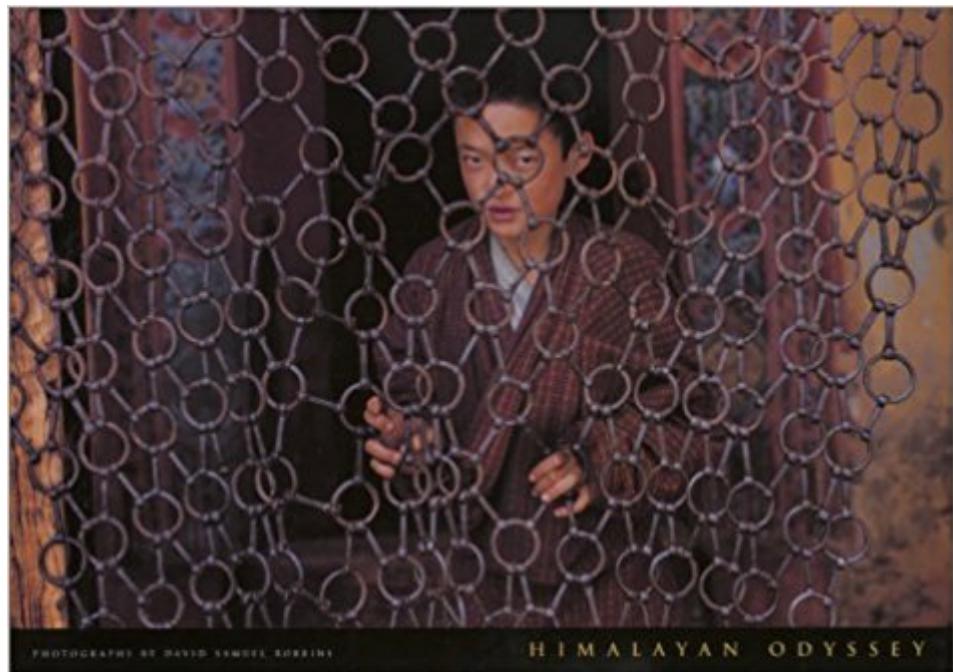


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# Himalayan Odyssey



## Synopsis

An epic photographic journey across the entire Himalayan range. Over the course of a decade, the author trekked more than 2,000 miles through Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan and North India, creating an intimate and sensitive portrait of Himalayan landscape and culture. Himalayan Odyssey is a journey into a spiritual way of life far removed from the modern world. It is also a documentary of remarkable depth and insight - and a poignant record of fragile cultures in transition. A lavishly produced volume of the highest quality, Himalayan Odyssey is 128 pages of spectacular photographs, insightful text and extensive captions, all exquisitely printed on heavyweight art paper. Hard cover, cloth bound. Oversized 10.5 x 15 inch landscape format. Introduction by Pico Iyer. Jacket comments by Martin Scorsese and Peter Matthiessen.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"...This is a collection of unique images that expands our perceptions of the world." -- Martin Scorsese, comments from the dust jacket "...these images feel not like the shiny discoveries of some tourist, but like the gnarled truths of the resident..." -- Pico Iyer, excerpts from the foreword "Robbins beautiful Himalayan work is suffused with grit, smoke, air and mountain light, just as it should be. Wonderful!" -- Peter Matthiessen, comments from the dust jacket

A professional photojournalist for over 12 years, David Samuel Robbins has worked on assignment throughout the world for National Geographic, The New York Times Magazine, Travel & Leisure,

Conde Nast Traveler, Men's Journal, and many other national publications. His Himalayan images have been widely published in the United States and Europe. Many of the images shown in the book Himalayan Odyssey have been previously published in Outside, GEO, DoubleTake, The New York Times Sophisticated Traveler and Smithsonian magazines.

This is probably one of the most beautiful photography books ever. Difficult to find... but well worth the purchase. Photographs are intimate, understated, compassionate. Each photo a treasure that you feel like framing.

Being a collector of photography books, I normally do not buy books of traditional landscape photography. My tastes normally lean toward more the more edgy urban "street" photographers, black and white historical photographs, and some of the modern portrait photographers, but this book is unique, and I find myself continually drawn back to its pages. I've seen other books on the same area of the world but Davis Robbins images are very different and unexpected. In a place that is so distant and foreign to my own and so naturally beautiful in its sheer vastness that you could point a camera almost anywhere and find something interesting, Mr. Robbins has found something new. He obviously has a place in his heart for this place and these people and his photographs are probably not what you would expect. He seems to have that rare ability to convey the honesty in the everyday and to step beyond the seemingly brutal details of life in these environs to see into the hearts and minds of these distant people. My favorite image in the book seems to change with each adventure through the pages, and I look forward to the discussions I have with anyone who finds it on my coffee table.

It is clear that David Robbins reveals artistic intelligence surpassed only by the beauty of his subject matter. As I turn through the pages I see metaphor after metaphor expressed by horses as mountains, a mother and child as a great wind, a man bearing a burden to the elevations as great slices of frozen rock jut upward toward the sky. These metaphors call to us and serve as reminders of endurance, of simplicity, and all that is precious. In the pages of this book, your imagination can be unlocked and your thirst for understanding and compassion unbridled. It is important, especially in this time, to remember the beauty of the human spirit, the beauty of the earth and how they can fit together.

First a disclaimer: I am a friend, and working peer of David's albeit my claim to fame is in an entirely

different genre, though my recent work is now following in David's footsteps, metaphorically speaking. This work is heady. Makes you a bit short of breath at times. Jealous. Beautiful. Not only the subject matter (fifty years of footprints!) but also, for me, it's the formalist quality of the actual photography. He gives us an unwavering horizontal rectangle and fills it with stunning, buzzing, mature compositions and color, whether it be in a blinding whiteout or an early morning smoke with sherpas. His photographs bring us an inherently exotic world (and thus terribly misused) in a style relative to that of Eggleston, Singh, and Misrach. Important work, that overshadows the mostly sad, mediocre books done on this region by well placed trekkers. This is about the people, and their art of living in such a grand and harsh place. David's own art brings it all home. I congratulate him for bringing this legacy to the world.

Short and simple will be enough here: 128 pages of mystical beauty that can be found in the Himalayas and in this book. There is some use of symbolic metaphors of early morning mists, people, homes, genuine symbols of culture and nature. Movements captured for an eternity. A window to peer through for most of the people that will never be able to experience and see these places and its' people in their lives. There is good in this, for too many people would destroy such beauty and equanimity....

In this elegantly designed and handsomely printed volume Robbins combines the keen aesthetic of a great artist with the stamina of an inveterate traveler and the instincts of an anthropologist. His work is beautiful but never cloying and complex but never pretentious. Robbins tells us of a region full of mystery and passion -- a passion he brings in equal measure to the telling.

I never understood this culture till now. David Robbins' images strip away the stereotypes of this culture, revealing a simple yet dynamic perspective of an isolated beauty and religious intensity I could not imagine till now. This book has changed me, my ultimate complement to an author. Bravo David, the measure of worth are well within these pages. I challenge anyone who wants to be stimulated to buy this.

Well beyond the typical books of this genre. Mr Robbins not only tells a story, he does it with an insight into the hardships and the religious intensities of this culture I have never felt before. This book changed me. My ultimate compliment to an author. Buy this if you want to see beyond yourself, into another world of human existence.

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