

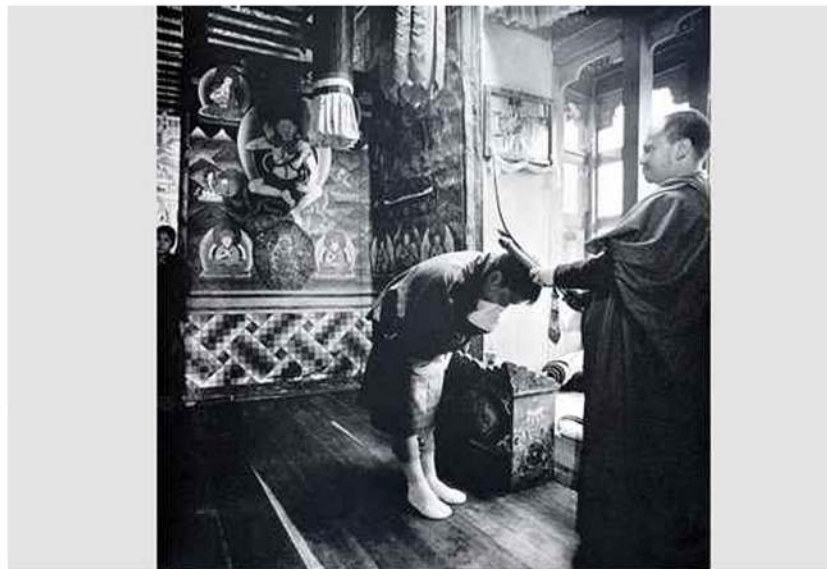


PHOTO FEATURE

An Immersion Into Drukyul

Glimpses from a journey of discovery in the Land of the Thunder Dragon.

In *The Ancients, Bhutan Diaries*, Serena Chopra embarks on a 12-year journey of discovery of the Land of the Thunder Dragon. From Laya in the north to Merak Sakten in the east, from Haa in the west to Samchi in the south, the author endures the harshest conditions through remotest regions to get an exquisite glimpse of this country tucked away in the eastern end of the Himalayas. The iconic 130 medium-format photographs lovingly document the real Bhutan with references to the Yak Cham or Yak dance in Merak Sakten that re-enacts the story of the eastern Brokpa tribe and their origins. Chopra skilfully juxtaposes her diaries and photographs to create a visual journey sharing a decade of her engagement with Bhutan.



A monk blesses Lotay with the Divine Madman's wooden phallus and iron archery set at Chime Lhakhang, near Punakha, West Bhutan, 2003.

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