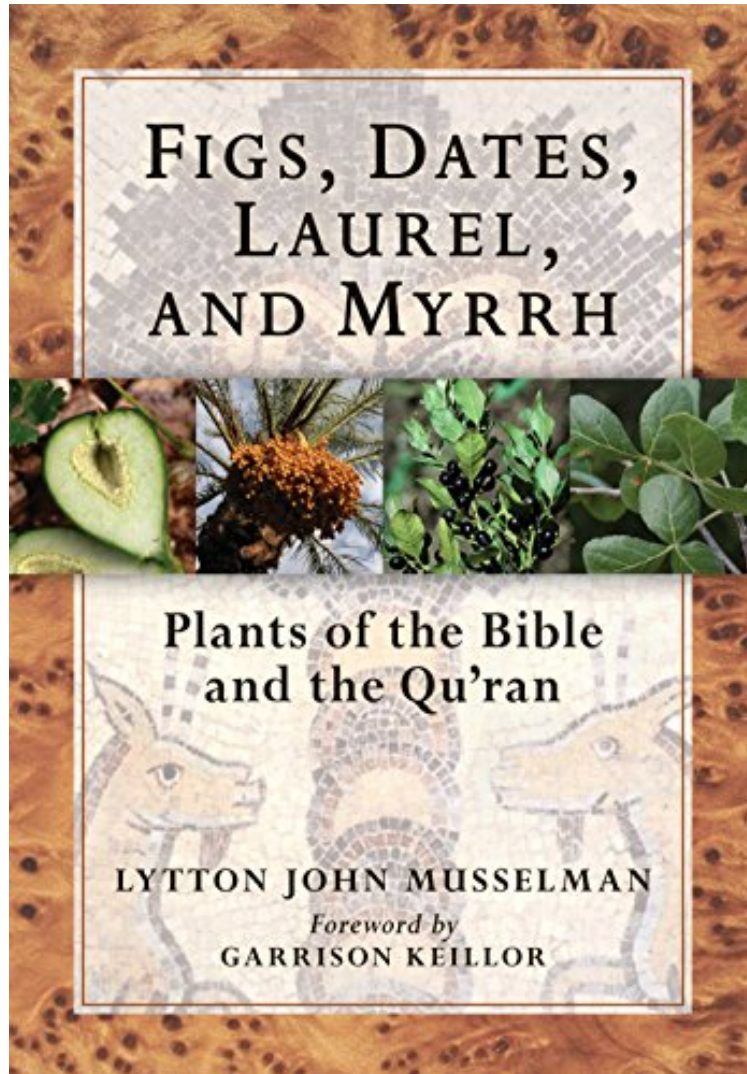


Figs, Dates, Laurel, and Myrrh: Plants of the Bible and the Quran

Lytton John Musselman

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Lytton John Musselman : Figs, Dates, Laurel, and Myrrh: Plants of the Bible and the Quran before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Figs, Dates, Laurel, and Myrrh: Plants of the Bible and the Quran:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Just what I hoped for; a fantastic encyclopedia of biblical plantsBy Gen of North Coast GardeningI'm a landscape designer with a starry-eyed interest in ancient lives and texts, so when I saw this book had come out from Timber Press, my favorite Horticultural publishers, I had to pick it up.It's exactly what I hoped for - an encyclopedic reference, with many photos, of the plants in the Quran and Bible, with references to the actual text in which they are mentioned, and their historical context and info.I learned all about what

the plants were used for, what they represented in the texts, how people processed them and interacted with the plants in ancient times, and saw photos of the relevant plant parts and the plants in the wild and even used in a modern context. Even for an atheist like me, there is a huge amount of historical information and interest in this book. I loved the concise yet thorough information and all the photos. Highly recommended for anyone with an interest in history, religious texts, or plants. It's not dry at all as I had feared. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful photos. Lots of info. By Jane Burch-Pesses This is a beautiful book. Great photos. Glossy pages. Well designed. Readable. The author makes the point that the areas under discussion are actually ecologically quite diverse. What I would have really liked is a map of the ecosystems of the area. He describes the ecosystem each plant comes from but since the plants are listed alphabetically by common name, a desert plant may precede or be followed by a forest plant. I don't really have a sense of the area and what grew where. A miniature map with a highlighted area of the plant's supposed range (like they do in bird books or field guides) would have been really helpful. I understand that the ecosystems have changed and some of the range would be speculative, but it would still be more information than I am able to visualize now. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Little Treasure for Your Shelf By Muna Hakim Written with a lot of love for the region of the Middle East. The author has years of knowledge of the fruits and plants of the region. I have learnt a lot of little details that I did not know about certain plants. Enjoyable reading.

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.

The enormous task of examining the diverse and sometimes speculative side of religious ethnobotany is well executed here. . . . Appears to be the only work published to date to include both the Bible and the Quran. Library Journal Equally of interest for religious, historical, or horticultural reasons. Chicago Tribune This is a fun one. I'm always interested in plants that have literary and historic connections. Garden Rant A readable and relevant book for our times. For those gardening with the plants of the Mediterranean, the book will be a treasured resource. Pacific Horticulture An authoritative but accessible look at not only the plants of the Bible (including the Apocrypha), but also the Quran. . . . [An] interesting and worthwhile book. . . . I highly recommend it. Christian Science Monitor A promising title to try. . . . A thorough, ethno-botanical tome. Hobby Farms Magazine Musselman's fascinating work includes not only the stories of ancient plants but also botanical characteristics, native environment, uses, and literary context. If you are looking for a serious approach to the subject of plants of the Bible, then this is the book. Garden Compass There's a foreword from Garrison Keillor, who, like most of us, (and in spite of a strict Christian upbringing) had no idea what myrrh or frankincense actually were. Well, now he does, and you will too. Buffalo Spree