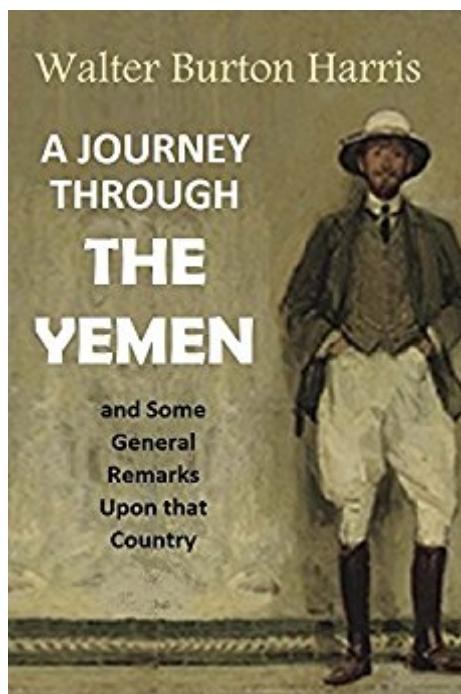


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A Journey Through The Yemen And Some General Remarks Upon That Country (1893) (Interactive Table Of Contents)



Synopsis

"...Even to-day intense hatred exists between the followers of Sunni and Sheiya doctrines. No better example of this is to be found than the fact that when Russia was engaged in a war with Turkey that threatened to be a death-blow to Islam in Europe, not one sword was raised by the Sheiya-professing Mahammedans for her assistance...."A dashing socialite, swashbuckling adventurer, consummate traveler and industrious journalist, Walter Burton Harris (1866-1933) served as special correspondent to Morocco for *The Times* for four decades. In 1893, Harris published "A Journey Through the Yemen and Some General Remarks Upon that Country." "A Journey Through the Yemen" is a lively record of an adventurous expedition undertaken by Mr. Harris into the little known regions of South-Western Arabia. His account of the Yemen and his own adventures therein is full of life and actuality. A better written and more thoroughly interesting book of travel than this, one does not often meet with. The author takes us into a new land and discovers for us new and beautiful cities with a strange Oriental glamour and mystery. A book of travel of great freshness and interest, it breaks ground in one of the few regions of the earth where a little mystery and adventure still linger— a region also which is well worth closer study on political and historical grounds. Mr. Harris, in 1892, when the rebellion against Turkish authority was still convulsing the Yemen, effected a successful journey through that little-known region. Mr. Harris set out with the intention of learning more than had hitherto been known about the Yemen in general and its ancient capital, Sanaa, in particular. He was, however, prevented from carrying out his task by one of the periodical revolts of the Arabs against their Turkish masters. From his account of the Yemen rebellion we learn that though the Arabs of that province still retain a strong feeling of national independence, they are but little prepared to offer serious opposition to the high-handed Turk, who seems skilled in the art of crushing sedition. "A Journey Through the Yemen" is an exceedingly interesting volume of travel dealing with a country comparatively unknown to western readers. Starting from Aden, in order that he might as far as possible escape the surveillance of the Turkish gentries, Mr. Harris made his way to Sanaa, and thence to the coast of the Red Sea at Hodaldah. The record of his journey and of his adventures, which in a country so unsettled could not but be exciting, makes very interesting and, particularly to those who are in any way concerned with the state of Turkish power and influence in Asia. Harris eloquently summed up his thoughts of his travels in Yemen, concluding: "A year has passed since I left the country, and yet its every detail is as clear to me as if it had all happened yesterday. As I lay down my pen I conjure up in my mind the desert rides under a myriad of brilliant stars; I feel upon my cheek the soft balmy southern breeze; I see again our little party hiding in the gullies, and creeping on by night over the terrible

rough roads of the mountains. Once more, warned by an unknown friend, I escape by night from Beit Said; once more, but this time with a smile, I spend five days a prisoner in the conak of Sanaa. Once more I pass through the great valleys and descend to the desert, and I shudder over the remembrance of nights and days of fever—â•a fever that clung to me for months. Yet my recollections of the country are ones that I shall always treasure; and in spite of dangers and sickness, in spite of long marches and days in prison, the Yemen will always be for me, at least, Arabia Felix."

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