

劍聖神傳

Throughout Japan's long martial tradition, a rare title has been whispered with reverence — Kensei (劍聖), the Sword Saint. Reserved not for the most skillful warrior, but for the one who unites perfect technique with pure spirit, this name transcends combat. It signals the arrival at a sacred threshold, where swordsmanship becomes a path to inner awakening.

This book is a journey into that sacred realm.

Kensei Shinden unveils the hidden teachings, spiritual insights and living legacy of Japan's most revered masters of the sword. Through ancient scrolls, historical records, and the voices of those who continue this path today, it traces the evolution of kenjutsu from battlefield to spiritual discipline, from external form to inner truth.

With clarity and depth, it reveals how true martial mastery is not the art of defeating others, but of overcoming oneself. Not simply the act of wielding a blade, but of illuminating the soul.

Far from being just a historical study, this is a work of transmission — a *densho* in modern form. A tribute to the sacred spirit of budō and a homage to those whose lives became silent prayers engraved in steel and silence.

At its heart is the radiant figure of Masaaki Hatsumi, the last great Sword Saint of our time, whose life and teachings carry the invisible thread of nine ancestral lineages into the future.

Kensei Shinden is both compass and mirror — a guide for all who walk the martial path, and a reflection of the eternal values that lie at its core: humility, harmony, courage, and emptiness (*kū*).


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KENSEI SHINDEN The Divine Legacy of the Sword Saints

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The Divine Legacy
of the Sword Saints

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Alex Esteve is the CEO and founder of CIFE Group, an international business group dedicated to strategic consulting and excellence in training, particularly in the fields of security and self-protection.

He holds a Master's degree in Forensic Sciences from the University of Barcelona (UB), and postgraduate qualifications in Criminalistics and Security Sciences from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB). Since 2007, he has directed and taught university-level specialization courses, as well as postgraduate and master's programs, combining his academic work with professional consulting in business and judicial matters.

He is officially accredited by the Spanish Ministry of the Interior, as well as by the General Directorate of the Guardia Civil and the Spanish National Police. Internationally, he is certified by the U.S. Department of Justice and the FBI in high-level disciplines such as defensive tactics, firearms, among others.

At the age of 14, he personally met sōke Masaaki Hatsumi, founder and head of the Bujinkan Dōjō, with whom he has maintained direct and continuous training for more than 35 years. Over the course of more than one hundred training trips to Japan, he has received from the Sōke numerous certifications and honors, including the titles of Shidōshi (instructor), 15th Dan black belt, and the prestigious ranks of Yūshū Shihan (Distinguished Master) and Dai Shihan (Grand Master).

He has been honored on multiple occasions with the Bujinkan Gold Medal, and has received the awards Bufū Ikkan and Bujinkan Koroshō, in recognition of his exemplary service and lifelong dedication to the transmission of traditional budō.

In 2024, he was awarded the title of Menkyo Kaiden (License of Full Transmission) in the Kotō-ryū Koppōjutsu school—an extraordinary distinction representing the complete technical and spiritual transmission of this ancient martial tradition.

Alex Esteve - Bujinkan Daishihan

With texts and manuscripts by sōke Masaaki Hatsumi

