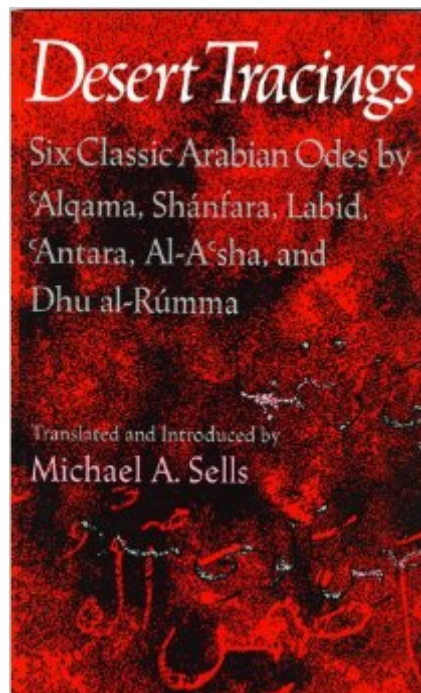


The book was found

# Desert Tracings : Six Classic Arabian Odes By 'Alqama, Shanfara, Labid, 'Antara, Al-A'sha, And Dhu Al-Rumma



## Synopsis

According to legend, the Bedouin tribes of pre-Islamic Arabia held poetry competitions during annual fairs near Mecca. The winning poems called *Muallaqāt*, or Hanging Odes, were embroidered in gold on banners and suspended from the walls of Arabia's most sacred shrine, Ka'ba. *Desert Tracings* is a translation of six classical sixth to eighth century odes. Arabic odes (*qasidas*) traditionally begin with the relationship of the lover to the loved. Usually set at opening in the beloved's abandoned desert campsite, where the only evidence that remains is tent marks and torrent beds in the sand – "naked tracings, / worn thin, like inscriptions / carved in flat stones" – the *qasida* moves gracefully through the thematic parts, the lover's grief, the quest, and the final acceptance of a world deprived of the beloved. Like the oryx-doe trapped within the unyielding cycles of the desert world. As Michael Sells writes in his introduction, the *qasida* has been overshadowed in the West by other Arabic literature, such as *The Arabian Nights*, but the *qasida* is the primary literary tradition in both pre-Islamic and Islamic Arabia. The remarkable richness of language and range of mood captured in these translations help explain their enduring fascination.

## Book Information

Paperback: 87 pages

Publisher: University Press; Trans. from the Arabic edition (May 15, 1989)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0819511587

ISBN-13: 978-0819511584

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.3 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars – See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #866,318 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > Middle Eastern #126 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > African #11255 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry

## Customer Reviews

A lovely book if you want to have some understanding of the context of Classical Arabic of the Koran. Without Sells' notes, some of the trapping of pre-Islamic culture would be lost on the reader, the poems would be opaque. I highly recommend the book, the poems, and Prof. Sells' notes.

Beautiful, the most lyric translation of the odes I have encountered

I really enjoyed this book when I first read it in college back in the 90s. I just picked up another copy here on . A great introduction to jahiliyya poetry.

Solid, accurate introduction to pre-Islamic poetry.

I think this is a great product, but I wish I had realized that it only had the English. I wish it had both English and Arabic. The translations do seem very well done and the selection is on point

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Desert Tracings : Six Classic Arabian Odes by 'Alqama, Shanfara, Labid, 'Antara, Al-A'sha, and Dhu al-Rumma The Arabian Nights: Tales of 1,001 Nights: Volume 1 (The Arabian Nights or Tales from 1001 Nights) The Arabian Nights: Tales of 1,001 Nights: Volume 2 (The Arabian Nights or Tales from 1001 Nights) The Arabian Nights: Tales of 1,001 Nights: Volume 3 (The Arabian Nights or Tales from 1001 Nights) Amirs, Admirals & Desert Sailors: Bahrain, the U.S. Navy, and the Arabian Gulf Nightmares in the Saudi Arabian Desert: Autobiography (The Saudi Nightmare Trilogy Book 1) Classic TV: WESTERNS 1 - SIX COMPLETE CLASSIC TELEVISION COWBOY COMIC BOOKS: OVER 200 PAGES OF COWBOYS, INDIANS AND OUTLAWS (CLASSIC TV COMIC BOOKS) George Eliot Six Pack - Middlemarch, Daniel Deronda, Silas Marner, The Lifted Veil, The Mill on the Floss and Adam Bede (Illustrated with links to free ... all six books) (Six Pack Classics Book 8) The Origins of the Shā'ī'a: Identity, Ritual, and Sacred Space in Eighth-Century Kāfa (Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization) Gua Sha: A Complete Self-treatment Guide AV-8B Harrier II Units of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm (Combat Aircraft) With It or in It: Desert Shield and Desert Storm from the Loader's Hatch War in the Persian Gulf: Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, August 1990 - March 1991 (Center of Military History Publication) Desert Wisdom: Sayings from the Desert Fathers Fifteen Songs and Airs for Soprano or Tenor from the Operas and the Odes: English Language Edition (Kalmus Edition) Selected Odes of Pablo Neruda (Latin American Literature and Culture) The Book of Odes (Shijing) All the Odes: A Bilingual Edition (Spanish Edition) Odes to Common Things, Bilingual Edition Odes: With the Latin Text (Modern Library Classics)

[Dmca](#)