

Spiritual "Des Sabbes"

Once a year the sands of Morocco burn hotter, and during the month of July a savage event is hosted. A race beyond comparison, it has been called "the toughest foot race on earth." Only the bravest of marathoners, cross-country runners and endurance champions stand a remote chance of even finishing. Unlike most marathons of 26 miles, "Des Sabbes" spans 150 miles from start to finish. Five legs covering the 7 day event will test the human heart to its limits. The Moroccan Desert is the setting, and the vast wasteland dares anyone to cross it, exceeding 110 degrees. Dehydration, severe cramping, and severe blistering of every inch of both feet await the contestants. Each night, the runner will drain his blisters and wrap his feet, hoping the Doctor will give them the approval to continue in the morning, many runners will lose every toe nail. Few will finish, this race is far too grueling for most athletes. Many dejected contestants lose hope of completing before the treacherous 4th leg of 50 miles. But, for those who give it everything they have, for those who are willing to endure the pain and suffering... a great host and celebration stands at the finish line.

Spiritually speaking, we will all run the "Des Sabbes" The Moroccan sands may feel like an oasis compared to the trials many have faced. Like the race, only the bravest and strongest will finish. Some will tire along the journey, others give up without even putting up a fight. Many will prefer to become spectators over competitors. But for those who sustain, for those who push onward towards the finish line, a great heavenly host awaits them... with a celebration beyond compare. I'm not sure what trials have presented themselves in your lives, and rest assured Satan will test you with many. But the truth simply stated is this: God gives strength to the runner. So the next time your feet tire, your heart grows weary, or if ever your thirst longs to be quenched; remember where to find Living Water and the reward of the finish line. Think about it.

"Therefore, since we have so **great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us**, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, **and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, **so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.**"

Heb 12:1-3 NAS

In Him, Byron