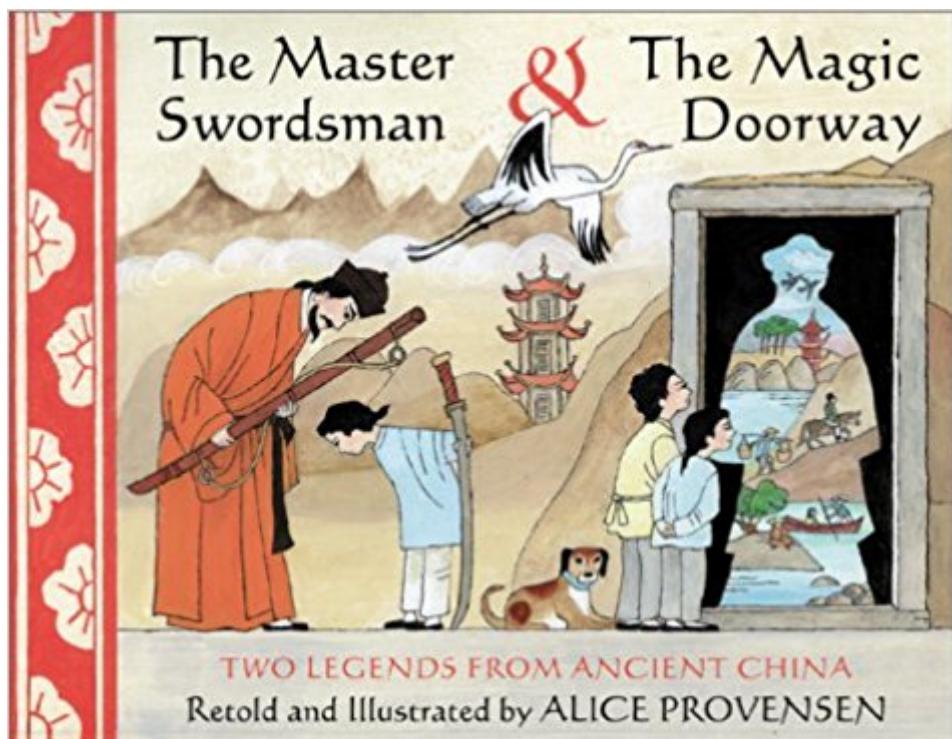


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# The Master Swordsman & The Magic Doorway: Two Legends From Ancient China



## **Synopsis**

Little Chu wants to defend his family and protect the village from bandits. He apprentices with Master Li, the greatest teacher of the sword in all of China -- and finds that having the skill means he'll never have to use it. When the Emperor sees Mu Chi's magnificent mural, he decrees that the painter's reward shall be death. After all, no one but the Emperor should own such a perfect painting. Wielding the power of art, Mu Chi is able to find a way out of his dilemma. These two stories about masters of their arts are retold and illustrated by Caldecott Medalist Alice Provensen, a master artist in her own right. Readers and listeners will be enchanted by the humor and irrepressible spirit with which these characters take on obstacles and triumph over them.

## **Book Information**

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Lexile Measure: 450L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing; y First printing edition (October 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 068983232X

ISBN-13: 978-0689832321

Product Dimensions: 11.2 x 0.4 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,187,831 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Asian #310 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Other #775 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia

## **Customer Reviews**

This is the kind of book I enjoyed as a child and still find delightful as an adult. Two simple stories, funny yet with a message, great for kids. The drawings splash across the pages in full color, with animals, bandits, and landscapes that make the text come to life.

Here is a book that can appeal to a variety of ages and stages. There is much intellectual treasure to be mined from this source as well as some great nuggets of entertainment and wisdom. Concepts of Eastern philosophy (such as awareness, inner nature, observation, humility, patience, balance,

respect, honor, trust, mastership, the virtue of the small) and universal themes (such as hunger, poverty, hard work, greed, ambition, power, hero's journey, failure, success, magic, art, fight, flight) are woven into a fine tapestry of adventure and intrigue. The book contains two stories: "The Master Swordsman" and "The Magic Doorway." Each independent story celebrates (and teaches) the uses of intellect, preparation, and ingenuity over rash acts, cruelty, and violence. The main characters persevere in their individual challenges because they follow paths to peaceable resolutions to their problems. The rich illustrations are beautifully wrought and reminiscent of Chinese landscape paintings / art; several of them include Chinese characters. It's quite amusing to see an exclamation mark after these as well! This book would make a great addition to any study of Chinese culture, thought, art, language, legends, and folklore. It is an appropriate product for reading circles and discussion related to personal / family values.

Light and magical book bringing eternal human values in a way accessible to children. The stories are imbued with magic that engages the imagination of children and adults alike.

great!

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