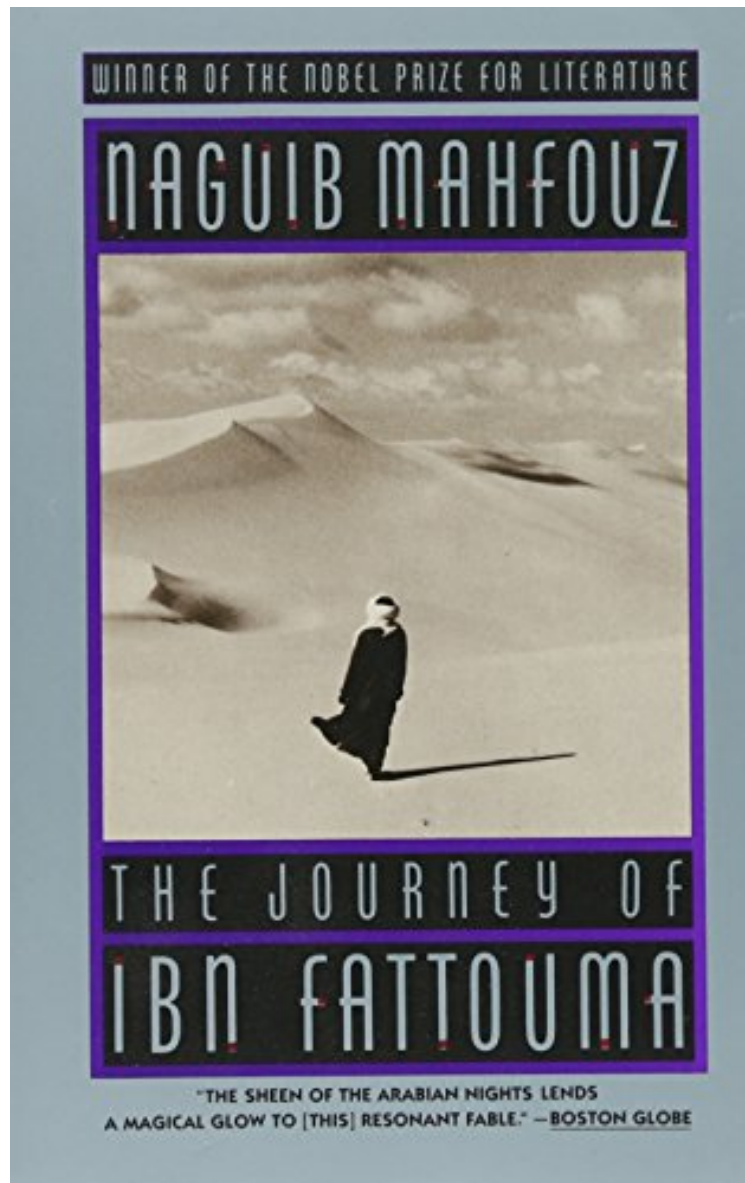


(Free and download) The Journey of Ibn Fattouma

The Journey of Ibn Fattouma

Naguib Mahfouz

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#445117 in Books Naguib Mahfouz 1993-10-01 1993-10-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.99 x .43 x 5.201, #File Name: 0385423349160 pages The Journey of Ibn Fattouma | File size: 58.Mb

Naguib Mahfouz : The Journey of Ibn Fattouma before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Journey of Ibn Fattouma:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I'm a huge fan of this author and would suggest ...By Customer I'm a huge fan of this author and would suggest any of his books. If you're looking for something shorter or more contemporary then you should head over to Before the Throne to learn more about Egyptian leaders. 3 of 7 people

found the following review helpful. Don't start here
By Designing Books
I was excited when my book group picked this title, since I'd never read Mahfouz and was curious about this Noble-prize-winning writer, who many friends admire. But the Journey of Ibn Fattouma was a stunning disappointment: it's a collection of simple morality tales that seem to me, at best good for children or young adults. The writing has none of the artistry of a Borges or Calvino, which was my hope: it feels flat-footed and plods aimlessly along from place to place, a bit like the protagonist of the fables. Indeed, for somebody interested in rich journeys to imaginary places, Calvino's *Invisible Cities* is a far, far better book, a masterpiece in comparison. If you haven't read Mahfouz before, I'd say this is the wrong place to start, at least based on my experience.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. In search of perfection by a great writer
By Koan
The Journey of Ibn Fattouma is an imaginary hourney in search of an imaginary perfect political, social and religious system that we all dream of. Even with a great imagination like Mahfouz he can't even get close to the Utopia he is looking for. He encountered war and injustice everywhere he went. At the Land of Ghoroub which is similar to (Buddhism) her realised that all imperfection resides in the essence of every human being that shows outwardly in our daily conduct with others and consequently breeds hatred, wars and injustice. Meditation or turning our conscious inwardly enables us to discover our pure element and become enlightened. Our outer world depends mainly on our inner realization of our oneness with everything and everyone else, and we don't have to go anywhere to in search of Utopia. The Land of Gebel is the ultimate goal or Salvation. It is upward passage, individual, without any companion or guidance of any kind except your inner light. Anyone could reach salvation like Ibn Fattouma's wife who was from a primitive land, pagan and uneducated only through suffering. The book is simple, easy read, lucid style and a prove that "simplicity is the seal of truth", therefore I recommend it and deserves five stars.

In this provocative and dreamy parable, a young man disillusioned by the corruption of his homeland sets out on a quest to find Gebel, the land of perfection, from which no one has ever returned. On his way, Ibn Fattouma passes through a series of very different lands--realms where the moon is worshipped, where marriage does not exist, where kings are treated like gods, and where freedom, toleration, and justice are alternately held as the highest goods. All of these places, however, are inevitably marred by the specter of war, and Ibn Fattouma finds himself continually driven onward, ever seeking. Like the protagonists of *A Pilgrim's Progress* and *Gulliver's Travels*, Naguib Mahfouz's hero travels not through any recognizable historical landscape, but through timeless aspects of human possibility.

From Publishers Weekly
In this short, intermittently provocative fable, first published in Arabic in 1983, the Nobel Prize-winning Egyptian author of the Cairo Trilogy ponders the question: What is the best way to organize a society? Betrayed by his sweetheart, young Ibn Fattouma of "the land of Islam" begins a journey in search of wisdom. In Mashriq, whose citizens go naked and worship the moon, he marries Arousa, a pagan woman. Thrown out of Mashriq for trying to bring up his son as a Muslim, he next stops in Haira, a land whose bloody king is worshiped as God. Ibn Fattouma escapes imprisonment for Halba, where all religions are welcomed and Muslim homosexuals peacefully demonstrate for gay rights. There he marries a Muslim female pediatrician who teaches him the value of an Islam "of independent judgment." Next the hero visits Aman, a communist state with full employment but no personal freedoms. He never reaches his ultimate goal, Gebel, land of perfection. Mahfouz's pithy parable mocks the hypocrisy of nations that wage war and maintain empire in the name of brotherhood and freedom. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Library Journal
Fattouma is disappointed in love, so he sets out seeking comfort in wisdom. His goal is the fabled land of Gebel, from which no one has ever returned. First, though, his caravan must pass through five other countries, each distinct in governance and religion, and each delaying Ibn for years. Mashriq is despotic, peopled by naked slaves, and here Ibn falls in love with Arousa and starts a family. War separates them, and he pursues her through Haira, a theocratic police state; Halba, the land of freedom; and Communist Aman. Finally, from Ghuroub, where only reason is worshipped, he leaves to enter Gebel, his journey toward perfection almost complete. This novel is Mahfouz's most purely polemical work, directly engaging the issues of religion and politics that have been the strong subtexts of his previous fiction. It is, however, as enchanting a tale as any he has written. Highly recommended. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 5/1/92.- Paul E. Hutchison, Bellefonte, Pa. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Kirkus
Nobelist Mahfouz offers here a slender, magical parable of idealism and compromise through a stylized Middle East odyssey, first published in Arabic in 1983. Thwarted in marriage when his fiance is claimed by the sultan's chamberlain, Qindil Muhammad al-Innabi, called Ibn Fattouma, resolves to go on a pilgrimage to the storied land of Gebel. The tale of his travels is a tale of detours. Passing through the moon-worshipping land of Mashriq, he stays for several years with lightsome Arousa, but is exiled for sharing his Muslim religion with their children. When Haira, a police state where Fattouma has been staying, conquers Mashriq, he purchases Arousa in a slave auction, but again his bride catches the eye of an influential advisor, and he is sentenced to life imprisonment for speaking out against the advisor. Released after 20 years by another war, he travels to Halba--a land of complete freedom that seems a sly portrait of America--and takes another wife; the reappearance of Arousa, though, reproaches him with his inconstancy to his pilgrimage, and he sets out for Aman, the land of perfect justice whose price is total conformity. Increasingly disillusioned in his nation's betrayal of Muslim beliefs, Fattouma follows

Arousa to Ghuroub, where he attaches himself to a holy man who tries to prepare him for the journey to Gebel, but more fighting forces him to press on prematurely, and it is unclear from the ending of his journal whether he ever reaches his elusive goal. What is clear is the simple charm with which Mahfouz dramatizes fundamental questions about tolerance, love, and mortality while condensing a lifetime's worth of experience into 160 pages. Mahfouz is widely considered the most Western of contemporary Arab novelists, but the closest Western analogue here--Pilgrim's Progress starring Sinbad the Sailor--only reinforces the distance between East and West. Still, an ideal introduction to Mahfouz for readers put off by the Cairo Trilogy's expansive length. -- Copyright 1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.