

DESERT QUEST

My Travels through the World's Sand Deserts

„In a desert you are the loneliest person in the world – but also the richest

Bruno Baumann reveals his sensational expeditions into the deserts of Africa and Asia. If crossing the Takla Makan with a camel caravan or going through the Gobi alone by foot or travelling from Chad to Egypt across the Sahara the author always combines his personal adventures with a profound knowledge of the respective culture. He tells us about exciting encounters with the desert tribe of the Tubu, of running dry rivers, of blooming oases and centuries-old treasures. When reporting of this border-adventure in the desert he vividly and insistently finds a balance between beauty and horror, richness of life and sparseness, fascination and total exposition.

"The world had been reduced to two elements only: The sand and the sky above." Through decades the modern explorer, photographer and film-maker Bruno Baumann roams through tremendous natural landscapes captivated by the great silence. He experienced the sand and mountain deserts of the earth with such intensity as hardly any other European. In the frightful desert of death, the Takla Makan, Bruno Baumann – the "Schliemann of the 21st century" (*The Spiegel*) - started searching for the historic traces of the mysteries of the ruins of Kara-dong and found a "Pompeii of the desert": A sand buried ruined city from the ancient times of the Silk Road. For him and his companions the expedition into the Tibesti-mountains ends in a dramatic desert odyssey. In the Gobi desert he succeeded to cross the sandy heart of this desert with the highest dunes in the world totally on his own what no one had ever done before.

This book is a résumé of a long journey of experiences and gives answers to the question why human beings have always been fascinated by the desert.