

ENGLISH



THE SUMMIT WITHIN

~Summary~

-by Major H P S Ahluwalia

"The Summit Within" is a **chapter** taken from the book "**Higher Than Everest: Memoirs of a Mountaineer**". It is written by **Major H P S Ahluwalia**. The lesson opens with the narrator expressing how he felt as he stood at the **summit of Everest**. While looking at the **vast view of the wide area**, he felt **multiple emotions** rushing through him; among them, the **dominant one** was **humility**. He believed that a man who had been to the **mountains** would not be the same again. It meant that the **experience** and **difficulties** he faced while climbing the mountains had changed him.

The narrator then stated that as soon as he got rid of his **physical exhaustion**, his mind questioned, "**Why people climb mountains?**" Later he said that most people would say, "**Because it is there,**" but the narrator had a more **personal response** to the question. He claimed that the mountains had **attracted** him since **childhood**, and he would feel **miserable** and sad when he was away from them.

Then the narrator **remarked** that **ascending a mountain** had **physical challenges**. Climbing to the summit required **strength, persistence, and willpower**. Later his mind questioned why he had selected Everest in particular. The narrator stated that there was **no perfect answer** to why he climbed Everest. He related it to the reasons why **individuals breathe** and why they **aid their neighbours**.

The narrator had climbed Mount Everest because it was the **world's highest** and most **powerful mountain**. No wonder the journey was **challenging**; he thought it would provide him with a **sense of fulfilment, satisfaction, and joy** when he stood there. He also mentioned that **well-known climbers** sought **assistance** from other climbers. He said that standing on the summit made him realise that the struggle was **worthwhile**. The majority of the climbers, including the narrator, thought that reaching the top would allow them to **communicate with God**. Later, he told how he **bowed down** and made his **submission to God** on the highest mountain.

At last, the narrator and his **companions** had left the **portraits and relics of God on Everest** as they believed it was a **sign of reverence**. He then explained another big summit, the summit within oneself; it was more challenging to climb. However, every climb, whether it was **physical** or **spiritual**, had transformed him **fundamentally**. He claimed that summing Everest had given him the **confidence** to **pursue other goals**. Also, he stated that **climbing the summit within was even more challenging than climbing Everest**.

~Conclusion~

The chapter – The Summit Within teaches a lesson that we should try to overcome any obstacle that comes in our lives by incorporating three qualities such as endurance, persistence and will power. Being steadfast in optimising our inner self can help us achieve greater heights in life. Here, we present you the CBSE Class 8 English Honeydew Prose Summary of The Summit Within that must have helped students to have a detailed understanding of the chapter.