

ARKA TAGH

The Mysterious Mountains

William Holgate



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This is the story of a determined but often troubled expedition into one of the last unexplored regions on earth.

Isolated by the Taklamakan Desert on the north and the Tibetan wastes on the south, the Arka Tagh had remained largely ignored since the desperate forays of a handful of Victorian explorers – until, in 1990, William Holgate, Tim Martin, their six companions and nineteen camels set out from the remote outpost of Bash Malghun. Ahead lay three hundred miles of uninhabited plateau and ice-clad mountain – and this absorbing account captures both the tensions and dangers of the expedition's progress and the austere and desolate beauty of the encircling wilderness.

“It's probably the hardest place in the world to get to, harder than the Antarctic because the land around is so high and nobody lives near it. Bill Tilman and I had hoped to get there but it is too far in.”

Eric Shipton

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