



Bukan and the Tiger

Date

date unknown

Primary Maker

Unknown artist, Japanese

Medium

Sumi-e and watercolor

Description

Bukan (called Fenggan or Feng Kan in China) was a legendary six-foot-tall Taoist monk-poet who appeared at the Guoqing Temple on Mount Taintai in Zhejiang Province in China riding a tiger. Bukan reportedly took up residence in the library and rode the tiger around the monastery to shock the other inhabitants. The

monk's tiger-taming ability symbolically represents the power of his knowledge. Bukan is associated with Hanshan and Shide (Jittoku in Japanese), fellow poets who, like Bukan, were also monks living in seclusion at the Guoqing Temple. They are collectively known as the "Taintai Trio."

Dimensions

Composition/Sheet: 10 3/4 x 13 1/2 in. (27.3 x 34.3 cm) Support: 15 1/4 x 15 1/2 in. (38.7 x 39.4 cm)