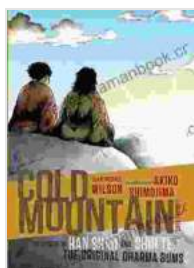


The Legend of Han Shan and Shih Te: The Original Dharma Bums

The legend of Han Shan and Shih Te is a tale of two eccentric poets who lived in China during the Tang Dynasty. They were known for their unconventional ways and their dedication to the Buddhist faith. Their story has inspired generations of people, including the Beat Generation writers of the 1950s and 1960s.



Cold Mountain: The Legend of Han Shan and Shih Te, the Original Dharma Bums by Sean Michael Wilson

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 128473 KB

Screen Reader: Supported

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Item Weight : 1.14 pounds

Dimensions : 6.29 x 0.96 x 9.27 inches



Han Shan

Han Shan, also known as Cold Mountain, was born in the early 8th century in the province of Zhejiang, China. He was a member of a wealthy family, but he left home at a young age to pursue a life of poverty and seclusion. He lived in a cave on Cold Mountain, where he spent his days meditating and writing poetry.

Han Shan's poetry is characterized by its simplicity, humor, and insight into the human condition. His poems often express his love of nature, his contempt for materialism, and his longing for spiritual enlightenment.

Shih Te

Shih Te, also known as Stonehead, was born in the mid-8th century in the province of Jiangsu, China. He was a contemporary of Han Shan, and they often traveled and meditated together. Shih Te was a lay Buddhist monk, and he was known for his eccentric behavior and his love of wine.

Shih Te's poetry is also characterized by its simplicity and humor. His poems often express his joy of life, his love of nature, and his lack of concern for social conventions.

The Legend

The legend of Han Shan and Shih Te is a story of friendship, enlightenment, and the search for truth. The two poets were often seen wandering the countryside together, begging for food and sleeping under bridges. They were considered to be eccentric and even mad by some, but they were also respected by others for their wisdom and compassion.

One day, Han Shan and Shih Te were invited to a feast at a monastery. The monks were impressed by their poetry and their knowledge of the Buddhist scriptures. However, the two poets refused to eat the food that was offered to them. Instead, they sat down and began to recite poetry.

The monks were amazed by the poets' wisdom and their disregard for material possessions. They realized that Han Shan and Shih Te were true sages, and they invited them to stay at the monastery.

Han Shan and Shih Te stayed at the monastery for several years, but they eventually left to continue their wanderings. They continued to write poetry and to teach the Buddhist Dharma until they reached the end of their lives.

The Legacy of Han Shan and Shih Te

The legend of Han Shan and Shih Te has been passed down through the centuries. Their poetry has been translated into many languages, and their story has inspired generations of people. The two poets are considered to be among the most important figures in Chinese literature, and they are still revered by Buddhists around the world.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Beat Generation writers of the United States were inspired by the story of Han Shan and Shih Te. The Beats were a group of poets and writers who rejected the materialism and conformity of American society. They were drawn to the Beats' simplicity, their love of nature, and their search for spiritual enlightenment.

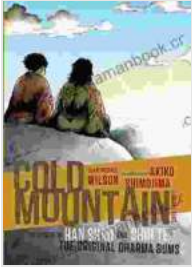
The Beat writers adopted the term "Dharma Bum" to describe their own lifestyle. A Dharma Bum is someone who wanders in search of truth and enlightenment. The Beats believed that Han Shan and Shih Te were the original Dharma Bums, and they looked to their story for inspiration.

The legend of Han Shan and Shih Te continues to inspire people today. Their story is a reminder that true happiness and fulfillment can be found in a life of simplicity, compassion, and the pursuit of truth.

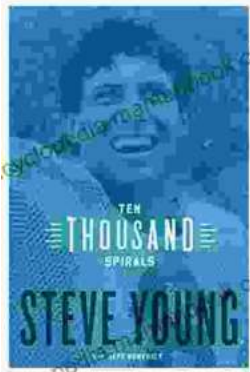
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