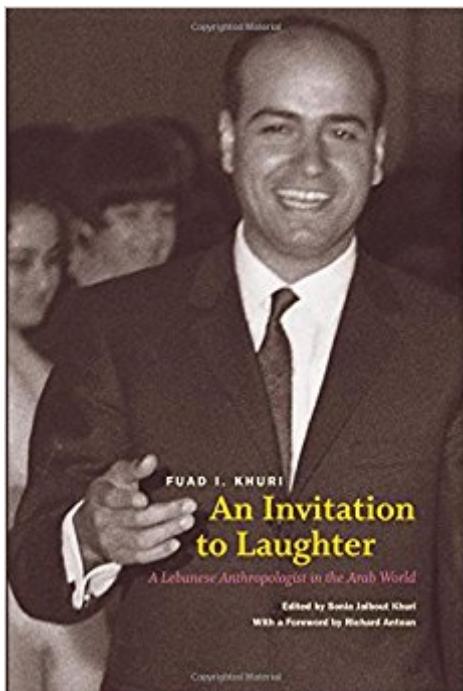


The book was found

An Invitation To Laughter: A Lebanese Anthropologist In The Arab World



Synopsis

For the late Fuad I. Khuri, a distinguished career as an anthropologist began not because of typical concerns like accessibility, money, or status, but because the very idea of an occupation that baffled his countrymen made them "and him" laugh. "When I tell them that 'anthropology' is my profession . . . they think I am either speaking a strange language or referring to a new medicine." This profound appreciation for humor, especially in the contradictions inherent in the study of cultures, is a distinctive theme of *An Invitation to Laughter*, Khuri's astute memoir of life as an anthropologist in the Middle East. A Christian Lebanese, Khuri offers up in this unusual autobiography both an insider's and an outsider's perspective on life in Lebanon, elsewhere in the Middle East, and in West Africa. Khuri entertains and informs with clever insights into such issues as the mentality of Arabs toward women, eating habits of the Arab world, the impact of Islam on West Africa, and the extravagant lifestyles of wealthy Arabs, and even offers a vision for a type of democracy that could succeed in the Middle East. In his life and work, as these astonishing essays make evident, Khuri demonstrated how the discipline of anthropology continues to make a difference in bridging dangerous divides.

Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: University Of Chicago Press; New edition edition (May 15, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0226434788

ISBN-13: 978-0226434780

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,967,019 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #163 in [Books > History > Middle East > Lebanon](#) #853 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Social Scientists & Psychologists](#) #1150 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Educators](#)

Customer Reviews

Here is a slender memoir of a Lebanese-American anthropologist's experiences plying his trade throughout the Levant and Middle East, studying power structures throughout the region. The reason behind the title as explained by Khuri is that whenever he explained what he did for a living,

his friends and relatives back home in Lebanon would laugh uproariously at the thought of such an oddly named profession. Khuri, who received his PhD from the University of Oregon, is charmingly self-deprecating in the telling of his story, obscuring the fact that his work was groundbreaking (his book *Emirs and Imams* is essential for understanding the differences between the region's various Islamic sects, including how their theology informs their politics). Even in this book, there are little, almost throw-away insights that forced me to reconsider some of my notions about the Middle East. It's also apparent that Khouri was a decent and gentle soul, someone who saw worth of experience in everyone. Couldn't recommend this book more highly.

Very enjoyable. A collection of Mr. Khuri's writings, the title and cover image accurately reflect the content. And a Lebanese man I know laughed and agreed when he heard Khuri's description of "Lebanese:" "It is a profession, not a nationality." Also worthwhile for dispelling notions that there is no humor in the Middle East. After reading this book, I wish I'd known Faud Khuri, a generous and good man who had a life well lived.

Anyone wanting an insight into the Arab world should read this book. Khuri is an engaging writer. His desire to study anthropology - a topic we in the West take for granted - made him something of an anomaly in his society. His account of his intellectual journey and his observations on both the U.S. and his own background teach the reader about both societies. The world needs more like Khuri: curious, articulate, open-minded.

I bought as a gift for someone. He likes it.

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

An Invitation to Laughter: A Lebanese Anthropologist in the Arab World
Invitation to World Missions: A Trinitarian Missiology for the Twenty-first Century (Invitation to Theological Studies Series)
The Bone Lady: Life as a Forensic Anthropologist
Anthropologist: Scientist of the People
Anthropologist: Scientist of the People (Scientists in the Field Series)
Man'oushe: Inside the Street Corner Lebanese Bakery
Man'oushe: Inside the Lebanese Street Corner Bakery
Taste of Beirut: 175+ Delicious Lebanese Recipes from Classics to Contemporary to Mezzes and More
The Lebanese Kitchen
Shi'i Cosmopolitanisms in Africa: Lebanese Migration and Religious Conversion in Senegal (Public Cultures of the Middle East and North Africa)
The Hidden Face of Eve: Women in the Arab World
Arab Spring, Christian Winter: Islam Unleashed on the Church and the World
Serpent of the Nile: Women and Dance in the Arab World
Arab Science and Invention in the Golden Age
Arab

Orthodox Christians Under the Ottomans 1516-1831 The Arab of the Future: A Childhood in the Middle East, 1978-1984: A Graphic Memoir We Too Sing America: South Asian, Arab, Muslim, and Sikh Immigrants Shape Our Multiracial Future Lost Enlightenment: Central Asia's Golden Age from the Arab Conquest to Tamerlane In the Shadow of the Sword: The Birth of Islam and the Rise of the Global Arab Empire A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (Indiana Series in Arab and Islamic Studies)

[Dmca](#)