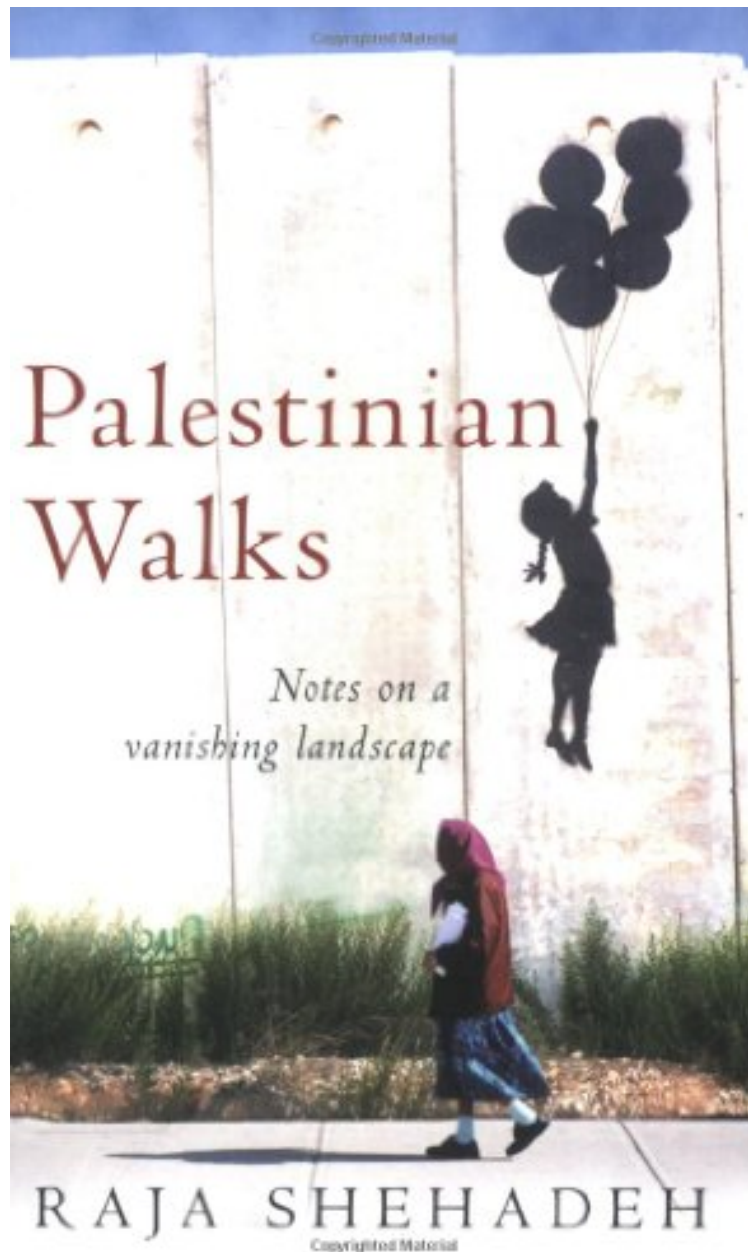


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## Palestinian Walks: Notes on a Vanishing Landscape

*Raja Shehadeh*

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**Raja Shehadeh : Palestinian Walks: Notes on a Vanishing Landscape** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Palestinian Walks: Notes on a Vanishing Landscape:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Palestinian Walks to a discontinued presentBy Aneta MarkoskaThis

is a beautiful book that gives you the sense of the frustration that reasonable and independent people in Palestine must have lived with all these years since the conflict started. It makes you realise that we operate with a one-dimensional and stereotypical picture of the region, its people and their past. All communities are imagined, and they struggle to become real by forgetting the past and inventing a new one. The author has witnessed that process and narrates it through a mosaic of several walks through both space and time of Palestinian nature and history. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. beautiful By book babe The author captures the beauty and sadness of this little-known part of the world. I want to go back and explore now. 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. amazing book By Mary J. Woodhead This is one of the most beautiful books I have ever read. It gives a sense of the landscape and the relationship of life-long Palestinians to the land on which they have lived for generations. This book made me also understand for the first time why Palestinians have rejected proposals, such as those made by former President Bill Clinton, to freeze the status quo. The way in which Israeli settlements intersect with everyday life is made plain without being preachy. This is a great book for anyone who has ever loved a wild landscape, even a damaged one.

Over two decades of turmoil and change in the Middle East, steered via the history-soaked landscape of Palestine. This new edition includes a previously unpublished epigraph in the form of a walk. When Raja Shehadeh first started hill walking in Palestine, in the late 1970s, he was not aware that he was travelling through a vanishing landscape. These hills would have seemed familiar to Christ, until the day concrete was poured over the flora and irreversible changes were brought about by those who claim a superior love of the land. Six walks span a period of twenty-six years, in the hills around Ramallah, in the Jerusalem wilderness and through the ravines by the Dead Sea. Each walk takes place at a different stage of Palestinian history since 1982, the first in the empty pristine hills and the last amongst the settlements and the wall. The reader senses the changing political atmosphere as well as the physical transformation of the landscape. By recording how the land felt and looked before these calamities, Raja Shehadeh attempts to preserve, at least in words, the Palestinian natural treasures that many Palestinians will never know.

Shehadeh does a tremendous job ... one of the most compelling things you will read this summer. \* Scotland on Sunday \* He distills his pain and anger into eloquent prose, meticulously counting the ways he loves the land ... Palestinian Walks is no trite exercise in myth-making or propaganda. \* Sunday Tribune \* Shehadeh is always engaging ... delivering what many activists neglect to mention: the odd, slightly absurd details that really touch people; things that appear off camera, away from news reports. \* Independent on Sunday \* An important testament to political failure, never more relevant than today. -- Anthony Sattin \* Time Out \* A new geography has come into being. This beautiful book is not just a guide to the Palestinian present; it is an Israeli album of what is taking place in a faraway land: Palestine. \* Ha'aretz \* Few Palestinians have opened their minds and hearts with such frankness \* New York Book \* Shehadeh writes beautifully, his language infused with a lyrical, melancholic sense of loss. An important record of a land marked by conflict that is changing everyday \* Sunday Telegraph \* Towards any proper understanding of history there are many small paths. I strongly suggest you walk with him. -- John Berger Palestinian Walks is a stoic account of a particular place, but one which has universal resonance. The judges felt it made landscape into the essence of politics, and political writing into an art -- John Seaton, chair of the Orwell Prize committee, 2008 Shehadeh describes how the destruction of a beloved landscape mirrors the damage to Palestinian identity...lyrical nature-writing with understated political passion \* Guardian \* Palestinian Walks provides a rare historical insight into the tragic changes taking place in Palestine. -- Jimmy Carter This is a beautiful book and a sad one. -- Anthony Lewis Readers... would do well to reckon with the painful particulars of Shehadeh's account, which is at once gentle and angry, resolute and realistic. \* The Nation \* About the Author Raja Shehadeh is a Palestinian lawyer and writer who lives in Ramallah. He is the founder of a pioneering human rights organisation, Al-Haq and an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists. He has published several books about international law, human rights and the Middle East as well as the highly praised When the Bulbul Stopped Singing and Strangers in the House (both Profile).