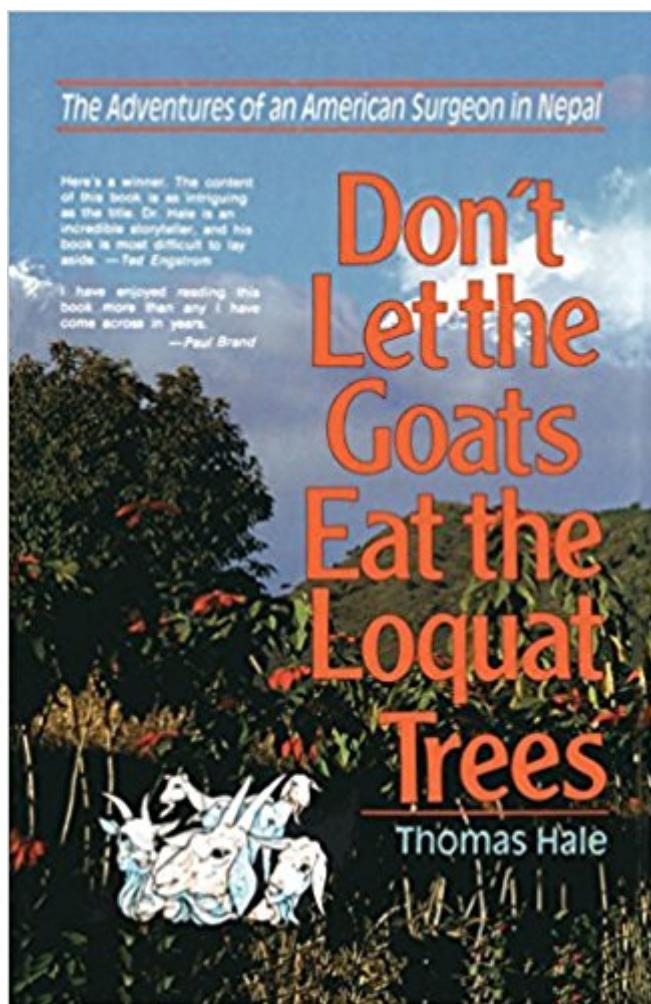


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# Don't Let The Goats Eat The Loquat Trees



## Synopsis

Thomas Hale writes about being a missionary surgeon in the same delightful way James Herriot writes about being a country veterinarian. Dr. Hale's incredible experience in tiny, mountainous Nepal are surpassed only by his talent for telling about them. Imagine, for example, the culture shock of moving to a Hindu country under such rigid religious control that it is not only illegal to proselytize, but illegal to change religions as well. Imagine further the shock of moving to that country as a missionary doctor. Thomas Hale and his wife, Cynthia, also a physician, too on that awesome challenge in 1970. God wasted no time teaching tom the peculiarities of his new culture. But His unusual method left Tom wondering what God was up to. Here is how Tom tells about it: "These were not the phlegmatic, easy-going Nepalis described in books and orientation courses. Those who spoke gesticulated fiercely. Some looked around menacingly; others spat. One thing was certain, however: in the cause of their anger they were united. The word was out: the new doctor had killed a cow. My own sense of participation in the proceedings was intense. I was the new doctor." --Excerpt As Tom goes on to describe the events the preceded the angry scene in the Nepali village, the image of the spiritually superior missionary quickly evaporates. In a humorous, yet deeply insightful way, the author makes it clear that he is merely a servant, using his skills to the glory of God. Tom concludes this chapter with a thoughtful confession: "In the long run, that cow did much more for me than I did for it. The mild-mannered, uncritical beast made me see in myself those negative attributes I had always ascribed to other American surgeons. Facing two hundred angry men proved to be effective therapy for removing most traces of condescension with which I previously regarded them. It also improved my relations with missionary colleagues and with Nepali brothers and sisters in the church. I guess God had no gentler way of removing some of my imperfections. I only wish I could say, for His trouble, that He finished the job. But it was a start." --Excerpt. Dr. Hale's book refused to be preachy or condescending. It presents missions as a "want" rather than an "ought." It is sensitive, warm, honest, incredibly funny, and filled with important truths illustrated from unusual and sometimes unimaginable situations.

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## Customer Reviews

Thomas Hale writes about being a missionary surgeon in the same delightful way James Herriot writes about being a country veterinarian. Dr. Hale's incredible experience in tiny, mountainous Nepal are surpassed only by his talent for telling about them. Imagine, for example, the culture shock of moving to a Hindu country under such rigid religious control that it is not only illegal to proselytize, but illegal to change religions as well. Imagine further the shock of moving to that country as a missionary doctor. Thomas Hale and his wife, Cynthia, also a physician, too on that awesome challenge in 1970. God wasted no time teaching Tom the peculiarities of his new culture. But His unusual method left Tom wondering what God was up to. Here is how Tom tells about it: 'These were not the phlegmatic, easy-going Nepalis described in books and orientation courses. Those who spoke gesticulated fiercely. Some looked around menacingly; others spat. One thing was certain, however: in the cause of their anger they were united. The word was out: the new doctor had killed a cow. My own sense of participation in the proceedings was intense. I was the new doctor.'--Excerpt As Tom goes on to describe the events the preceded the angry scene in the Nepali village, the image of the spiritually superior missionary quickly evaporates. In a humorous, yet deeply insightful way, the author makes it clear that he is merely a servant, using his skills to the glory of God. Tom concludes this chapter with a thoughtful confession: 'In the long run, that cow did much more for me than I did for it. The mild-mannered, uncritical beast made me see in myself those negative attributes I had always ascribed to other American surgeons. Facing two hundred angry men proved to be effective therapy for removing most traces of condescension with which I previously regarded them. It also improved my relations with missionary colleagues and with Nepali brothers and sisters in the church. I guess God had no gentler way of removing some of my imperfections. I only wish I could say, for His trouble, that He finished the job. But it was a start.' -- Excerpt. Dr. Hale's book refused to be preachy or condescending. It presents missions as a 'want' rather than an 'ought.' It is sensitive, warm, honest, incredibly funny, and filled with important truths illustrated from unusual and sometimes unimaginable situations.

In 1970, Thomas Hale and his wife, Cynthia, went to Nepal to work for their first twelve years at a rural mission hospital in the village of Amp Pipal. Subsequently they moved to Kathmandu, Nepal's capital city, where they have continued their work with the mission. Recently Cynthia took a position as an associate professor at Nepal's only medical school, and Tom has written a one-volume commentary on the New Testament, first in Nepali and subsequently in English for translation into other languages.

Don't Let the Goats Eat the Loquat Trees by Thomas Hale is about the ministry of medical doctors Thomas Hale and his wife Cynthia in Nepal. Their mission purpose is to communicate the love of God to the Nepali people through our service and through our lives. We have come because God has given us a love for the people, especially for those suffering in body and spirit. This love does not arise from ourselves—it is a gift purely from God. Out of that love has grown a desire to introduce others to the person who has meant more to us than any other: Jesus Christ.

The book chronicles Thomas' journey to faith and then to Nepal. It is not an easy read, in the sense that it tells things as they are and were. The travel was long, wet, and uphill. The hospital supplies were scarce. Triage was difficult emotionally and practically. The workers at the hospital were either excellent or terrible. There were often mutinies, outbreaks of disease, shortages of medicines, and serious problems. There were riots and dangers and the difficulties of living and working on top of a mountainside with no road in or out. I liked this quote: "By far the most crucial prayer you can offer for any missionary is that he or she remain obedient and submitted to God, filled with His Spirit. When this prayer is fulfilled in the life of a missionary (or anyone else) it is not a cliché to say that God is working out His purpose."

I can't say I enjoyed this book, but I was definitely challenged by it. I know Dr. Hale didn't write it so that others would think highly of him, but I do. I can't imagine making the decisions he had to make, doing the work, managing the staff and trudging up and down the mountains. I personally missed all together any emphasis on a local church. I would imagine they had something of a church with the believers there, but we didn't learn about it. I also missed how they shared Christ with the Nepali patients and staff, though it's obvious that they did. I would love to have heard some personal stories of witnessing to the patients and how they came to trust the Lord. There are some indications of this in the book, but not the details. I am wondering how they

accomplished evangelism. All in all, this is a very interesting read, and I would recommend it for a realistic understanding of medical missions and native mentalities in a third-world setting.

Shares how a doctor accomplishes his work in a very primitive setting without the technology that one is used to in America. He shares how God provided extremely expensive instruments free of charge. This book would be helpful to people who are going to serve on the mission field to better understand the limitations they might be facing. 2 more excellent books that you can purchase on , if you're interested in a gripping account of missionary life, is AT THE FOOT OF THE SNOWS by David Watters and an inspiring book of God's miraculous power: ANSWERS TO PRAYER AND OTHER GOD EVENTS by Sharon Thompson.

Dr. Hale uses gentle humor, self-defacing honesty and Biblical insights into the trials, tribulations and triumphs of being a medical missionary in Nepal. From moving a piano across a rope bridge over a precarious cliff, to feeding multitudes of hungry beggars, lack of needed medicines, language and religious barriers...all work together to make a thoughtful must read for every would-be missionary, and anyone else with a heart for missions. Our family really likes this book!

I am going to Nepal on an upcoming surgical mission. The book was recommended as a good read to orient us to Nepal and mission work through the eyes of a physician missionary back in the 1970's. I have also traveled in Nepal during those times so it was a nice to revisit Nepal through this book. It is an easy read and full of colorful scenarios, challenges, and hardships of being in a remote village in the mountains of Nepal. I would recommend the book to anyone interested in visiting remote areas of Nepal.

Put on your backpack because there's a steep climb where cars can't go. Missionary Dr. Thomas Hale puts the reader into his front pocket and takes you up the mountain to experience things most people will never know were possible. Dr. Hale, a surgeon, and his wife, a pediatrician, live and work in Nepal at a hospital with barely the bare necessities. He writes with candor and humor and shares behind the door stories where they do medical work among people who often don't trust them and have very different ideas of life... and germs!! It's an edge-of-your-seat story that displays humility and self-sacrifice--and the faithfulness of the God they serve.

My Grandson is going to Nepal on a Mission trip so I knew this would be a great book for him.

This is an amazing account of obedience and how the Lord blessed that obedience with miracles and answers to prayer. I especially like this type of biography. I tell everyone I know to be sure and read this book. That it will increase their faith that what God has called us to do, if we respond in obedience we will be surprised with how God will work in our lives and in the lives of our friends.

Very entertaining. Well written. Good read of those wondering about a cross cultural experience living in a foreign country. It is light hearted. Not a lot of really heavy deep heavy feelings but there is a definite appreciation for the native people and culture. A healthy respect.

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