

Edmund Hillary's amazing achievement



Narrative

Excited to get going, Edmund wriggled out of his sleeping bag and sprang to his feet. An icy breeze stole his breath as he stepped out of his tent into the snow. The cold nipped his nose and stung his cheeks, but he didn't mind. Today was the day he'd been waiting for. It was Summit Day!

Gazing all around, the bold explorer smiled broadly. There was blue sky in every direction, calm winds and only a thin band of white cloud hugged the horizon.

"The conditions are particularly good this morning, Tenzing!" he commented when his campmate joined him to admire the stunning view.

"I've a good feeling about today, Edmund." Tenzing nodded. "We're about to make history!"

After a breakfast of porridge and tea, the men set off. They each carried oxygen tanks and a heavy backpack. Their spirits and hopes were as high as the sparkling Sun above them. With Tenzing leading the way, they trudged upwards, their boots crunching a path that no human had travelled before. Edmund's heart swelled, for he felt alive and as free as a bird.

On the mountainside, the weather could change in a blink. Sure enough, the sky turned grey. The gloom thickened as the temperature dropped. An angry wind whipped up the snow, making it difficult for Edmund to see Tenzing even though he was just a few steps ahead. He tugged on the rope that tied them together. Tenzing stopped and turned. The friends shared a quick, determined look. There was no turning back.

Clinging to their ice axes, the fearless mountaineers edged up the dangerous slope. The spikes on their boots bit into the slippery surface like teeth. There were terrifying, steep drops everywhere, so one slip could mean the end. Certain death.

They were very experienced, but the storm slowed them down. Every step took enormous effort. Their muscles ached. Their lungs burned. Would they make the summit before nightfall?

Eventually, a vertical rock face loomed ahead. The final challenge. If they could get over it, Everest would be theirs!

This time, Edmund went first. Bravely, he moved upwards, testing each handhold and foothold before trusting them. Inch by inch, he climbed higher until he could swing himself onto the ledge at the top.

"Grab the rope! I'll pull you up!" he called down to Tenzing, finding extra strength to help his teammate.

Gasping for air, Tenzing joined Edmund on the ledge. They had crossed the last difficult obstacle. Now, the summit waited for them. For a moment, they rested, but their goal was in sight. It called to them.

Although the final stretch was short, Edmund and Tenzing moved slowly and carefully. At the summit, they embraced joyfully, barely able to believe they'd made it. But disbelief quickly turned to pride. They had done it! They were on top of the world!

