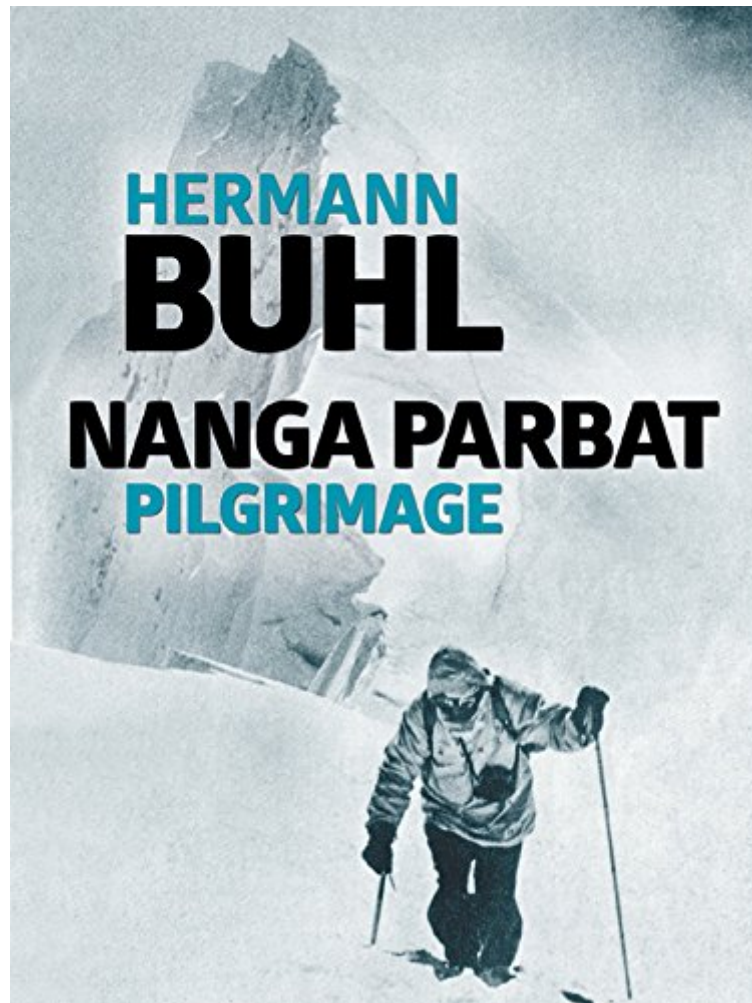




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Nanga Parbat Pilgrimage: The Great Mountaineering Classic



Synopsis

In 1953 Hermann Buhl made the first ascent of Nanga Parbat - the ninth-highest mountain in the world, and the third 8,000-metre peak to be climbed, following Annapurna and Everest. It was one of the most incredible and committed climbs ever made. Continuing alone and without supplementary oxygen, Buhl made a dash for the summit after his partners turned back. On a mountain that had claimed thirty-one lives, an exhausted Buhl waded through deep snow and climbed over technical ground to reach the summit, driven on by an 'irresistible urge'. After a night spent standing on a small ledge at over 8,000 metres, Buhl returned forty-one hours later, exhausted and at the very limit of his endurance. Written shortly after Buhl's return from the mountain, Nanga Parbat Pilgrimage is a classic of mountaineering literature that has inspired thousands of climbers. It follows Buhl's inexorable rise from rock climber to alpinist to mountaineer, until, almost inevitably, he makes his phenomenal Nanga Parbat climb. Buhl's book, and ascent, reminded everyone that, while the mountains could never be conquered, they could be climbed with sufficient enthusiasm, spirit and dedication.

Book Information

File Size: 2165 KB

Print Length: 448 pages

Publisher: Vertebrate Digital (April 30, 2015)

Publication Date: April 30, 2015

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00X303UYC

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #549,699 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #34

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Asia > Nepal #83 inÂ Books > Travel >

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Customer Reviews

In an other review the book was criticized because only a small portion describes the Nanga Parbat climb and it is true. You should see it as a narrative of his climbing career that culminated in that climb. And as such I liked it a lot. Every evening I was up on a mountain with Hermann: sweating in the sun, stuck underneath an overhang or cold and hungry looking at a thousand stars in a bivouacsac singing and waiting for the sun's first rays to end the forced hibernation. There is one that was completely over the top (excuse the pun). His wife would visit her parents and he only had a limited time to climb the Piz Badile. He took his bicycle (40's bike with only one gear) rode 220km through the Alps from Innsbruck to the south of Switzerland, slept for a few hours climbed the mountain in recordtime and immediatly returned to Innsbruck. At 5 o'clock in the morning he fell asleep and ended up in the water of a river some miles outside Innsbruck. Then you understand why he reached the summit of Nanga Parbat while some of his team were, at that same moment, already leaving Base Camp to return home. Reading his stories full of life, ambition, humility, love for the mountains, his wife and friends and knowing how it all ended on a Corniche with Kurt Diemberger makes it that much stronger.

Read this book in the mid 1970's and it inspired my joy of the mountains. Rereading the English translation was a little dated and flowery but joy of the mountains still comes thru.

This book is a mountaineering milestone. It helps you remember why climbing is essential to somebody that loves it. This book is precise and poetic at the same time.

Great classic! It would be better if it had photos! (I am not sure if the original had) If you read it, do not miss watching the film!

Did not keep my attention. Too much information not relating to mountain climbing.

A awesome account of the climb.

Fantastic. Great climber, great man.

Great Classic Period

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