

HIMALAYAN PILGRIMAGE,

It's small wonder that the Himalayas powerfully affect the religious imagination of the Hindus. More than 9,000 faced a forbidding climb of over 14,000 ft. on the annual pilgrimage to the cave of Amarnath. It is an act of penance which they believe to be essential when they reached the various resting places. If Europeans attempted a similar climb they would have to train hard for it; Hindus seem to draw upon sources of spiritual strength.

Several doctors, women as well as men, accompanied the pilgrimage. Without them many of the people might die. Holy men, called Sadhus, encourage their followers on the final stage of the climb.

At last the pilgrims came near to their goal, the cave of Amarnath. It is sacred to the memory of the Hindu god, Siva, and the people take it in turn to enter it. They bring offerings of flowers to this place, where their is believed to be an emblem of the god. The holy pilgrimage was ended.