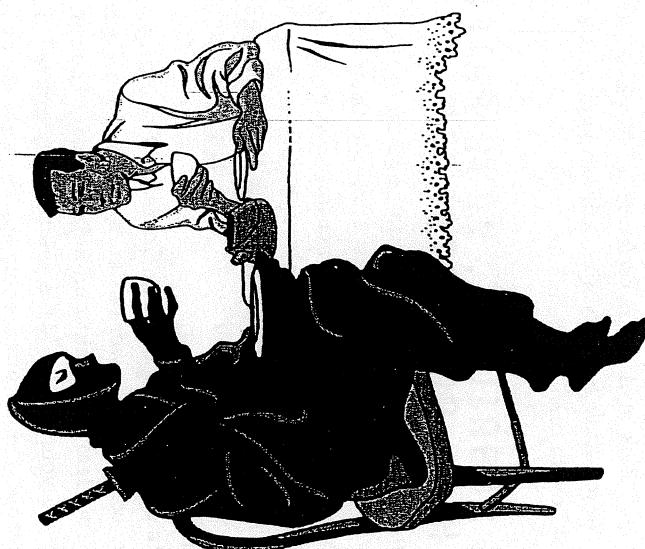


**Quality Herbal Green Tea:** The ninja is the consummate fine tea connoisseur. A well-brewed green tea made from high-quality imported leaves is virtually irresistible for almost all ninjas. As ninjas rely so heavily on their olfactory sense during battle, no strongly scented tea will remain unnoticed by a ninja assailant.

Ninjas are at their most vulnerable while under the meditative trance of a green tea binge. Once ninjas take their first sip, they won't stop until they've finished the entire pot. Thus, always keep a kettle brewing and have the finest fresh tea leaves stored in a cool, dry place.

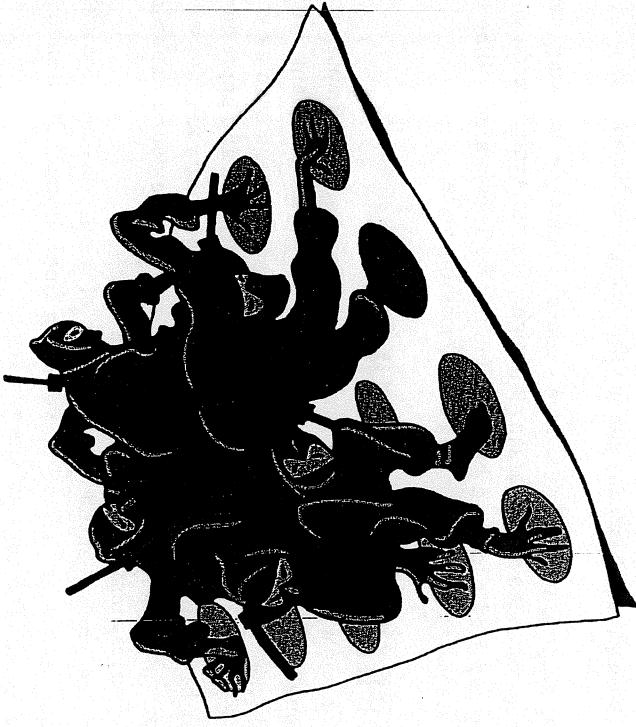
**Oreos:** For reasons not entirely understood, all ninjas are Oreo cookie addicts. They especially like the cream-filled center. When your assailant initiates his or her attack, fight sword with snack.

**Twister:** Have you ever seen a group of ninjas playing Twister? It's the most beautiful thing in the world. Since the advent of the annual Twister Tournament Brussels, a ninja has taken away



## NINJA CRAVINGS

Strangely, despite being among the most disciplined people on the planet, most ninjas have a few cravings that they have great difficulty resisting. Some are predictable, others just downright strange.



the gold medal 27 out of 28 times. Twister is used as recreational training in almost all ninja *ryu*, though play is usually banned for ninjas older than 15. If a ninja sees a Twister board during an attack, he or she will be overwhelmed with Proustian nostalgia and an insatiable desire to play the game. Twister is especially effective if you're being attacked by more than one ninja. The game can easily tie up four ninjas for quite a while.

## NINJA ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are very few things that aggravate a composed ninja. As of the printing of this manual, this is the only one that has been confirmed:

**Bad Ninja Movies:** For obvious reasons, ninjas cannot stand movies that inaccurately portray their kind. Using an old VCR or projector, play a looped flick such as *Beverley Hills Ninja*, *Full Metal Ninja* or *Three Ninjas Kick Back*. Ninjas will suspend battle until they've figured out how to turn off the movie.

## YOUR ASSAULTANT, YOUR FRIEND: TOUCHING ON NOSTALGIA

Most ninjas are pushed from a young age and pressured to grow up faster than is usual, and as a result their childhoods are unnaturally brief. Imagine the nostalgia you feel for your own childhood: As an adult, work is tough, life is filled with stress. Sometimes you want to curl up into a fetal ball and be hugged by your mom. You wish you could go back to the way things were when you were a child.

Now imagine life as a ninja. Instead of working as a lawyer, bartender, construction worker or a truck driver, you're a hired assassin. You deal with death on a daily basis. The tiniest mistake could cost you your life, or leave you severely injured. The pressure is unbelievable, almost unbearably so. The only joy in your life was the few years before you learned to kill. Your childhood was brief, but stands in such stark contrast to the remainder of your life that it stands out in your memory.

Attempt to play up to a ninja's sense of nostalgia, stocking play swords or wooden ninja stars in plain sight. The ninja will immediately be transported back to a bygone time in life. This is a good time to initiate your negotiation using a soft, soothing voice.

## BEFRIENDING WITH FOOD

The ninja's initial impression of you is the most important. Throughout the attack you must treat your assailant with kindness and reverence, and be especially courteous even as you face death. Assure him or her that you understand and appreciate what he or she has come to do, and promise that you'll die with grace and honor; the ninja, in turn, will admire your composure and fearlessness.

Once you've earned the respect of your assailant, quickly persuade him or her to join you for a final dinner. Offer enough sake to take the edge off the situation.

Once the ninja has warmed up to you, make a few jokes. Laugh at any jokes the ninja makes, even if they're not particularly funny or in English. As you're speaking, try gently touching the ninja's arm while looking him or her directly in the eye.

If your conversation falters, throw in a comment about how atrocious you find poorly brewed teas. If the dinner is unsuccessful, the ninja will thank you for a "pleasant meal" and kill you.

If, however, your dinner is successful, chances are you've successfully befriended a ninja. Not an easyfeat! In addition to being killed, you now have a thoroughly trained ninja as your friend! Just imagine the things you can do with a highly lethal ninja *tomodachi*.