



## Fudebakudo: The Way of the Exploding Pen

**Author:** Dave White  
**Genre:** Aikido and Other Martial Arts  
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*Never heard of Fudebakudo? Be warned, it is a deadly martial art... one could die of laughing.*

Fudebakudo is in part at least, a history book. Contained within its pages is the story of a great Samurai called Musashi. He was such a skilful warrior that he carried not one but two crayons, one in each hand, and changed the world around him forever as a result. Indeed he ultimately became so famous that he decided to record his thoughts in a text called 'The Book of Five Things', for posterity.

Any of that sound a bit odd? It's all based in truth, of course, which always makes a funny story and indeed sets the tone for this volume, a parody on all those martial arts 'manuals' that inform newbies about the history of the art, etiquette, basic techniques and all that sort of thing. The 'borrowed' framework is interspersed with comic-like pages about the known martial arts and a few that may be 'new' to the reader, which is in turn is preceded by a general introduction detailing the supposed history of Fudebakudo. The introduction also includes some of the 'golden truths' of martial arts generally, such as each having a secret technique so secret that nobody actually knows it. Well that's good to know; I thought it was just me.

That famous 'martial artist' Al Capone often said that people laugh at something 'because it's funny, and because it's true'. This being so, I think he may well have liked the unique perspective adopted by this book, and indeed its well-informed author Dave White. In my opinion, almost anybody who has read a modern martial arts manual (and I've read quite a few in this job), or tried a lesson, or even just seen one of the movies will laugh themselves silly at Fudebakudo. A more funny and original book I've not read in a long time.

10 sausages out of 10

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