

MOVIE MONDAY'S THURSDAY MOVIE on 3B

THURSDAY
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High in the mountainous Dolpo region of Nepal, Tintle, an elderly chieftain, learns that his son Lhakpa has died on an expedition with Karma and other male members of the tribe. Stricken with grief, this aged and weather-worn leader decides that he will take charge of the annual yak caravan, an arduous journey over the mountains to exchange salt for grain.

Eric Valli, a regular National Geographic author and photographer, directs this extraordinary drama shot on location in Dolpo, Nepal. He has imbued it with the power and subtlety of a Shakespearean drama about power, leadership ability, tradition, and change.

"I intentionally prefer to use the word "characters" instead of the term "actors", because these men and women essentially played themselves in front of a camera, a new experience for most of them. Some might even compare their lives to characters straight out of a Jack London or Joseph Conrad novel. The action takes place during the snow season when yak caravans traditionally cross the Himalayas carrying the salt from the high plateau down to the plains.

This film is a sort of western - a Tibetan western - a universal and timeless saga that tells a story of power, pride and glory that could have taken place in the seas of Japan, the Normandy plains or deep in Texas.

In order to present the culture truthfully, we had to shoot the film in the heart of that particular environment where the characters live and breathe. This bracing, nine-month shoot in the Himalayas at altitudes between 12,000 and 15,000 feet presented a physical and technical challenge, but also a beautiful adventure, for the film crew." Director Eric Valli

106 min 2001 <http://www.kino.com/himalaya/>