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**Yak Butter Blues: A Tibetan Trek of Faith by Brandon Wilson
Receives International Literary Award**

Hawaii author Brandon Wilson's travel adventure book, **Yak Butter Blues: A Tibetan Trek of Faith**, is the recent recipient of an international literary award. This true story about a couple's courageous quest for survival and enlightenment during their 650-mile trek across Tibet has won a 2005 "IPPY" Award Honorable Mention in the Travel Essay division.

The author, Brandon Wilson, stated, "I only hope this book in some small way contributes to the world understanding of Tibet--and its brave struggle to survive China's oppression--before it's too late."

Yak Butter Blues: A Tibetan Trek of Faith is an inspiring new book of Tibetan adventure. It exposes the raw challenge of traveling deliberately, one-step-at-a-time on an incredible 650-mile (1000-kilometer) trek across the unforgiving Himalayan plains. It also exposes the conditions of life in Tibet under Chinese oppression.

This determined man and woman, along with Sadhu, their Tibetan horse, set off to attempt to become the *first* Western couple to trek this ancient trail across the earth's most remote corner.

What begins as an adventure, quickly turns into so much more. Discovering that Tibetans cannot trek this same pilgrim's trail of faith from Lhasa to Kathmandu, they decide to walk it in their place--and prove to the authorities that it can be done without repercussions in China.

Their true story is a riveting tale of human endurance. The Wilsons face Tibet's ruthless environment head-on: the blistering winds, extreme temperatures, sandstorms, blizzards, high altitudes and the thinnest of air--made all the more challenging by exhaustion, hunger, illness, inflexible bureaucrats and implacable, trigger-happy Chinese soldiers.

Yak Butter Blues is a story of faith and the kindness of strangers. It provides a candid first-hand look at the lives of the Tibetan families who secret them into their homes--and at a culture teetering on the edge of extinction.

Yak Butter Blues is a tale of personal enlightenment, as the couple discovers a sense of greater purpose, wonder, a renewed faith and ultimately what it takes to endure.

Wilson leads you along on their physical, spiritual and emotional pilgrimage, through the highs and lows, across this startling land in this colorful, candid, caring and classic tale, **Yak Butter Blues: a Tibetan Trek of Faith**.

Yak Butter Blues is an exceptional travelogue, richly illustrated with the author's photography, and destined to become a Tibet travel classic.

The 2005 Independent Publisher "IPPY" Awards attracted nearly 2,200 entries from over 1,500 publishers worldwide, including all fifty U.S. states and eighteen foreign countries.

According to Independent Publisher, the "IPPY" Awards "are designed to bring increased recognition to the deserving but often unsung titles published by independent authors and publishers that are produced each year, and reward those who exhibit the courage, innovation, and creativity to bring about change in the world of publishing."

The awards were presented at BookExpo America in New York City on June 3rd.

For a preview, or to order, please visit: <http://www.PilgrimsTales.com>.

Sample Reviews:

"Brandon Wilson's writing is charged, alive, and a little threatening. Yak Butter Blues flickers insistently like a flashbulb afterimage in the mind long after the book is tucked away...." ~ Richard Bangs, Executive Producer of *Richard Bangs Adventures*, author and co-founder of Mountain Travel/Sobek

"A soaring travel diary. It places the reader in the thick of the action every bit as well as Marco Polo transported Italians to China and, as it seems to me, better than Lowell Thomas led readers in the dust of Lawrence of Arabia..." ~ Joseph W. Bean, Book Reviewer, **Maui Weekly** (Hawaii)

"Recommended for adventure travel and Tibetan culture collections." - **Library Journal**

"A moving and emotional testimony, and a travelogue that is the next most vivid experience to hiking upon the trail oneself." ~ **Midwest Book Review**

"Any doubts I had about reading Yak Butter Blues melted away like yak butter under a hot sun as I came under the spell of Brandon Wilson's lively and vivid prose. He is a fine writer, perceptive, funny, and has a great way with words, making the book a whooping good read--an outstanding production."
~ Royal Robbins, world-renowned mountaineer and adventure kayaker

"A high-altitude tale of synchronicity, divine providence, begging monks, trigger-happy Chinese soldiers and dehydration." ~ **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette** (PA) from a feature article

Yak Butter Blues: A Tibetan Trek of Faith

By Brandon Wilson

280 pages, Travel Narrative/Non-Fiction,

27 duo-tone photographs & maps;

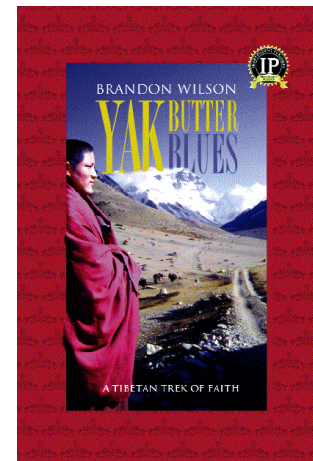
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Hardcover - ISBN: 0977053679 * \$26.95

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Yak Butter Blues: A Tibetan Trek of Faith is available from bookstores, PilgrimsTales.com, Amazon.com, BN.com, Borders.com, Amazon (Canada, UK, France, Germany, Japan) and other major Internet booksellers. **Be sure to ask for the new 2nd edition, starting November 2005.**