



Ushiwaka-Maru Asleep by Sōjōbō

Date

ca. 1873-1891

Primary Maker

Shibata Zeshin

Medium

Lacquer on paper

Description

A small album leaf which shows the king of the mythical birdmen or Tengu, Sojōbō, reading, and his famous fencing pupil, Ushiwaka-maru (the early name of Minamoto no Yoshitsune, whose father Yoshimoto, was killed in the Heiji War of 1160), probably on temple ground at Mt. Kurama, on the night of a full moon. The

king is depicted as usual with a long-crooked nose, white beard and huge piercing eyes; he wears a red kimono and the small cap of the yamabushi (literally, mountain warriors), a type of traveling priest, perched on his huge head; his pupil wears a green and yellow kimono. Album leaf mounted as a hanging scroll; lacquer on paper (black, red, green, and yellow).

Dimensions

4 1/4 x 3 5/16 in. (10.8 x 8.4 cm)