



The Caravan White of Gold

MICHAEL BENANAV

A 1,600 km odyssey through the Sahara desert

Dear Editor:

Writer and photographer, Michael Benanav, embarks on what *The New York Times* calls “a stupendous and harrowing journey” through the Sahara Desert to get a glimpse of an ancient way of life that is fast disappearing. This 1,600 kilometer odyssey, by foot and as part of camel caravan, through what the nomads of the desert call “The Land of Terror,” follows an age-old trade route for transporting gleaming slabs of solid rock salt from mines deep in the desert to the market in Timbuktu. Once literally worth its weight in gold, which gives the caravan its name, the salt today is worth just pennies a pound, but men still risk their lives to haul it and sell it.

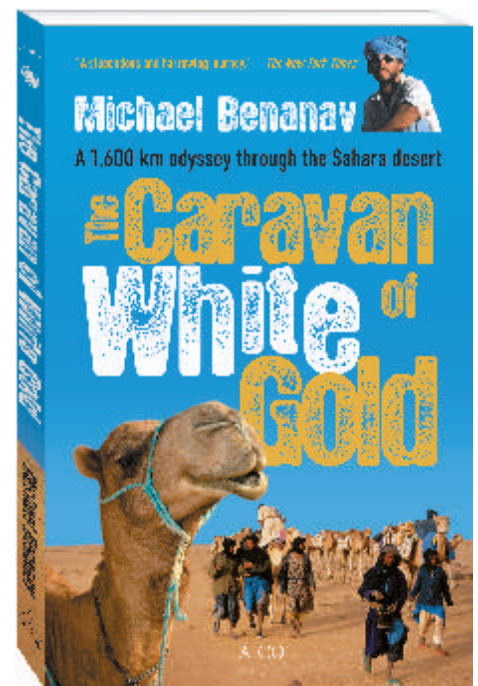
Benanav lived for weeks among the camel drivers as they traveled 18 hours a day for nearly six weeks, through sandstorms and searing heat. Along the way, he learned how to care for and ride camels, became a medic to injured salt miners, encountered an Islamic culture in which men —not women— veil their faces, and grappled with the dilemmas of cultural extinction created by the ever-spreading impact of globalization.

This rare work, evocatively and beautifully written, takes readers beyond their imaginations into culture at its rawest. *The Caravan of White Gold* is a revelation, introducing an important new voice to the tradition of travel literature.

Michael Benanav is an American writer and photographer for *The New York Times*, *Lonely Planet*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and other publications. Some of his articles and photo essays, including one for Britain’s *Geographical magazine*, have documented the challenges facing nomadic tribes in India, and life along the LoC in Kashmir’s Gurez Valley.

I do hope you will review this book in your publication. Do feel free to contact me for any questions that you may have for the author.

Best Regards,
Akash Shah
Publisher



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