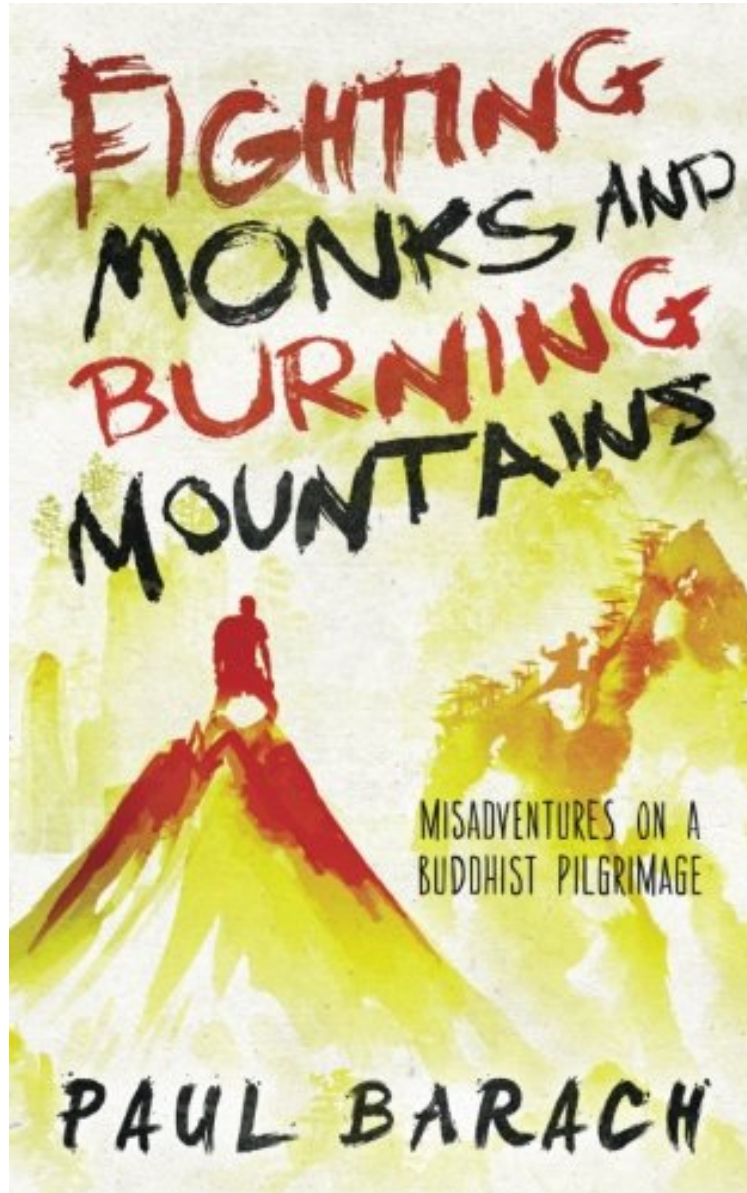


(Pdf free) Fighting Monks and Burning Mountains: Misadventures on a Buddhist Pilgrimage

## Fighting Monks and Burning Mountains: Misadventures on a Buddhist Pilgrimage

*Paul Barach*

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**Paul Barach : Fighting Monks and Burning Mountains: Misadventures on a Buddhist Pilgrimage** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fighting Monks and Burning Mountains: Misadventures on a Buddhist Pilgrimage:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent read!By PaulaWow and wow! Enjoyable and harrowing adventure! Paul takes on the ancient rite of the Shikoku Pilgrimage of Japan! His tale is of wonder and excitement as he traverses this path of the spirit. The reader feels swept along on his journey as he meets interesting people and sees the beauty of the land and temples he encounters. While I will take the journey myself one day, I will not be walking it as the author did. He has a lot more courage than I and at times, I wondered if he would survive some of the tumultuous occurrences that happened to him. For both lover's of travel writing and the spiritual seeker, this is an excellent tome. It is also a reminder for one to prepare when one undertakes such a journey as the author reminds us at times along the route. His prose is descriptive and moving and one can sense the changes, both subtle and not so that occurred as he logged mile after mile of his journey. Overall excellent and highly recommended!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Simply great storytelling. Looking forward to more from this new, talented author!By Jill B.This is a great read I loved it! Paul Barach takes you with him on the Shikoku Pilgrimage, step after agonizing step. An honest story, peppered with sharp humor and punch lines around every corner, Fighting Monks strikes the right balance of personal reflection, humor, and travel narrative. Author, Paul Barach walks the 750-mile pilgrimage earnestly seeking answers to life questions. He rises to a range of challenges along the way, from angry wild boars and physical exhaustion to profound loss and uncertainty. An excellent example of what Joseph Campbell would describe as the heros journey, Paul Barach discovers that the answer is the journey, not the destination. Refreshingly, he doesnt puff up his exploration or preach his discoveries. Told with humor and humility its simply great storytelling. Looking forward to more from this new, talented author!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I loved this bookBy Steve HeldI loved this book! Barach's story, like his journey, unfolds one step at a time. Its not a chain of outrageous events and unbelievable adventures (although he DOES fight a monk in a mountain top temple), but of the hard work, self doubt, mistakes, perseverance and moments of generosity and sheer luck that make up a difficult journey. He includes plenty of historical/mythological context (and cynicism) throughout, and his quirky sense of humor in relating his pilgrimage to his own American background is hilarious (his desperate desire to use the Japanese learned through anime; his translations of various road and restaurant signs seen along the way is amazing).As other reviewers have commented, the author doesn't posture as profound. He doesn't preach and he doesn't strain to sound relateable. He writes about his failures, successes and lessons the same way he describes a long awaited meal of ramen soup. Its up to readers to take away our own wisdom, to laugh when we relate and to enjoy the much less painful vicarious version of this pilgrimage.

Age twenty-eight and fed up with the office job he settled for, Paul Barach decided to travel to Japan to follow a vision he had in college: to walk the ancient 750-mile Shikoku pilgrimage trail. Here are some things he did not decide to do: learn Japanese, do any research, road test his hiking shoes, or check if its the hottest summer in history. And he went anyway, hoping to change his life. Fighting Monks and Burning Mountains is the absurd and dramatic journey of one impulsive Americans search for answers on a holy path in an exotic land. Along the pathway connecting 88 Buddhist temples, hell face arduous mountain climbs, hide from guards in a toilet stall, challenge a priest to a mountaintop karate battle, and other misadventures. Hell also delve into the fascinating legends of this ancient land, including a dragon-fighting holy man, a berserker warrior-priest, haunted temples, and a vendetta-driven ghost that overthrew a dynasty. Told with humor and humility, Fighting Monks and Burning Mountains is a funny, engaging memoir about the consequences of impulsive decisions, and the things you can discover while youre looking for something else. Also that boars are terrifying in person.

About the AuthorPaul Barach is a stand up comic, storyteller, producer, and writer from Seattle, Washington. After graduating from Carleton College, he backpacked across Europe, taught English in South Korea, ran the Seattle marathon, and bicycled across the United States. In his off-time, he is an avid cyclist, runner, and hiker. His proudest achievements so far are earning his black belt in Kyokushin karate and only falling into the La Brea Tar Pits once. You can follow him on Twitter @PaulBarach and find other videos and travel photos on his website [www.PaulBarachComic.com](http://www.PaulBarachComic.com) Fighting Monks and Burning Mountains is his first book.