



BROUGHTON COBURN

Aama's Journey: A Pilgrimage Between Continents & Cultures

Broughton Coburn, Harvard graduate and author of five books (including two national best-sellers) is a premier authority on the culture and environment of the Himalaya. For two of the past three decades he has lived in Nepal, Tibet and India working in development and conservation for agencies such as the World Bank, United Nations and World Wildlife Fund. Now he brings you *Aama's Journey*, a true story that springs from his heart. Join him on this rollicking, warm, thought-provoking, poignant and powerful odyssey.

THE PRESENTATION

Based on Broughton Coburn's first two books, this mesmerizing illustrated program (with brief audio clip) begins in a subsistence farming village in the foothills of the Himalaya, where we are immersed in the cosmology, philosophy, hopes and humor of an elderly village woman—Aama—who has never been exposed to Western civilization.

In 1992, Aama turned 84, a watershed year sanctified by a long-life ritual that relieves the elderly from further worldly duty—the perfect juncture to go on a pilgrimage, on a circuit of holy sites, in order to gain additional merit before death.

That's when Aama came to America.

With Broughton and his companion Didi, Aama's odyssey evolves into a 12,000 mile search for the soul of the United States. She advises farmers, kisses a killer whale, bathes ritually in the ocean, meets with Native Americans, finds kin among the Hutterites, and prays at Old Faithful. Aama's reactions to our country are amusing, surprising and sometimes disconcerting, yet we find that her emotions and sensibilities live and breathe within us all.

During his campus visits, Broughton has efficiently combined a general audience presentation of *Aama's Journey* with carefully crafted lectures on more academic subjects for anthropology, sociology, natural science, global studies and international affairs classes. Drawing upon 20 years' experience in the Himalayas, he can speak to topics of geopolitics, humanitarian foreign aid, cultures and cultural change, natural resource use and protected area management, etc., while raising

thought-provoking questions and exploring topical issues. He

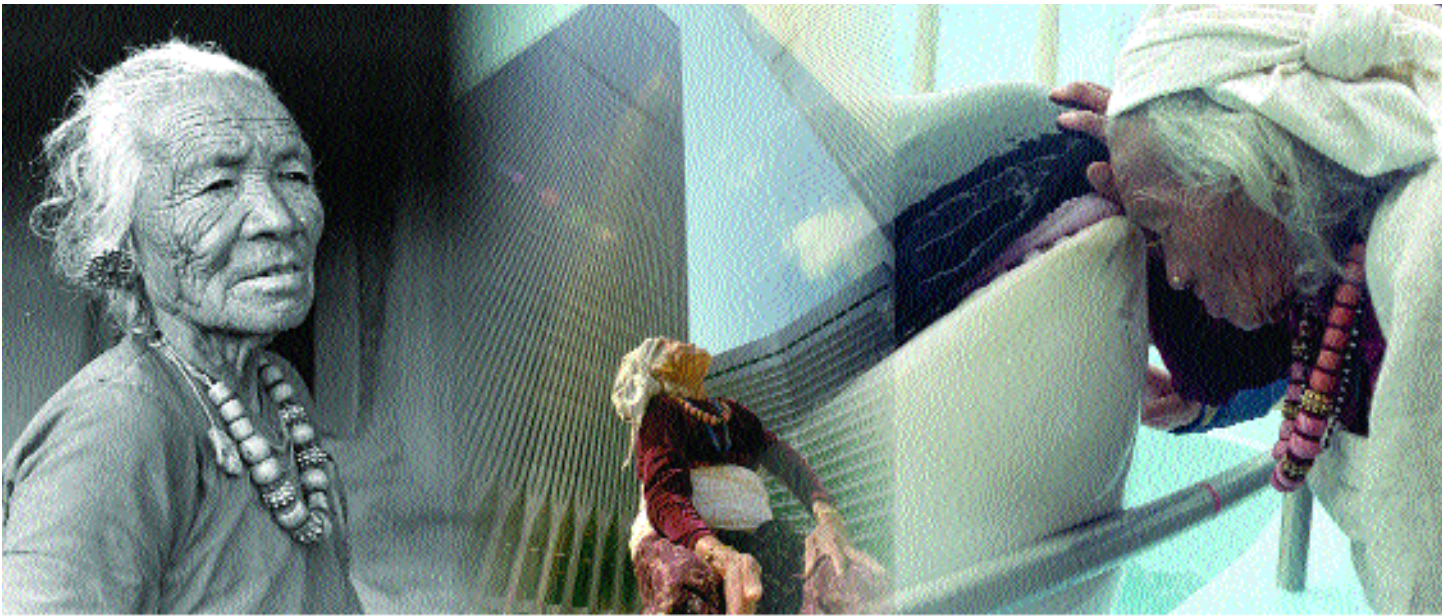
can also provide career counseling in international development.

KEY THEMES

- ▶ **Ancient but universal wisdom**
America is on the verge of losing the self-knowledge and spiritual foundation that many of our ancestors had, and some foreigners still do.
- ▶ **Basic human values**
Missing in our harried, hurried society are the roles of family, generosity, devotion, dedication and hope.
- ▶ **Respect for the environment**
Care for all that sustains us, and gratitude for all that we have.
- ▶ **Knowledge and information**
delivered compellingly, on topics ranging from social structure to loss of habitat, and from geopolitics to education, rural health care and development.



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CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ **Author of five books**, including two national best sellers. American Alpine Club Literary Achievement Award, 1997. Publishers' Weekly "Pick" of 1996.
- ▶ **Special Projects Director** for the American Himalayan Foundation
- ▶ **Advisor** for the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, World Wildlife Fund and other agencies for over 20 years
- ▶ **Oversaw creation** of the Annapurna Conservation Area and the Quomolangma Nature Preserve

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CLIENT COMMENTS

"I was overwhelmed by the emotion of the show and, judging by the ovations, so was the audience. As a storyteller you have developed your subject so expertly that the delicacy and poignancy are not only preserved, but amplified. Thank you for such a warm and rewarding experience!"

— *Joe Brennan, Director of Operations, California Academy of Sciences*

"Of the numerous events here over the last year, your presentation is the one that people still rave about. You both touched people's hearts and got them thinking—a true achievement!"

— *Carole McGranahan, Prof. of Anthropology, Univ of Colo., Boulder*



SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Harvard University
Whitman College
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Washington
Elon University
Calif. Academy of Sciences, San Francisco
The Asia Society, New York City and LA
The Denver Museum of Natural History
The Nat. Museum of Natural History, NYC
and more than 60 other college, corporate and association venues

OTHER APPEARANCES

National Geographic Magazine
CBS Evening News
BBC Science
Life Magazine
Guest expert, NPR's *Talk of the Nation*

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