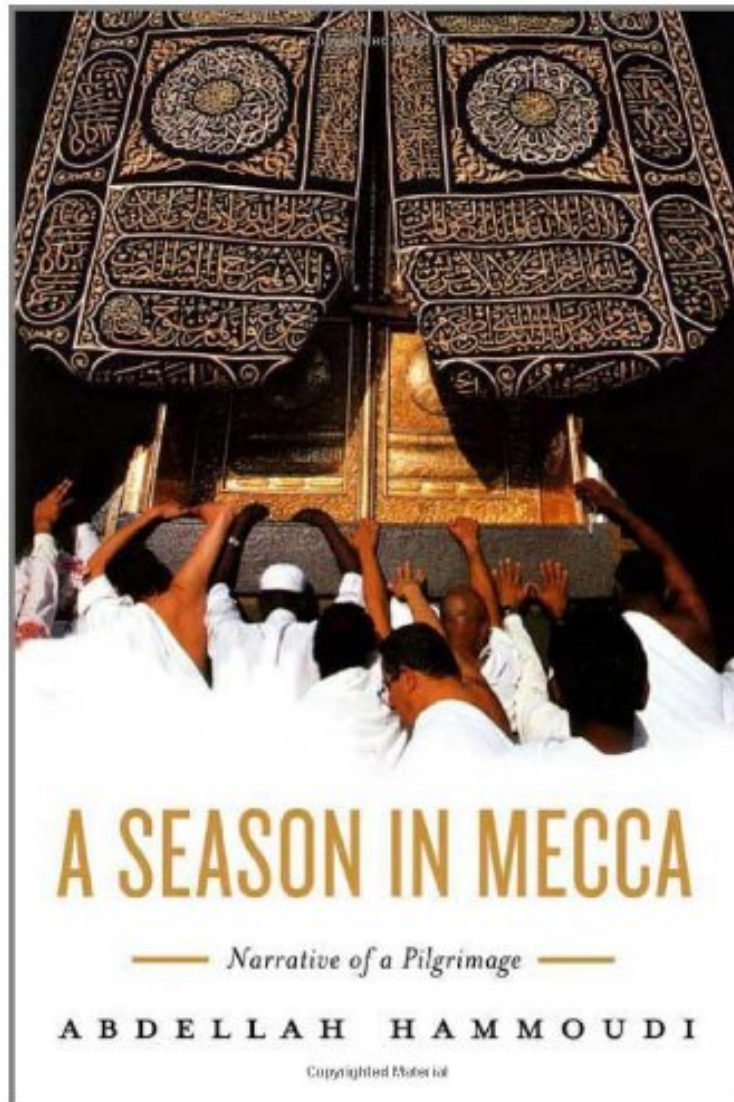


(Download free pdf) A Season in Mecca: Narrative of a Pilgrimage

A Season in Mecca: Narrative of a Pilgrimage

Abdellah Hammoudi

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#1280376 in Books Hill and Wang 2006-01-10 2006-01-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.46 x 1.06 x 5.761, .97 #File Name: 0809076098304 pages | File size: 41.Mb

Abdellah Hammoudi : A Season in Mecca: Narrative of a Pilgrimage before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Season in Mecca: Narrative of a Pilgrimage:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Alimoon Mohamedgood0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Two StarsBy AgnesVague1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Was hell to get through for me because I'm not interested in itBy Danyelle MulinSome people might find this book to be interesting, but I found it to be horribly dull and had a hard time getting through it. He drones on and on about his inner struggle in going on the Hajj while being a (somewhat unbelieving) anthropologist and I found it to be redundant. I learned some

interesting things about the pilgrimage through this book, but I think a lot of the theory was lost on me because I don't have much of a background in it--I would have much rather enjoyed a book which was less him and more experience. It might just have been that I found him to be annoying.

An unforgettable report on one man's hajj--the sacred rite that brings millions of Muslims to Mecca every year

From Publishers Weekly Hammoudi, a Paris-educated professor of anthropology at Princeton University, brings his worldly experiences to the most personal of journeys: the Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca (called the hajj in Arabic). Originally written in French, this English edition is being published to coincide with the 2006 hajj. Hammoudi is eager to explore the academic angles of the hajj, all the while doubting the strength of his own faith. He is constantly tested. First, he must bribe a mid-level government official in his native Morocco several times simply to be added to the country's quota list of pilgrims. Upon arrival in Medina, the city of the Prophet Muhammad, Hammoudi is stunned by the omnipresent markets hawking everything from rugs to suitcases. Still struggling for a religious experience, Hammoudi is angered by the Wahhabi stewards of Mecca and Medina, who police Islam's holiest sites with irrational Wahhabi zeal. Beset with the flu, Hammoudi still circumambulates the Kaaba in Mecca, appreciating the rare absence of gender segregation. Ghazaleh's translation is reminiscent of both French eloquence and Moroccan storytelling. At times, Hammoudi's intellectualism becomes too abstract to follow, but even such abstraction further adds to the mystical, almost surreal, journey. (Jan. 7) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Hammoudi is a Princeton anthropologist whose previous work examined deeply rooted structures of authoritarian rule in Moroccan daily life through a highly accessible, if undeniably Foucauldian, lens. Here, he retains his focus on the profound minutiae of power structures as he examines the hajj, the highly ritualized journey to Mecca required of all Muslims. At least initially, Hammoudi approaches the Fifth Pillar as an academic outsider, fascinated by the rituals of pilgrims and the bureaucracies built around piety but privately conscious of his inability to dedicate himself to only one truth. Yet, without abandoning his academic wisdom--the source of much insightful analysis, particularly about the obstructive and instructive role played by national identity in a ritual celebrating religious unity--Hammoudi cannot stop the circumambulations at Mecca from awakening in him an understanding that does not easily translate into anthropological categories. It's not exactly a conversion story, but it is a tale of transformation. Hammoudi's deeply personal plunge into the subtleties of the sacred and the profane will interest many readers and perhaps inspire some as well. Brendan Driscoll Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "[A] moving and sometimes painful book . . . Mr. Hammoudi infuses this social and personal drama with meditations on ritual, travel, family, state power and the ceaseless desire for global communion, aspects of religious life that have guided the footsteps of pilgrims of all faiths since ancient Egypt. His is a book of surpassing intelligence, humor, sadness and grace."--Richard B. Woodward, New York Times "[Hammoudi's] observations offer readers an intimate, insider's account of the minutiae of a hajj, particularly intriguing for those of us who will never be able to come any closer. Equally engaging are the moments when the anthropologist disappears and Hammoudi surrenders to feeling he can't explain." --Marjorie Kehe, The Christian Science Monitor