

# Tahir Shah Quotes

*Travel, Journey, Fear, Men, Cities, Real, Country, Believe, Imagination, Father,  
Long, Blood, Home, India, Way, Book, Team, Doe, Stories, Important*

With an enthusiastic team you can achieve almost anything.

~Tahir Shah

Enlightenment, and the death which comes before it, is the primary business of Varanasi.

~Tahir Shah

A journey, I reflected, is of no merit unless it has tested you.

~Tahir Shah

Respect was one thing. Survival was another. It was important that I kept my priorities in the right order.

~Tahir Shah

Where does one go in a tremendous city like Calcutta to find insider information? I recalled India's golden rule: do the opposite of what would be normal anywhere else.

~Tahir Shah

Calcutta's the only city I know where you are actively encouraged to stop strangers at random for a quick chat.

~Tahir Shah

I believe that Marrakech ought to be earned as a destination. The journey is the preparation for the experience. Reaching it too fast derides it, makes it a little less easy to understand.

~Tahir Shah

My father used to say that stories are part of the most precious heritage of mankind.

~Tahir Shah

Contemplation is a luxury, requiring time and alternatives.

~Tahir Shah

Money spent on good-quality gear is always money well spent

~Tahir Shah

Most journeys have a clear beginning, but on some the ending is less well-defined. The question is, at what point do you bite your lip and head for home?

~Tahir Shah

Any man who has ever led an army, an expedition, or a group of Boy Scouts has sadism in his bones.

~Tahir Shah

The forest did not tolerate frailty of body or mind. Show your weakness, and it would consume you without hesitation.

~Tahir Shah

I felt sure we could gain the upper hand by putting ourselves in the mindset of the Incas.

~Tahir Shah

If hot food is the key to maintaining an expedition's stamina, then low grade gut-rot alcohol is the key to sustaining its sense of pleasure.

~Tahir Shah

For my father there was no sharper way to understand a country than by listening to its stories.

~Tahir Shah

The very fact that a Frenchman was prepared, after two minutes of conversation, to be so friendly towards anyone, especially one who had come from England, made me restless.

~Tahir Shah

For me, nature is something you watch on the Discovery Channel, or

on the evening news -- as you learn how much more of it's been savaged to make way for the Blackberry realm that is my home

~Tahir Shah

The desert was bad, but nothing could compare with the horrors of a tropical rain forest.

~Tahir Shah

In India an explanation is often more confusing than what prompted it.

~Tahir Shah

Believe, and what was impossible becomes possible what at first was hidden becomes visible.

~Tahir Shah

Previous journeys had taught me the danger of taking too much stuff.

~Tahir Shah

On a hard jungle journey nothing is so important as having a team you can trust.

~Tahir Shah

These days no one challenges us,' he said. 'And because there is no challenge, there is no reason to work hard. And with no reason to work hard, we have all become lazy.

~Tahir Shah

In India everything has a use and a value.

~Tahir Shah

There can be few situations more fearful than breaking down in darkness on the highway leading to Casablanca. I have rarely felt quite so vulnerable or alone.

~Tahir Shah

I was becoming addicted to Bombay. There was squalor and poverty, but I had begun to realise my good fortune and would never again forget it.

~Tahir Shah

In some peculiar way, indeed, the rules were now beginning to seem quite logical. It was then I knew that I had been in India long enough.

~Tahir Shah

One senses that, in these conditions, no amount of wet-wiping could bring true hygiene.

~Tahir Shah

For me, a journey to Damascus is an amazing hunt from beginning to end, a slice through layers of history in search of treasure.

~Tahir Shah

As a travel writer I've specialized in gritty, fearful destinations, the kind of places that make a reader's hair stick on end.

~Tahir Shah

There's nothing quite like a good quest for getting your blood pumping.

~Tahir Shah

In moments of great uncertainty on my travels, I have always felt that something is protecting me, that i will come to no harm.

~Tahir Shah

Move to a new country and you quickly see that visiting a place as a tourist, and actually moving there for good, are two very different things.

~Tahir Shah

Usually, there is nothing more pleasing than returning to a place where

you have endured hardship.

~Tahir Shah

Once in a very long time you come across a book that is far, far more than the ink, the glue and the paper, a book that seeps into your blood.

~Tahir Shah

Spend sixteen weeks in the jungle and you begin to question your own sanity, especially when you are the one goading everyone else ahead.

~Tahir Shah

The inertia of a jungle village is a dangerous thing. Before you know it your whole life has slipped by and you are still waiting there.

~Tahir Shah

The model of publishing is changing and its happening right now, but most publishers are so frightened, they just don't know how to embrace it.

~Tahir Shah

The Occident has never found it easy to grasp the strange netherworld of spirits that followers of Islam universally believe exist in a realm overlaid our own.

~Tahir Shah

The taste for glory can make ordinary men behave in extraordinary ways.

~Tahir Shah

A little imagination goes a long way in Fes.

~Tahir Shah

Buy a house in a foreign country and, it seems, that anything which can go wrong usually does.

~Tahir Shah

There's nothing like a pack of mules to give one a sense of entourage.

~Tahir Shah

It is almost impossible to overemphasize the importance with which ancestry is held in the Middle East and North Africa.

~Tahir Shah

Explorers like to pretend that they are a select breed of people with iron nerve and an ability to endure terrible hardship.

~Tahir Shah

A man who embarks on a journey must know when to end it.

~Tahir Shah

In Morocco, before you even get to the matter of the sale, you have to coax the owner to sell.

~Tahir Shah

There comes a stage at which a man would rather die cleanly by a bullet than by the unknown terror of the phantom in the forest.

~Tahir Shah

I was no longer troubled when he pulled out a machete in a crowded bar, tried to pick up schoolgirls, or threatened to scalp us, then rip off our heads and scoop out our brains.

~Tahir Shah

The rain of Madre de Dios is similar to that of the Amazon, but there is a petrifying aspect to it, as if it seeks to wound rather than to nurture.

~Tahir Shah

Searching for a lost city is a particularly European obsession.

~Tahir Shah

Previous journeys in search of treasure have taught me that a zigzag strategy is the best way to get ahead.

~Tahir Shah

The pursuit of illusion is not about studying for prizes, or for study's sake. There's no right or wrong, no pass or fail.

~Tahir Shah

To Succeed, you must reach for the stars, and let your imagination find its own path

~Tahir Shah

Stories are not like the real world; they aren't held back by what we know is false or true. What's important is how a story makes you feel inside.

~Tahir Shah

Through bitter experience I have learned that it is best to promise little and then to reward hard work with generosity.

~Tahir Shah

The first rule of an expedition is that everyone should stick together.

~Tahir Shah

On a harsh expedition, there's no space for anyone who does not intend to finish.

~Tahir Shah



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