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Fuji San

富士山

PHOTOGRAPHED
BY
H.G. PONTING

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PHOTOGRAPHED

BY

Herbert G. Ponting.

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TO MY FRIEND

Professor **BASIL HALL CHAMBERLAIN**,
and his collaborator

W. B. MASON,

Authors of *Murray's Hand-book to Japan*.

Whose guidance has led my footsteps to all that is most
beautiful in this fairest of lands, I dedicate this little record
of work which has been to me a labour of love.

Herbert G. Ponting

HERE are many mountains of great beauty in Japan, but in all this charming land there is no other that can compare with Fuji San—the highest, most famous and loveliest of them all.

Fuji is a sleeping volcano, an isolated cone, rising from a fertile plain. There are no mountains near to detract from the stately majesty and symmetry of the snow-clad peak which towers to a height of 12,365 feet into the heavens.

Though there has been no eruption of Fuji since the year 1708, yet in several places on the crater's lip the ground is very hot, testifying to the presence of slumbering fires which may at any time burst forth again.

From the earliest ages, Japanese writers have described the beauty of Fuji, and poets have sung its charms.

Who that has seen the sun-kissed crest, gleaming dazzling white against the deep blue of the winter sky, will not admit that the mountain is worthy of all the praise which has been bestowed upon it—and more?

The Japanese never tire of Fuji; for its beauty is ever changing, and in all its aspects they worship it.

There is the "Morning Fuji" as it appears at sunrise, shaking off the mists of night. There is the "Midday Fuji," towering far above the clouds which encircle the lower slopes. There is the "Night Fuji," blocking out a large fan-like space in the starlit sky, with the moon shining on its snow-clad crest. And there are many other phases of equal beauty.

Perhaps, however, in none of its moods is Fuji more lovely than when at sunset its fair shape is reflected in one of the many lakes which lie like golden mirrors at its foot.

It is a long and tedious climb to the top of Fuji; but many thousands of pilgrims annually make the ascent, for, according to popular belief, the journey round the crater, and worship at the shrine of Kono-hana-saku-yahime, the goddess who inhabits the mountain, gain for the sturdy devotee much religious merit.

In August and September the black slopes are dotted all over with bands of pilgrims dressed in white, and the mountain is all a-tinkling with their little sweet-toned bells.

As they toil slowly upwards, they call out to each other the Shinto words "Rokkon-sho-jo,"—an exhortation to keep the heart pure, and the six senses free from every taint of evil.

From Gotemba it is a journey of about twenty miles to the rest-house at the summit.

Nearly half this distance may be accomplished on horseback; but beyond

a point called "Umagaeshi," Fuji's slopes are sacred ground, and above this place no horse's foot may tread.

From here upwards, the path is a tiring zig-zag through loose ash and cinders; but once the top is gained, the glorious view amply repays the weary pilgrim, for the map of Japan, 300 miles from horizon to horizon, lies stretched in relief at his feet.

The summit of Fuji is a series of great ragged crags burnt to every colour of the spectrum. In many places they are piled up to a height of a hundred feet or more around the mountain's edge, and completely encircle the crater which is 500 feet in depth and about a third of a mile across.

The cloud phenomena to be seen from the summit of Fuji are beyond the power of language to adequately describe.

At dawn, the pilgrims assemble on the East side of the mountain top to witness the rising of the sun.

It is a weird and magnificent spectacle.

The blackness of the heavens slowly turns to a soft grey, which gradually becomes lighter and changes to a delicate blush, which in turn becomes a roseate pink. The pink deepens and grows momentarily more vivid, until the great disperser of the shadow called night, tips the clouds with burning gold and vermilion, and, rising slowly above them—a great red ball of fire—fills the scene with glory untold.

The pilgrims fall on their knees, and bow their heads to the ground in adoration; and, with much rubbing of rosaries, the plaintive cadence of the Buddhist prayer "Namu-myoho-enge-kyo" rises like a lamentation to the skies above.

The journey round the base of Fuji is the most beautiful scenic tour in Japan.

The kindly nature which made this lovely land has surpassed all its other efforts in the glorious profusion with which it has scattered feathery woods and dense forests, rippling rills and roaring rivers, dancing cascades and thundering waterfalls on every side; but of all the beauties of the journey, the most enchanting are the lakes which lie embosomed like flashing jewels among the hills.

Of them, Shoji and Motosu are the most beautiful. The latter excels in exquisite colour and delicate beauty all the lakes of Japan, and challenges comparison with the fairest waters of the world.

Tokyo, 1905.

HERBERT G. PONTING.

富士山

日本は最も靈山に富む中に其高きことに於て、其名譽あることに於て、其秀美なることに於て、不朽の靈峰極東の偉觀として、天下に謳はるゝものは富士を以て最となす。富士は睡眠せる火山にして、海拔一萬二千三百六十尺、天空高く孤立せる圓錐形は、其尊嚴雄大なる秀容を遮ぎるの繞山無きが爲め、愈々其美觀を添ふ。只寶永の昔時一度噴火して、倒扇の側面一瘤狀を現出したる後、今日に至る迄其噴火を見ずと雖も、現存せる噴火口には尙熱氣ありて、地底眠れるが如き火あるを認むるもの、或は再び破裂するなきやを恐るゝのみ。

人とは、いかに答へん言の葉もおよはぬふしの雪の曙

讀人不知

富士の嶺の風にた、よふ白雲をあまつ乙女の袖かどそ見る

鳴 長 明

近く望めば巍然として天に沖し、遠く望めば白扇倒に懸る。其或は日光に反映せらるゝ處、山頂常に千古の白雪を戴き、冬茲に迄えて白皚々たる靈峰屹突蒼空に映する等の景に至りては、何の辭か其の美を稱へん。日人の未だ嘗て其美に飽かず、古來文人騷客皆其讚辭なきに苦しむもの、誠に其處也。

富士を賞するに三あり、旭日曉霧を破りて出づる朝富士即ち是れ一、山腰をたゞよふ雲の海より巍然として突出せる晝の富士即ち是れ二、稀星の間倒扇の如く聳え立ち、月光白皚に映じたる夜の富士即ち是れ三、何れか其絶美を叫ばしめざる。其他或は夕陽漸く紅にして鏡の如き湖水に映する處、又靜に綠葉に加す、形容し能はざる富士の美は終に人をして崇敬の念を起さしむるに至る。夫の巡禮者が登山の勞苦を辭せず、富士詣と稱して噴火口の周圍を巡り、ここに祀れる神靈木花咲耶姫命を拜して、其崇高莊美なる秀靈に觸れ、以て過去現在の罪障を消滅し、茲に精神的慰安を求めんとするもの、毎年、數十萬人、八九月の交、雪の如き白衣を着け、玲瓏たる鈴の音すさまじく、口に六根清淨を誦し、先を争うて登るを見るは、即ち是也。山麓御殿場より山上休憩所に至る約貳十里、半途馬返迄は何れも馬鞍に據りて悠々登るを得れども、これより以上は靈地と稱しいかなる者も下馬せざるを得ず、かくて昇るに従つて路いよ／＼羊腸たれども、其の絶頂に達するに及びて、數時の疲勞忽ちにして忘却せるが如く、瞰下眼界の達する處悉く雙眸に入り、爽快の感、恰も登仙の思ひあり。

山上奇巖怪石點在、此中數百尺高きものもあり、よりて以て頂邊を周ぐり、徑約五町、深さ數十丈の噴口を圍めり。

總ての登山者は拂曉山嶺の東方に集りて、昇天旭日を拜す。其の旭日の將に昇らんとするや、實に是れ天下の壯觀にして、凝視すれば黒雲忽ちにして灰色に變じ、紅雲化して白雲となり、白雲化して艶紅となり、遂に金珠の如き太陽靜々として雲間より姿を現はし、尋で乾坤を照すに至る。此時に當り登山者は唯此の奇觀に打たれ恍惚として酔へるが如く、不知不識地上に跪き合掌崇拜、珠數を揉みつゝ、南無妙法蓮華經を稱ふ、其聲天空に響きて一種悲哀の韻を曳けり。

若し夫れ或は山頂に上りて、雲霧が呈する千種萬態の現象を見、或は下りて其山麓の光景に至らんか、吾人終に其美を筆する能はざる也。

嗚呼天然はかくの如く冠絶せる光輝ある秀嶺を此の地に造り、これに配するに森林溪流、飛瀑を以てす、況や山間に介在せる瑠璃寶石の如く輝ける湖水を見るに於てをや、誰か夫れ美の極致を叫ばざらん。湖中最も美はしきものは精進本須の二湖、就中本須は其色其美に於て蓋し諸湖中に冠たるべく、否、渾圓球上恐らくはこれに比肩すべきものあるべからざる也。



富士山

FUJI THE SACRED MOUNTAIN OF JAPAN.

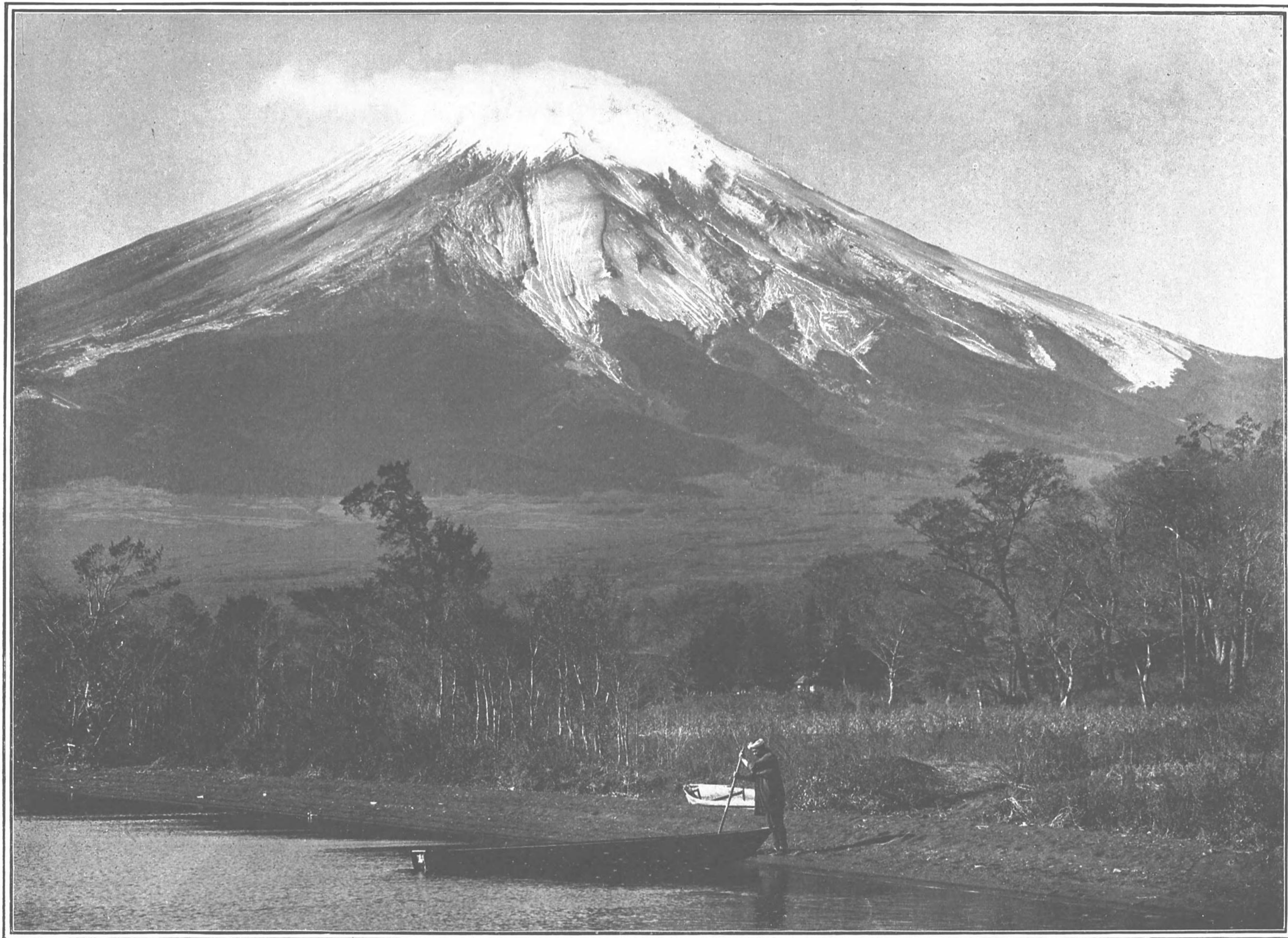
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山中湖より見たる富士

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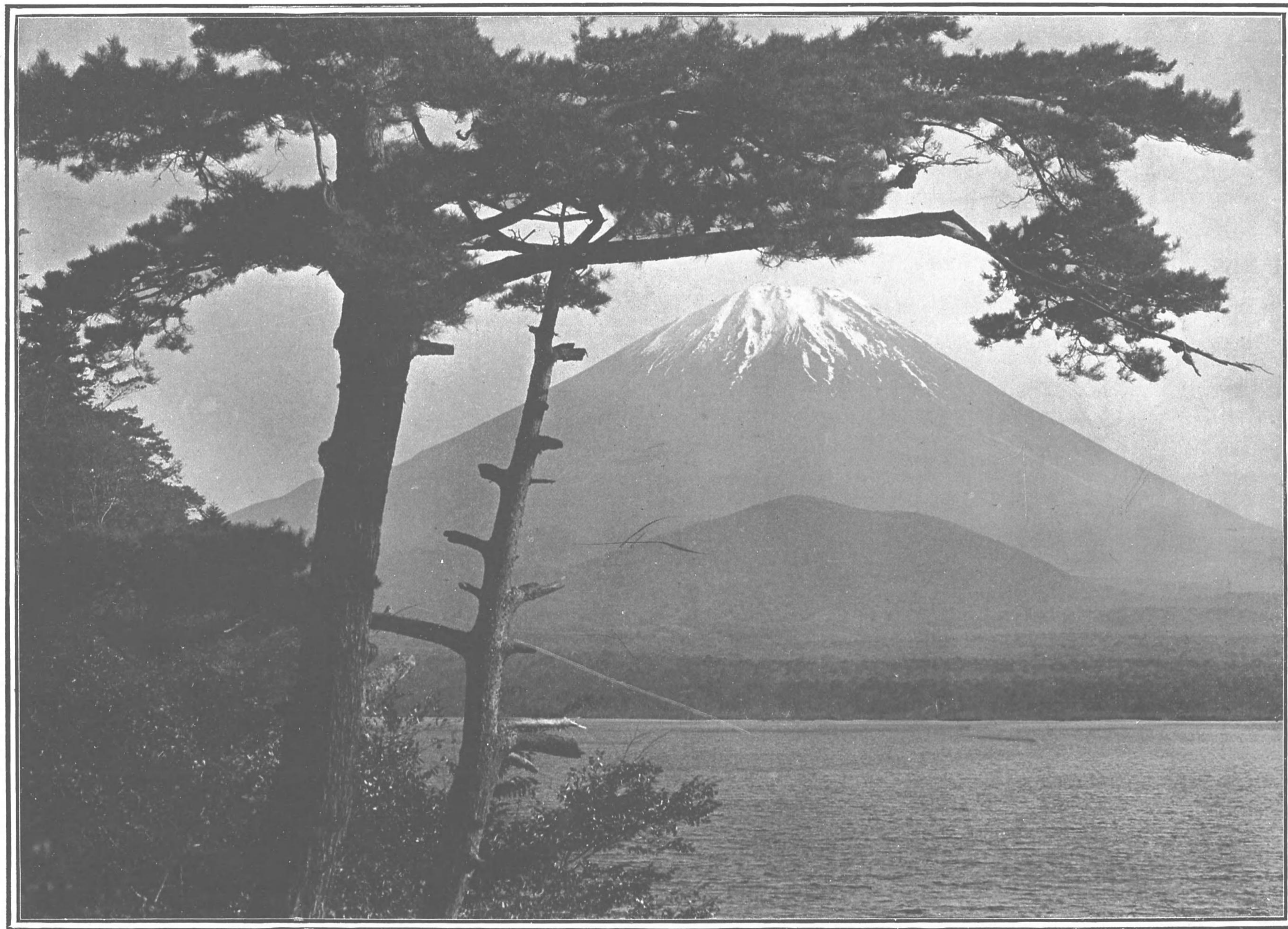
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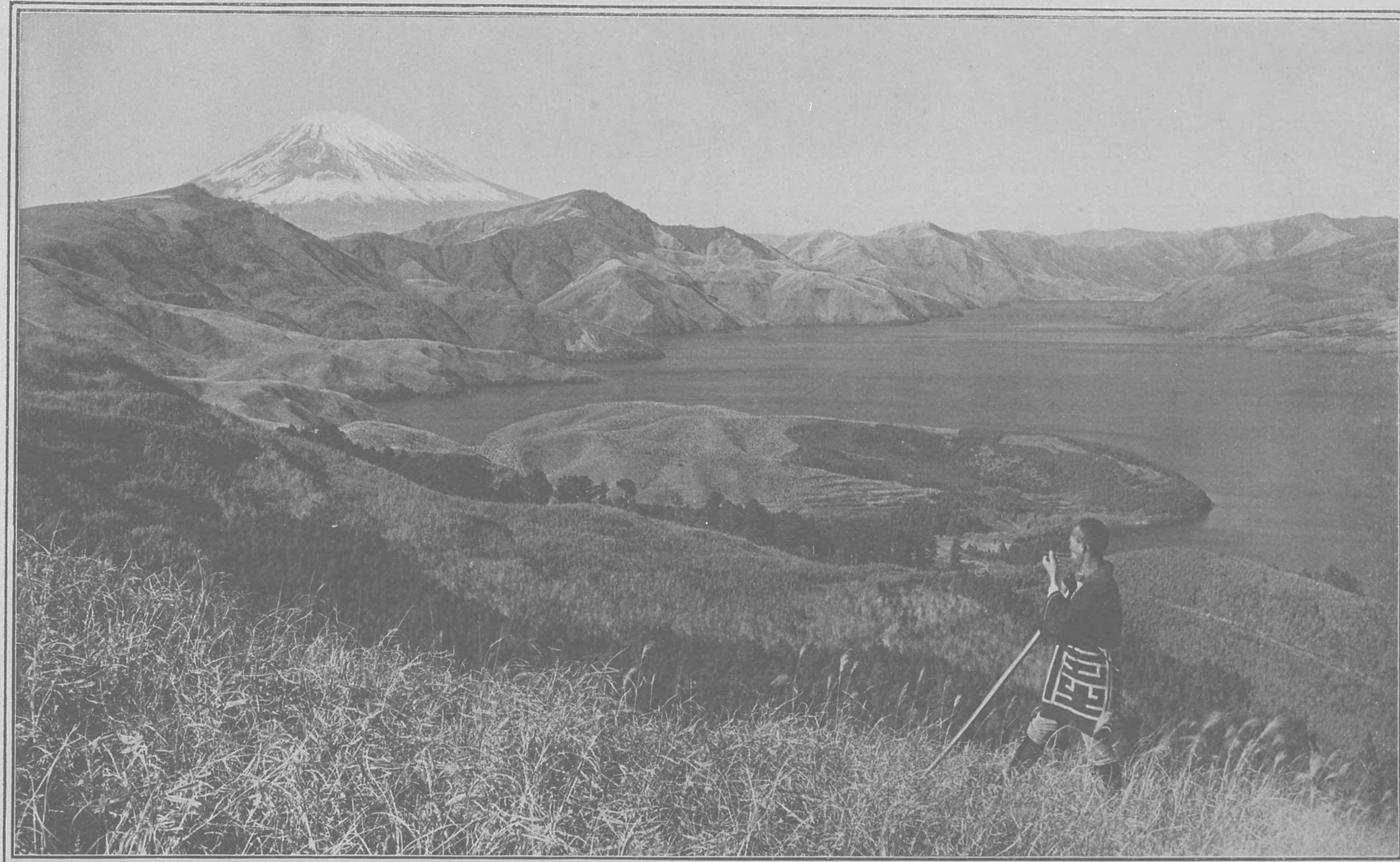
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FUJI FROM LAKE MOTOSU.

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笠 富 士

"KASA FUJI" OR FUJI'S UMBRELLA.

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朝 の 富 士

FUJI AT SUNRISE. COPYRIGHT.



夕 陽 下 の 富 士

FUJI AT SUNSET.

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精進湖の倒富士

FUJI MIRRORED IN SHOJI LAKE.

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白糸瀧より見たる富士

FUJI FROM THE SHIRA-ITO WATERFALLS.

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中鞍峠より見たる富士

FUJI FROM NAKANOKURA-TOGE.

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本須湖畔老松の間より富士山を望む

FUJI THRO' THE PINES OF LAKE MOTOSU.

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富士山之白糸瀧

FUJI AND THE SHIRAITO WATERFALL.

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富士の山頂

THE CREST OF FUJI.

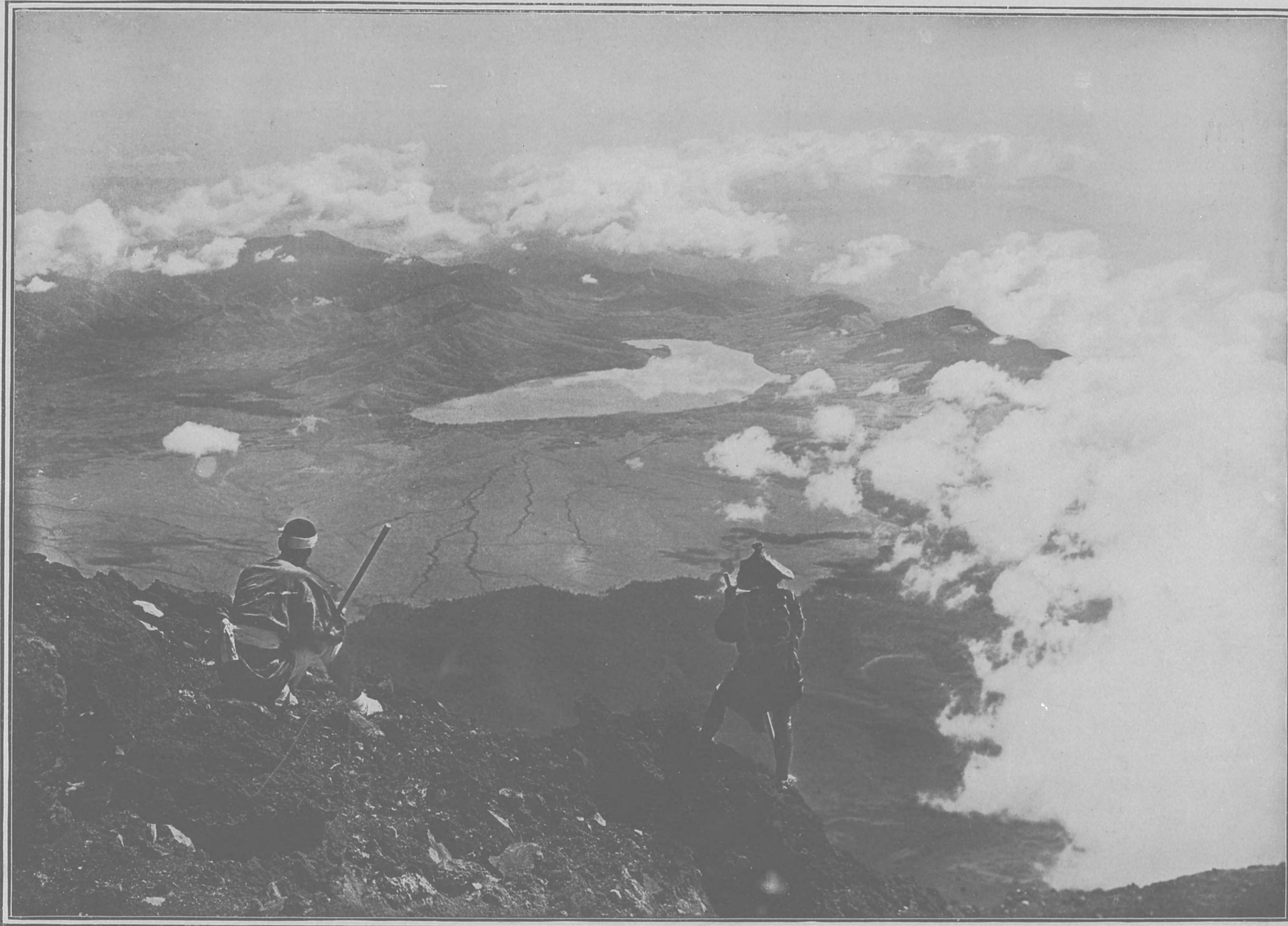
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富士山頂の光景

ON THE SUMMIT OF FUJI.

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LAKE YAMANAKA FROM THE SUMMIT OF FUJI.

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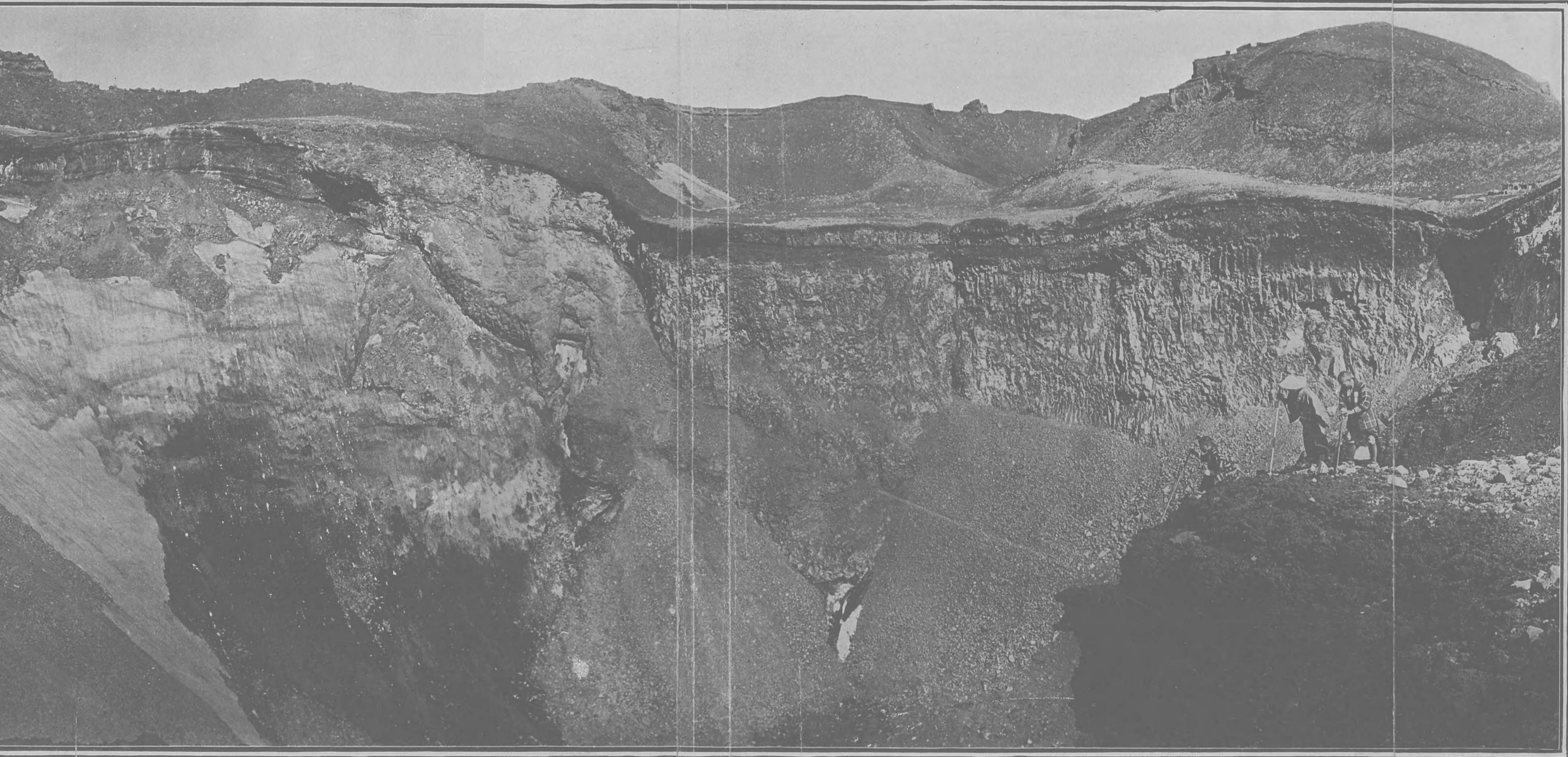
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SUNRISE FROM THE SUMMIT OF FUJI.

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富士山の噴火口



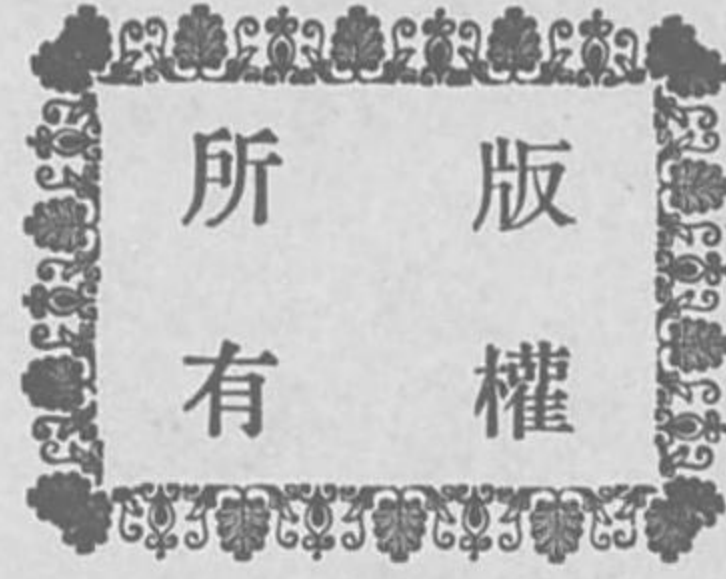
THE CRATER OF FUJISAN.

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