

Homeland or Religion? Personal Identity Building in Zaskar,
Indian Himalayas

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Homeland or Religion? Personal Identity Building in Zanskar, Indian Himalayas

By

Salomé Deboos



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Cover illustration: Overview of Padum taken from the roof-top of Karsha Gompa. Photo by author.

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*To my daughters, that they might find their own place in the world like
flowers in an English garden ...*



Blue Poppy, Pensi La Pass, July 2015

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Foreword

In my previous book *Être Musulman au Zanskar* (2010), I presented a monograph of the Muslim community in the Zanskar Valley. Thanks to extensive field research carried out subsequently, I have come to understand more deeply the way both religious groups, Buddhists and Muslims, build their personal identities.

This book is therefore the result of almost twenty years of research in a valley that was remote in 2000 and is today linked to the world thanks to the internet and cell phones.

All figures and pictures are mine, and I would therefore like to thank the people who allowed me to take them and use them for research purposes or with a view to publication.

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Thanks are also due to my grandmothers, who introduced me to what it means to be and live as a upstanding woman, assuming her own life choices; to Pierre Bonte who welcomed me to Social and Cultural Anthropology, and Jean-Claude Galey who supervised my PhD first and since then has become a precious friend.

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