

In the Valley of the Gods

The winding path
Hugs the ochre hillside
Prayer flags snapping in the breeze
Ama Dablam reclines majestically
The 'prima donna' of mountains
The black visage of Everest 'hides' behind
The majestic Lhotse-Nuptse wall
Sagarmatha, a mighty Goddess, mankind puppet to her whims

Thousands flock to the Khumbu
The adventurous 'elite' to climb Sagarmatha's icy walls
Pry open her secrets, a few succeed
Some pay the ultimate price, others retreat licking their wounds
The hard climb to Lobuche
Struggling up the moraine of the powerful Khumbu glacier
At the top, a monument to the foolhardy brave
Who sacrificed their lives on Earth's highest mountain

You stand in the harsh winter sun
Reflect on life's ironies
Wonder whether mountains are to be conquered
Or quietly worshipped
The capricious mountain Gods & Goddesses
The wind picks up force, howls across the desolate waste
Cuts through your clothes and chills your bones
You watch clouds building up on the scattered Himals
The monumental forces of nature
Should puny man pick a fight?
Or bow like a resilient reed
To the inevitable

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