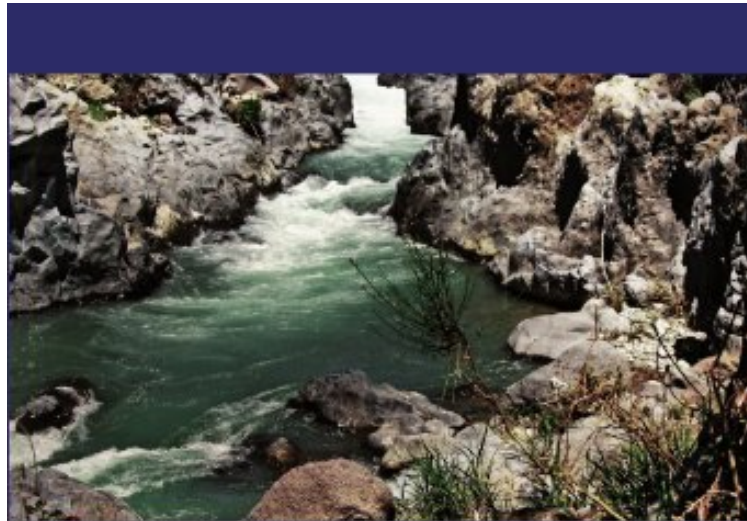


# The Literature of Travelling to Lebanon: From Adonis to the Association of Tourist Writers

*Suha Itani, Kristiaan Aercke*

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Suha Itani  
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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. disclaimer of co-authorshipBy dr k aerckeThis book is in fact the Master's thesis which Ms Suha Itani defended in June, 2011 to obtain her M.A. in Comparative Literature at the Lebanese American University, Beirut. Professor K. Aercke was Ms. Itani's thesis director. Professor Aercke wishes to

make it very clear that he never gave his permission orally or in writing (nor was he ever consulted about this) for his name to be used as co-author for any publication in any form of this work, and that he certainly does not wish to take any credit or responsibility for this. For sound academic reasons, Professor Aerccke firmly disapproves of publishing M.A. theses without major modifications and by a not reputable, non-academic press.

Travel writing has provided cultural, historical, religious, philosophical, political, even environmental debates, and its study has become a fruitful academic enterprise. Lebanon, a devastated country with wars throughout history, has since been making progress toward rebuilding itself and rising from the fire like the Phoenician bird. How does travel literature reflect the shift in Lebanon's reason of existence as a traveller's destination: before the civil war, spiritual and cultural interest dominated, and after the war, business and tourism? Packed with information, three major travel books on Lebanon in the 20th and the 21st centuries demonstrate how the discourse of a strong and peaceful past conflicts with the discourse of a weak and disturbed present, as the writers, unknown to each other, anticipate or come to terms with the civil war. Mieke Bal's work on narratology and Bakhtin's concept of the chronotope provides strategies and theoretical insights to examine the hidden layers of the texts and analyze their several meanings as affecting the writer's intention in narrating and the reader's role in interpreting.

About the Author Ms. Itani holds a B.A. in Literature in English from Excelsior College and a M.A. in Comparative Literature with an emphasis on Travel Literature from the Lebanese American University. She was a Fulbrighter and is an expert in language teaching and has 10 years of experience in teaching English and Arabic at several American and Lebanese universities.