

THE HIMALAYAS THROUGH A SADHU'S EYES

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The Himalayas have been my home for over half a century. My humble *kuti* (hut) in which I have lived alone in the severest of winters without comforts and conveniences, is situated in the remote mountain reaches of Gangotri. I have covered the length and breadth of the Himalayas, scaled almost inaccessible heights, explored the depths of valleys and ventured into regions where no one had ever set foot. I have climbed many soaring peaks and crossed several rough glaciers, walking alone for days and nights, fully savoring the splendor and beauty of this mighty range. By the grace of God and with my venerable guru, Swami Tapovanam Maharaj, I have been fortunate to study closely the exquisite play of nature in this vast mountain range, its environment, its flora and fauna, and to observe the changes and transformations that have taken place over the years. I have also traveled the lower Himalayas and witnessed the colorful, ritualistic life of the people there, their unflinching faith, and their never-ending daily struggle to survive.