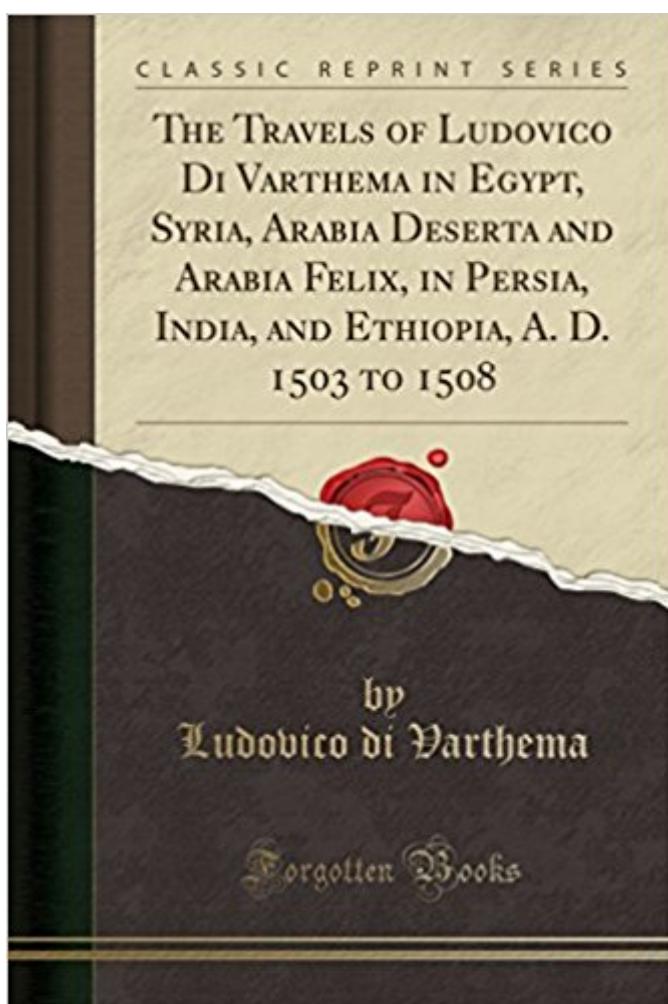


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The Travels Of Ludovico Di Varthema In Egypt, Syria, Arabia Deserta And Arabia Felix, In Persia, India, And Ethiopia, 1503 To 1508 (Classic Reprint)





Synopsis

World travellers and armchair explores will be thrilled by Ludovico de Varthema's captivating travelogue, *The Travels of Ludovico DI Varthema in Egypt, Syria, Arabia Deserta and Arabia Felix, in Persia, India, and Ethiopia, 1503 to 1508*. It contains first-hand observations of pre-colonial Asia in the 16th Century, as Varthema describes the daily lives, religious rituals, eating habits, marriage rites and other cultural practices among the people he encountered. The book contains first-person observations of ancient cultures from a European's point of view. Some of Varthema's stories seem so incredible that the reader wonders about their accuracy. The translator provides helpful footnotes discussing the accuracy of Varthema's observations. The footnotes suggest sources for further reading and help the reader to make up his or her own mind about what is in the text. One controversial story involves Varthema's travels in Siam (modern Burma). Varthema's travelling companion was asked by a local man to deflower his wife, and the companion agreed. Other rituals of Tarnasarri in Siam are revealed, including the tradition which mandates widows be burned alive after their husbands die. Although the translator could not find absolute confirmation of these controversial practices, he does not dispute Varthema's veracity on the matter. Another absorbing chapter discusses Javanese cannibalism. This is exactly the kind of book which is important to preserve. Varthema's Travels provide so much more than the dry history of a textbook. Varthema was the first non-Muslim European to enter Mecca as a pilgrim and his description of the Hajj is comprehensive and richly detailed. Varthema the man is as mysterious as the cultures he visited. Almost nothing is known about the traveller outside of what is revealed by his books. Thankfully readers have his experiences to help them recreate a historical era about which little is known in the Western world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Strict historical accuracy is not required of travel books, since they only portray the author's experience, yet Ludovico traveled fast and went far, even into Mecca and was the first known European to do so. He not only traveled and documented the long and winding road; he traded, as well, and so penetrated the cultures he stumbled into, glossed over, moved through and brushed against. He left no lasting mark on any of them, nor did they cause any essential transformation in himself, yet he was wise enough to look around, ask questions, and feel genuine astonishment, to accompany his almost infantile curiosity, probably the greatest trait a travel writer can possess. His experiences have been translated often and published in many languages, with exhaustive notes amounting to more than half the total text. So seen as a whole the edition does boast historical accuracy and takes itself very seriously. A book both to read and to consult.

The forgotten book society has enriched me time and again. It's fun collecting accounts of people's travels. In travelling through dar es Salaam, it seems that di Varthema at least assumed the role of Muslim convert. I had never heard of him before finding this offering, and somehow, his book remained extant over the centuries.

I did a overall test after I received it and found it is really good, especially its design. I don't know what the words to evaluate the product, everything is so perfect. Just worth every penny, buy it! You Super Compact and Awesome: Exceeds Expectations not very attractive. quality is good. Don't waste your money.

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