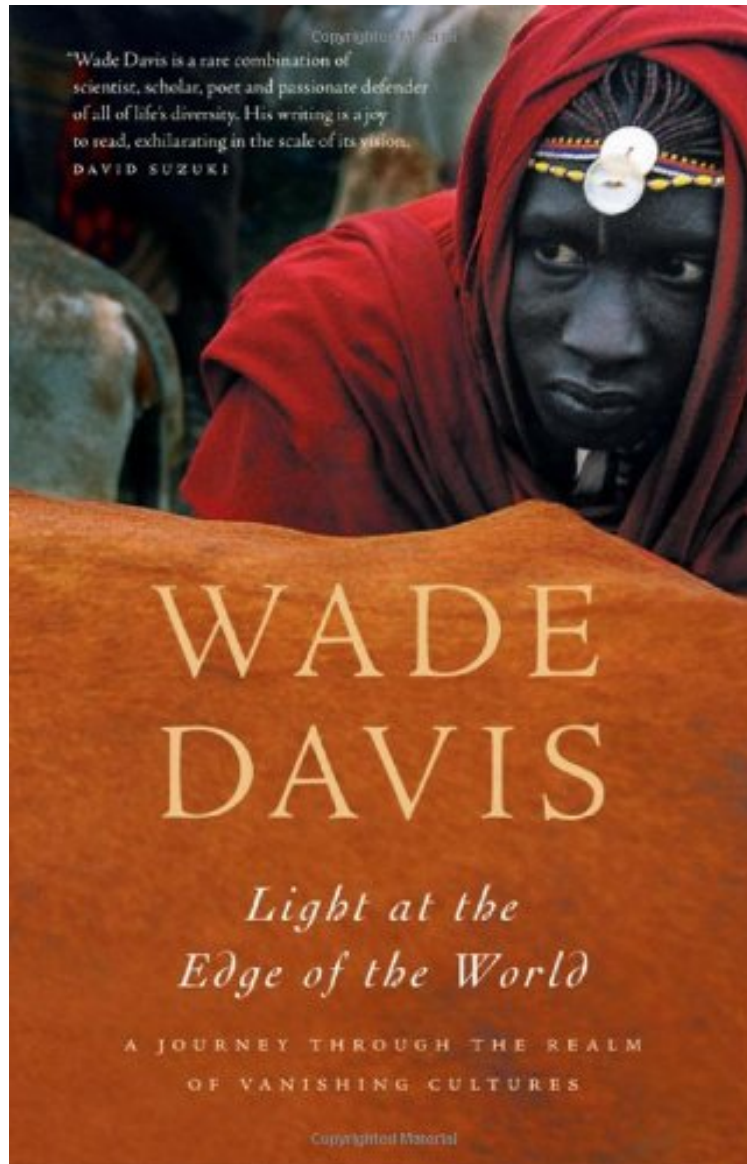


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# Light at the Edge of the World: A Journey Through the Realm of Vanishing Cultures

Wade Davis

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**Wade Davis : Light at the Edge of the World: A Journey Through the Realm of Vanishing Cultures** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Light at the Edge of the World: A Journey Through the Realm of Vanishing Cultures:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wish I had said that...By Ruth Lee This is another great work by National Geographic Explorer in Residence Wade Davis! Because I visited several of the tribes covered in this remarkable book, and measured his words against my thoughts and views of them, I accept his elegant prose and beautiful photos regarding the other tribes as equally wise, accurate, and worthy of my respect and yours. I especially appreciate that Wade saw things I barely noticed while traveling in various parts of the world, but what he saw was exactly what I needed to know then or wanted to know more about now. His depth of recall and ability to construct elegant sentences as well as his artistry with a camera is sufficient to recommend this book to anyone who loves the earth--especially those who live closest to it--the indigenous tribes, wherever you can still find them alive. Wade's pictures are perfect for his prose. You find yourself examining them more closely after reading the text, but I guarantee you will skim the pics before you read! All is aligned with a loving mind... one that respects people who can and do maintain a sustainable life Westerners can only imagine, but cannot manage. Indigenous people use what they have. Don't go into debt, or let hate control their relationships. Just because we cannot live that simply does not mean others who can should be cheated and harmed to evict them from what they have held sacred for mankind until now. The book is worth your time, effort and money. I highly recommend it to everyone! 10 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wade Davis is an amazing intellectual. This book argues that all cultures are ...By S. Katz Wade Davis is an amazing intellectual. This book argues that all cultures are relevant and that modern ones are not "better", just different. It is an interesting perspective explained by a man who has extensively traveled and lived with groups you probably never heard of. Hard to read this book and not come away humbled. A very good read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Stand Up for Cultural Diversity By E. T. Wade Davis is both an exceptional anthropologist and an exciting writer. The remote and unique cultures that he records in this work give us home bound and over-weight readers a glimpse of hope in the human potential that we all share. We may not be able to travel as he has but through his vivid and engrossing writing, we can celebrate the human spirit that he has witnessed first hand. The special people he introduces to us see the world in different lights, sounds and smells than we do from our homogenized world view. We need to understand these cultures as a way to balance our own as we try to look beyond it to find new ways to meet the ever changing reality of our existence.

For more than 30 years, renowned anthropologist Wade Davis has traveled the globe, studying the mysteries of sacred plants and celebrating the world's traditional cultures. His passion as an ethnobotanist has brought him to the very center of indigenous life in places as remote and diverse as the Canadian Arctic, the deserts of North Africa, the rain forests of Borneo, the mountains of Tibet, and the surreal cultural landscape of Haiti. In *Light at the Edge of the World*, Davis explores the idea that these distinct cultures represent unique visions of life itself and have much to teach the rest of the world about different ways of living and thinking. As he investigates the dark undercurrents tearing people from their past and propelling them into an uncertain future, Davis reiterates that the threats faced by indigenous cultures endanger and diminish all cultures.

From *Publishers Weekly* "As a young anthropologist I never understood how I was supposed to turn up at some village... announce that I was staying for a year, and then notify the headman that he and his people were to feed and house me while I studied their lives," writes Davis (*Shadows in the Sun: Travels to Landscapes of Spirit and Desire*) in the introduction to this stunning collection of photographs that span the 25 years of his career. His solution was to find cultural common ground through the study of food and plants, which often was the ostensible reason for his travels through Canada, the Andes, the , Haiti, Kenya and Tibet. While Davis emphasizes that "at no time was photography [my] principal pursuit," his photographs are visually dazzling. A smiling Barasana boy of the Northwest holds a brilliantly colored macaw. A man in Haiti stands beneath the downpour of a torrential cataract, his clothes torn off by the force of the water. Indeed, these dramatic photographs frequently overshadow Davis's informative, witty essays, which introduce each of the seven chapters. In these, he shares anecdotes about the people he's met, reflects on the effects of colonialism in these areas and laments the uncertain fate of groups like the Penan of Borneo and the nomads of Kenya. Beautifully designed and produced, this album will delight armchair travelers. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist* Ethnobotanist and anthropologist Davis, author of *One River* (1996) and *Shadows in the Sun* (1998), has traveled the world for 25 years, pen and camera in hand, to study the myriad ways indigenous people live in physical and spiritual intimacy with the natural world. Driven by curiosity and a profound respect for the "ethnosphere," humanity's diverse "thoughts, beliefs, myths, and intuitions," Davis has dwelled among the people of the Arctic, the , Haiti, Kenya, Borneo, Australia, and Tibet, learning their modes of being, cosmologies, and botanical expertise. His quest has rendered him acutely sensitive to the connection between biodiversity and cultural diversity, and as he portrays in pellucid language and magnificent photographs healers, shamans, hunters, and men, women, and children adept at survival in the most demanding of wildernesses, he decries the rampant environmental destruction and globalization that are decimating indigenous cultures, thus depriving future generations of their knowledge, wisdom, and unique perspectives. Aesthetically powerful in both word and image, this essential volume opens readers' eyes and imaginations to the wonders of the earth and humanity's varied "insights into the very

nature of existence," a bounty and legacy we simply cannot do without. Donna Seaman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Davis is neither naive nor fostering a romantic image of a simple, primeval life. He is asking that we look with a 'broader perspective' at other ways of being in the world." (Mary Jo Anderson The Chronicle Herald 2007-03-05)"It's wonderful that this collection of essays is available at a price that makes it accessible to many readers." (Globe Mail 2007-03-03)