



Looking east up Athahra Saya Khola Valley. (A) Pt. 6,621 m. (B) Fukan Glacier. (C) Hindu Himal. (D) Panbari. (E) Lilia Peak. (F) Athahra Saya Khola Himal. (G) Athahra Saya Glacier. *Paulo Grobel*

Sherpa, and me. On the 25th Bailiff, Meisser, and I continued south to the main summit on this section of ridge, which we named Hopeless Peak.

Because the cook team was waiting for us on the west side of the range, we ran out of food at base camp, and to add more spice to the adventure, one of our group injured a knee and was having trouble walking. Our sanctuary at the end of the world, so aesthetic and exceptional, had become a trap. An injured person, a long and difficult descent, the lack of food, and the fact that we were running out of time forced a quick decision. We descended to base camp in the sanctuary, and I called a helicopter to evacuate the whole group to Jumla.

It was a brutal and dissatisfying end to our trip, but we now know there is no easy way out from the Jagdula Khola valley. The Kanjiroba high-level route has yet to be established, and it may not be possible. However, this access over Honeymoon Pass to the base camps for Kanjiroba and the sanctuary is now established and mapped. It gives a much easier approach to routes on Kanjiroba, as well as many beautiful unnamed summits. And little Peak 6,207 m is still unclimbed. The real exploration of the sanctuary can now begin.

PAULO GROBEL, *France. Translated by Todd Miller*

## PERI HIMAL

*Athahra Saya Khola Himal (6,767m), southeast ridge over Hindu Himal (6,306m) and Lilia Peak (6,425m).* Athahra Saya Khola Himal (Mountain of 1,800 Rivers) is a bizarre name, one that evokes the feeling of a faraway place, a mythical wonderland of Buddhist culture, exotic. This is the name we gave to a previously unclimbed 6,767m summit on the Tibetan border, just north of Panbari (6,905m), in the region between Samdo and Phu, north of the Manaslu massif. Athahra Saya Khola is the Nepali name for the river that flows from the foot of the mountain and is the

ancient name of the region now known as Nubri.

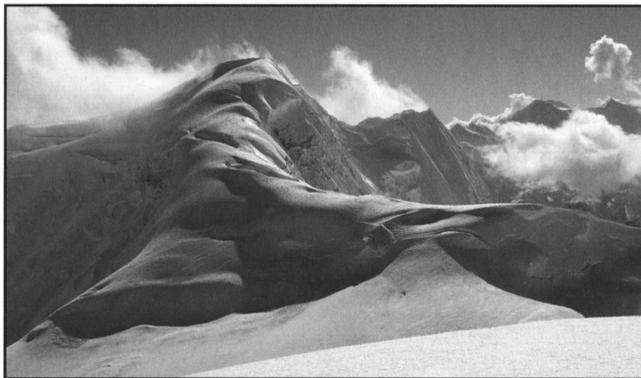
The Valley of 1,800 Rivers is dominated by a group of three snowy peaks called Three Brothers, or Tin Bai in Nepalese. They stand in front of Panbari, which is only just visible beyond. They are not technical peaks, nor are they particularly impressive, but they are important geographically, since they control access to the vast glacial plateaus below the east faces of Nemjung and Himlung, also in the Peri Himal. The presence of major cols suggests the possibility of a lovely glaciated traverse from Phu to Samdo.

The route we established is clearly visible when heading up valley and particularly noticeable from La Chen, the col that leads to Ru in Tibet, the home village of many of the inhabitants of Samdo. It is a route that should

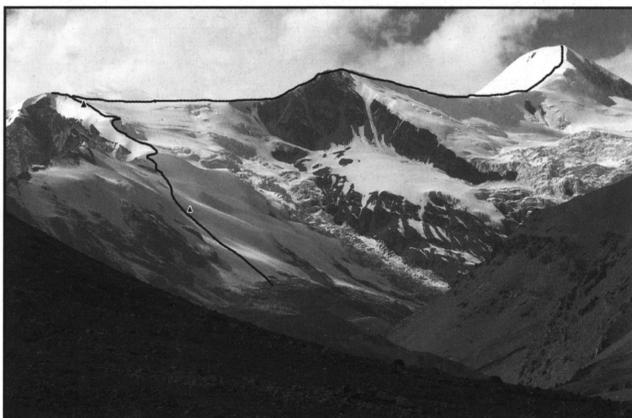
become classic, since Panbari, despite being 95m short of 7,000m, will likely draw alpinists seeking new and unexplored terrain. Our route also provides a nice alternative to the heavily crevassed Fukan Glacier, followed by the Japanese who made the only ascent of Panbari (*AAJ 2007*).

Initially I thought the moraine at the junction of the Athahra Saya and Fukan Glaciers would be an impenetrable labyrinth of boulders and debris. However, a base camp on the moraine is comfortable and easily accessible with pack animals. These are readily available, as the large pastures of Samdo village are near.

It snowed heavily during our autumn trip: only two short storms during a stretch of otherwise clear weather, but they dumped more than a meter of light, powdery snow, beautiful to look at but very unstable. At the high camp for Panbari, I woke in the morning and realized that we would not be going to its summit. It had snowed again the night before, and the Nepalese team that was resting at the camp below never rejoined us. However, we were overwhelmed by a bout of energy, so we got out of the tent and wallowed through the snow, eventually gaining the plateau, where we saw Panbari - the summit of our dreams - and the col to its north. The ascent to the plateau comprised huge, moderate snow slopes and a small, elegant arête. It took an entire day to gain just 100m of elevation. Above, on the windswept arête, things went better. We shoveled and shoveled, picking our way up the route with determination and persistence. On October 27 Svend Caron, Jacky Crouset, Jean Milteau, Caroline Strube, Michelle Quatrini, Benoit van



North ridge of Panbari from summit of Athahra Saya Khola Himal. *Paulo Grobel*



Three Brothers (Hindu Himal, Lilia Peak, and Athahra Saya Khola Himal) and route of ascent with high camps. *Paulo Grobel*



Svend Carron arriving on plateau, close to top of Hindu Himal. Behind are Athahra Saya Khola Himal (left), on Tibetan border, and Lilia Peak. *Paulo Grobel*

Lerberghe, and I all made it to the top of the dome of Hindu Himal. The day wasn't yet over. Caron, van Lerberghe, and I continued northwest to Lilia Peak, and then van Lerberghe and I kept going to Athahra Saya Khola Himal, reaching the summit at 2:30 p.m. From the top we could see the major col that separates Himlung and Nemjung and will perhaps be part of a future, epic trip between Samdo and Phu.

PAULO GROBEL, *France, translated by Todd Miller*

## MANASLU HIMAL

*Thulagi (7,059m), attempt from the south and tragedy.* In November 2010 Belarusian Nikolay Bandalet attempted unclimbed Thulagi alpine style with two Russians, climbing the far right side of the west face of Manaslu to a ridge at 6,400m, then descending the opposite flank to the upper Thulagi Glacier (*AAJ 2011*). Ahead, the northeast ridge of Thulagi looked complex, and given the committing nature of the situation, the climbers descended.

Bandalet returned in the spring with a four-man Belarusian team, and, rather than the northeast ridge, opted to climb the long, convoluted Thulagi Glacier from its base, reaching Thulagi from the south. The summit party, Bandalet and Sergei Belous, called base camp on May 8, saying they had reached the final ridge, where they had found huge amounts of snow and no safe belay points. The message implied they were not far from the summit; they had already spent a night out with no equipment.

No further word was received, and on the 14th and 15th Fishtail Air made a thorough search of the mountain. There was no trace of the climbers, though the rescue team did spot a tent at 6,300m on a glacier terrace south of the summit. The plane landed close by, and one of the rescue team found sleeping bags and equipment in the tent. Footsteps were spotted above the tent, leading to the crest of a sharp ridge.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO*

## ROLWALING HIMAL

*Gaurishankar (7,135m), southwest face attempt.* Germans David Goettler, Stefan Glowacz, and Klaus Fengler hoped to climb a new line on the southwest face. Approaching via the Tengmarnag Gorge, they established Camp 2, in early May, at 5,050m at the foot of the face. Above, unconsolidated loose snow over wet and unprotectable rock made them abandon the climb after trying two separate lines, climbing only one pitch on each. They realized that, in