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The Sabres of Paradise: Conquest and Vengeance in the Caucasus

By Lesley Blanch



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The Sabres of Paradise: Conquest and Vengeance in the Caucasus By Lesley Blanch

PHILIP MARSDEN: Like Tolstoy's, Lesley Blanch's sense of history is ultimately convincing not because of any sweeping theses, but because of its particularities, the quirks of individuals and their personal narratives, their deluded ambitions, their vanities and passions. THE GUARDIAN: Crammed with truly fabulous stories of fighting and love and violent death . . . this profound and exhilarating book turns the struggle of the people of the Caucasus to remain independent of Russia into a universal saga . . . it is no wonder Shamil had such a powerful influence on Tolstoy and Pushkin. Biography of supreme Muslim chieftain and military leader, Imam Shamil, the 'Lion of Daghestan' fighting in the eastern Caucasus from 1834-59, by the late author and distinguished traveller, Lesley Blanch, MBE. It took six years to complete, with research done in Russia and the Caucasus, including tracing his descendants in Turkey and Egypt. Also a historical narrative, there are beautiful descriptions of the Caucasus — a region of supreme natural beauty and mighty mountain ranges — and the campaigns in which Lermontov and Tolstoy participated. During the Caucasian Wars of Independence, the warring mountain tribes of Daghestan and Chechnya united under the charismatic leadership of Imam Shamil — strengthened only by the desire for an independent Caucasus and their religious faith. For years Shamil defied his enemy, the Tsar, who had taken his eldest son as a hostage to St Petersburg. Shamil captured in turn two Georgian princesses (from the Tzarina's entourage), a French governess, and the children, and kept them in his harem until they could be exchanged for his son. Lesley Blanch's epic account of the heroic and bloody struggles, and her vivid portrayal of the strange and magnetic rebel Imam who became a legend, is particularly relevant in light of the continuing conflict in Chechnya. The great leader and his fiercely proud warriors haunt the Russian psyche to this day. BRIAN ALDISS A book as thick with flavour as roast wild boar, tusks and all. One of the most nutritious books I have ever read



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Editorial Review

Review

"I can imagine no better introduction to modern Russia."--*New York Times Book Review*

"A masterly account of Chechnya's struggle against 19th-century Tsarist Russia, ominously relevant to today's conflict. [Blanch's] portrait of Shamyl, the Chechen leader-prophet, was widely admired and Blanch is still consulted by historians."--*The Sunday Times* (London)

"This reissue ... is to be warmly applauded. The result of four years of research and local travel, this is a uniquely original and fresh introduction to a forgotten world and in particular to that of the most important colonial war of the 19th Century."--Lawrence Kelly

About the Author

A scholarly romantic, Lesley Blanch (1904-2007) influenced and inspired generations of writers, readers and critics. She was a distinguished writer, artist, drama critic and features editor of *British Vogue* during World War II. Blanch was well ahead of her time and prescient in the way she attempted to bridge West and East – especially the West and Islam. In an interview with Shusha Guppy, she revealed that ‘General de Gaulle wrote me a lovely letter about *The Sabres of Paradise*, and I have heard that he said it was remarkable that a woman should be able to understand the battles so well and describe them so vividly.’ The author of twelve books, including *The Wilder Shores of Love*, *Journey into the Mind's Eye*, *Pierre Loti* and one novel, *The Nine Tiger Man*, she died in 2007. Her memoirs *On the Wilder Shores of Love: A Bohemian Life* are published by Virago. To learn more about Lesley, visit her website at www.lesleyblanch.com

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The book untitled The Sabres of Paradise: Conquest and Vengeance in the Caucasus contain a lot of information on the item. The writer explains the girl idea with easy method. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read it. The book was written by famous author. The author will take you in the new period of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or gadget, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can available their official web-site and order it. Have a nice study.

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