

“ Like so many other modern seekers of adventure, Mr. Skolle wanted to do something difficult which had never been done before by a Western, educated man. He wanted to journey from the Taoudeni saltpans, where the temperature rises to 127° F in the shade (...) to Timbuctoo, 500 miles due south on the edge of the Sudan and the Niger River. And he wanted to do it as a member of the annual salt caravan. (...) One day the *azalai* marched from 8 in the morning until 11 at night without food or rest. Camels died of exhaustion and men faded away from lack of adequate food and rest. Mostly the land was empty, just sand and gravel. ”

