

Excerpt from the audio book; **Himalayan Adventures**

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compiled and narrated by Ken Albertsen / Adventure1.com

List of Chapters

1. Over the Karakorums 31.15 minutes

by Francis Younghusband

Taken from: Among the Celestials

Francis Younghusband, was an Englishman who lived from 1863 to 1942. In 1904, he led a British expedition, to Tibet, during which a battle ensued. Hundreds of Tibetans were massacred by the superior weapons of the British, while only five Brits died. He later had a deep spiritual experience in Tibet which inspired him to found the "World Congress of Faiths." Not surprisingly, he would later regret his invasion of Tibet.

2. At the Source of the Indus 20.37 minutes

by Sven Hedin

Taken from: Trans-Himalaya

Sven Hedin, who lived from 1865 to 1952, was an acclaimed Swedish explorer and cartographer who traveled in and around Tibet and central Asia - probably more extensively than any explorer, before or since.

3. Lhasa Beckons 40 minutes

by Regis Evariste Huc

Taken from; Lamas of the Western Heavens

Evariste Regis Huc was a Frenchman who lived from 1813 to 1860. When a young man, he became a priest, and was assigned to preach in China. Much later, after many exploratory journeys in Asia, he was chastized by his Roman Catholic church handlers for showing, via his writings, too much admiration for Tibetan Buddhist practices.

4. Trials in Tibet 22.28

from the diary of Ekai Kawaguchi

Taken from: Three Years in Tibet

Ekai Kawaguchi lived from 1866 to 1945. He was the first Japanese citizen to travel to Nepal or Tibet, both of which were off-limits to foreigners. Before that, he arrived in northern India with no money, but was able to get to the foothills of the Himalayas. He traveled alone to Lhasa, but it took him four years to get there.

5. On The Roof of the World 30:44

by John Wood

Taken from: A journey to the Source of the River Oxus

John Wood, who lived from 1812 to 1871, hailed from Scotland. At age twenty-two, he commanded the first steamboat to paddle up the Indus River

6. Nanga Parbat ...Solo 51.29

by Hermann Buhl

Hermann Buhl was born in Austria in 1924, and died in a mountaineering accident in 1957, at just 33 years old.

7. The Final Assault 34.58

by Edmund Hillary

Sir Edmund Hillary lived from 1919 to 2008. His affections for the region around Everest has manifested in tangible ways, such as building schools for Sherpa villages in that region.

There are additional biographical sketches of each explorer, as part of the brief introductions to each of their stories.

Combined time of all the stories = 200 minutes

Introduction: It's no surprise, that the Himalayan range of mountains have elicited awe from all who are aware of them. Stretching from the east out of northernmost Burma and southwest China, they wind through India, Bhutan, and along the entire northern swath of Nepal.

The mighty Himalayas also comprise Tibet's entire southern region and go on westwards to northwest India and northern Pakistan - finally easing on down in to Afghanistan and several otherstans.

All those country names and their borders markings are human contrivances. The Himalayas existed long before humans put their boundary lines everywhere, and will outlive our species by additional eons.

Early work on the Himalayas began when the subcontinent of India, then a large island, slowly moved northward across the Indian ocean, from its break up (amicably, we hope) from Madagascar and what is now East Africa. Ever slow and steady, those bazillion tons subducted under the gazillion tons of Asia, and something had to give. The mass of rocks, pushed up, became the Himalayas. Were it not for ceaseless actions of erosion ever since, the Himalayas would be a more like a gargantuan elongated mound - rather than the hodgepodge of peaks and valleys we see today.

Nearly all of Asia's major rivers can call the Himalayas 'home.' In no particular order, the rivers named; Yangtze, Mekong, Salween, Brahmaputra, Sutlej, Indus, Ganges, Amu Darya or Oxus and the Yellow, all originate in that mountain range.

Two of the stories in this audio book showcase treks to find sources of rivers, namely, the Indus and the Oxus rivers. Those two stories are included with the five which take place in then 1800's. The other three from the 19th century, describe explorations of other parts of the Himalayas. These five stories are about men who explore regions never before seen by westerners. Those explorers, if you were to ask them, would readily admit that indigenous dwellers from those remote regions, had been first to find those places.

Then there are the last two stories in this collection. They both take place in 1953, and tell about the first men to summit particular peaks. One of those peaks, called Nanga Prabat, was first summited by the Austrian Hermann Buhl. The story of Buhl's ascent, is the longest story in this series, at just over fifty minutes. The closing story tells about the first ascent of Mount Everest. It is taken from the diary of Sir Edmund Hillary who, along with his friend, the sherpa; Tenzing Norgay, were the first men to stand atop it.

There were other adventurers during those times, who explored throughout the Himalayan region, so perhaps subsequent audio books from Adventure1, will endeavor to do versions of those stories later on.

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