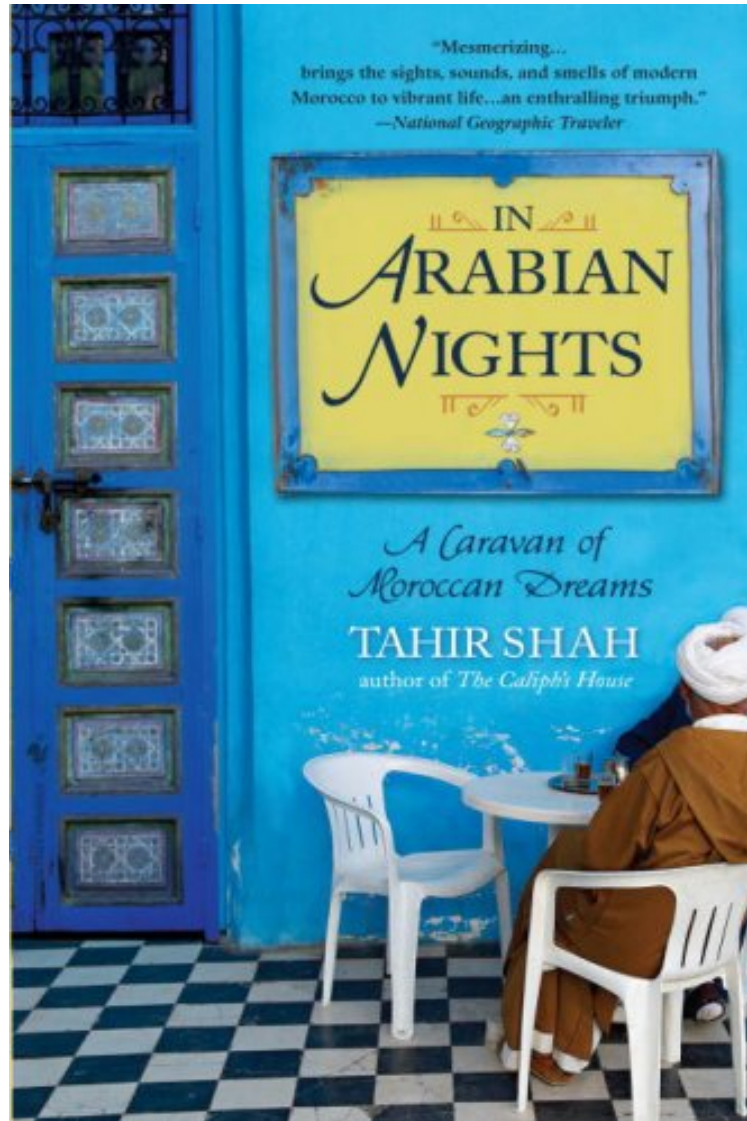


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## In Arabian Nights: A Caravan of Moroccan Dreams

Tahir Shah

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**Tahir Shah : In Arabian Nights: A Caravan of Moroccan Dreams** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Arabian Nights: A Caravan of Moroccan Dreams:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful and deep read. By Kim Hoag In Arabian Nights is a wide-open window into another world, but only because Tahir Shah draws us into himself. He writes with complete honesty, showing in his prose his many questions regarding the acts of life. He is a storyteller, but that does not reflect in his book as a simple story, for the book is much more complicated--and simple--than that. The streams of his story flow merrily only to disappear beneath the sands of some trauma (or jinn); but they bubble up again and again if you

wait for them. He is a storyteller in search of the story in his heart. In the process of looking for that story, he sifts through the stories around him as well as the one he is living, and looks at each...weighing it...trying to know it. It is his awareness that he is participating in a story that makes the book so precious. As a storyteller myself, I admire Tahir Shah's metacognitive frankness, his knowledge of story, and his awareness of the stories pressing against him from both within and without. As someone who has been to Marrakesh, he brought back to me the taste of the tepid water from goatskin bags...and it makes me smile. Like the stories of Joha (Nasrudin), you can read this book on a number of different levels. But if you choose to dive deep, there is much for the soul and the intellect to revel in. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic! By D. F. Clapp I liked this one even better than *The Caliph's House*! This book is an homage to Tahir's father, and it's a beautiful homage. I loved the Berber idea of finding the story in your heart and that Tahir Shah actually took that on literally and went to search for his story. The cast of characters he meets along the way are terrific. I badly wished I understood Arabic while I was in Marrakech as I would have loved to join the circles of storytellers in the medina at night. At least I knew what they were doing, only because I read this book. The stories told in this book were also much easier to read than the original *Arabian Nights* and I appreciated that fact very much. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The ancient Art of Storytelling By farrokh namazi This book reminded me of my grandmother who used to tell us stories, as well and though she repeated them, they took a new meaning each time she told or retold them. A wonderful book, full of surprises, opening the beautiful world of Morocco and its people and at the same time giving us the beauty and depth of the Afghan culture, that of hospitality, and honor through the author's description of his father and grandfather. It is a book that is truly beautiful and brings the art of storytelling, its history and importance to the fore. Through this book, one "remembers" yet again, that art, which is worthy of preservation and handing down to the generations ahead of us. Looking forward to more books from Tahir Shah.

Named one of *Time* magazine's Ten Best Books of the Year, Tahir Shah's *The Caliph's House* was hailed by critics and compared to such travel classics as *A Year in Provence* and *Under the Tuscan Sun*. Now Shah takes us deeper into the real Casablanca to uncover mysteries hidden for centuries from Western eyes. In this entertaining jewel of a book, Tahir Shah sets off across Morocco on a bold new adventure worthy of the mythical *Arabian Nights*. As he wends his way through the labyrinthine medinas of Fez and Marrakech, traverses the Sahara sands, and samples the hospitality of ordinary Moroccans, Tahir collects a dazzling treasury of traditional wisdom stories, gleaned from the heritage of *A Thousand and One Nights*, which open the doors to layers of culture most visitors hardly realize exist. From master masons who labor only at night to Sufi wise men who write for soap operas, *The Caliph's House* takes us on an unforgettable, offbeat, and utterly enchanted journey.

From *Publishers Weekly* Shah continues the story he began in his acclaimed memoir *The Caliph's House*, the tale of his family's move to Morocco, this time focusing on the traditional wisdom stories of Arabia, best known in the West through *A Thousand and One Nights*. Inspired by his family's long tradition of storytelling ("We have this gift," says his father, "Protect it and it will protect you"), Shah frames his search for identity with traditional Arabian tales, but also with the stories of the men who tell them. As such, he creates a bright patchwork quilt of stories old and new, including his own childhood memories, held together by an engaging cross-country travelogue. Shah's habit of frequently and abruptly switching between plotlines, though it keeps the story moving, can be aggravating, and his picaresque style makes it hard to tell where the real adventures end and the tall tales begin. In addition, women are conspicuously underrepresented, especially for audiences recalling Scheherazade. Still, his characters often prove charming, and his stories are steeped in feeling and a palpable sense of tradition. Illustrations. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Intensely felt. Teeming with sorcerers, enchanted animals, jinns, and dervishes. Shah's Moroccans and the shards of their tales create a brilliant literary mosaic. Booklist "Creates moments of wonderment.... And worthy of note, especially in these times, is its illumination of a part of Arabic culture that is gracious, gentle and wise." *Cleveland Plain Dealer* A spellbinding journey from Casablanca to Fez and Marrakech unforgettable Highly recommended for larger armchair travel collections and for collections on the Arab world. *Library Journal* Simply irresistible bursts with quirky characters, Moroccan lore, desert and urban landscapes, odd encounters, an incisively curious and adventure-seeking mind, and a lust for and fascination with ancient tales. *Providence Journal* Mesmerizing brings the sights, sounds, and smells of modern Morocco to vibrant life an enthralling triumph. *National Geographic Traveler* About the Author Tahir Shah was born into an Anglo-Afghan family with roots in the mountain stronghold of the Hindu Kush. Most of his eleven books (in a dozen languages) and four television documentaries have chronicled a series of fabulous journeys in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. He lives with his wife and two children in Casablanca.