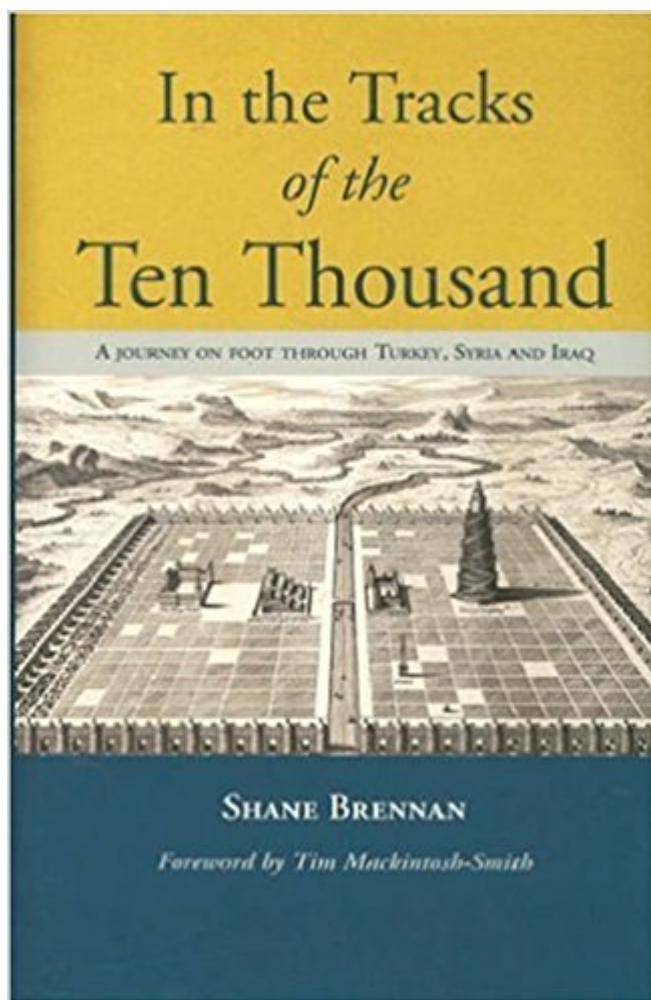


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In The Tracks Of The Ten Thousand: A Journey On Foot Through Turkey, Syria And Iraq [Import] [Hardcover]



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Book Information

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: Robert Hale Ltd (October 31, 2005; First Edition edition (2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0709078854

ISBN-13: 978-0709078852

Package Dimensions: 9.2 x 6.3 x 1.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,689,763 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #60 in Books > Travel > Middle East > Iraq #85 in Books > Travel > Middle East > Syria #821 in Books > Travel > Asia > Turkey > General

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This book follows the journey of a pleasant nut-case, Shane Brennan, who for a reason I could not ascertain, decided to walk across vast stretches of desert to follow the army of Greeks going to attack Persia thousands of years ago. The history is fairly interesting. Also it's fairly interesting to find out how the different groups of people he encounters react to this European walking thru their desert. Mostly they're incredibly nice and friendly which is most heartening to hear. They drag him inside their houses for food and tea and to give him a place to sleep. Things fall seriously apart when he gets to Iraq. All of which sounds interesting except the author's writing skills leave much to be desired. For instance when he gets to Iraq he meets a man named Abdullah from Somalia. The author says it was worth the whole journey just to get to know Abdullah. Terrific! I'm waiting

expectantly to find out what's so good about Abdullah. Is he smart, funny, wise, eloquent, anything at all? Unfortunately we don't find out a thing about Abdullah. The author even returns to Iraq at great personal risk after the war starts in 2003 just to see how Abdullah and his friends are doing. Why? we don't find out. I like to learn about history and I like to learn about nut-cases and I like to hear about societies of which I know little (the desert dwellers of Turkey, Syria and Iraq). But this one wasn't really worth the trouble.

Great writer Shane

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