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Essays in Idleness: and Hojoki (Paperback)

By Yoshida Kenko, Kamo no Chomei

Penguin Books Ltd, United Kingdom, 2014. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. These two works on life s fleeting pleasures are by Buddhist monks from medieval Japan, but each shows a different world-view. In the short memoir Hojoki, Chomei recounts his decision to withdraw from worldly affairs and live as a hermit in a tiny hut in the mountains, contemplating the impermanence of human existence. Kenko, however, displays a fascination with more earthy matters in his collection of anecdotes, advice and observations. From ribald stories of drunken monks to aching nostalgia for the fading traditions of the Japanese court, Essays in Idleness is a constantly surprising work that ranges across the spectrum of human experience. Meredith McKinney s excellent new translation also includes notes and an introduction exploring the spiritual and historical background of the works.Chomei was born into a family of Shinto priests in around 1155, at a time when the stable world of the court was rapidly breaking up. He became an important though minor poet of his day, and at the age of fifty, withdrew from the world to become a tonsured monk. He died in around 1216.Kenko was born around 1283 in Kyoto....

Reviews

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