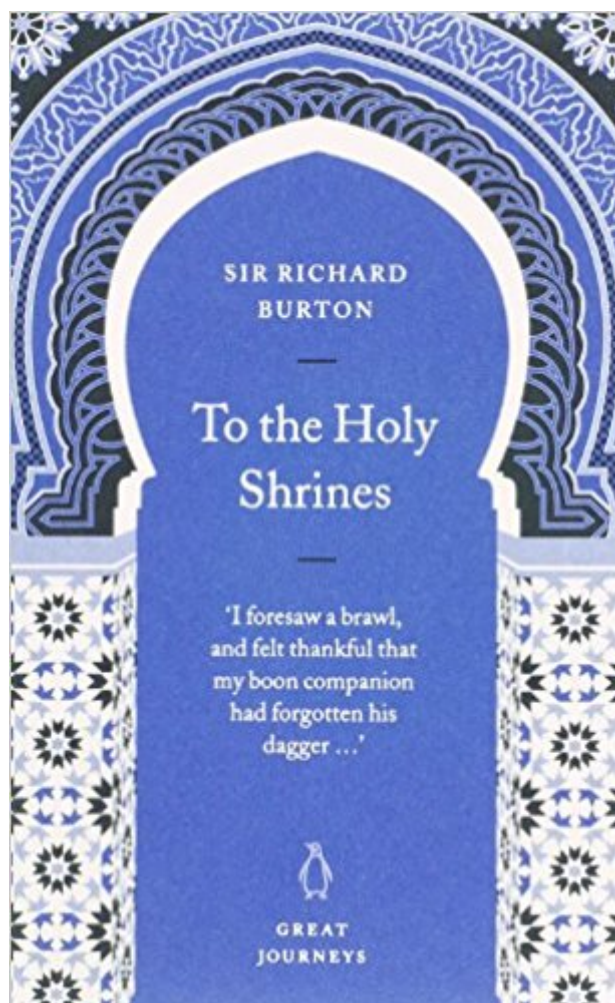


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To The Holy Shrines (Penguin Great Journeys)



Synopsis

Disguised as a Persian dervish, Sir Richard Burton (1821-1890) set out to become the first Christian to penetrate the Muslim shrines of Medina and Mecca - a reckless stunt that would have resulted in his being executed if discovered. Endlessly observant, amused, boastful and engaging, Burton here describes his time in Cairo (including a memorable drinking contest with a ferocious Albanian mercenary captain), his crossing of the Red Sea in a crazily overloaded pilgrim boat and his arrival in the fabled Nejd. "Great Journeys" allows readers to travel both around the planet and back through the centuries - but also back into ideas and worlds frightening, ruthless and cruel in different ways from our own. Few reading experiences can begin to match that of engaging with writers who saw astounding things: great civilisations, walls of ice, violent and implacable jungles, deserts and mountains, multitudes of birds and flowers new to science. Reading these books is to see the world afresh, to rediscover a time when many cultures were quite strange to each other, where legends and stories were treated as facts and in which so much was still to be discovered.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Sir Richard Francis Burton (1821-1890) was a British explorer, spy, linguist, sexologist, translator and writer. He was known for his travels and explorations within Asia and Africa as well as his extraordinary knowledge of languages and cultures.

While "To the Holy Shrines" is typical of Burton's witty and descriptive writing, and this Penguin

Great Journeys Kindle edition is in a relatively reader-friendly format that minimises the disruptive potential of Burton's voluminous footnotes, it is only the equivalent of Volume One of the original three volumes. In this edition, Burton's observations are confined to Cairo and the journey across the Red Sea to Arabia, and at the end of this edition we are still well short of Mecca and Medina ...

Get a hold of Burton's Unabridged Journey to the Holy Shrines Mecca and Medina, this is just a short excerpt. This is the part of the journey that Dougherty was, as an undisguised Christian unable to make. Dougherty's Deserta Arabia and Burtons full account of his travels will tell you much about Sunni Islam and Islam in general. Also read if you can the first chapter of the Koran. Most people who purport to understand Islam have read none of these works.

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