



Walking on Lava

Selected Works for Uncivilised Times

The Dark Mountain Project

*Edited by Charlotte DuCann, Dougald Hine,
Nick Hunt, and Paul Kingsnorth*

\$20.00 • Paperback

6 × 9 • 288 pages

Black-and-white photographs throughout

ISBN 978-1-60358-741-9

Pub Date: September 5, 2017

For media inquiries contact

Sean Maher

smaher@chelseagreen.com

802.295.6300 ext.122

For author events contact

Jenna Stewart

jstewart@chelseagreen.com

802.295.6300 ext.120



“Don’t read this book if you’re not willing
to be shaken and unsettled.”

—BILL MCKIBBEN

The dominant economic and cultural assumptions of the West are visibly crumbling. Our industrial civilization is in a period of great turmoil, an “ecocide” that will effectively end this phase of humankind’s relationship with Earth. Our climate is being changed irrevocably by human activities. Today, humanity is up to its neck in denial about what it has built, what it has become—and what it is in for.

Nearly ten years ago, confronting this reality head-on, two English writers—Paul Kingsnorth and Dougald Hine—asked a simple question: *Where are the writers and the artists to tell us the truth about where we are heading?*

This question—proposed first in a published manifesto, then launched in earnest to a small group in a backroom of an English pub—became **The Dark Mountain Project**. Ten years and twelve volumes of contributions later, it has become an international network of writers, artists, musicians, thinkers, activists (and many others without labels), who believe that honesty about the state of the world is not only necessary but is also a source of energy—and even hope.

Walking on Lava brings together the best of the first ten volumes, along with the original manifesto. This collection of essays, fiction, poetry, interviews, and artwork offers an introduction to **The Dark Mountain Project**’s ground-breaking work, organized around “The Eight Principles of Uncivilisation” that form the bedrock of the project. These works—previously available only by subscription and never widely distributed—offer new voices and unique perspectives to the reader in search of “the hope beyond hope, the paths which lead to the unknown world ahead of us.”

THE DARK MOUNTAIN PROJECT is run by a collective of writers who were drawn together by a shared sense that the stories our culture tells itself are broken. This book has been edited by four members of that collective: Charlotte Du Cann, Dougald Hine, Nick Hunt, and Paul Kingsnorth. Visit Dark-Mountain.net for more information.

<http://media.chelseagreen.com/website>

The Eight Principles of Uncivilisation

“We must unhumanise our views a little, and become confident
As the rock and ocean that we were made from.”

1. We live in a time of social, economic, ecological unravelling. All around us are signs that our whole way of living is already passing into history. We will face this reality honestly and learn how to live with it.
2. We reject the faith that holds that the converging crises of our times can be reduced to a set of “problems” in need of technological or political “solutions.”
3. We believe that the roots of these crises lie in the stories we have been telling ourselves. We intend to challenge the stories that underpin our civilisation: the myth of progress, the myth of human centrality, and the myth of our separation from “nature.” These myths are more dangerous for the fact that we have forgotten they are myths.
4. We will reassert the role of storytelling as more than mere entertainment. It is through stories that we weave reality.
5. Humans are not the point and purpose of the planet. Our art will begin with the attempt to step outside the human bubble. By careful attention, we will reengage with the non-human world.
6. We will celebrate writing and art that is grounded in a sense of place and of time. Our literature has been dominated for too long by those who inhabit the cosmopolitan citadels.
7. We will not lose ourselves in the elaboration of theories or ideologies. Our words will be elemental. We write with dirt under our fingernails.
8. The end of the world as we know it is not the end of the world full stop. Together, we will find the hope beyond hope, the paths that lead to the unknown world ahead of us.

Editors

Charlotte Du Cann writes about mythology, metaphysics, and cultural change and is the author of *52 Flowers That Shook My World: A Radical Return to Earth* and other books. In 2011, she reported on the Uncivilisation Festival for the *Independent* and offered to help out behind the scenes, soon becoming a core part of the Dark Mountain team.
charlotteducann.blogspot.co.uk

Dougald Hine is cofounder of Dark Mountain and School of Everything. He works with Riksteatern, the Swedish national theatre, and writes about how we can disentangle our thinking and our hopes from the cultural logic of progress. In 2011, he was named one of Britain’s “50 Top Radicals” by the National Endowment for Science, Technology, and the Arts.
dougald.nu

Nick Hunt is a writer and storyteller. He is the author of *Walking the Woods and the Water* and *Where the Wild Winds Are*, and his articles have appeared in *The Economist*, *The Guardian*, *New Internationalist*, *Resurgence*, and other publications.
nickhuntscrutiny.com

Paul Kingsnorth is cofounder of Dark Mountain. He is the author of two novels, *The Wake* (longlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2014) and *Beast*; three books of non-fiction, *One No, Many Yeses* and *Real England*, and the forthcoming *Confessions of a Recovering Environmentalist*; and one collection of poetry, *Kidland*. He edited *The World-Ending Fire: The Essential Wendell Berry* and was recently the subject of a *New York Times Magazine* profile titled “It’s the End of the World as We Know It . . . and He Feels Fine.”