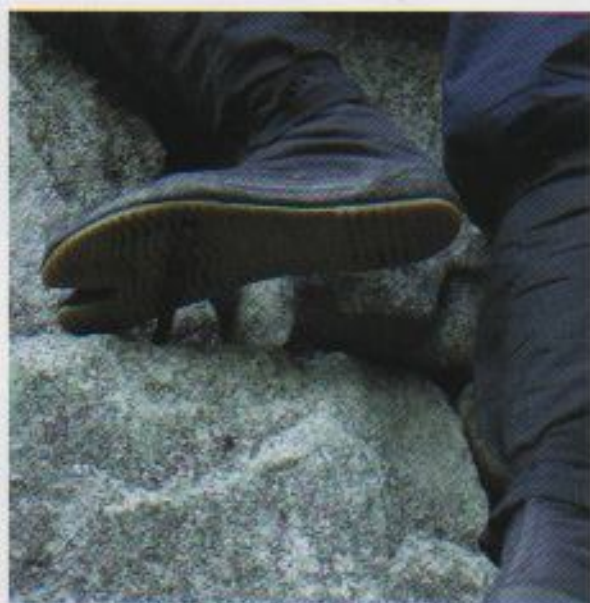
2 Face the wall and throw the grappling hook over so it snags a roof-tile.



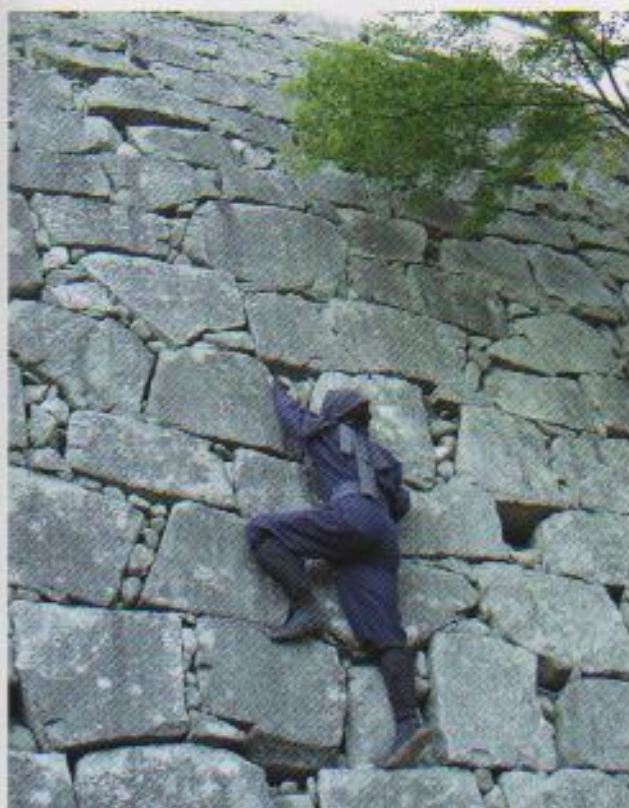
3 With foot-loops knotted into the rope, you can easily shimmy up and over the wall.



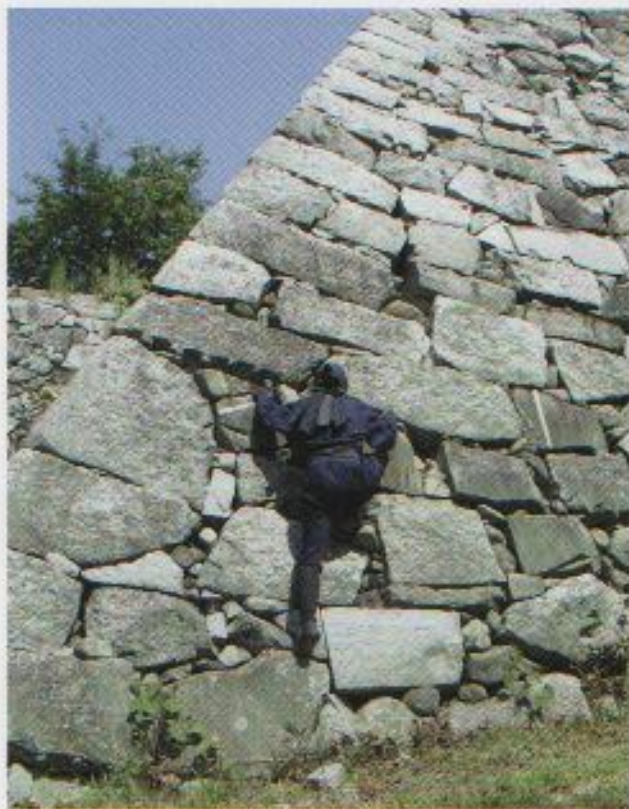
- 1** Force the iron bar into stone walls where fingers and toes won't fit to climb up.



- 2** Make sure it's secure, and put your weight on it to climb up.



- 3** Repeating the method, make your way to the top step by step.



1 The only tools here are your feet, hands, and the strength in your fingers. This method is most effective when climbing cliffs or old stone walls.



2 Pull yourself up by gripping protrusions or finger-holes in the wall.

3 Make sure that what you're holding isn't loose, then crawl up like a spider.

Tenton-juppou

The technique of using weather conditions and natural phenomena -- bright sunlight, snow, wind, mist, etc.-- to escape danger.

Nitton Mirror



An ingenious distraction to allow you a surprise escape. When the enemy is between you and the sun, use a small hand mirror to reflect the light into his eyes. When his vision returns, you're gone.



Chiton-juppou

The technique of using natural elements, such as fire, soil, metal or wood, to escape your enemies.



By tying long strands of grass together, you can make natural tripwires.

Souton
Tripwire



Throwing sand or gravel in your enemy's face and eyes will temporarily blind him while you make a run for it.

Doton
Blinding



Smoke bombs were made from a mix of saltpeter, sulphur, charcoal and camphor. When lit with a fuse, they immediately let off a thick curtain of smoke enabling a dramatic escape. The amount of smoke and the manner in which the enton burned could be controlled by slight changes in the mixture.

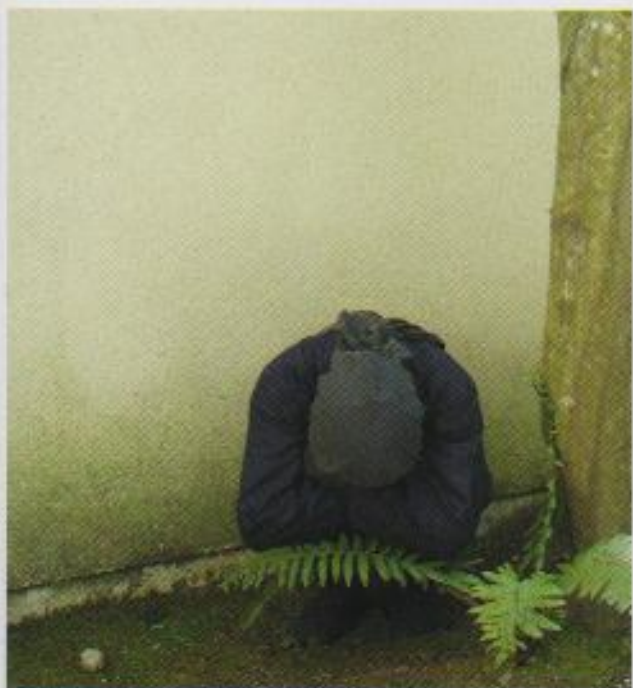
Enton
Cloud of smoke

Kannon-gakure God Hiding



To hide at night, disappear into the shadows or press yourself flat against a wall. Breathe as little as possible, cover your lower face with your sleeve, and to the rhythm of your racing heart silently chant the following -- "On Ah Ni Chi Ma Ri Shi E I So Wa Ka."

Uzura-gakure Quail Hiding

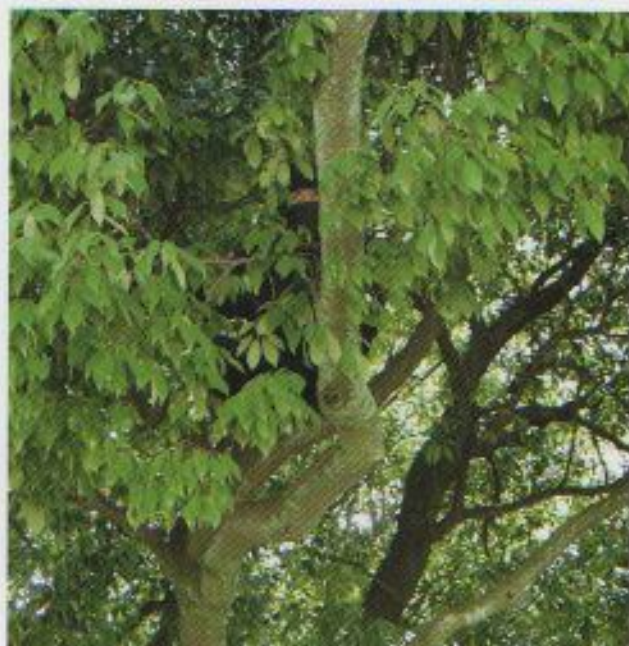


When hiding in a garden at night, wrap both arms over your head and crouch down like a quail-shaped ball to resemble a garden stone.

Tanuki-gakure Badger Hiding



1 Choose the tallest and most leafy tree and scramble up.



2 To make the most of the branches and leaves, go deep into the tree.



3 Until your enemies leave, breathe as little as possible and don't move a muscle.



4 When they've gone, scramble down and make tracks.



Food, Shelter, Tricks, and Disguises

AT HOME AND AWAY

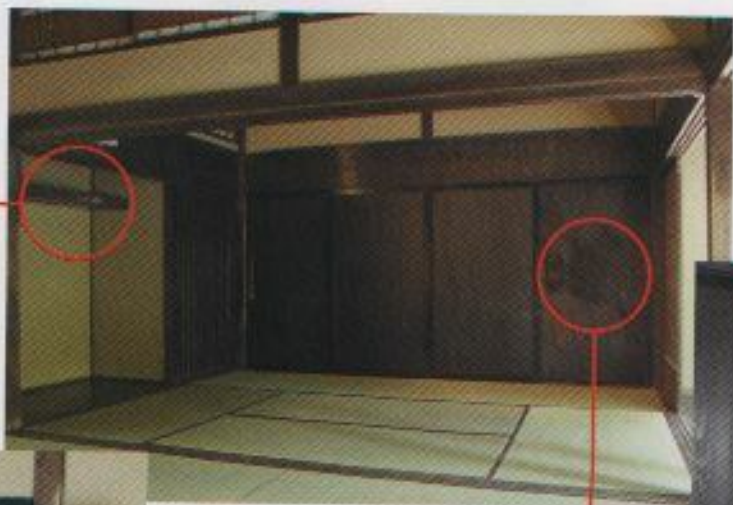
Staying on your tabi-toes anytime, anywhere.

NINJA IN THE HOUSE: LIFESTYLES OF THE DEADLY AND INVISIBLE

A spy's pad had to be customized.



At first glance, the ninja's house could be mistaken for any other -- that is, until it reveals its many secrets. There are places to hide from the enemy, holes to stash valuables in, trick doors, hidden passages, and concealed staircases. Some ninja houses even contained an extra secret floor.



Kakushi-kaidan
Hidden Staircase



Donden-gaeshi
Secret Door



Shikakedo
Trick Door



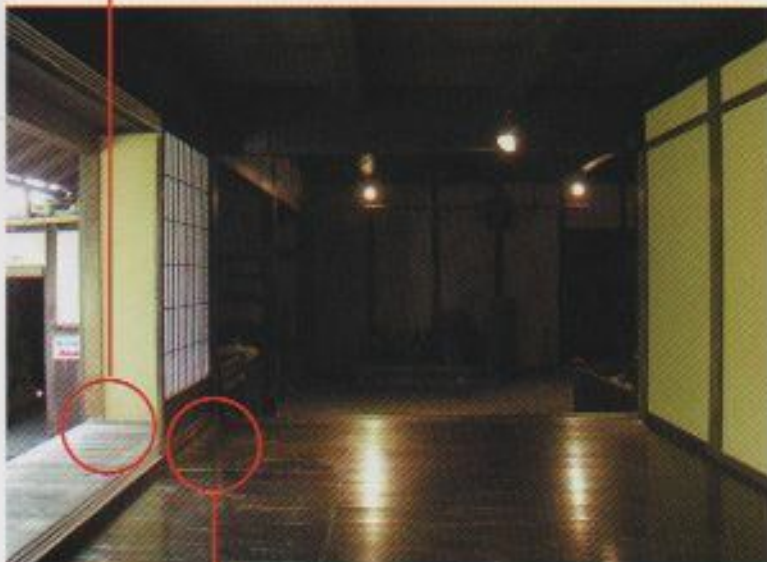
Karakuri-tobira
Mechanical Door



Mono-kakushi
Hiding Place



Mihariba
Lookout



Katana-kakushi
Hidden Sword

Donden-gaeshi Secret Door



At first, it looks like an ordinary wooden wall.



However, at the far left is a secret revolving door made of very light wood. Push on the wall here and you can disappear into a hidden space behind.



Once inside, you then swivel the door back, and nobody would know the difference.



Inside is a ladder made of thin strips of wood that leads to the second floor, while below the floorboards is a secret passage.

Kakushi-kaidan Hidden Staircase



The closet appears to contain nothing but a shelf.



But push the bottom center strut, and the shelf drops to reveal a hidden staircase.



From here you can climb to the second floor. In an escape, the floorboards can then be removed to leave a gaping hole.

Karakuri-tobira Mechanical Door



Pushing on the left side of the wall reveals the secret door. But push on the right side and nothing happens.



When danger threatened, the ninja could quickly scramble into the hidden space, sealing the door behind them.



Once inside, the wall can be pushed up, revealing a passage that leads under the family altar. The ninja could temporarily prop up the hatch with a sword to escape.

Shikakedo Trick Door



During a nighttime attack, having to open the heavy outer doors first would leave little time for escape.



Instead, they used a secret door to make their exit. Between the wall and the door, at the top and bottom, are two latches.



The escaping ninja would carry two sheets of card known as *kaeshi*. When inserted into special slots, the card would pop the latches, unlocking the door.



On the way out, they would push the hooks back to close the door and lock it tight.

Mihariba Lookout



Behind the sliding doors is a wall that contains a mechanical door.



Behind this door is a space just large enough for one person.



Through this runs a three-sided wooden beam into which spyholes have been drilled. From these the ninja could survey the garden and surrounding fields undetected. From the dark of the room, the view of the outside is bright and clear.

Mono-kakushi Hiding Place



When you open the screen doors that are usually kept closed, you see the threshold. What you wouldn't notice is that the edge of one of these can be removed.

By removing the threshold, the floorboard can be lifted. Beneath is a layer of dry sand where the ninja would keep important documents and secret letters. In an escape, they could easily grab them and then hide them again once outside.

Katana-kakushi Hidden Sword



One floorboard closest to the roughest part of the threshold has been deliberately chosen to conceal a hiding place.

Below is a narrow space long enough to hold a sword.

Experiencing Ninja First Hand

Ninja Museum of the Iga Sect



Ninja Residence

There's a surprise, an ambush perhaps, then an escape through secret passages guided by a beautiful female ninja.



You can feel the ninja presence here, surrounded by the very tools and weapons they have touched and used.



The Hall of the Ninja

Visitors can even try on a pair of "mizugumo," which are the special shoes the ninja wore to cross swamps and marshlands.



The ninja experience continues here, with over 400 displays dedicated to their craft, many which can be picked up and held.

The Hall of Ninja Folklore



Models of villages and houses where the ninja once lived offer a vivid picture of their homelife.



Behind the ninja mask was a person of learning. It's all here, their knowledge, their ancient texts, the tricks they used with such skill and cunning.



Shuriken Throwing

Visitors also get to throw a few shuriken, the ninja weapon-of-choice. Although it's not as easy as it looks, you can really get into it.



Ninja Show

The Ninja Show brings it all to life. This impressively action-packed display of weaponry, including sword-play, is as real and as close as it gets.

The museum is located in Ueno City, once the home of the Iga ninja sect, in Japan's Mie Prefecture. It serves as a reminder of the city's ninja roots.

Iga Ninja Sect Homepage
<http://www.iganinja.jp/>

THE NINJA DIET

You can't raid a castle on an empty stomach. An assassin thrived on high-energy foods, and home-made *tofu* just like the Grand Master used to make.



Staple Food

The ninja diet consisted of high-protein foods, such as brown rice and wheat. This was supplemented with pickled plums, which help alleviate fatigue and cure infections. In the course of a day's work, the ninja would sometimes hang from a roof beam by only the thumbs and forefingers. To be able to do this, they had to keep their weight down. With a low-calorie, high-protein diet, men stayed around 132 pounds.



Other Ninja Foods



Sesame Seeds

To keep strong bones and healthy teeth, the ninja ate sesame seeds, which are high in vitamins and calcium.



Soybeans

The ninja were vegetarian, believing impurities in the blood would weaken their sixth sense. As a substitute for meat, they ate soybean *tofu*.



Quail Eggs

One ninja art is known as "quail hiding." They believed that eating quail eggs would enhance this method of camouflage.



Brown Sugar

The ninja snacked on sugar as an energy booster.

How to Make Ninja Tofu

As well as *tofu* being a low-calorie diet food, soybeans, its main ingredient, were once believed to have spiritual qualities.

Ingredients

(To make one large *tofu* block)



•Soybeans.....300 g •Brine..... 20 cc



1 Wash the soybeans and place in 1.4 liters of water.



2 In a blender, mix the soybeans into the water until they become smooth and creamy. Stir and repeat two or three times.



3 Pour the soybean mix into a pot, add 200 cc of water, and heat over a strong flame. Bring to boil and then lower the heat. Let it simmer for another seven or eight minutes. To keep it from sticking, stir constantly.



4 Wrap the mix in a cotton cloth and wring it out over a pot. This juice is known as soya milk. Be careful, it's hot!



5 Heat the soya milk to about 70 degrees c°.



6 Dilute the brine in 40 cc of water and stir half of it into the soya milk. Place a cover over the pot and leave for 10 minutes. Then mix in the rest of the brine.



7 Line a large colander with a cotton cloth. Spoon in the hardened *tofu* mix.



8 Cover the mix with a folded cloth. Place a plate on top to weigh it down.



9 The *tofu* will harden in about 20 minutes. When done, place the *tofu* carefully in water and leave until it loses any bitterness.



FINISH

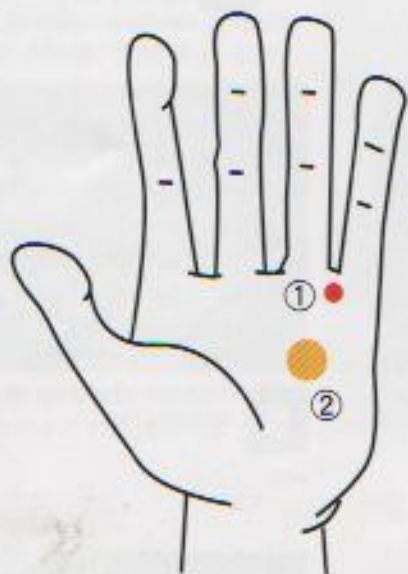
Finally, cut the *tofu* and serve.

ASSASSIN WELLNESS

Rumbling with Ronin can take its toll. Accupressure and massage kept a ninja razor sharp.



Tsubo



Pressure Points on the Hand

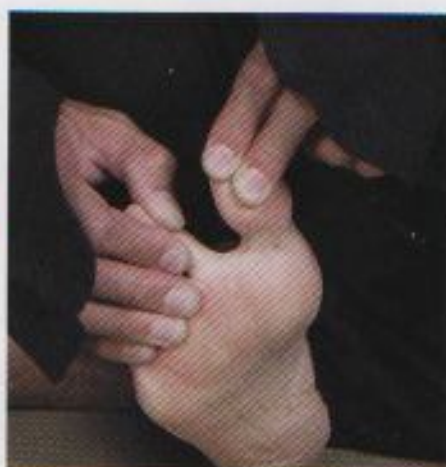
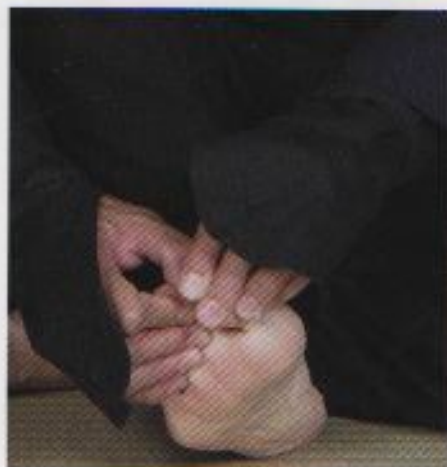
Pressure point (1) is known as the *ekimon*, (small gate) point. It should be rubbed quite strongly with the outer side of the thumb. This point helps you to sweat out a fever. Pressure point (2) is known as the *jinzou*, or kidney point. Massaging this relieves swelling.



Pressure Points on the Feet

Stimulating pressure point (1) will relieve a stiff neck, (2) stiff shoulders, (3) tired lungs, (4) an overworked heart, (5) improves kidney function, and (6) is for the large intestine.

Toe Massage



Massaging the big toe while bending it backwards and forwards was said to improve the performance of the liver. It also acts as a relaxant.

Hand Massage



Hold two walnuts in the hand and turn them in a circular manner. The palm of the hand has numerous pressure points and stimulating them is meant to improve the body's organs.

Ear Massage



Rubbing the ear with the palm of the hand or pulling on it with the fingers improves the condition of the eyes, ears and internal organs.



Flicking the back of the ear with the fingers improves hearing, makes the ears stronger, and soothes the head.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

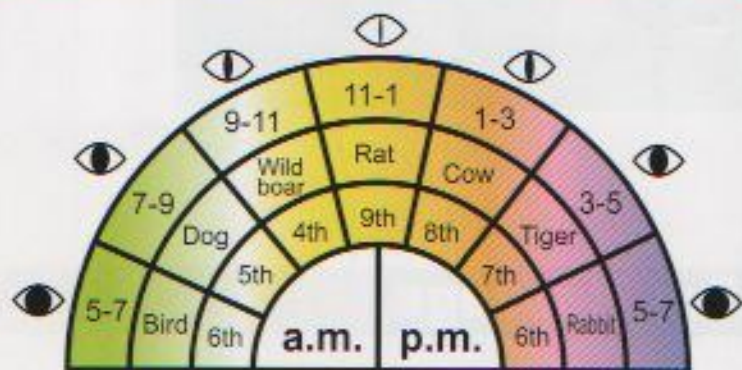
Helpful hints and ninja know-how for your next mission.



Telling the Time

In the days when clocks were still rare, people knew roughly what time of day or night it was by the position of the sun or the Big Dipper. The activities of certain animals, such as the dawn chorus, could also serve as something of a clock. The ever resourceful ninja, however, had their own system, known as the "Cat's Eye Clock."

Cat's Eye Clock



Staring into a cat's eyes, the ninja could calculate the time by studying the size of its pupils, which dilate and contract with the changing of the light. In the old days in Japan, the time was indicated by animal names, for example, "bird" is from 5AM to 7AM.

Weather Forecasting

Weather condition was an important factor for the ninja, who could turn the wind or rain to their advantage. Setting a castle on fire, for example, was best achieved when the wind was strong. When spying on somebody, however, the ninja prayed for rain, which would muffle any sound they made.

Forecasting the Weather

1. Twinkling stars means rain is on its way.
2. If the mountains appear closer than usual, rain is sure to follow.
3. The moon's halo says rain is imminent.
4. Kites flying in downward circles suggest the following day will be wet.
5. When kites fly in ascending circles, the next day will be sunny.
6. Crows washing themselves in water means it's going to rain.
7. When water droplets appear on spider webs, the following day will be clear.

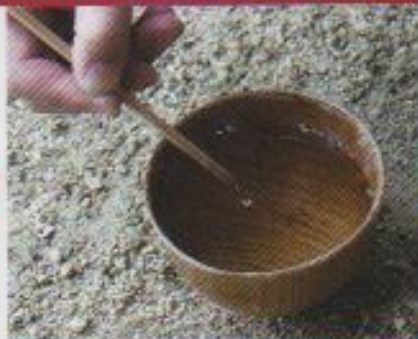
Navigation

Although a compass can easily tell which direction is which, being caught with one was too much for the ninja to risk. They preferred to make their own with such inconspicuous items as a needle and wax. Also, on clear night, the polestar or the Big Dipper told the direction.

Making a Compass



Heat a needle until it glows red.



When it's red, immediately cool it in water.



Once cooled, pour wax over it.



The needle will now float. When placed in water, it will point North.

Finding Water

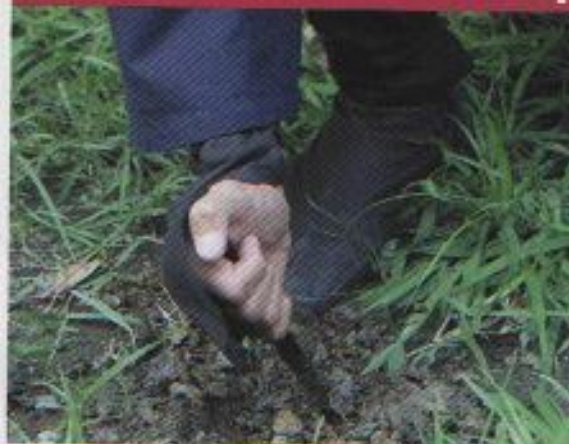
The ninja often found themselves stuck out in the wilds. Finding water, therefore, was vital for survival. For this they had a number of techniques, and if the water was dirty, they would simply filter it through a cloth. Yum.

How to Find Water

1. Stick a crow's feather into the ground and wait.
If it becomes damp then there's water below.
2. Dig in valleys where iris grow.
There's sure to be water.
3. Place a towel on the floor of a cave. If it's wet the following day then there's a water source close by.
4. Dig a one-meter deep hole in the mountainside.
Place your ear to the bottom and listen. If there's a sound it means there's water below.
5. Find an ant's nest. There'll be water nearby.

Sleeping in the Open

Camping Out



1 To cook rice, the ninja first dug a hole.



2 The rice, which had been soaked in water for a few hours, was wrapped in a small towel.



3 They then buried the covered rice in the hole.



4 Over this they built a fire, which would cook the rice below. When done, they cleared away the fire, dug up the rice, and ate. To ward off animals, the fire was kept burning throughout the night.



5 On cold nights, they'd move the fire and sleep face-down on the heated ground in order to keep the heart, and therefore the body, as warm as possible.

When on the move, the ninja often had to camp out. Wild animals and cold nights meant bedding down outside was not without danger. The ninja's methods took advantage of what was on hand.

Delivering Secret Documents

Insho-hitoku-no-hou



1 The ninja would wrap thin strips of paper diagonally around a pole. They'd then write the secret messages onto the paper.



2 Once dry, they'd peel off the paper, leaving strips of illegible squiggle. This they would deliver to the recipient.



3 Once in the right hands, the reader would then wrap the paper strips around a pole of the same size, and read.

One of the ninja's many duties was to deliver secret documents. They used different methods to avoid discovery if inspected, such as memorizing the messages. In more extreme cases, they would shave their heads and carve the message into their scalps. Once their hair had grown back, they would deliver the message by shaving again once they arrived safely.

A FACE IN THE CROWD

The black suit does not always blend. Seven basic disguises let the ninja disappear in plain sight.



Hokashi

An entertainer, such as juggler, acrobat or monkey handler. You never can trust a man with a monkey.



Sarugakushi

A touring actor who sings, dances, and performs *kabuki* all over the country. Such people skipped through checkpoints with little trouble.



Yamabushi

A mountain ascetic, a hermit communing with nature on a mission of self-discovery. Cut off from society, these wild men weren't expected to carry permits.

The ninja's tasks included travelling the country gathering information. But regional checkpoints were introduced in the Edo era to prevent those without travel permits from moving freely from state to state. The ninja donned disguises to avoid detection while they continued their clandestine activities. These costumes known collectively as "nanabake," would become their specialty.



Shonin

A travelling salesman shouldering an enormous bundle of medicines and candies from town to town. This itinerant profession enabled him to pass freely through checkpoints.



Shukke

A Buddhist monk. For this the ninja had to be able to chant the sutras as well. This disguise had an added bonus, however, as it allowed him a sneak peek at family registers, which at the time were administered by temples.



Komuso

A shakuhachi-playing priest in a long woven hood. The disguise was ideal, for as well as concealing his face, priests were allowed to pass through checkpoints without lifting their hoods.



Tsune-no-kata

A commoner, such as a farmer or a samurai. In this case the ninja had to be fluent in the local dialect and accent. He also needed a serious top-knot.

1

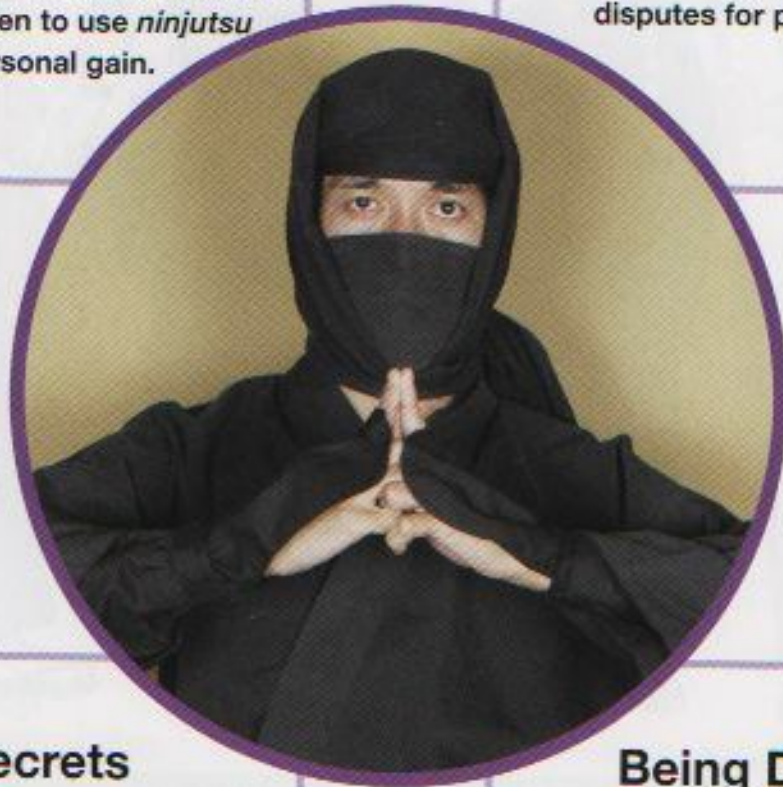
Misuse of *Ninjutsu* is Forbidden

The ninja's loyalty is to the country and military commander they serve. They are forbidden to use *ninjutsu* for their own personal gain.

2

Overcoming Pride

The ninja's execution of their duties is paramount. Expending energy on personal disputes for pride is forbidden.



3

Leaking Secrets is Forbidden

The importance of the documents the ninja carries cannot be overstated. It is forbidden to discuss these with others.

4

Being Discovered is Forbidden

The ninja's work is secret. To perform their duties, they must remain hidden. It is forbidden to give oneself away.

Ninja Names Through the Ages

Era	Name
Asuka-era (574 - 709)	Shinobi
Nara-era (710~ 793)	Ukami
Sengoku-era (1192 ~ 1602)	Kanjya, kyoudan, Rappa, Mitsumono, Kenen
Edo-era (1603 ~ 1868)	Onmitsu, Oniwaban

The name "ninja" is in fact a recent title. In past eras the ninja had different names, and sometimes no name at all.

Ninja Names According to Region

Region	Name
Kyoto / Nara	Suppa, Ukami, Dakkou, Shinobi
Aomori	Hayamichinomono, Shinobi
Miyagi	Kurohabaki
Kanagawa	Kusa, Kamari, Monomi, Rappa, Toppa
Tokyo	Onmitsu, Oniwaban
Yamanashi	Mitsumono, Suppa, Sukinami, Denuki
Aichi	Kyoudan
Fukui	Shinobi
Niigata / Toyama	Nokizaru, Kyoudou, Kyoudan, Kanshi, Kikimonoyaku

Because words and dialects vary from region to region, ninja were known by a number of names.

WORDS OF WISDOM

PHRASEBOOK

B

bansenshukai [ban-sen-shu-kai] *noun*. A 22-volume ninja manual written by Iga native Fujibayashi Yasutake. It contained 49 tenets of Iga and Koka ninjutsu.

Basho Matsuo [basho matsuo] *name*. 1644–1694. Famous haiku poet, whose works included *The Narrow Roads to Far Towns*. He spent many years walking around Japan penning haiku. He was born in Iga, and on his travels covered 40 to 50 km in a day. Where he got his money to travel from remains a mystery, and legend has it that he was in fact a ninja.

Bureimono [bu-ray-mo-no] *noun*. To be against etiquette. Something or someone discourteous.

C

chito [chi-to] *adv.* Referred to a little or a few.

chonmage [chon-ma-geh] *noun*. Edo period hairstyle for men. The head was shaved above the forehead and the hair at the back tied in a top-knot.

D

Danzo Kato [danzo kato] *name*. Ninja. Date of birth and death unknown. Known also as "Tobi Kato" or "Flying Kato." He was said to have practiced sorcery and had the ability to control people through hypnosis. His alias comes from his alleged ability to fly. The Warring States era military commander, Uesugi Kenshin, attempted to use his secret powers and tested his ninjutsu, but Kato was so good he was a threat to Uesugi. Uesugi tried to kill him, but sensing the danger, Kato went over to Uesugi's rival, Takeda Shingen. The same things happened, but this time Kato was killed. There are many versions of this story, and many mysteries surrounding Kato.

doron [dob-ron] *noun*. To suddenly disappear without notice. The origin of the Ninja's *emton* (smoke stick).

E

Ennogyoija [ennogyoija] *name*. Date of birth and death unknown. Sorcerer. Also known as Ennoozune. Active in the late 7th century, he was an originator of *shugendo*, a practice followed by mountain ascetics who lived deep in the mountains under a regimen that pushed their minds and bodies to the extreme. Through this they would hope to receive omens. One disguise that the ninja favored was that of a mountain ascetic.

G

guzaru [go-zaru] *verb*. Polite form of "There is..." or "There are..." More familiar than "sara."

gyoi [gyo-i] *noun*. Used when agreeing with the opinions of those of higher social status.

H

Hanzo Hattori [hanzo hattori] *name*. 1542–1596. One of the most famous ninja. Because of his help in rescuing the captured family of Warring States era general, Tokugawa Ieyasu, he was chosen as his ninja chief. Below him he had a force of 200 men involved in intelligence work. However Hattori's real figure was one of combat commander of his own battalion.

hori [hori] *noun*. Moat around a castle, filled either with water or mud to deter an attack. The bridge across it that led to the castle would be raised at night.

I

ikusa [i-ku-sa] *noun*. War, battle

K

kashira [ka-shi-ra] *noun*. Leader of one faction within a group. Relatively impolite.

katajike nai [kata-ji-keh-nai] *adj.* Extremely grateful.

Kawaya [ka-wa-ya] *noun*. Toilet. Outhouse placed at a short distance from the family quarters.

Kotaro Fuma [kotaro fuma] *name*. Ninja. Date of birth and death unknown. Leader of the *Fuma* Ninja group employed by Hojo Ujinao. A huge man with a fierce face and exceptional ninjutsu skills, in stories he is often portrayed as a monster.

kuse mono [ku-seh-mono] *noun*. Someone suspicious, who cannot be trusted, or indicating someone hard to figure out.

Kuueimon [ku-u-e-mon] *name*. Ninja. Date of birth and death unknown. When sent to assassinate a certain lord, he sneaked into the ceiling but he was found and stabbed in his forehead with a spear through the ceiling. However, he didn't make any noise, wiped the blood from his face, and awaited another chance. He was then successful in the assassination. Because of the scar on his head, he became known as "Ana (hole) kuueimon."

M

mawasi mono [mawa-shi-mono] *noun*. A mole who attempts to discover what orders have been passed down from his boss. A spy.

mete [meh-teh] *noun*. The left hand. Literally, "the hand that holds the reins."

O

oniwaban [oni-wa-ban] *noun*. The system established by 8th Shogun, Tokugawa Yoshimune, that placed ninja under the direct control of the Edo Bakufu government.

onushi [ou-shi] *pron*. "You" when speaking to those of the same social level, or lower.

S

samurai [samu-rai] *noun*. The general term used for those warriors involved in military affairs who had studied the martial arts. Although a completely different kind people from the ninja, they too served *daimyo* and the *shogun*.

sayou [sa-yo-u] *adv.* "That's right," or "That's it."

selkan [say-kan] *noun*. A ninja who returns alive from enemy territory with important information. Literally, "between life."

sessya [say-shha] *pron*. "I" when speaking with humility to those of the same social level, or lower.

shikan [shi-kan] *noun*. Someone prepared to risk their life in order to infiltrate enemy territory and spread false information. Literally, "between death."

soli, sonata [so-chi, so-nata] *pron*. "You!" to someone who is of a lower status.

sourou [so-u-ro-u] *verb*. Polite way to say "There is..." or "There are..."

T

tentyu [ten-tyu] *noun*. Punishment from Heaven. Also, to take the place of Heaven to dispense punishment.

tono [toh-no] *noun*. Ruler's title of honor.

torimono dougu [tori-mono-doh-gu] *noun*. Weapon used by the Edo era police force. Commonly known as *yoriki* or *dashin*, it would injure but not kill the suspect, enabling him to be taken into custody.

tou [toh] *noun*. General term used to refer to family or intimates living or working together. The ninja's practice was organized by each *tou*, which was passed down from parents to children.

Y

yatou [ya-toh] *noun*. Robbery, or the act of sneaking into the enemy camp at night and stealing something.

yunde [yun-deh] *noun*. The right hand. Literally, "The hand that holds the bow."