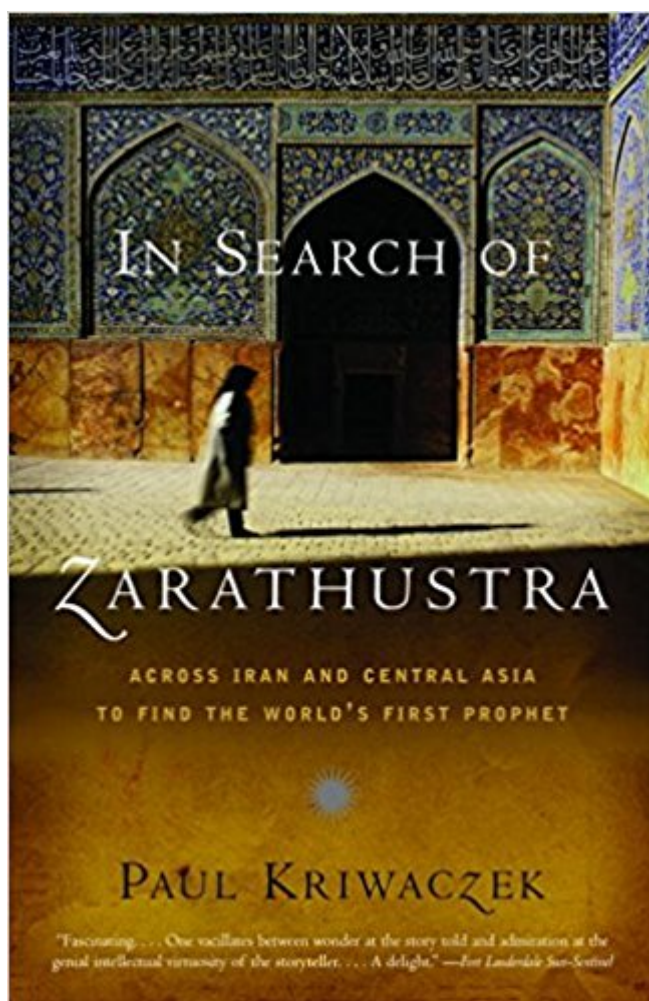


The book was found

In Search Of Zarathustra: Across Iran And Central Asia To Find The World's First Prophet



Synopsis

Long before the first Hebrew temple, before the birth of Christ or the mission of Muhammad, there lived in Persia a prophet to whom we owe the ideas of a single god, the cosmic struggle between good and evil, and the Apocalypse. His name was Zarathustra, and his teachings eventually held sway from the Indus to the Nile and spread as far as Britain. Following Zarathustra's elusive trail back through time and across the Islamic, Christian, and Jewish worlds, Paul Kriwaczek uncovers his legacy at a wedding ceremony in present-day Central Asia, in the Cathar heresy of medieval France, and among the mystery cults of the Roman empire. He explores pre-Muslim Iran and Central Asia, ultimately bringing us face to face with the prophet himself, a teacher whose radical humility shocked and challenged his age, and whose teachings have had an enduring effect on Western thought. The result is a tour de force of travel and historical inquiry by an adventurer in the classic tradition.

Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Vintage (March 9, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1400031427

ISBN-13: 978-1400031429

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (32 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #257,239 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Eastern Religions & Sacred Texts > Zoroastrianism #93 in Books > History > Middle East > Iran

Customer Reviews

The ancient Persian prophet Zoroaster taught that the world was caught in a struggle between good and evil. He believed in one God, called Ahura Mazda, in a struggle with the forces of darkness. He was a theological monist and an ethical dualist. Human beings had the responsibility of working to bring about the good and eliminate the evil. The good would triumph in the end. Zoroaster was one of the first religious teachers to preach the afterlife. He founded a religion called Zoroastrianism which remains one of the fundamental religions of man and, although it has relatively few adherents, it survives today. Paul Kriwaczek has written a fine book which is travelog, political commentary,

history, and study of Zoroastrianism all rolled into one. Mr. Kriwaczek was trained as a dentist but subsequently joined BBC as a specialist in Central and South Asian affairs. It is good to see a nonspecialist who can write on Zoroaster with enthusiasm and knowledge and convey something of both to his readers. The book is written in the form of a reverse chronology beginning with the present-day and progressing through successive chapters to the hazy early days (perhaps 1800 B.C.) of Zarathustra himself. We see many interesting figures along the way, and Kriwaczek is full of entertaining stories and digressions. This mostly makes the book a pleasure to read, but there are moments when the organization becomes confusing and the story gets a bit off track. Kriwaczek spends a great deal of time on Frederick Nietzsche and his famous work "Thus Spoke Zarathustra." He explains well the sources of Nietzsche's fascination with the ancient Persian prophet and he discusses the advances in scholarship contemporary with Nietzsche that helped make Zoroaster accessible.

With the eyes of the news media focused on Iran and its undeniable influence in the Middle East, few have questioned the essential differences between Shia and Sunni Islam and the history that has led the Shiites to consider Iraq holy ground and Iran the center of a new Islamic civilization. When questions are finally asked, one answer rings clearly: Mesopotamia and Persia are the very cradles of western dynastic civilization, Islamic or otherwise. Few human memories or legends are as old as these places. One tradition in particular echoes throughout the works of scribes and cantors: the faith of Zarathustra, the first messenger of the dominion of one Eternal God. The downfall of the Shah of Iran and rise of fundamentalist Islam was America's first national experience of Middle Eastern theocratic extremism. The taking of American hostages in 1979 not only placed Shia Islam in the center of world attention, but also affected American internal politics as it doomed the Carter administration to electoral failure. Many in the West received a crash course on divisions within Islam as journalists, policy makers, and academics struggled to make sense of this new wrinkle in the rich and varied history of Iran. The many cultures, peoples, languages, and belief systems that have crossed the landscape of ancient Persia and modern Iran have come under intensive scrutiny and careful study in the last quarter century. While travel has been restricted across Iran at various times and for various reasons, scholars, tourists, and pilgrims have had opportunities to explore the rich undercurrents of history and faith that lie beneath the thin, but firm veneer of fundamentalist Shia Islam.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

In Search of Zarathustra: Across Iran and Central Asia to Find the World's First Prophet In Search

of Zarathustra: Across Iran and Central Asia to Find the World's First Prophet (Vintage Departures)
Word Search Book for Adults: Word Search Puzzles to Improve Memory and Exercise: word search,
word search books, word search books for adults, adult word search books, word search puzzle
books Word Search Puzzles Large Print: Large print word search, Word search books, Word search
books for adults, Adult word search books, Word search puzzle books, Extra large print word search
In Search of Zarathustra: The First Prophet and the Ideas That Changed the World THUS SPAKE
ZARATHUSTRA OP 30 ALSO SPRACH ZARATHUSTRA SYMPHONIC POEM STUDY SCORE
(Edition Eulenburg) Thus Spake Zarathustra: Thus Spoke Zarathustra Islam Translated: Literature,
Conversion, and the Arabic Cosmopolis of South and Southeast Asia (South Asia Across the
Disciplines) The Prophet Muhammad Storybook-1: Islamic Children's Books on the Quran, the
Hadith and the Prophet Muhammad Sh'ma: A Journal of Jewish Responsibility -- Iran, Israel, and
U.S. Foreign Policy (Iran, Israel and U.S. Foreign Policy Book 39) Warriors Word Scramble: Word
Scramble Games - Word Search, Word Puzzles And Word Scrambles (Word Games, Brain Games,
Word Search, Word Search Games, Word ... Scramble, Word Scrabble, Unscramble Word) The
Best Large Print Word Search Puzzle Book: A Collection of 50 Themed Word Search Puzzles;
Great for Adults and for Kids! (The Best Large Print Word Search Puzzle Books) (Volume 1)
Fingerspelling Word Search Games - 36 Word Search Puzzles with the American Sign Language
Alphabet: Volume 01 (Fingerspelling Word Search Games for Adults) Capitalist Development and
Economism in East Asia: The Rise of Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea (Routledge
Studies in the Growth Economies of Asia) Descent into Chaos: The U.S. and the Disaster in
Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia "Polovtsian Dances" and "In the Steppes of Central Asia" in
Full Score (Dover Music Scores) "Polovtsian Dances" and "In the Steppes of Central Asia" in Full
Score A History of Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia, Vol. 1: Inner Eurasia from Prehistory to the
Mongol Empire Samarkand: Recipes & Stories from Central Asia & The Caucasus The Great
Game: The Struggle for Empire in Central Asia (Kodansha Globe)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)