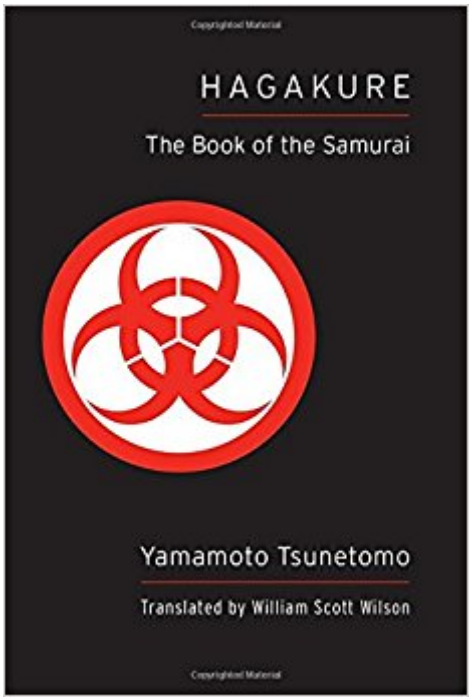
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Hagakure (Shambhala Pocket Classic): The Book Of The Samurai (Shambhala Pocket Classics)



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Synopsis

The seminal treatise on the code of the samurai--now available as a Shambhala Pocket Classic.Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Hagakure is a treatise on the samurai code written by Yamamoto Tsunetomo, an eighteenth-century samurai. It’s a guide, organized as a loose collection of thoughts, on how samurai should conduct themselves. This philosophy--bushido, or "the way of the samurai"--is, according to Tsunetomo, essentially a Way of death or dying. This embracing of death with honor and courage is the core theme of Hagakure--and part of its allure.Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â This edition, translated by the esteemed translator William Scott Wilson, is considered the definitive version of this classic. No other translator has so thoroughly and eruditely rendered this text into English. Wilson’s introduction casts Hagakure in a different light than ever before. In Tsunetomo’s time, the Way of death was a nuanced concept that related heavily to the Zen idea of the death of the ego. Wilson’s introduction gives the historical and philosophical background for that more metaphorical reading of Hagakure, and through this lens, the classic takes on a fresh and nuanced appeal.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“This is a great book for anyone looking for a more centered way of life, or just some good advice about living.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Sacramento Book Review --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Text: English, Japanese (translation) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Didn’t realize before I ordered that it was a small pocket version. Maybe I missed it in the descriptions but its weird that a book like this is sold in the mini form, Personal issue more than the companies issue.

This is a book of reflections on life written by a rather unremarkable samurai just after Japan entered into an era of peace under the Tokugawa shogunate. This made the warrior class into a class of armed civil servants - not an easy transition, begging the question what to do with the two very sharp objects tucked into their belts every waking moment of their lives. The interesting thing about this book is that as someone who has been doing business in Japan for over 15 years, I wish I had read it much earlier. That is because the current Japanese business mentality is very much a product of the two and a half centuries in which the country was run by a class of people who were armed to the teeth and had to follow bushido as a way of life, but in reality had desk jobs and administered things like rice production.Some parts of the book will sound exceedingly misogynistic and weird to our ears, but those are the parts you should pay attention to if you deal with the Japanese. Others are rather entertaining, and yet other are off the wall.In summary, if you are interested in an unfiltered glimpse into the mind of a samurai turned clerk and in getting some insight into the way the Japanese view the world to this day, Hagakure is definitely worth your time!

I didn’t realize this was a literal pocket book. It’s the size of a credit car, but about 1.5 inches thick.

I really enjoy this book! But just a few things to keep in mind. It is translated to English, so that can always bring out the possibility of different interpretations from the original text. That being said, the translator for this version is very well educated in Japanese, and did a great job with this book.Also note, as stated in the front of the book, this is not the entire Hagajure, but I am not even sure if there is any full version, at least as far as English translations go. But this has many many quotes and readings for you to enjoy.If you read the entire thing in one day, you are not reading it correctly or as intended. With these types of books it is wise to read a passage, and sit there and think on what you just read. What it truly means.All in all, this is a great book, especially for the price! Enjoy!

At times, I found this a difficult a read, but in all fairness I’m approaching this from a Western point of

view. It gives insight into what it means to be a samurai, and I think it would be helpful to those are curious about the culture.

The book is really interesting and highly recommended for any fan of feudal Japan. It’s a collection of advice and stories, the central theme being the role of a samurai and how he must be devoted to his master above all else. The book can get grisly, deep and sometimes even absurd, making it an unpredictable book and very entertaining. The length is perfect. Just don’t expect the kind of quotable material you get from a book like The Unfettered Mind by Takuan Soho or Bushido by Inazo Nitobe.The reason I’m giving this edition of Hagakure 3 stars instead of 4 or 5 is that it has a lot of typos and translation errors. Adding to that it seems to lack any footnotes to explain the more obscure terms used within the book.The upside is, of course, the extremely low price. If you can look past the problems I mentioned above you should still have a good time. If anything it might convince you to get one of the more polished editions.

I received the book just fine -- well ahead of the estimated arrival date. However, they should let you know in advance that the book is really a mini-book, about 2.5 inches in height!

Product was exactly as described ... Delivery was great and I would highly recommend this product and service.Thank You! A Must Read for Everyone

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