Countdown To Mecca

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this book on islam has an unusual perspective it argues that a critically minded examination of islam can help christians achieve a deeper appreciation of the unique truths of their own faith it draws on the author's personal experiences living in islamic countries and his fieldwork with persecuted christian minority communities especially in

pakistan yemen egypt and indonesia it includes the author s own original translations of islamic texts in arabic persian and urdu as well as primary source materials in latin that were written by christian participants in the crusades the author focuses on muslim interactions with the christian tradition he examines and takes issue with the misguided approach of those christians and muslims who in the interests of christian muslim rapprochement minimize theological differences between the two faiths especially in the area of christology such attempts at rapport he writes do a profound disservice to both religions illustrating the muslim view of christ with islamic polemical texts from the eleventh to the twenty first centuries the author draws on hans urs von balthasar and other theologians of kenotic christology to show how islamic condemnations of divine weakness and neediness can deepen our appreciation of what is most uniquely christian in our vision of jesus as god made man who voluntarily experiences weakness suffering and death in solidarity with all human beings both timely and urgently needed the crucifix on mecca s front porch invites readers to reflect on the stark differences between christianity and islam and to appreciate the uniqueness of the christian faith

an indonesian english dictionary

part travelogue part autobiography the road to mecca is the compelling story of a western journalist and adventurer who converted to islam in the early twentieth century a spiritual and literary counterpart of wilfred thesiger and a contemporary of t e lawrence lawrence of arabia muhammad asad journeyed around the middle east afghanistan and india this is an account of asad s adventures in arabia his inner awakening and his relationships with nomads and royalty alike set in the wake of the first world war it can be read on many levels as a eulogy to a lost world and as the poignant account of a man s search for meaning it is also a love story defying convention and steeped in loss with its evocative descriptions and profound insights on the islamic world the road to mecca is a work of immense value today

with this impassioned memoir an american convert to islam lifts the veil on this ancient and sacred duty of making a pilgrimage to mecca publishers weekly the hadj or sacred journey is the pilgrimage to mecca that all muslims are enjoined to make once in their lifetimes one of the world's oldest religious rites the hadj has continued without break for fourteen centuries it is like most things islamic shrouded in mystery for westerners here michael wolfe an american born writer and recent muslim convert recounts his experiences on this journey wolfe begins his narrative in marrakech morocco beginning with the month long fast of ramadan he immerses himself in the traditional muslim life of morocco then in tangier he visits mystics and the american author paul bowles from there he journeys to mecca the sacred desert city in saudi arabia closed to all but muslims though the buildup to the gulf war hovers in the background the age old rites of the hadj are what most preoccupy wolfe his experience

profoundly strengthens his bond to the faith he has embraced as an outsider making it personal and alive at a time when the eyes of the world are on islam the hadj offers a much needed look at its human face

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