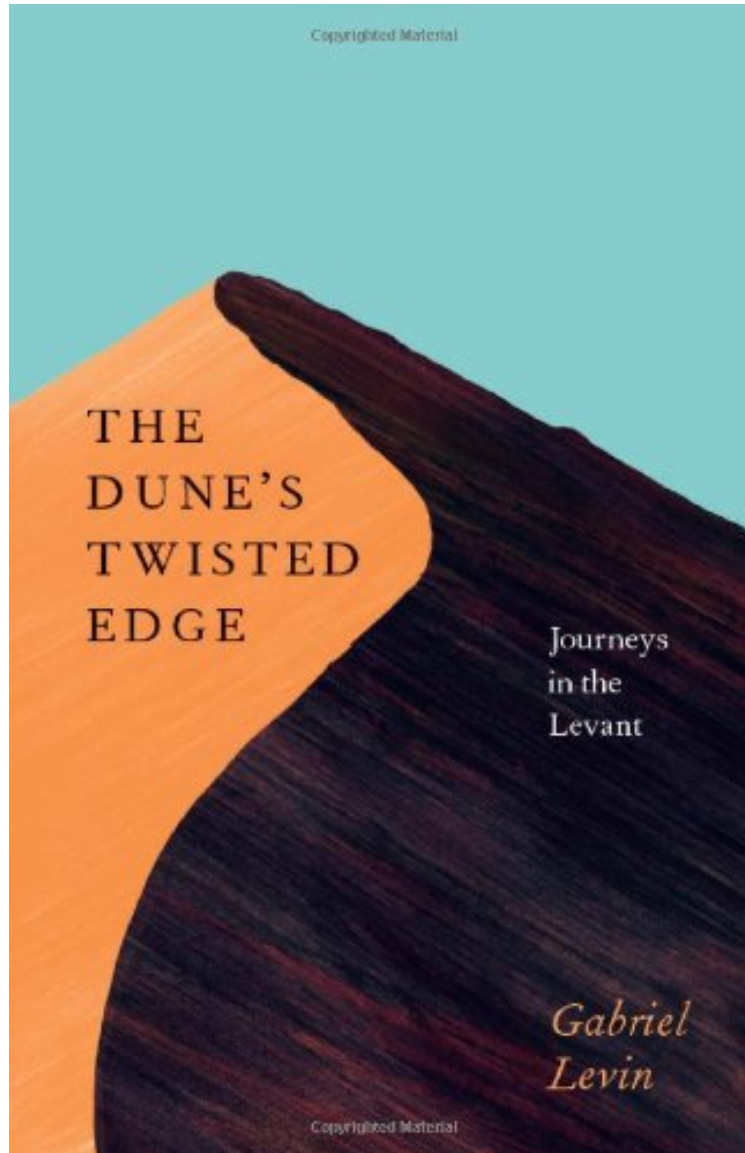


The Dune's Twisted Edge: Journeys in the Levant

Gabriel Levin

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Gabriel Levin : The Dune's Twisted Edge: Journeys in the Levant before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Dune's Twisted Edge: Journeys in the Levant:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. luminous language that artfully transports the reader into distant times and placesBy EdwardLevin's love for both literature and landscape are absolutely infectious and his poetic prose is mesmerizing. If one has been in the places he describes--the recognition is instant--he really captures what many of us have experienced but never been able to so astutely express in language. And if not, this is "armchair traveler"

literature in the very highest tradition. A revelation! (For more on literature and the desert see Ranen Omer-Sherman, *Israel in Exile: Jewish Writing and the Desert*)

How to speak of the imaginative reach of a land habitually seen as a seedbed of faiths and heresies, confluences and ruptures . . . trouble spot and findspot, ruin and renewal, fault line and ragged clime, with a medley of people and languages once known with mingled affection and wariness as Levantine? So begins poet Gabriel Levin in his journeys in the Levant, the exotic land that stands at the crossroads of western Asia, the eastern Mediterranean, and northeast Africa. Part travelogue, part field guide, and part literary appreciation, *The Dunes Twisted Edge* assembles six interlinked essays that explore the eastern seaboard of the Levant and its deserts, bringing to life this small but enigmatic part of the world.

From Booklist Exploring the Levant through his poetry for the past three decades, Levin (*The Maltese Dreambook*, 2008) has been inspired by the regions rugged terrain, rich folklore, and complicated relationship with its own history. Here, his explorations are in essay form, but his fascination with the hybrid and syncretic aspects of Levantine geography and narrative persists. His stated goal is to understand the poetics of the Levant, but his approach is more personal than scholarly; he seeks not a theoretical construct but a deeper understanding of the connections between lived and literary experiences. Trekking the desert to bring ancient texts to life and digging into old books in pursuit of passages that will elicit meaning from his sense impressions, Levin revels in the omnipresent past and delights in secrets hidden in plain sight. Though some may be put off by this selections meandering, impressionistic style, readers who share Levins Romantic sensibilities and interest in the Levant will appreciate the lucidity of Levins musings and the nuance of his perspective. --Brendan Driscoll Gabriel Levins book is a journey through time and through entrenched animosities of the Middle East. Whats astonishing and refreshing is his ability to combine the reporters perspective with a deep knowledge of poetry, including pre-Islamic Arab poems. A brilliant poet is at work here a poet in the rugged landscape of conflict and pain.