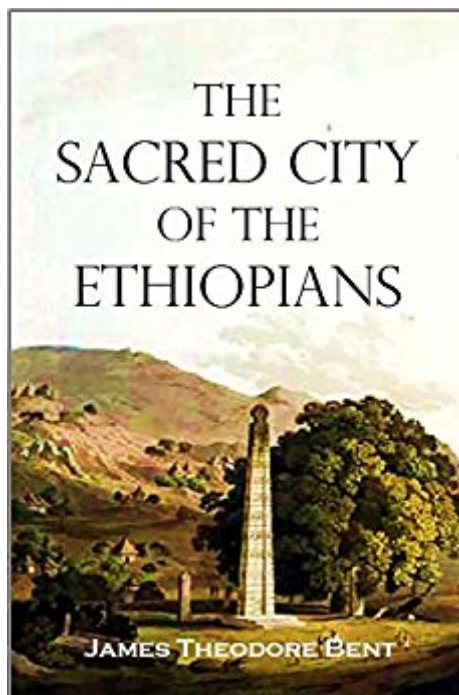


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The Sacred City Of The Ethiopians: Being A Record Of Travel And Research In Abyssinia In 1893 (linked Contents)



Synopsis

James Theodore Bent (1852 – 1897) was an English explorer, archaeologist and author, who in 1896 published the book "The Sacred City of the Ethiopians: Being a Record of Travel and Research in Abyssinia in 1893." In 1893 he investigated the ruins of Axum and other places in northern Ethiopia, which had previously been made known in part by the researches of Henry Salt and others. His book *The Sacred City of the Ethiopians* (1893) gives an account of this expedition. Bent writes: "THE FOLLOWING PAGES stand as a record of a four months' journey, which my wife and I made in Abyssinia at the beginning of this year; Aksum, the sacred city of the Ethiopians, and the ancient capital of the country, being the object towards which our steps were directed." The archaeological results prove of the highest interest, and present us with another chapter in the early history, which research is only just now beginning to unfold, and which will, I feel confident, as discovery follows discovery, place before our view a vast, powerful, and commercial empire, almost outside the limits of the then known world, contemporaneous with the best days of Egypt, Phoenicia, Greece, and Rome – "an empire which extended its discoveries to parts of the world which are now only being rediscovered, and possessing a commerce which supplied the ancient world with its most valued luxuries" – spices, rare woods, ivory, gold and precious stones. These products came not from Arabia itself, but were collected at various centres by the enterprise of the merchants of Sabaea. "The impressions of inscriptions which we took, and the photographs of the ruins, now place the Sabaeans of Arabia by incontrovertible documentary evidence in the heart of Abyssinia as early as the 7th or 8th century B.C., whilst at the same time they show that paganism continued as the national religion down to a much later epoch than is supposed, and that the Judaic influence in that country and the early conversion to Christianity may be relegated to the chapter of myths, as far as this portion of Ethiopia is concerned." I have endeavoured to set out our experiences in the country in as simple a narrative form as possible, giving special attention to the religious observances of the primitive church, which we came across on our way, and the manners and customs of everyday life. "CONTENTS: I. ARRIVAL IN ETHIOPIA II. STAY AT ASMARA III. EXPEDITION TO THE MONASTERY OF BIZEN IV. JOURNEY NORTHWARDS V. ON THE ROAD TO ADOUA VI. THE PORTUGUESE EPISODE VII. STAY AT ADOUA VIII. EXPEDITION TO YEHA AND ITS ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS IX. THE SACRED CITY OF THE ETHIOPIANS X. ON THE ANTIQUITIES OF AKSUM XI. ON THE RETURN JOURNEY XII. THE RUINED CITIES NEAR THE COAST

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