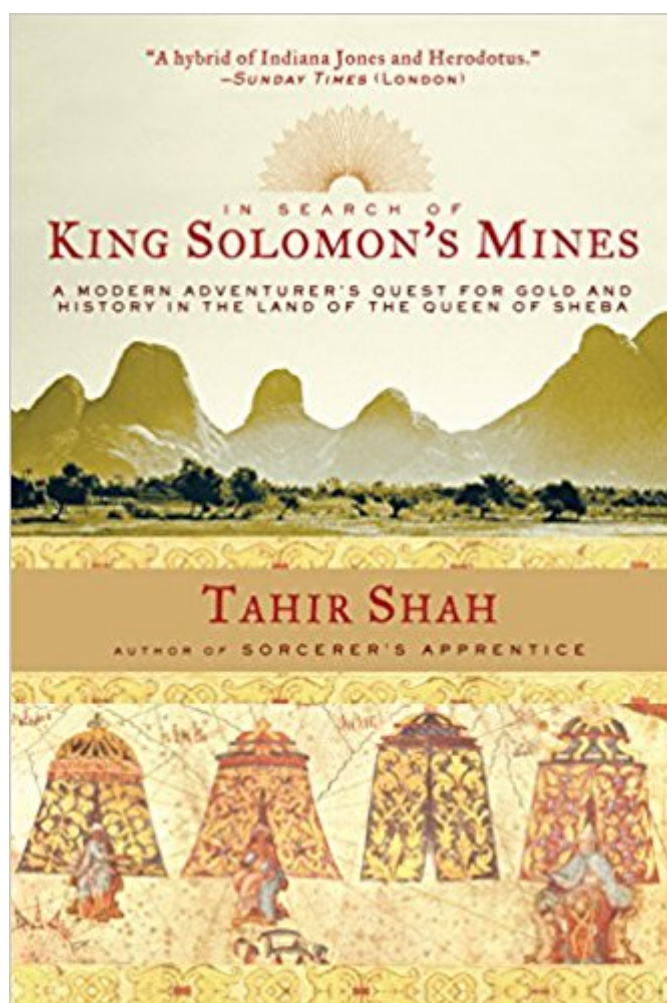


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In Search Of King Solomon's Mines: A Modern Adventurer's Quest For Gold And History In The Land Of The Queen Of Sheba



Synopsis

King Solomon, the Bible's wisest king, possessed extraordinary wealth. The grand temple he built in Jerusalem was covered in gold from the porch to the inner sanctum, where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. Long before H. Rider Haggard's classic adventure novel *King Solomon's Mines* unleashed gold fever more than a century ago, many had sought to find the source of the great king's wealth. In this new adventure—a hybrid of *Indiana Jones* and *Herodotus*—(Sunday Times, London); Tahir Shah tries his hand at the quest. Intrigued by a map he finds in a shop not far from the site of the temple, Shah assembles a multitude of clues to the location of Solomon's mines. Some come from ancient texts, including the Septuagint, the earliest form of the Bible, and some from geological, geographical, and folkloric sources. All point across the Red Sea to Ethiopia, the land of the Queen of Sheba, Solomon's lover, who bore Solomon's son Menelik and founded Ethiopia's imperial line. Shah's trail takes him on a wild ride—by taxi, bus, camel, donkey, and Jeep—that is sure to delight all travelers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Tahir Shah was born into Afghan nobility in 1966 and grew up in England. He has worked for the Institute of Cultural Research and with the Institute for the Study of Human Knowledge, and has written widely on the Middle East, Central Asia, Africa, and South America. When not traveling, he lives in London with his wife and daughter.

I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in history , geography , religions through the ages, adventure , etc...I love Tahir Shah !

As described, arrived quickly, love the paperback format. I like historical fiction and this fits the bill. It works for me.

Good read. Better than other books, Sorceres Apprentice and Caliph's House, which according to me are quite dragging. However, this one captures the reader to some extent...give good picture of Africa through a traveller's eye...

Author struggled with the elements

`In Search Of King Solomon's Mines' was first published over a decade ago, but it is still a treasure whose value becomes more apparent with the passing of years. Ten years ago I was captivated by the journey through Ethiopia, by the ancient churches hewn out of solid rock in Lalibela, the hair-raising ascent to the monastery in Debra Damo, the desert trek with people from the greatly feared Danakil tribe and their sullen camels, the final leg under atrocious conditions after the dilapidated jeep that once belonged to Haile Sellasie had been abandoned and six mules had been hired. What I now realise is that `King Solomon's Mines' is about much more than a physical country. This being Africa, ordinary people are exceptionally kind and generous, and spirits are never far from their thoughts. In the eastern town of Harar, Yusuf has the responsibility of slaughtering cattle and feeding the meat to jinn in the form of hyenas, which would otherwise come to the city walls at night and take the children. In the West, the mountain peaks known as Sheba's Breasts are out of bounds to locals because of their association with the Devil. At a deeper level, this book is about the People of the Book, Jews, Christians and Muslims, about their common heritage in the Old Testament of the Bible, and about the situation in which they now find themselves. It is written in language of majestic simplicity. For me, this treasure is still not completely in focus, but I trust that time and Tahir Shah will eventually succeed in dispelling my ignorance. Ita

I really enjoyed this wise and witty travelogue. I knew next to nothing about Ethiopia before reading it, it's a real eye opener. I especially enjoy how Tahir Shah seems to use this extra-sensory net when he travels, random encounters become clues. It's hard to describe but he has a knack for living and a gift for writing, I'm hooked.

Not only is this book a hilarious, exciting adventure; it's also a fantastic insight into the customs and folklore of the Ethiopian people. While Shah takes a sometimes arrogant and off-putting tone when speaking about the local people, overall this just adds to the humor and depth of the book. TL;DR: I'm not sure who wouldn't love this book. It's witty, exciting, and informative all at once. Also, the Kindle edition is only \$2.09. No excuses to not read it.

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