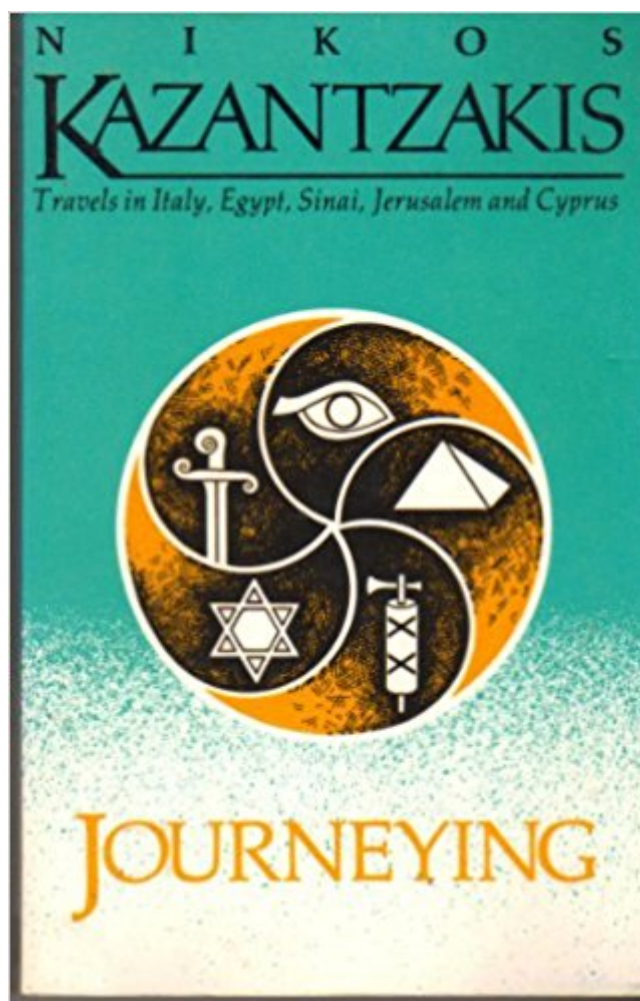


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Journeying: Travels In Italy, Egypt, Sinai, Jerusalem And Cyprus



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Customer Reviews

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Fun and exciting to read

Kazantzakis is a writer of great power and originality. His descriptions of places and people are always interesting. He is a seeker spiritually and finds ways of making his life and writing an adventure. In his tour through Assisi, Rome, Cairo, Sinai, Jerusalem, the land of Israel Cyprus in 1926 and 1927 he wanders and meets a variety of characters. He interviews the dictator Mussolini and the poet Cavafy. But he also reveals an extremely poor political judgment. He writes in praise of two of the most deleterious and disastrous political movements of the twentieth century. "The most profound similarity, then, between Fascism and Bolshevism lies in this: They both fulfill the highest obligation. Both involuntarily and unknowingly, are true partners. I believe there are three superior personalities today who have the right to mold men in their image and likeness: Lenin, Gandhi and Mussolini." How is that for the total absence of prescience and wise political judgment. However politics aside there are compensations in the work. His description of St. Francis of Assisi his life and work is a moving, if not attractive one. He ventures to the Holy Land and speaks with idealistic Zionist pioneers who he shows both admiration for and reservation from. For he believes against 'the fanatical Arabs' they have no real chance. He actually has a kind of strange and complimentary

perception of the Jews. as wanders as people of the Diaspora like himself whose strength is in wandering. He concludes his journey in Cyprus where he is at home. He writes " Never have I seen an island with so much fertility or breathed air with perilous sweet persuasions.

This book offers what most authors are afraid or fear to talk about into their books about cultural diversity. The reader has the ability to review who these people are and how the great mind of the author interpreted their social system, religion, customs. If one decides to take the long journey the author is suggesting in this book, he/she will not view people the same way he/she did in the past.

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