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## Cat Haiku

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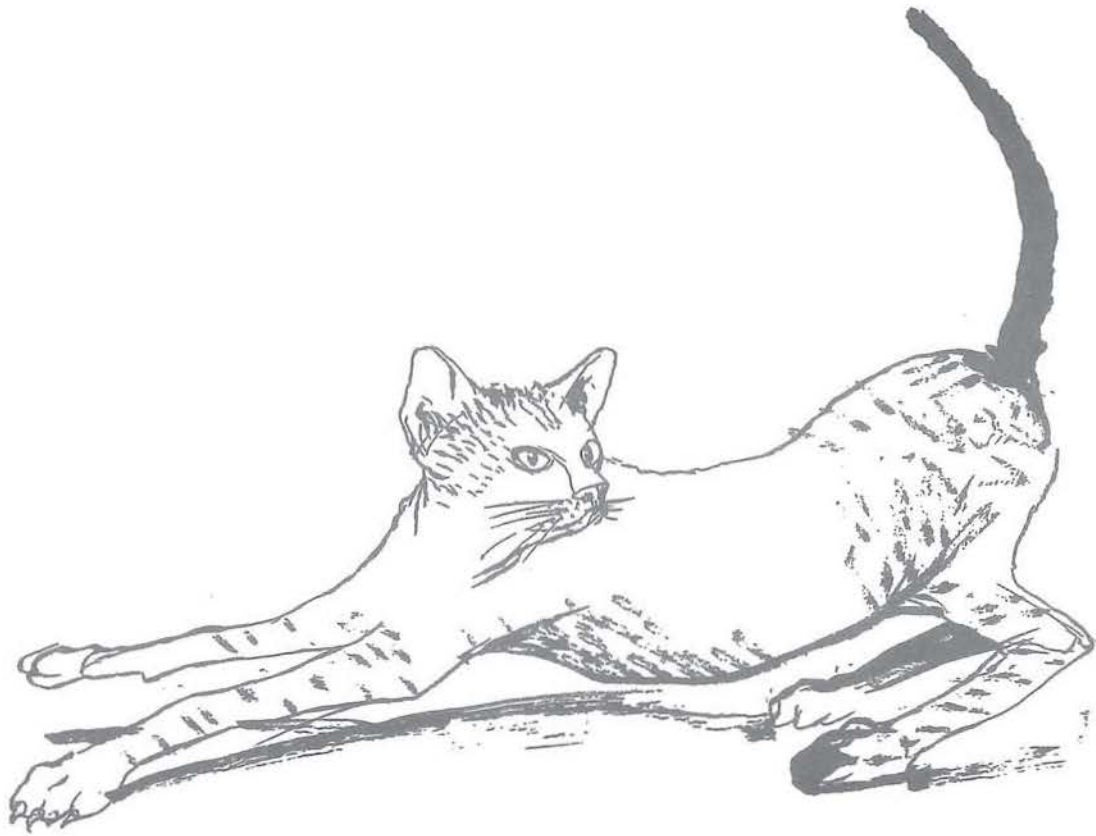
Ito, D., & Arisman, M. (2000). Ito, D., & Arisman, M. (2000). Cat haiku. *International Journal of Transpersonal Studies*, 19(1), 88–98.. *International Journal of Transpersonal Studies*, 19 (1). Retrieved from <http://digitalcommons.ciis.edu/ijts-transpersonalstudies/vol19/iss1/12>



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WHISKERS LIKE WHISPERS  
LIGHTLY TOUCH OUR CONSCIOUSNESS  
BARELY KNOWN BUT THERE



# Cat Haiku

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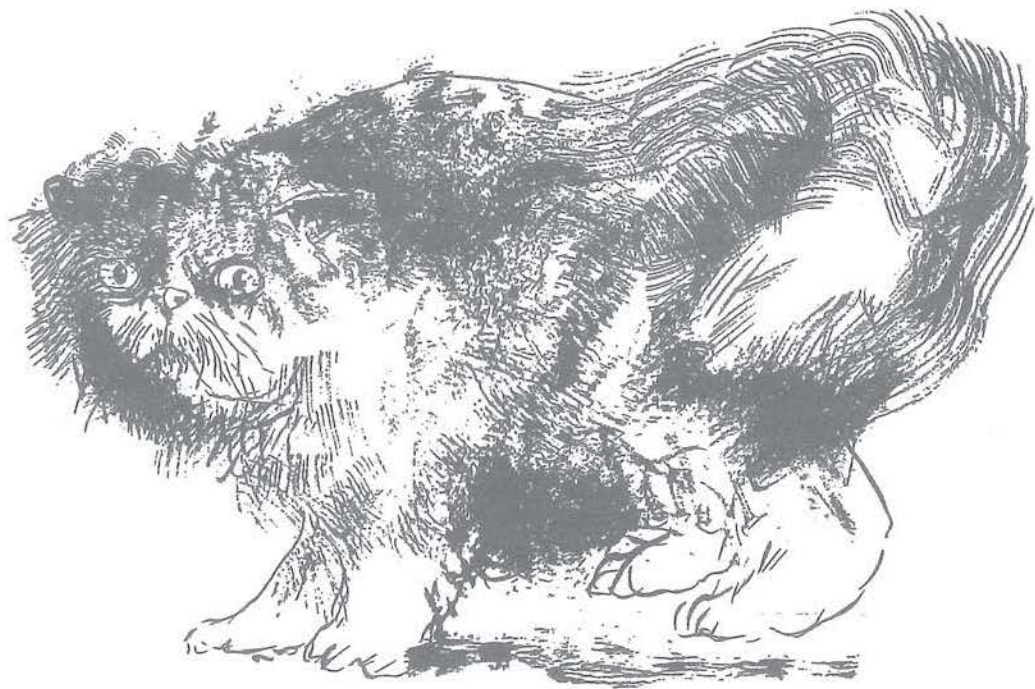
PEOPLE WHO are passionate about cats see the world differently from other people. Living with them day by day, we become more tolerant of quixotic behavior, eccentricity, and weirdness in our friends and families. Cats stir within us an insubordinate spirit, and we learn to survive calmly while all around us is chaos. Our cats, by being who *they* are, give us courage to be who *we* are. We recognize that they exist in our lives as lessons, if only we can discover what we are supposed to be learning. Sometimes it's very difficult.

The haiku—an old and revered Japanese poetry form—often reflected Zen Buddhist illumination. In these times, illumination is difficult to come by. Concentrating on the seasons was a traditional meditation, but using cats as the subject for haiku is equally revealing for us. If we stretch the criteria for haiku formulated by Bashō—one of Japan's most esteemed poets—cats serve quite nicely to enlighten us. Bashō says a haiku should have “extreme compression of thought, casualness of expression, and the very subtle suggestion of the Karmic law of cause and result.”

We have used the strict form, seventeen syllables in three lines—five in the first, seven in the second, and five more in the third.



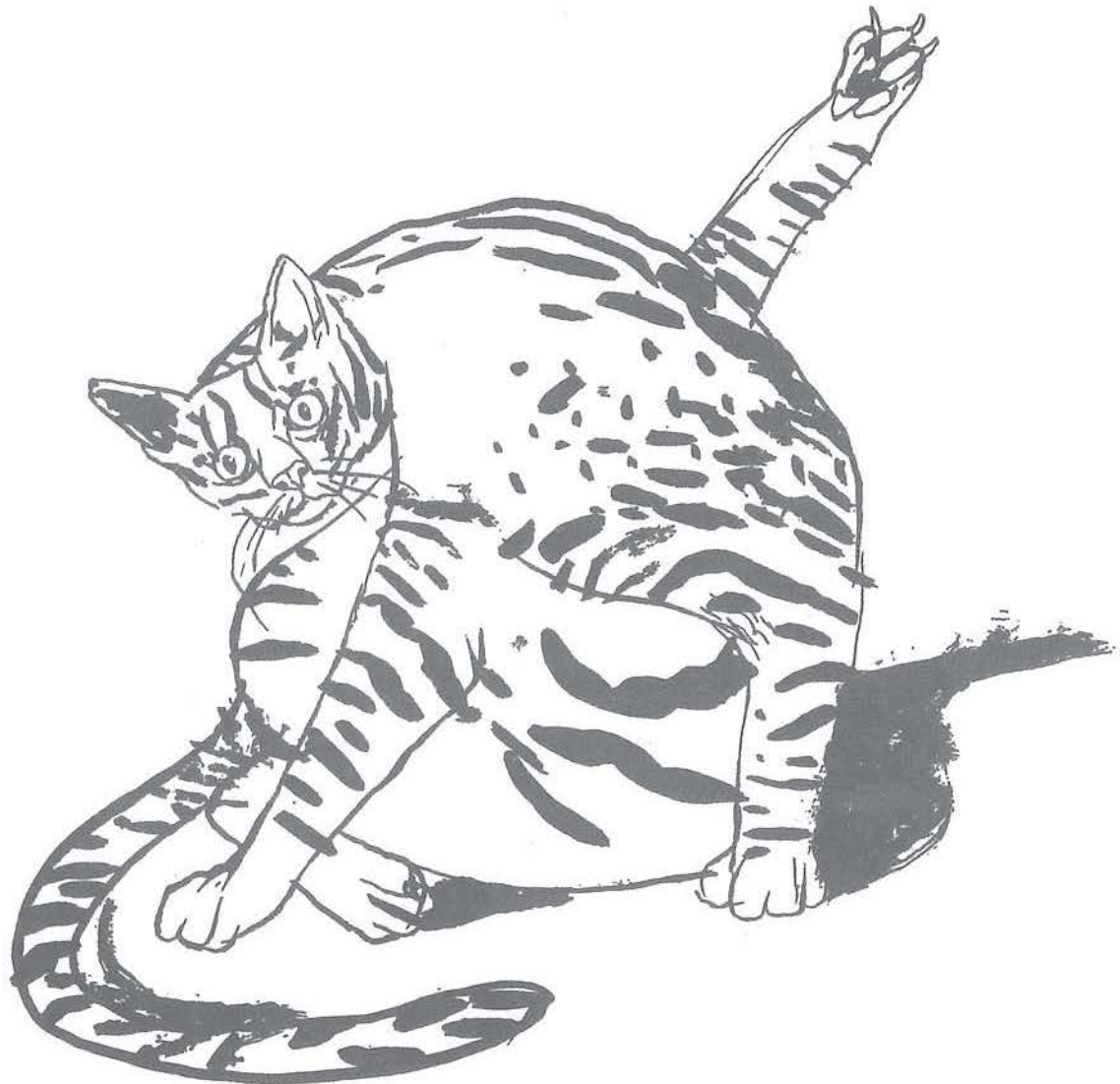
TALKING TO SOME CATS  
MAKES ONE FEEL LESS NEUROTIC  
UNTIL THEY TALK BACK



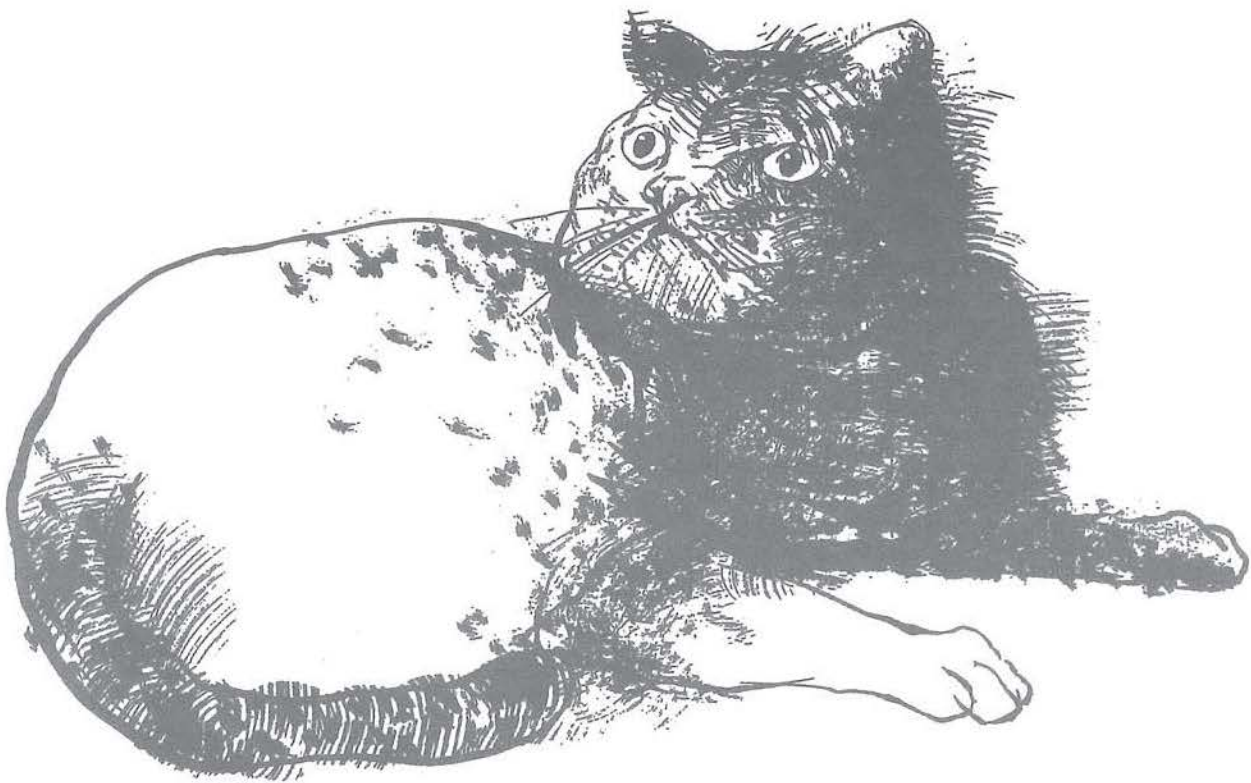
IN ZEN THE MOMENT  
IS TIMELESS AND ALL THERE IS  
CATS SEIZE IT AND PLAY



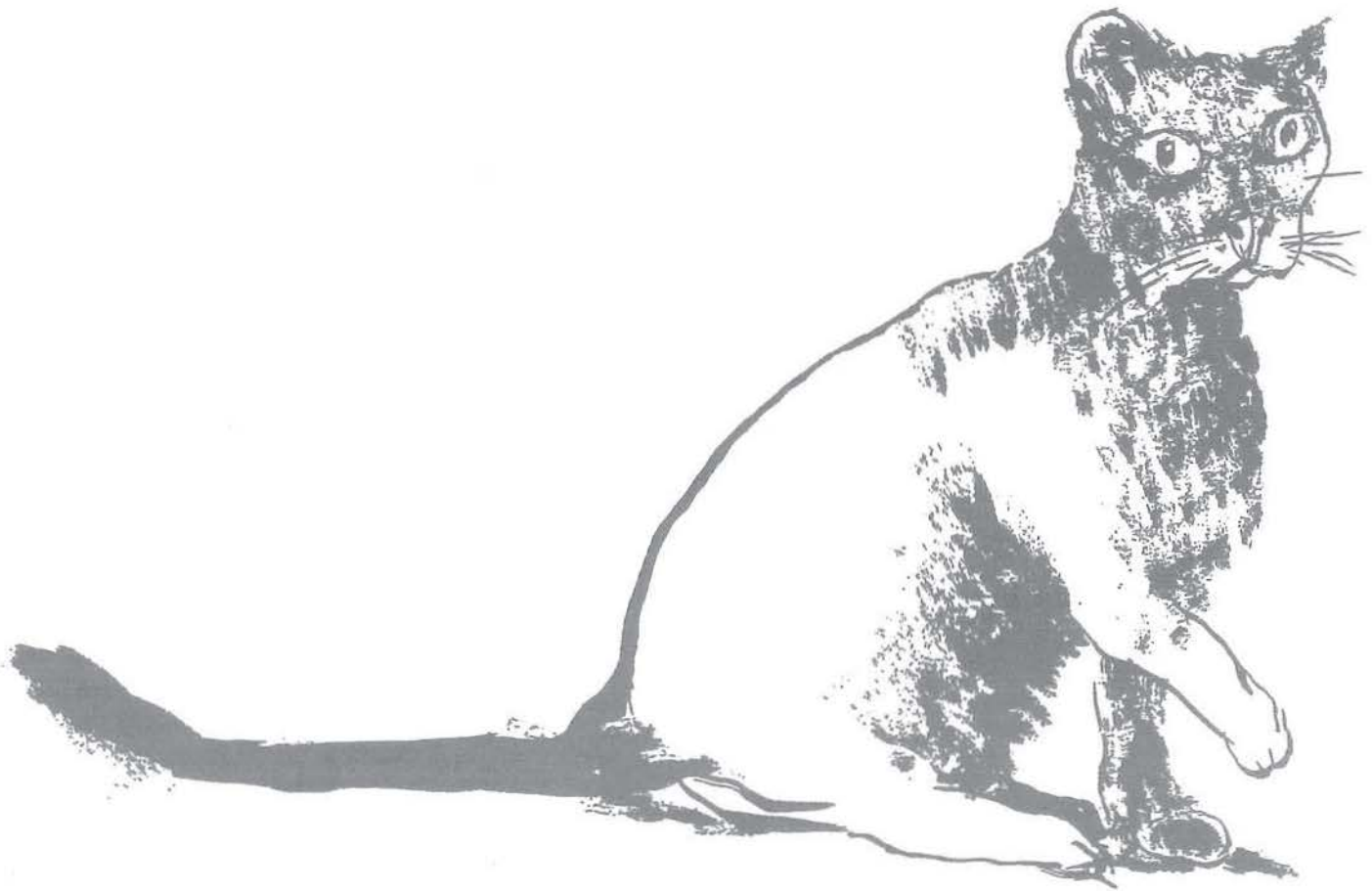
CHIC SIMPLICITY  
CHARACTERIZES MOST CATS  
WE ARE OVERDRESSED



IT'S THE QUIET CAT  
WHO SITS ALONE ON THE SHELF  
KNOWS YOU BEST OF ALL

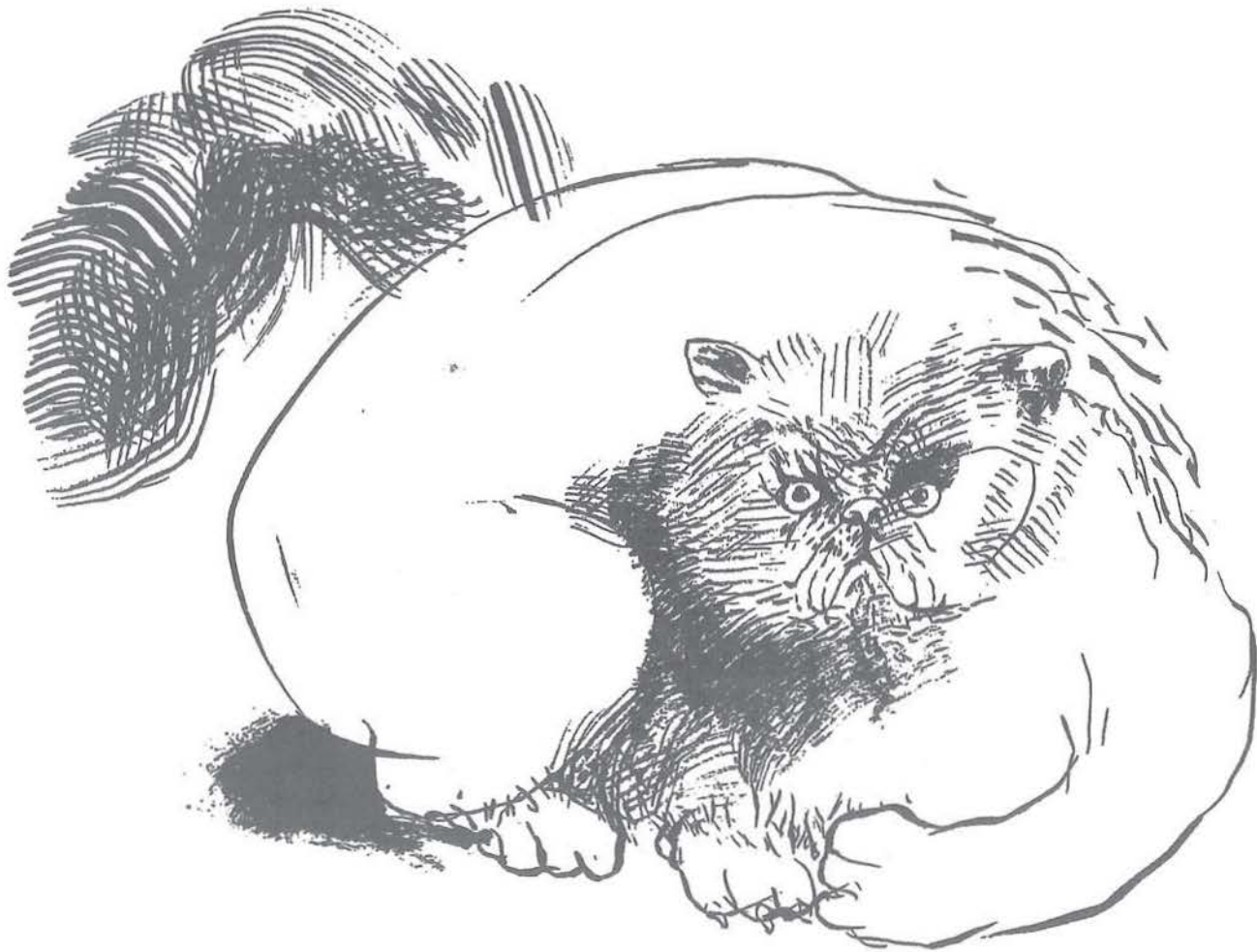


SOME CATS DRAW AND PAINT  
MINE HAVE MORE HUMBLE TALENTS  
THEY CONTEMPLATE LIFE





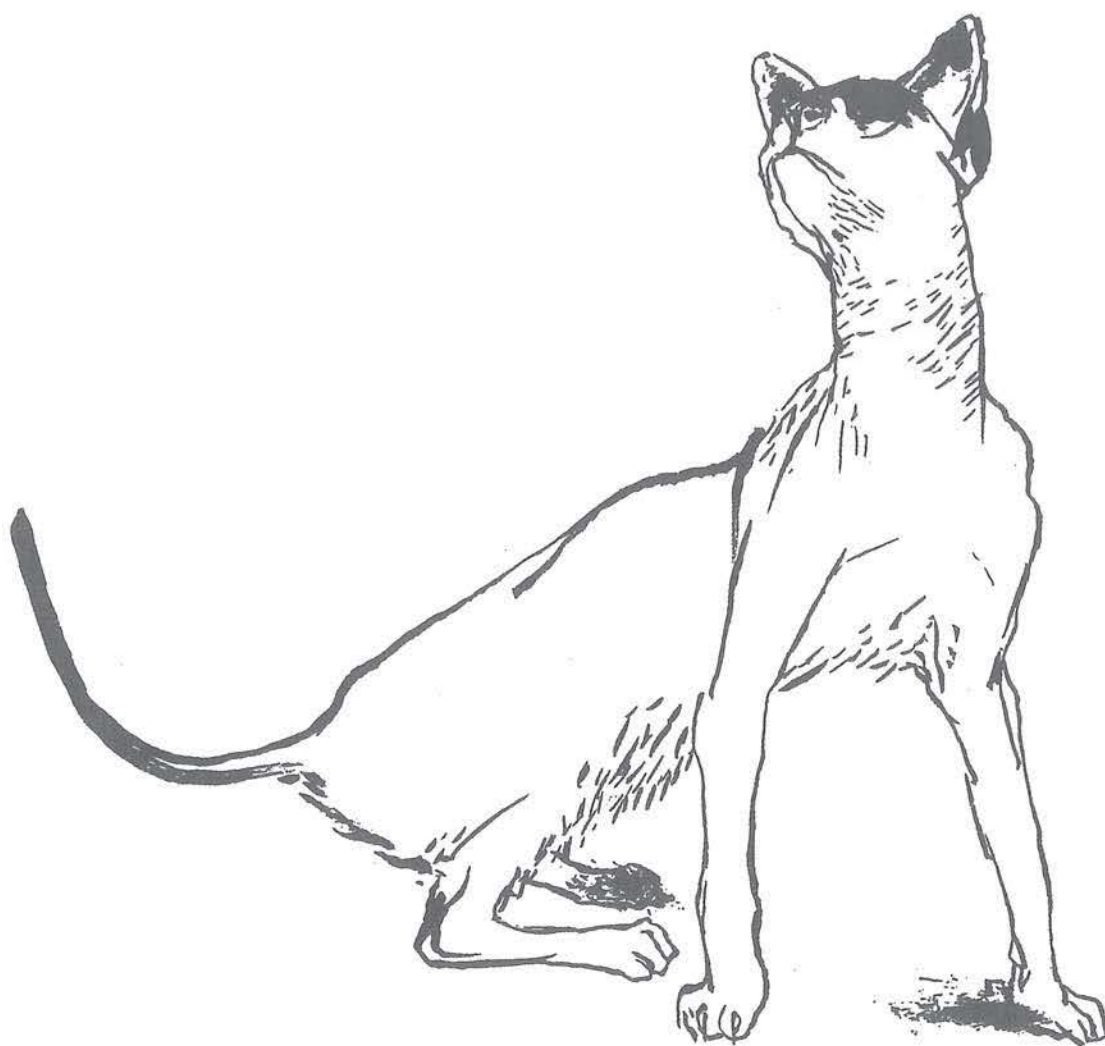
TELLING YOUR CAT LIES  
ABOUT REALITY IS  
THE WAY TO STAY SANE



IN MEDIEVAL DAYS  
CATS WERE EVIL INCARNATE  
BAD TIMES LAUNCH BAD THOUGHTS



HER LONG, LITHE BODY  
STRETCHES OUT EAGERLY TO YIELD  
CONTROL FOR BEAUTY



INVENTED BY CATS  
THE NAP IS A REFRESHMENT  
FOR BODY AND SOUL

