**RIGHTEOUS CONDEMNATION *200m, ‘24 A2’***

**A WILD ROUTE IN DU TOIT’S KLOOF PASS, WESTERN CAPE**

***HILTON DAVIES***

**Approach:** Pull off the N1 freeway at the Rawsonville turn off on the north side of the road. Park next to a gate with Eskom signage.

Walk or cycle one or two kilometres along the flat track that doubles back up the Du Toit’s Kloof towards an Eskom mast. Reach a point where big power lines cross the track. A hundred metres or so further find a 1m-high rock wall a little upslope of the track. Bushes behind the wall are a great place to leave bicycles. From this point head up the slope angling to the left to intersect a small, dry river bed. After walking up the river bed for about 30 minutes you get your first view of the rock face up a side-valley to the right. Leave the river bed to the right and head up the steep slope directly towards the big face, else better still, scramble the dry water course to the right of the steep slope until high up then leave it and go up to the left to the rock face. Important note: this water course heads up and rightwards into a nek between the main face and a big buttress that shields a view of the car park. It is this water course that is the descent route, so this is a handy place to leave stuff (water, food, etc) to be collected on the way down.

**Start:** The route starts directly below the biggest, most over-hanging part of the face. The lower 40% of the wall is vertical grey rock. Above that it is fearsome, dark-brown in the centre, while left and right of it the rock is bright orange. The route climbs through the brown rock. At the base of the wall find some nice trees where the face starts off with five to ten metres of overhanging orange rock. The route starts towards the right end of the steep orange bit of wall and is marked by a beacon.

**Pitch 1 20m 22:** Get off the ground at the beacon and climb up to the obvious rail 4m up. Head right for a couple of metres then up onto grey rock. Continue up, trending slightly left, to a roof with cascading creepers. Stance on a ledge to the left of the creepers.

**Pitch 2 20m 18:** From the left of the ledge head directly up until reaching a big ledge to stance.

**Pitch 3 40m 19:** Walk a few metres to the right then climb up to the break that goes through the small roof 6m up. Once over the break do an easy 30m traverse to the left to a point where you can see a small tree in the dihedral above.

**Pitch 4 25m 19:** Climb up easily to the tree then pass it to the left. Traverse right and clamber over the tree. Climb the very aesthetic hand crack above to reach the big Breakfast Ledge.

**Pitch 5 20m 20:** At the back of the Breakfast Ledge climb the excellent crack straight up, then a metre or two to the right to bypass a roof, then straight up again to a huge roof. While pressed up against the huge roof, awkwardly traverse to the right for 5m to reach a decent stance supplemented with a bolt (This is a rap-line leading to another bolt 50m straight down –above the second pitch).

**Pitch 6 30m 22 (A2):** Down a big bottle of brave, with a splash of commitment added, to take on the huge Roof Pitch. Stretch out to a piton, then a bolt, then make some difficult aid moves on cams to reach another bolt. Down a bigger bottle of brave and commit to free-climbing. Make a couple of moves on the face to the right then take the steeper line to the left that has some reasonable hidden holds. Get established above the overhanging stuff then head up and right to some good rails. Head up and right up an obvious fault line using the arête on its right to reach a small ledge with a stance on the right.

**Pitch 7 25m 24:** The Spikes Pitch – it only gets wilder. From the stance climb up a few metres then right to the obvious crack through the steep bulge to get to the spikes. Without pulling on the tempting spikes, get over the bulge and head up to the roof. Traverse right to get around the roof then step back across above it. Climb up slightly leftwards to get into a recess capped by a roof. Climb directly through and above the little roof cap, then a few metres to the left to reach a stance.

**Pitch 8 40m 23:** Now for the toughest pitch – the Bat Pitch. Climb up to the big roof then rail right to get around it. Pull hard and high to a non-returnable lay-away. Climb up to the left to reach a cave-like overhang. Move left and balance up. Step out airily and up a steep arête. Go up and left through an overhanging break to get onto a big grassy ledge with a stance at the back.

**Pitch 9 25m 15:** Scramble up the obvious easy gully to stance on the summit (with pride and relief!).

**Descent:** Walk right trending downwards for a few hundred metres following big beacons. Then straight down a shallow rocky valley for a few hundred metres following beacons until reaching the nek between the main part of the mountain and the big protruding buttress (as mentioned in the Approach). Turn right into the nek and down the other side towards the wall. Follow beacons down the steep slope between waboom trees until a point where it is necessary to traverse right into the watercourse and across it to the slope on the other side. Go down the slope for 40m then back into the watercourse and continue down to your water stash then return the way you came.

**First ascent:** Guy Paterson-Jones and Hilton Davies, 22 February 2015.