

Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey

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tom_koch@wgbh.org wgbhinternational.org Photographed in Yosemite National Park, this High Definition film carries a strong but subtle environmental message. *Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey* features climbing legend Ron Kauk, who shares his inspirations and unique connection with Yosemite National Park brought about by a lifetime of climbing in the cherished park. Through imagery and occasional narration, Kauk relates his insights and the stories of his discoveries in a simple way, showing our relationship with nature and what he feels it is saying: "We assume our responsibility to keep the balance between ourselves and the land taking care of us."

Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey offers a view of Yosemite National Park never seen before. Emmy award-winning director Sterling Johnson's two-year filming odyssey through the park captures its many moods and sharp contrasts as seasonal changes dramatically alter its landscape. These breathtaking views, combined with Kauk's climbing skills, emotional connection to nature and the granite faces he scales, provide a rich viewing experience.

Striving to awaken viewers to the timeless beauty of Yosemite's landscapes, Kauk relates the profound lessons from nature through the voices of the wind, the waters, the trees, meadows, rock walls and the diamond-studded nights. As a world famous natural wonder, Yosemite National Park has few equals. Its massive domes and vertical walls have drawn visitors and climbers from every corner of the earth to stand in awe at its wonder and challenge its heights with daring climbs of unusual difficulty.

In *Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey*, Johnson has captured a feeling of awe and a sense of danger as his camera follows Kauk on some of the most difficult climbs Yosemite has to offer. Jeff Ball's haunting music adds yet another dimension to this compelling nature program. Kauk's adventures subtly communicate the message that it is through nature that life's true balance is found.

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Producer: Sterling Johnson and Ron Kauk
Director: Sterling Johnson
A film by Sterling Johnson and The Snow Creek Resort in association with
Midnight Lightning

Photo Credit: Courtesy Sterling Johnson