

# THE DARK ABILITIES OF THE NINJA

Aside from their heightened senses and physical agility, ninjas put a lot of emphasis on how they collect intel and prepare and execute an attack without ever being seen.

## INFILTRATION

The ability to infiltrate an enemy's stronghold is as important to ninjas as their combat skills. The ninja, in addition to being one of the world's deadliest assassins, is also one of the world's most capable spies.

## NINJA INVISIBILITY

For the ninja, remaining "invisible" may mean any number of things. Most people hear "ninja invisibility" and immediately picture a ninja shrouded in a dark *shinobi-shozoku* (traditional black outfit), slipping quietly through shadows. While ninjas often do employ various tactics to remain unperceived, they may also employ any number of skills to remain invisible in broad daylight. For the ninja, remaining "invisible" can simply mean not revealing that he or she is, in fact, a ninja.

### Going Unperceived

The ninja often navigates our world enshrouded in a fog of impermeable darkness—undetectable by even the most attentive observer. Going unperceived does not just mean going unseen, but also going unheard, un-smell, unfelt and un-tasted.

**1. Invisible Movement:** Ninjas begin training in the art of "invisible movement" at birth—specifically focused in the game hide-seek-and-kill. As ninjas grow older, they incorporate specific techniques into their invisibility arsenal. Many forms of walking are learned to prevent detection, including sideways "crab walking," dense-underbrush "silent-stab-and-step strolling" as well as a "slow, aimless meandering." The traditional black outfits donned at night—*shinobi-shozoku*—are traded for snow-white winter garb for white-out conditions, urban gray for city assaults and evening-chic for more formal attacks.

**2. Camouflaged Invisibility:** In addition to invisibility techniques,

the ninja employs a remarkable capacity for camouflage as inanimate objects. In fact, the ninja's abilities are so strong that, according to statistics, at any given time there is a disguised ninja within 20 yards of you. Remember that potted plant that one day disappeared? Ninja. That brick wall covered in "graffiti" you pass on your way to work? Ninja. The soft, comfortable chair you're sitting in? You get the point.

**3. Scentlessness:** Ninjas will alter their smell depending on their task. This is especially important when a target has employed a watch-dog or watch-tiger. Ninjas will cover their scent by rubbing themselves with whatever best blends in with the environment—pine cones, car exhaust, Chanel, manure, etc. Furthermore, ninjas will also be careful to remain upwind from the target whenever possible.

**4. Touchlessness:** Ninjas pass through the night like a gentle Eastern wind. When moving, ninjas will not stir the air, shake the ground nor do anything else that will allow you to feel their movement. You will not *feel* the ninja until the ninja's cold blade touches you.