

= King of the Hill (The Simpsons) =

" King of the Hill " is the twenty @-@ third episode in the ninth season of the American animated television series The Simpsons . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on May 3 , 1998 . It was written by John Swartzwelder and directed by Steven Dean Moore , and guest stars Brendan Fraser and Steven Weber . The episode sees Homer trying to climb a large mountain to impress Bart after he humiliates him at a church picnic with his lack of fitness .

= = Plot = =

After his obesity embarrasses Bart at a church picnic , Homer attempts to lose weight . He soon discovers Power Sauce , an energy bar which he starts to eat regularly .

At a gym , Homer meets Rainier Wolfcastle who becomes his fitness coach . In two months , Homer is healthier and reveals what he has been doing to his family . At the gym , Rainier is being asked by two Power Sauce representatives to climb the tallest mountain in Springfield , " The Murderhorn " , as a publicity stunt . When Rainier refuses , Homer takes on the challenge .

He is aided by two Sherpas as guides , who were instructed to drag Homer up the mountain as he sleeps . During one of these nights , Homer wakes up to discover that he is being secretly dragged , and fires the two Sherpas . Homer soon makes it to the summit and plants a flagpole . Rejoining the crowd , Bart is proud of Homer .

= = Production = =

The episode was pitched and written by John Swartzwelder . The writing staff had to find a new angle for Homer 's weight problems , as the idea had been used several times before . This was emphasized in this episode when Marge does not seem to care that Homer is going to try to lose weight again .

In the scenes where the Sherpas were speaking , the show staff went to great lengths to find translations . Originally , the producers of the film adaption of the book Into Thin Air were contacted to help . The film producers were shocked at the trouble the Simpsons staff were going to , and replied that they had simply made up translations in the film . The staff then had to consult various experts by telephone .

= = Cultural references = =

The mountain Homer must climb , the Murderhorn , is a reference to the mountain Matterhorn , which is located in the Swiss Alps .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " King of the Hill " finished 23rd in ratings for the week of April 27 ? May 4 , 1998 , with a Nielsen rating of 9 @.@ 4 , equivalent to approximately 9 @.@ 2 million viewing households . It was the fourth highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network that week , following The X @-@ Files , King of the Hill , and Ally McBeal .

The authors of the book I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide , Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood , thought well of the episode , stating : " A quite charming little adventure in which , in an effort to impress Bart , Homer undertakes a dangerous adventure and comes through successfully . It 's nice because just for once , to all intents and purposes , Homer actually succeeds in something . "