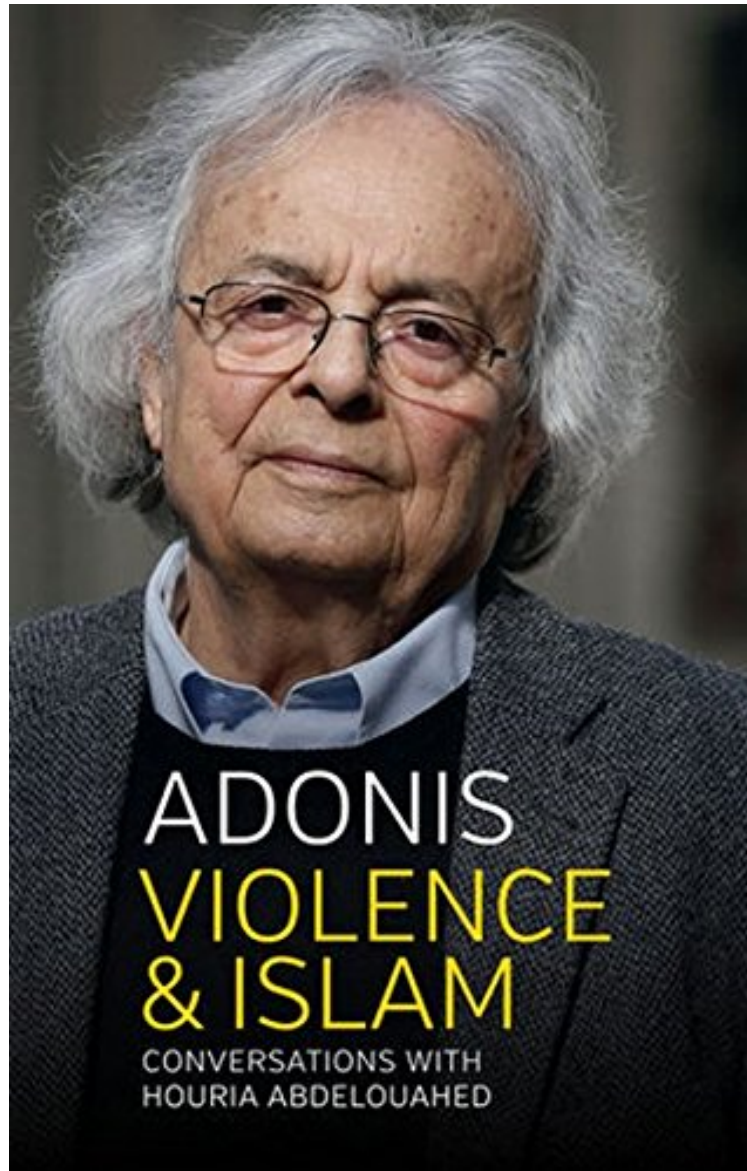


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Violence and Islam: Conversations with Houria Abdelouahed

Adonis

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#1421815 in Books 2016-09-13Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.60 x .80 x 5.70l, .76 #File Name: 1509511903180 pages | File size: 59.Mb

Adonis : Violence and Islam: Conversations with Houria Abdelouahed before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Violence and Islam: Conversations with Houria Abdelouahed:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not what I expected, best for the well-informed readerBy Vickie T.This is a difficult book to review because I am definitely not a member of the target audience. For me, personally, it

would get 2 or 3 stars, but I really feel like it's unfair to penalize the book just because I'm not the person who should be reading it. And I think it now goes without saying that this book was not what I expected. So, what is the target audience for this book? Someone with a deeper knowledge of the Arab world and Islam than I possess. Someone with a more philosophical and intellectual bent than I have, with at least a passing acquaintance with the great philosophers. Someone with sufficient knowledge to evaluate the arguments put forth and statements made by the conversationalists in the book. I felt very much at a disadvantage because there were many places where I was not familiar with individuals or events that Adonis or Houria Abdelouahed seemed to take for granted that the reader would know. And times when statements were made that were not consistent with what I knew (or thought I knew), but I did not feel confident enough in my own limited level of knowledge to truly challenge the authors. I believe that the right reader will enjoy this book immensely. I can easily see this book provoking discussion in a college class on Arab culture or Islamic philosophy.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Astonishing read that will open your eyes and certainly expand your understanding of Islam.

By D. Matlack This is an incredible and essential read for the Westerner. In today's politically correct driven society we have clumped Islam into one big cultural bag full of everything we don't have the time or interest to know anything about so we'll blindly accept it and it is biting us in the rear world wide. This is a very brief book of 180 pages but you will certainly spend a good deal of time reading, and re-reading and taking notes. Adonis (his nom de plume in honor of secularized and historical poetry.) is a Syrian born poet and Historian while Houria Abdelouahed is an Iranian, female psychoanalyst both currently residing in France. The entire book is clearly a transcript of a conversation they share in which they describe how by their very professions they are apostates by their chosen professions: both are scholars he dares to study and write of the History of the pre-Islamic East that is currently being suppressed and obliterated by modern Islam which deny's historical truth because fact and history do not in fact support Islam and she for being not only an educated woman (women are possessions and treated as objects and cattle.) but as a psychoanalyst (also not supported by Islam.) she has handled and studied the Quran and dissected it at great length (women are not allowed to touch or study the Quran and is punishable by death - they must accept the faith blindly.) and quite frankly if these two were not living in France they would both be dead. This book is an absolute must for understanding Islam, as Adonis and Houria describe it as a tribal culture that endorses power, pleasure and ownership and has historically fought against civilization and growth including education and creativity and compared to every other religion that has ever existed from Polytheism (Greek/Roman/Egyptian/ Hinduism) to other monotheism faiths (Christianity/Judaism) and even Buddhism, etc. Islam is the ONLY "religion" that does not invite critical thought or analysis. In other faiths openness of thought often strengthens belief and inspires depth in thought and even secular creativity. Adonis and Houria's conversation points out that Islam can not be supported by and would easily be dispelled as essentially a false faith if it were studied to closely and thus the Arab world makes it a crime to do so. Interestingly they both discuss how the so-called faith of Islam which is constantly caving in on itself is getting extra life thanks to the blind and ignorant acceptance of the West and that European and North American countries are helping Islam suppress secularism and cultural growth to better control these areas. The authors have a very frank discussion of the lack of value that Islam actually produces in fact it is entirely deconstructive and violent and turns on its own history and culture denying even the basic truth of History and have gone so far as to even eliminate words in the Arabic language that would contradict Islam. This does not seem possible, but it is because of this extensive list of forbidden language that we read of poets and authors being put to death, simply because they were using the wrong words. The topic of this book is so much more inflammatory than Rushdie's "Satanic Verses" ever was and before you are even halfway through you will be worrying for the safety of Adonis and Houria.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Muslims destroying their own culture and history through violence.

By Connie (She who hikes with dogs) I have had an interest in Islamic culture since my collegiate days. I was teaching myself about the Koran when it was still unheard of to do so for a non-believer. I wanted to understand Islam better to better understand the mindset of the Islamic terrorists of the 1980s. Adonis is a Syrian-born French citizen. His real name is Ali Ahmad Said Asbar, but that's not important to know. What is important to know is his staunch criticism of modern Islam as it relates to the rise of al-Qaeda, ISIS and other extremists. He is extremely bitter by the violence and total destruction of Islamic culture through these violent groups. Throughout this short book he mentions how Islam is all about power and submission and not about compassion and humanity. Groups like ISIS are killing other Muslims and in turn destroying their own culture, their own history. One does not need to be familiar with Adonis' poetry to understand the man. One is better off understanding his attitude about the current state of the Islamic world. Adonis was influenced by Shi'ite writers, although he grew up in an Alawite home. While there are sections in this book where he quotes philosophers, this conversation he has with Houria Abdelouahed at times repeat his anger and distaste toward the Islamic extremists who want to yield power over the rest of the world. Islam was founded on violence the moment Muhammed died. Muslims can not question, judge or critique their own faith; they must simply obey and submit. Some sections are difficult to comprehend, but Adonis' mindset comes out clearer in other sections to give the reader a better understanding of his views. For novices I suggest they read "the Last Word" at the back of the book first, then go over the glossary to familiarize oneself with the many Muslim words.

Adonis influence on Arabic literature has been likened to that of T. S. Eliot in the English-speaking world. Yet alongside this spearheading of a modernist literary revolution, the secular Syrian-born poet is also renowned for his persistent and staunch attacks on despotism across the Arab world. In these conversations with the psychoanalyst Houria Abdelouahed, Adonis brings into sharp relief the latest wave of violence and war to engulf Arab countries, tracing the cause of ongoing tensions back to the beginnings of Islam itself. Since the death of the prophet Muhammad, Islam has been used as a political and economic weapon, exploiting and reinforcing tribal divisions to aid the pursuit of power. Adonis argues that recent events in the Middle East from the failures of the Arab Spring to the rise of ISIS and the bloody war in his native Syria attest to the destructive effects of an Islamic worldview that prohibits any notion of plurality and breeds violence. If there is to be any hope of peace or progress in the Arab world, it is therefore imperative that these mentalities are overcome. In their place, Adonis urges a new spirit of enquiry, embodied in the freedoms to interrogate the past and to question cultural norms. Adonis penetrating analysis comes at a critical time, offering an alternative path to the cycle of violence that plagues the Arab world today.

Today's most daring and provocative Arab poet. Edward Said The Arab world's greatest living poet. New York Times Faith is like love, Adonis tells us; it falls within personal experience. Violence and Islam explores a multiplicity of modern interpretations that give rise to forms of faith and forms of barbarity. Adonis, in his powerful secular voice, here again proves why he is one of the most important literary figures of our times.' V.S. Naipaul About the Author Adonis was born in 1930 in Qassabine, Syria and has been writing poetry for seventy years. His work has been recognised with numerous international accolades, including the Goethe Prize in 2011.