



AAC Publications

Temple of Sinewava, Latent Core

Utah, Zion National Park

In the early 1990s—back when I was running around in romper suits—Conrad Anker tried a big-wall climb on the Temple of Sinewava, just left of the wall's large waterfall. He and Doug Heinrich climbed five pitches before retreating. While rappelling, one of their ropes got stuck. Conrad and I made plans to complete the route and remove that old rope.

Sitting on a ledge, high above the valley floor, Conrad said, "We've done the first five pitches now. Will you lead the next one?" I nodded. Hanging gear onto my harness, I prepared to start up virgin terrain. With a mix of free climbing and all kinds of aid trickery, we made our way upward. On pitch seven, the crack we had been following disappeared for a few meters. Conrad was forced to toil away, placing bolts by hand, for several hours until we could reach the crack system again. With rainy and cold weather, the final three pitches took two full days. However, the joy of doing a first ascent together prevailed.

We named our route Latent Core (IV 5.11 A1), a pun that refers to the rope left behind long ago but also to the legendary Layton Kor.

– David Lama, Austria

Images



David Lama leads while Conrad Anker belays on Latent Core (IV 5.11 A1).



David Lama leads a traversing pitch.



David Lama juggling lines on Latent Core (IV 5.11 A1) as a waterfall flows freely behind him.



David Lama and Conrad Anker prepare for another lead.



David Lama leads thin face climbing while Conrad Anker belays.

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