

The Road To Mecca

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part travelogue part autobiography the road to mecca is the compelling story of a western journalist and adventurer who converted to islam in the early twentieth century a spiritual and literary counterpart of wilfred thesiger and a contemporary of t e lawrence lawrence of arabia muhammad asad journeyed around the middle east afghanistan and india this is an account of asad s adventures in arabia his inner awakening and his relationships with nomads and royalty alike set in the wake of the first world war it can be read on many levels as a eulogy to a lost world and as the poignant account of a man s search for meaning it is also a love story defying convention and steeped in loss with its evocative descriptions and profound insights on the islamic world the road to mecca is a work of immense value today

wolfe does an exemplary job of detailing the ceremonies performed at mecca and the reasons behind them highly recommended library journal starred review this updated and expanded edition of one thousand roads to mecca collects significant works by observant travel writers from the east and west over the last ten centuries including two new contemporary narratives creating a comprehensive multifaceted literary portrait of the enduring tradition since its inception in the seventh century the pilgrimage to mecca has been the central theme in a large body of islamic travel literature beginning with the european renaissance it has also been the subject for a handful of adventurous writers from the west who through conversion or connivance managed to slip inside the walls of a city forbidden to non muslims these very different literary traditions form distinct impressions of a spirited conversation in which mecca is the common destination and islam the common subject of inquiry along with an introduction by reza aslan featured writers include ibn battuta j l burckhardt sir richard burton the begum of bhopal john f keane winifred stegar muhammad asad lady evelyn cobbald jalal al e ahmad and malcolm x one thousand roads to mecca is a historically geographically and ethnically diverse collection of travel writing that adds substantially to the literature of islam and the west serves as an excellent introduction to a religion people culture and philosophy santa cruz sentinel

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albert wertheim s study of fugard s plays is both extremely insightful and beautifully written this book is aimed not only at teachers students scholars and performers of fugard but also at the person who simply

loves going to see a fugard play at the theatre nancy topping bazin eminent scholar and professor emerita old dominion university athol fugard is considered one of the most brilliant powerful and theatrically astute of modern dramatists the energy and poignancy of his work have their origins in the institutionalized racism of his native south africa and more recently in the issues facing a new south africa after apartheid albert wertheim analyzes the form and content of fugard s dramas showing that they are more than a dramatic chronicle of south african life and racial problems beginning with the specifics of his homeland fugard s plays reach out to engage more far reaching issues of human relationships race and racism and the power of art to evoke change the dramatic art of athol fugard demonstrates how fugard s plays enable us to see that what is performed on stage can also be performed in society and in our lives how inverting shakespeare athol fugard makes his stage the world

on the author s conversion to islam and travels in muslim countries

from jews to muslims twentieth century converts to islam tells the stories of twentieth century jewish intellectuals and activists and their various and complex reasons for converting to the islamic faith this book opens with a chapter on the work of late nineteenth century european jewish scholars of arabic and islam who evinced a deep interest in islam but did not leave judaism for the sister religion that so fascinated them their work examined jewish muslim parallels and differences and they brought forth the idea that the convivencia the imagined golden age of muslim jewish intellectual and artistic cooperation could serve as a model for contemporary inter religious relations in the twentieth century a new tendency emerged that of jews in europe the us and israel who left judaism to become muslims zionism struck each of these converts as deeply problematic and by becoming muslim these converts understood that they were joining a tolerant universalist religion that rejected what they saw as jewish particularism whether the geopolitical events of the twentieth century confirmed complicated or refuted their aspirations will be revealed in this book s compelling narratives

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