



FROM THE LION'S MOUTH

A Journey Along the Indus

By Iain Campbell

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"I came to see how closely the Indus River is involved with Pakistani religious life and how this has been true for thousands of years. I took four months to make this trip and was able to travel slowly... It became apparent to me as I travelled and developed personal friendships that the image of Pakistan that we are often fed by the media is distorted. I found the Pakistanis to be the most hospitable people I have ever met, to the point where I would have to allow time on my walks in the mountains for the delay caused by sitting down to tea and chapatti in every settlement."

From The Lion's Mouth is Iain Campbell's engrossing account of following the course of the Indus River from its mouth in the mudflats of Karachi in Pakistan through the Karakorum, Kashmir and the Himalayas to its source in Ladakh on the Indian side of the Tibetan plateau, where it springs from the 'Lion's Mouth' on Mount Kailash. Insightful, honest and heartfelt, it challenges the perceptions of an often misunderstood part of the world, a place which combines a rich religious heritage with spectacular scenery.

Over the course of his journey, Campbell is exposed to all sides of local life, from a Sufi shrine attended by crocodiles to a Pathan magic man competing with Saudi sponsored Wahabi clerics in the Swat Valley, a near meeting with the fairies of the 'killer peak' Nanga Parbat, a festival for the tiny Hindu minority community on a river island and the temple of a three-year-old Buddhist lama on the edge of the Tibetan plateau.

Blending travelogue, history, religion and politics, *From The Lion's Mouth* is a fascinating and timely portrait of Pakistan and its people. Through all Iain Campbell's wanderings of the deserts and mountains of Asia, it's a country that kept drawing him back. It is also a book about the transformative experience of the journey and the pleasures of meandering solo and slowly through landscape that rises from desert plains to Himalayan peaks.

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ABOUT IAIN CAMPBELL

Iain Campbell has been fascinated by mountains for as long as he can remember and has travelled widely in the mountains of his home country of Scotland and further afield. He studied history at Oxford University where he specialised in medieval religious history. In 2002 he decided to combine these interests by travelling to the holy mountains of Asia. His first book, *With Unblest Feet*, tells the story of a journey among the mountain pilgrims of the Silk Road. His second book, *From the Lion's Mouth*, is about Pakistan, a country which combines a rich religious heritage and some of the most spectacular mountains in the world. It is the account of a slow journey through this mesmerizing country in 2004, following the Indus River from its mouth near Karachi through the Punjab and Kashmir to the Tibetan Plateau where the river finds its source. He lives with his family in Edinburgh and continues to travel frequently to Asia.

**To request a review copy, arrange an interview or for further information,
please contact Sam Evans on sam@readmedia.co.uk or 07952 761617.**