



RALLYE DU MAROC

THE ESSENCE OF RALLY RAID



Julien Jagu : « It helped me to go by steps »

Interview by Louis Doucet – ASO

Before starting his first Dakar in Saudi Arabia last January, Julien Jagu was keen to practise his riding skills and above all his knowledge of the road book on the Andalucia Rally and then on the Rallye du Maroc. He did well: the Breton ended his Dakar baptism in 32nd position overall.

With a few weeks of distance, what feelings and images do you retain from your first Dakar?

It is above all a great satisfaction and even pride. I remember that we were able to create our own assistance team, which was certainly the smallest on the bivouac. We were there with very small resources, and I like to have succeeded in this way. In reality, I expected to suffer more and that's why I want to come back. I have to continue to face the difficulties.



Your ease once on the Dakar is perhaps due to the seriousness of your preparation...

It is certain that it is an extraordinary race, everything is out of proportion. You have to be prepared to spend such long days on the bike, even if I was not among those who arrived the latest. You can't show up without having done this long work... I started setting this goal clearly for myself back in 2015.

And during the year 2021, you have chosen to go up a gear, starting with the Andalucia Rally...

I did very well on the Andalucia Rally and even won my entry as the best rookie. It was close at the beginning of the week and then I made the difference, finishing 11th overall. It wasn't exactly the desert, I experienced it like a big enduro, but it was my first time navigating and I did well. It allows you to go a little at a time, you could say a beneficial warm-up.

When you took part in the Rallye du Maroc, you discovered another level?

This is indeed a step up, that is to say that we are moving to the desert level! And in navigation, you find yourself in another dimension. It helped me to go in stages, especially since I also wanted to do a personal training course for two days with road-books in Spain, just before going there. In any case, in Morocco, we are really banged up at the end of the day and that's what I was looking for. I really didn't want to arrive on the Dakar with the impression of discovering everything, especially since I am a competitor. And as I am also a motorcycle educator, I think a lot about the way we prepare things.



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