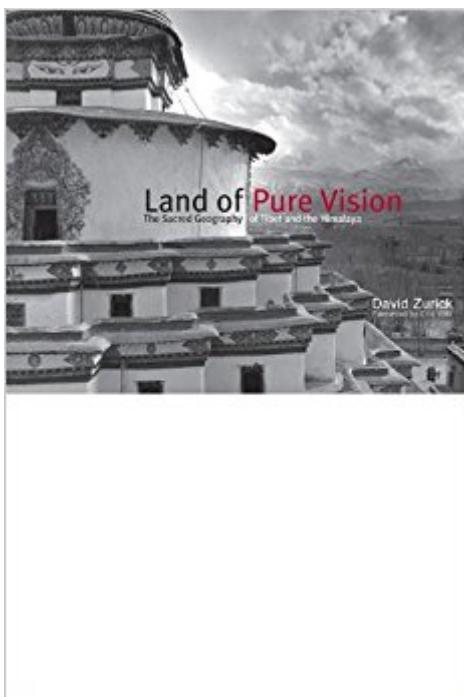


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# Land Of Pure Vision: The Sacred Geography Of Tibet And The Himalaya



## Synopsis

The landscapes of Tibet, Nepal, and Bhutan are filled with holy places. Some are of natural origin—summits, rivers and lakes, caves, or forest sanctuaries. Others are consecrated by religious practice—shrines, temples, monasteries, or burial grounds. The holy sites of the Himalaya unite faith and geography to produce some of the most sublime places on Earth. In *Land of Pure Vision*, David Zurick draws from his thirty-five years of experience as a geographer, photographer, and explorer of the Himalaya, combining scholarship and art to capture divine landscapes undergoing profound change. The stunning photographs featured in this volume cover the full geographical reach of the region, from the high plateaus of the western Himalaya to the rugged gorges of Tibet's eastern borderlands, from the icy summits of the north to the subtropical southern foothills. Some sites exist in isolation, with intact natural environments and cultural monuments. Others display the tension between the ancient, sacred character of a place and the indifferent course of the modern world. *Land of Pure Vision* explores how the religious practices of Tibetan Buddhism, Hinduism, and shamanism interweave holy sites into a cohesive landscape of transcendent beauty and inspiration. It portrays a world of mystery, magic, and beauty, where the human spirit is in synchronicity with natural forces. Beyond elegy, this beautifully illustrated book is a visual ethnography of people and place.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"These pictures shimmer in otherworldly light - evocative, alive, luminous, and masterful. Â David

Zurick makes the sacred come alive." -- Jonathan Mirsky, *High Peaks Pure Earth*"LAND OF PURE VISION is a jewel; reflecting as it should be the spirit and sacredness of the Mountain; illustrating beautifully the mantra "OM MANI PADME HUM"." -- Roland and Sabrina Michaud, authors of *Caravans to Tartary*."An elegant, informative and unusual book, one that brings Zurick's years of research as a geographer to bear on the sacred landscape of the Himalayas and enriches this deep understanding with glorious photographs." •Mark Turin, director of the Yale Himalaya Initiative and the Digital Himalaya and the World Oral Literature Projects"There is no book like this one. Zurick provides images distilled from a life of travel, scholarship, and residence in the region. He is one of the premiere cultural geographers of the Himalayan region, and it is the joining of this scholarship with an artist's eye, a photographer's skills, that makes this book work so well." •Tom Fricke, author of *Himalyan Households: Tamang Demography and Domestic Processes*""Zurick's photographic pilgrimage reveals to us with impeccable clarity the timeless beauty of the changing Himalayan sacred landscape." •Kevin Bubriski, author of *Portraits of Nepal and Nepal 1975-2011*" •"Change has been running rampant in Himalayan countries for decades now, and it takes a continuous and determined effort to capture those changes. David Zurick's vast experience throughout the Himalaya and his dedication to clear-eyed documentation give him a unique perspective on these shifts. Not shying away from jarring cultural contrasts, his work captures the extraordinary juxtapositions that characterize life in the Himalaya today. As various Himalayan landscapes continue to evolve, we are very fortunate to have his clarity of vision to capture the things that were and the things that appear in altogether new forms." •Paul Kallmes, mountaineer and author of *Summit*" •"There is a Zen quality to this book I really like. The quality of David's photographs has to do with his artistic eye, for sure, but it is an eye nourished by an intimate knowledge of the place. This book is born from the fascination of the author with this part of the world. Above all, it is a love story. You hear the silence, feel the wind, the cold, the peace, and the magic . . . then you begin to understand why such places have drawn so many fine dreamers and adventurers for centuries. How can one resist such magic?" •Eric Valli, filmmaker and author of *Himalaya* (from the foreword)" •

David Zurick is the author of several books, including *Himalaya: Encounters with the Roof of the World* and *Illustrated Atlas of the Himalaya*.

I was hoping for more from this book. The photographs, all in black and white, are on the whole rather good, but for me, there was no resonance, nothing special, nothing that justifies the title's

reference to sacred geography. The text is good as far as it goes, there's not much of it. An account of the travels of the photographer probably would have been a better book. One irritating error. The photos of pages 12 and 13 appear to be identical, with the sites given for one as Nepal and the other in Sichuan (China). The feel the photographs provide is something like reading an old book on Tibet, something from around 1900.. Interesting as far as it goes, but unless you are a collector or have other major interest in the area or topic, I don't see the book as justifying the purchase price.

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