

Trickster Travels A Sixteenth Century Muslim Between Worlds

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Great Women Travel Writers
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Commentary on book I: Attica. Appendix: The pre-Persian temple on the Acropolis
A Handbook for Travellers in Algeria. With Travelling Maps and Plan of Algiers
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the man whom historians know as leo africanus author of the first geography of africa was born al hasan al wazzan to a muslim family that in 1492 moved from granada to morocco in this new book the historian natalie zemon davis offers a study of the fragmentary partial and often contradictory traces that this celebrated figure left behind him and a superb interpretation of his extraordinary life and work as a young man al hasan traveled extensively on behalf of the sultan of fez until he was captured in 1518 by christian pirates in the mediterranean and imprisoned by pope leo x then released when he converted to christianity for the next decade he lived in italy as the christian scholar giovanni leone it was then that he wrote his famous descriptions of africa after the sack of rome in 1527 it is likely that he returned to north africa davis describes each sector of this dramatic life in rich detail scrutinizing the evidence of al hasan s movement between cultural worlds the islamic and arab traditions and ideas available to him and his adventures with christians and jews in a european community of learned men and powerful church leaders drawing on all his manuscripts including ones previously unknown davis explores the places and people al hasan encountered and the books that shaped his work we see him studying law and theology in a fez madrasa talking with nomads and merchants reciting poetry teaching arabic to a cardinal in rome creating an arabic hebrew latin dictionary with a scholarly jew in bologna and we see him emerge as an author using arabic genres but writing in italian and latin for european readers davis s work suggests that the experiences and writings of this adventurous border crosser bear witness to the possibilities for connection exchange and even intimacy among peoples living in a divided world and to the many ways that they negotiate cultural barriers and fuse divergent traditions book jacket

this study commences with a simple question how did russia matter to england in the age of william shakespeare in order to answer the question the author studies stories of lapland survival diplomatic envoys merchant transactions and plays for the public theaters of london at the heart of every chapter shakespeare and his contemporaries are seen questioning the status of writing in english what it can and cannot accomplish under the influence of humanism capitalism and early modern science the phrase writing russia stands for the way these english writers attempted to advance themselves by conjuring up versions of russian life each man wrote out of a joint stock arrangement and each man s relative success and failure tells us much about the way russia mattered to england

travel is sacred travel is a quest travel is an escape travel is a passion it is enlightening a distraction a novelty a dream fulfilled it may inspire joy terror longing often all three women explorers and travelers are a special breed some were also great writers recording their cross cultural impressions with stunning vividness blending history myth technology and poetic imagination the 22 courageous women profiled in this book encircled the globe together they form a grand tradition and speak to us today as never before lady hester stanhope 1776 1839 left the comfort of england to wander through the near east never to return home so deeply did she treasure her freedom fanny

lewald 1811 89 traveled through europe and especially italy to record its risorgimento pandita ramabai 1858 1922 traveled from india and lived through western experiences that revamped her ideas daisy bates 1859 1951 irish to the roots immersed herself in australian aboriginals gertrude bell 1868 1926 dubbed queen of the desert was the most powerful woman in edwardian england the danish isak dinesen 1885 1962 made her mark in africa anaïs nin 1903 77 may be thought of as a mental traveler freya stark 1893 1993 knighted by queen elizabeth for her contribution to travel literature lived among the druze of syria and in shades of our own time researched the deadly terrorist group of ancient persian assassins oriana fallaci 1930 has literally covered the world valentina vladimirovna tereshkova 1937 has surely traveled the farthest as the first woman in space a dozen other women who boldly crossed international barriers often to encounter the most patriarchal cultures of their time are focused on in this delightful book a significant contribution to travel literature as well as to women s studies

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for review see jean stubbs in slavery abolition a journal of slave and post slave studies vol 20 no 2 august 1999 p 158 159

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