

# PILGRIMAGE



LOOKING AT GROUND ZERO

Photographs by Kevin Bubriski

Afterword by Richard B. Woodward

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LOOKING AT GROUND ZERO

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This book is dedicated to the victims of the attacks of September 11, and to their families and friends. This book is also dedicated to the individuals who appear in the photographs here, to all the others who have made the journey to Ground Zero, and to those who live and work in Lower Manhattan.







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I made five trips to the World Trade Center site from my home in Vermont. I undertook the first trip two weeks after the attack. The last one took place December 19, 2001. I felt the need to witness and understand the impact of the New York City tragedy through my camera.

At the barricades surrounding the site, I found people experiencing a remarkable sense of community, but also the deepest kind of personal reflection on loss and mortality. I realized I was one of many who needed to be at the site, unable to grasp the terrible television, magazine, and newspaper images. Men in suits, teenaged friends, families, young lovers, tourists, visitors from around the world, and fathers with children on their shoulders: all slowly approached the site. Eventually they came to a full stop, planting their feet firmly as if to keep themselves from wavering or falling. Then each visitor's quiet moment of reflection began as he or she stared off at the awful, cascading ruin of twisted steel, steeped in a swirl of acidic smoke. In this silence most visitors appeared to finally grasp, visually, the horror.

—Kevin Bubriski  
Shaftsbury, VT  
December 2001









