



## LETTER TO GUY LEVEILLE

My Dear friend Guy

I know you probably won't get this, seeing as how you've been dead for some time, but I wanted to let you know how sorry I am about what happened to you over there in Cho Oyu.

I've learned more and more about you since our return from Ama Dablam in 2006.

I've learned about your climbing accomplishments but most about your humanitarian concerns for the weak and unfortunate. Your need to help those less fortunate gave you immortality and placed you above all of us on the highest summit. Yes, I've known all the great things that make great men and you have proven that you are one of them. You are been a man of compassion, boldness, generosity, courage, dedication, humble and magnanimity.

Yet, I'm thinking you were too good for this lousy world that turns blind eye to every dirty second of every dirty minute of every dirty day of that dirty life, right up until October 4, 2008 when death took you away from the living.

Here is the hard part that I hate admitting. I really hate to admit this Guy, believe me. But when I got the news, you know, about your death, I fall into tears like a little child. And then I felt a relief or better admiration that you had such heroic death away from this insane world, I know, believe me.

I am hurting that this mountain cost you your life. I really am which is why I'm writing you this letter to let you know how sorry I am over what happened to you over there. And to say I respect and stand with you, my friend, less heroic; but as far as I can manage, from here among the living, and among the glittering mountains that kiss it so cold and good, I stand with you against the darkness that clouds our world.

You will always be remembered.

Your friend and climbing companion in Himalayas

Dr. George Ardavanis