



The Marathon Monks of Mount Hiei (Hardback)

By John Stevens

Echo Point Books Media, 2015. Hardback. Condition: New. Reprint ed.. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. The greatest athletes in the world today are not the Olympic champions or the stars of professional sports, but the marathon monks of Japan's sacred Mount Hiei. Over a seven-year training period, these running buddhas figuratively circle the globe on foot. During one incredible 100-day stretch, they cover 52.5 miles daily--twice the length of an Olympic marathon. And the prize they seek to capture is the greatest thing a human being can achieve: enlightenment in the here and now. This book is about these amazing men, the magic mountain on which they train, and the philosophy of Tendai Buddhism, which inspires them in their quest for the supreme. The reader will learn about the monks' death-defying fasts, their vegetarian training diet, their handmade straw running shoes, and feats of endurance such as their ceremonial leap into a waterfall. Illustrated with superb photographs, the book also contains the first full-length study in English of Mount Hiei and Tendai Buddhism. John Stevens lived in Japan for thirty-five years, where he was a professor of Buddhist studies at Tohoku Fukushi University...



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Reviews

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