

MERU



“ A GENUINELY MOVING TALE OF SUPER HUMAN PERSEVERANCE AND FRIENDSHIP. ”

— THE PLAYLIST

“ MERU IS MORE THAN A GRIPPING TALE OF HUMAN RESISTANCE, SURVIVAL AND FRIENDSHIP WITH KILLER CINEMATOGRAPHY. IT'S A THOUGHTFUL MEDITATION ON LIFE, DEATH AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN. ”

— NEWSWEEK

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MERU



Setback



About six months before the group's second attempt, Jimmy and Renan were shooting a snowboarding commercial project in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. During this shoot, Renan spun out of control and disappeared over an edge whilst skiing. He ended up with a head injury that included a fractured skull, two broken vertebrae in his neck and a severed vertebral artery. This caused half of the blood flow to his brain to be cut off.

The Summit

Despite the concerns about Renan's health and ability, Jimmy and Conrad agreed it wouldn't be right to return to Meru without him. The team left in late September and planned to push to the summit within 12 days.

On October 2nd, 2011, the three climbers finally reached the 6,310-metre (20,700-foot) summit of the Shark Fin's peak on Mount Meru. The team rejoiced as they accomplished the first ascent of the Shark's Fin.

First Attempt

In October 2008, renowned alpinists Conrad Anker, Jimmy Chin and Renan Ozturk arrived in India to tackle Meru. Their planned seven-day trip quickly declined into a 20-day odyssey in sub-zero temperatures with depleting food rations. Despite making it within 100 meters of the elusive summit, their journey, like everyone before them, was not a successful one.

Heartbroken and defeated, the trio returned to their everyday lives, where the siren song of Meru continued to beckon.



The Mission

In the high-stakes game of big-wall climbing, the Shark's Fin on Mount Meru may be the ultimate prize. Sitting at the headwaters of the sacred Ganges River in Northern India, the Shark's Fin has seen more failed attempts by elite climbing teams over the past 30 years than any other ascent in the Himalayas.

Nevertheless, climber and mountaineer Conrad Anker had the dream of overcoming this challenge. All he needed was a team of qualified partners to help him do so.

Conrad Anker Climber



Conrad Anker has made a specialty of climbing the most technically challenging terrain he can find. This search has taken him from the northern realms of Alaska and Baffin Island, to the farthest southern reaches of Patagonia and Antarctica, where in 1997, with Alex Lowe and Jon Krakauer, he climbed Rakekniven, a 2,500-foot wall in Queen Maud Land. That climb led to both a film and magazine piece by *National Geographic*, an organization with which he frequently collaborates. As captain of The North Face Athlete Team, Anker urges climbers to be boots on the ground in observing the changes wrought by man-made climate change. He is also civically active in his home state of Montana, serving on the boards of the Montana State University Leadership Institute, Protect Our Winters, Bozeman Ice Tower Foundation, Gallatin County Fair Board and the Alex Lowe Charitable Foundation.

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