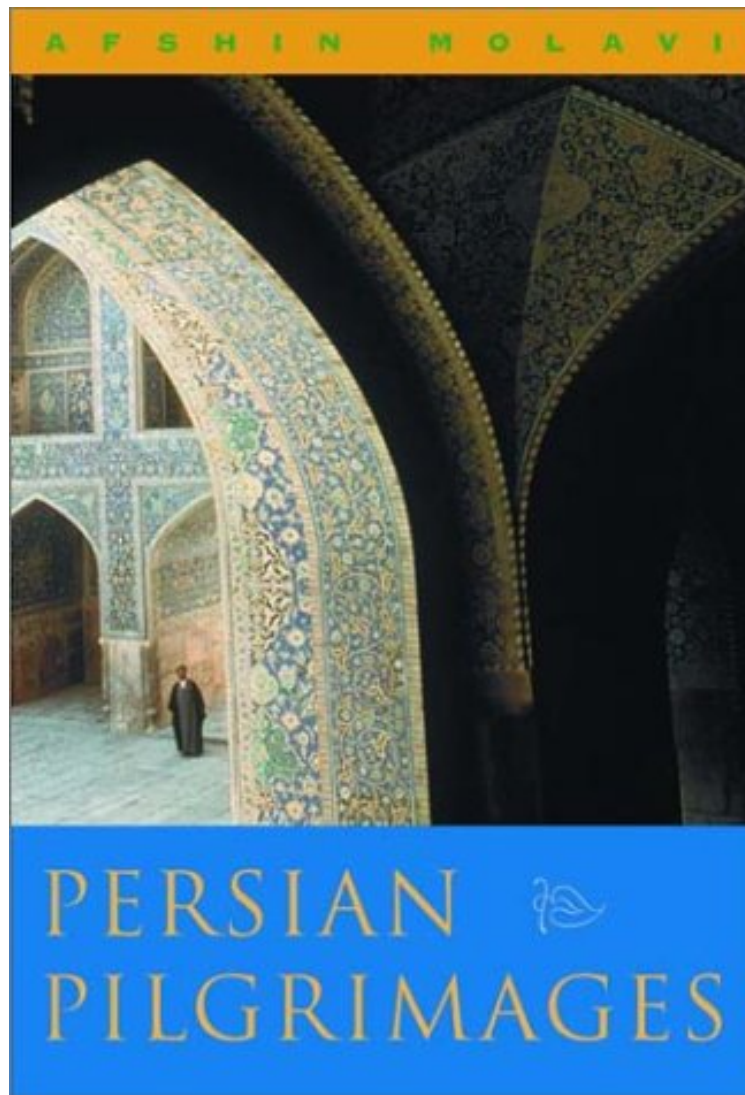


[Read free] Persian Pilgrimages: Journeys Across Iran

Persian Pilgrimages: Journeys Across Iran

Afshin Molavi Ph.D.

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#525072 in Books 2002-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.50 x 1.20 x 6.50l, 1.43 #File Name:
0393051196320 pages | File size: 69.Mb

Afshin Molavi Ph.D. : Persian Pilgrimages: Journeys Across Iran before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Persian Pilgrimages: Journeys Across Iran:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding! The best book written on contemporary Iran.By Sarah TurnerMolavi's work is a wonderful asset to all those who are interested in learning about contemporary Iran. He is a wonderful observer and his anecdotes and insights into Iranian society are truly unique. There is no better book to read if you want to understand Iran's present situation and future proospects. Excellent.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An useful introduction to the culture of a peopleBy Z. AhariAfshin Molavi has successfully

introduced a missing piece to the book market . His book provides a good answer to the repeatedly asked questions: Where is Iran? Who are Iranians? What did they do before the Revolution? These are the questions asked before the Television sets by millions of people witnessing the angry protesting crowds, the blindfolded hostages and the rows upon rows of graveyards showing the fallen in the Iran Iraq war. Millions of Iranians who after the 1979 Revolution have become scattered all around the world also face these questions. Unlike the Irish, The Scots, or for that matter Lebanese and Greeks, Iranians have not been an immigrating nation through the course of the history and therefore have not felt the need to produce introductory literature of any variety. Their history has been told first in the Bible and then by the Greeks and the Romans and later by the Arabs and Ottomans. Except for the Bible, the latter historians have not always been kind to them. Afshin Molavi, although extremely briefly, has tried to provide answers and to put a personal touch to the history of a nation who has always been at the crossroads of the history, changed her name from Persia to Iran and has left her impression on the world affairs. *Persian Pilgrimages* has an easy and soft narrative attempting to reveal deeper realities. I recommend it to those who wish to know more about life outside their own sphere. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. What to Learn from the Past. By A Customer First I heard Afshin on NPR's interview, and right then I recognized how well he knew his subject and how well he could articulate his analytical points (social political). I appreciated this book in a significant and personal way. Away from Iran, one can connect the dots and understand that culture little by little. When you are too close to something you miss the big picture and all one sees is haziness and confusion. As I learn about my past history I feel few puzzles are left about my confusion. I, for one, never learned to read between the lines, perhaps I was too young and naive at the time. I do appreciate Afshin's writing since his book didn't require me to read between the lines. I enjoyed his book, I felt whole range of feelings while reading it, appreciated the depth of his coverage, and his analytical prowess. His book takes no side, and tells it like it is (an advantage of not growing up in Iran, a guess on my part). I am thankful for his work, and thankful that he safely made it back (one never knows who is a zeal/thug until it's too late.)

The truths about Iran quite different truths from versions put forward by Washington, Tehran, and the media. Afshin Molavi, a young journalist and writer born in Iran and educated in the West, traveled his homeland for more than a year, encountering every facet of Iranian society: students of the right and left, bazaar merchants, Islamic clerics, pro-democracy journalists, Islamic hard-liners, reformist politicians, grumbling taxi drivers, urban slum dwellers, partying teenagers, village farmers, handicapped war veterans, and kids hooked on anything western. All opened their hearts to him, speaking candidly about a wide range of issues: unemployment, politics, freedom, religion, poetry, history, the Internet, the legacy of the Islamic revolution, the current pro-democracy movement, Iran's relations with the West, and much more. Throughout his meetings and travels, Molavi wove the tale of nearly 3,000 years of Iranian history through pilgrimages to ancient and contemporary sites, shrines, and monuments, vividly explaining the relevance of Iran's past to today's Iranian predicament. The pilgrimages range from the tomb of Cyrus the Great on the windswept plains of Pasargad to the splendid rose gardens at the Shiraz shrine for the fourteenth-century poet Hafez, the golden domes of Ayatollah Khomeini's vast mausoleum in Tehran, a haunting war veterans' shrine for survivors of the devastating Iran-Iraq war near the border of Iraq, and the European embassy "visa pilgrimages" of college graduates frustrated by bleak job prospects and the social and political restrictions at home. Cutting through the official rhetoric of the Islamic Republic, Molavi adds much-needed context to its political power struggle and demonstrates that the realities of today's Iran are far more complex than if often understood in the West. Through interviews with courageous journalists, students, and pro-democracy advocates who battle an entrenched conservative ruling class unwilling to accommodate popular opinion and numerous conversations with average Iranians frustrated by their deteriorating economy and the conservative stranglehold on power, Molavi chronicles a land and a people hungry for change. Few books have penetrated the soul of Iran both past and present as deeply as this exceptional report on one of the world's most important nations. *Persian Pilgrimages* is a journey to remember. "A rare and important work that examines Iranian society from a grassroots, human level while offering a taste of the grand sweep of Iranian history. I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in contemporary Iran." R. K. Ramazani, professor emeritus of politics, University of Virginia. 12 pages of illustrations and map