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One Thousand Roads to Mecca: Ten Centuries of Travelers Writing About the Muslim Pilgrimage

By Michael Wolfe



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One Thousand Roads to Mecca: Ten Centuries of Travelers Writing About the Muslim Pilgrimage By Michael Wolfe

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.

Featured writers include Ibn Battuta, J.L. Burckhardt, Sir Richard Burton, the Begum of Bhopal, John Keene, Winifred Stegar, Muhammad Asad, Lady Evelyn Cobbold, 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.



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One Thousand Roads to Mecca: Ten Centuries of Travelers Writing About the Muslim Pilgrimage By Michael Wolfe Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1531557 in eBooks
- Published on: 2015-09-29
- Released on: 2015-09-29
- Format: Kindle eBook

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