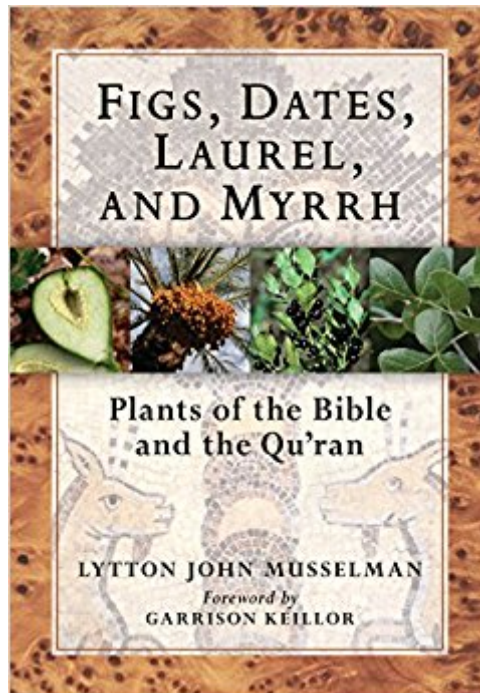


The book was found

Figs, Dates, Laurel, And Myrrh: Plants Of The Bible And The Quran



Synopsis

This book celebrates the plants of the Old Testament and New Testament, including the Apocrypha, and of the Quran. From acacia, the wood of the tabernacle, to wormwood, whose bitter leaves cured intestinal worms, 81 fascinating chapters "covering every plant that has a true botanical counterpart" tell the stories of the fruits and grains, grasses and trees, flowers and fragrances of ancient lore. The descriptions include the plants' botanical characteristics, habitat, uses, and literary context. With evocative quotations and revelatory interpretations, this information is all the more critical today as the traditional agrarian societies that knew the plants intimately become urbanized. The unusually broad geographic range of this volume extends beyond Israel to encompass the Holy Land's biblical neighbors from southern Turkey to central Sudan and from Cyprus to the Iraq border. Richly illustrated with extensive color photography and with a foreword by the incomparable Garrison Keillor, this delightful ecumenical botany offers the welcome tonic of a deep look into an enduring, shared natural heritage.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First, start out reading a rib-tickling introduction by Garrison Keillor. Keillor grew up in the same church with the author and that's an interesting story, Even more entertaining is Keillor's effort to describe myrrh, his reflections on the Song of Solomon(!), and his thoughts on rue! If that doesn't leave you smiling your face is broken! Second, if you have any interest in plants or gardens and the Bible (or the Quran) you will be thrilled with the photos of biblical plants as they are grown, prepared and enjoyed today in the lands of the Bible. Musselman has spent good stretches of time in several

areas of the Middle East, and local folks have joyfully shared their ongoing practices with him. His photos are extremely valuable in their beauty, their ability to set plants of the Bible and Quran in their contemporary setting, and to show us their blossoms, fruit, and leaves in case you decide to create a faith garden and hope to choose other similar plants. Even if you don't have a big interest in Bible plants (as I do) you will enjoy the many, many beautiful full-color photos! Third, if you ever thought about growing plants from the Bible or the Quran, Dr. Musselman gives you a wonderful guide for selecting the plants. Not only does he present an interesting and extremely thorough study of which plants are in these sacred books (Musselman teaches Biblical Botany at Old Dominion College). He shares the process by which he made his choices. Some are identical to the best of his predecessors in identifying plants in the Bible, and some well-argued that differ. Keep us thinking!

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