

THE SHIKARI: A HUNTER'S GUIDE

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The Shikari: A Hunter's Guide by Claude H. B. Grant

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CLAUDE H. B. GRANT

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HUNTER'S GUIDE**

*S. J. Spence
Advocate
Mombasa*

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BY
CLAUDE H. B. GRANT
F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Etc.

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FOREWORD

"In the same way that you introduced me to a love of sport, do, please, write a few words of introduction to my book. Describe a true sportsman."

CLAUDE GRANT.

A SPORTSMAN, to my mind, to qualify for this proud title, must have all the attributes of a gentleman. My old gunbearer, a Zulu, was a sportsman to his fingertips, while many men, who are good shots, fail to reach the necessary standard of temper and chivalry.

The charm of sport lies in the delicate craft with which its various manoeuvres are carried out. The author of the interesting book, whose introductory chapter I have the honour to write, is the very person to explain both the ideals of the true sportsman and the modern technicalities of a big-game shooting expedition; and I believe that few will finish without regret the reading of "The Shikari, a Hunter's Guide."

Personally, I belong to the days of the heavy elephant gun, when the "kidney punch" and the polo player who gives £500 for his pony, were unknown.

I had long given up the shooting of big game when my young friend, our author, was kind enough to induce me to make one last trip (I had just lost my wife) and test for myself whether modern conditions had spoilt my old sport; and so it came about that

I revisited Africa after an interval of twenty-three years. It gives me intense pleasure to recall the delicate tact with which he introduced me to the latest developments of scientific sport. And all done without a twinge to my vanity, or damage to some little reputation which an old native had untruthfully rubbed into our carriers before we started. Indeed, it was with a shock—so gradual was my lesson—that I made the discovery one night, when yarning round the camp-fire, that I had grown to allude to my old methods in much the same sorrowing fashion that one talks of the bow and arrow, armour, and other relics of the past.

I have made (and led) many expeditions in my day, and never have I enjoyed myself more than under the up-to-date leadership of our author. He may tempt me, once again, to shoot, but never to write. I shall therefore now stop, merely expressing the opinion that modern weapons, light equipment, and portable food in tins, have done much to add to the enjoyment and lessen the hardships of big-game shooting, without diminishing its manliness; and to counsel all who have the opportunity (1) to make an expedition, and (2) to pay close attention to the excellent advice given in the following pages by one whom I am proud to call "my young friend." He knows his subject as few know it; and that he is himself a true sportsman, in the best sense of the word, is guaranteed by

"AN OLD UN."