



# **Musashi's Dokkodo (The Way of Walking Alone): Half Crazy, Half Genius - Finding Modern Meaning in the Sword Saint's Last Words**

*Miyamoto Musashi*

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"The authors have made classic samurai wisdom accessible to the modern martial artist like never before." -- **Goran Powell**, award winning author of *Chojun* and *A Sudden Dawn*

"It's fascinating stuff!" -- **Steve Perry**, New York Times bestselling author


"The precepts offer priceless advice to anyone." -- **Kate Vitasek**, University of Tennessee

"The five point perspective inspired deep introspection. I have been elevated to higher and deeper levels of personal and professional growth by reading this book." -- **Laela Erickson**, Senior Business Development Executive

Miyamoto Musashi (1584 - 1645) was arguably the greatest swordsman who ever lived, a legendary figure whose methods of thought and strategy have been studied and adopted across a wide spectrum of society, from martial artists to military leaders to captains of industry. The iconic sword saint of Japan was clearly a genius, yet he was also a functional psychopath--ruthless, fearless, hyper-focused, and utterly without conscience. Shortly before he died, Musashi wrote down his final thoughts about life for his favorite student Terao Magonojo to whom *Go Rin No Sho*, his famous *Book of Five Rings*, had also been dedicated. He called this treatise *Dokkodo*, which translates as "*The Way of Walking Alone*." The book you hold in your hands is the definitive interpretation of Musashi's final work.

Readers are oftentimes subject to a single perspective about what some famous author from the past had to say, yet we are more holistic here. This treatise contains Musashi's original 21 precepts of the *Dokkodo* along with five different interpretations of each passage written from the viewpoints of a monk (Wilder), a warrior (Burrese), a teacher (Smedley), an insurance executive (Christensen), and a businessman (Kane). Each contributor has taken a divergent path from the others, yet shares the commonality of being a lifelong martial practitioner and published author. In this fashion you are not just reading a simple translation of Musashi's writing, you are scrutinizing his final words for deeper meaning. In them are enduring lessons for how to lead a successful and meaningful life.

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