

# pillars of salt fadia faqir

Pillars of Salt Fadia Faqir: A Deep Dive into the Novel and Its Themes

**pillars of salt fadia faqir** is a phrase that often surfaces when discussing postcolonial literature and feminist narratives from the Arab world. Fadia Faqir's novel, *\*Pillars of Salt\**, is a compelling and evocative work that explores complex themes such as cultural identity, gender roles, and the clash between tradition and modernity. For readers and scholars alike, understanding this novel opens a window into the lived experiences of women navigating the tensions of societal expectations and personal freedom.

## Understanding the Context of Pillars of Salt Fadia Faqir

To truly appreciate *\*Pillars of Salt\**, it's essential to place it within its literary and cultural context. Fadia Faqir, a Jordanian author known for her poignant storytelling, often writes about marginalized voices, particularly those of Arab women. The novel was published in 1996 and has since become a significant piece in Arab feminist literature.

## The Setting and Cultural Backdrop

*\*Pillars of Salt\** is set against the backdrop of the Middle East, primarily Jordan, and it vividly portrays the region's cultural intricacies. The narrative is deeply embedded in the socio-political realities of the Arab world during the late 20th century. Readers gain insight into the struggles of women who are caught between deeply entrenched patriarchal traditions and the emerging waves of modernity and individualism.

## Fadia Faqir's Literary Style and Narrative Approach

Faqir's style is lyrical yet accessible, blending rich descriptions with a strong, authentic voice. She employs a first-person narrative that allows readers to closely experience the protagonist's internal conflicts and growth. This personal perspective enhances the emotional resonance of the novel, making the themes more relatable and impactful.

## Exploring the Central Themes in Pillars of Salt Fadia Faqir

The novel is layered with several key themes that resonate universally while being rooted in specific cultural contexts. Understanding these themes helps readers grasp the novel's depth and Faqir's intentions.

## **Gender and Patriarchy**

One of the primary themes in *\*Pillars of Salt\** is the exploration of gender roles within a patriarchal society. The protagonist's journey highlights the constraints placed on women, their limited choices, and the societal pressures to conform. Faqir critiques these norms by portraying the emotional and psychological toll they take on women.

## **Identity and Displacement**

Another significant theme is the quest for identity. The novel delves into how cultural displacement and exile affect individuals, especially women. The protagonist's feelings of alienation—both within her community and in foreign lands—reflect the broader experience of diaspora and the search for belonging.

## **Tradition versus Modernity**

Faqir skillfully contrasts traditional values with modern ideas, illustrating the tension this creates in personal and societal spheres. The clash between adhering to customs and embracing change is a recurring motif that drives much of the narrative's conflict and character development.

## **Character Analysis: The Heart of Pillars of Salt Fadia Faqir**

Understanding the characters in *\*Pillars of Salt\** enriches the reading experience. Faqir's characters are complex, multidimensional, and serve as vehicles for the novel's themes.

## **The Protagonist's Journey**

The central character, often considered a semi-autobiographical representation, undergoes a profound transformation. She navigates oppressive family dynamics, social restrictions, and her own evolving sense of self. Her resilience and quest for autonomy form the emotional core of the novel.

## **Supporting Characters and Their Symbolism**

Beyond the protagonist, other characters embody various facets of society—traditionalists, rebels, and those caught in between. These individuals help to illustrate the varied responses to cultural and gender expectations, providing a richer tapestry of perspectives.

# Why Pillars of Salt Fadia Faqir Matters Today

Despite being written decades ago, *Pillars of Salt* remains strikingly relevant. The novel's exploration of women's rights, cultural identity, and societal change continues to resonate in contemporary discussions about gender equality and postcolonial experiences.

## Impact on Arab Feminist Literature

Faqir's work is often cited as a cornerstone in Arab feminist writing. It challenges stereotypes and gives voice to women whose stories are often marginalized. The novel encourages readers to question societal norms and consider the importance of female agency.

## Educational and Literary Importance

*Pillars of Salt* is frequently included in university curricula focused on Middle Eastern studies, gender studies, and world literature. Its rich thematic content and narrative style make it a valuable resource for understanding cultural complexities and the power of storytelling.

## Tips for Readers Approaching Pillars of Salt Fadia Faqir

If you're new to Fadia Faqir's writing or to Middle Eastern literature in general, here are some helpful tips for engaging with *Pillars of Salt*:

- **Familiarize Yourself with the Historical Context:** Understanding the socio-political landscape of the Middle East during the 20th century can deepen your appreciation of the novel's setting and conflicts.
- **Reflect on Cultural Nuances:** Pay attention to the cultural practices and social expectations depicted, as they provide critical insight into the characters' motivations and challenges.
- **Engage with the Themes Personally:** Consider how themes like identity, gender roles, and tradition versus modernity resonate with your own experiences or current societal issues.
- **Take Your Time with the Narrative:** The novel's lyrical prose and emotional depth benefit from careful reading and reflection.

## Further Reading and Related Works

For those interested in exploring themes similar to those in *Pillars of Salt*, several other authors and

books come to mind:

- Hanan al-Shaykh's *\*Women of Sand and Myrrh\** – Another profound exploration of Arab women's lives.
- Leila Aboulela's novels – Focused on identity and cultural dislocation in Muslim communities.
- Assia Djebar's works – Delving into female experiences in North African societies.

These authors complement Fadia Faqir's perspectives, providing a broader understanding of the diverse narratives within Arab feminist literature.

Reading *\*Pillars of Salt\** by Fadia Faqir is not just an immersion into a single story but an invitation to explore complex social realities through the eyes of a courageous woman. The novel's enduring relevance and rich thematic layers ensure it remains a must-read for anyone interested in literature that challenges, enlightens, and inspires.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is 'Pillars of Salt' by Fadia Faqir about?**

'Pillars of Salt' is a novel by Fadia Faqir that explores the life of a Jordanian woman who escapes an abusive marriage and the cultural constraints of her society. The story highlights themes of identity, oppression, and resilience.

### **Who is Fadia Faqir?**

Fadia Faqir is a Jordanian-British author known for her works addressing issues of gender, culture, and displacement. She has written several novels, including 'Pillars of Salt,' which has received critical acclaim.

### **What themes are central to 'Pillars of Salt'?**

The central themes of 'Pillars of Salt' include gender inequality, cultural identity, exile, freedom, and the struggles of women in patriarchal societies.

### **Is 'Pillars of Salt' based on true events?**

While 'Pillars of Salt' is a work of fiction, it is inspired by real social issues and cultural contexts in the Middle East, particularly related to women's rights and societal expectations.

### **What style of writing does Fadia Faqir use in 'Pillars of Salt'?**

Faqir employs a lyrical and evocative narrative style, blending Arabic and English cultural elements, often using multiple perspectives to deepen the emotional impact.

## Has 'Pillars of Salt' received any awards or recognition?

'Pillars of Salt' has been praised by critics and readers alike for its powerful storytelling and insightful portrayal of women's issues, contributing to Fadia Faqir's reputation as an important voice in contemporary Middle Eastern literature.

## What is the significance of the title 'Pillars of Salt'?

The title 'Pillars of Salt' references the biblical story of Lot's wife, symbolizing the consequences of looking back or being trapped by the past, which parallels the protagonist's struggles with her past and cultural constraints.

## Where can I find 'Pillars of Salt' by Fadia Faqir?

'Pillars of Salt' is available in major bookstores and online platforms such as Amazon and Goodreads, as well as in some libraries and educational institutions.

## Additional Resources

**\*\*Exploring the Depths of "Pillars of Salt" by Fadia Faqir: A Critical Review\*\***

**pillars of salt fadia faqir** stands as a poignant and evocative novel that delves into the intersections of culture, gender, and identity. Written by Jordanian-British author Fadia Faqir, this work has garnered critical acclaim for its powerful storytelling and nuanced portrayal of Arab women's lives within a patriarchal society. The narrative captures a compelling blend of social critique and deeply personal experience, making it a significant contribution to contemporary Middle Eastern literature.

## Contextualizing "Pillars of Salt" Within Fadia Faqir's Oeuvre

Fadia Faqir is celebrated for her incisive explorations of themes such as exile, cultural conflict, and female oppression. Published in 1996, "Pillars of Salt" continues this trajectory by offering a stark look at the societal constraints imposed on women in Jordan and, by extension, the broader Arab world. The novel's title itself alludes to biblical imagery, symbolizing the consequences of defiance and the weight of cultural judgment.

In comparison to her other works like "My Name is Salma," "Pillars of Salt" is distinctive for its raw immediacy and the uncompromising voice of its protagonist. The book not only reflects Faqir's literary artistry but also her commitment to social justice and gender equality.

## In-depth Analysis of Themes and Narrative Structure

# Exploration of Gender and Patriarchy

At the heart of "pillars of salt fadia faqir" lies a critique of patriarchal structures that restrict women's freedom. The protagonist's journey reveals the multilayered oppression faced by women—ranging from domestic violence to societal expectations that prioritize honor over autonomy. Faqir's portrayal is neither didactic nor sentimental; instead, she exposes the harsh realities through a narrative that is both intimate and universal.

The novel scrutinizes how cultural traditions and religious mores intertwine to perpetuate gender inequality. This thematic focus resonates with readers interested in feminist literature and Middle Eastern gender studies, providing key insights into the systemic challenges confronting women in conservative societies.

## Identity and Exile

Another significant aspect of the novel is its treatment of identity—particularly the tension between individual desires and communal norms. The protagonist's sense of self is fragmented by displacement, both physical and psychological. This motif of exile is reflective of Faqir's own experiences as a diasporic writer, adding authenticity and depth to the narrative.

The interplay of personal and political identity in "pillars of salt fadia faqir" enriches the story, inviting readers to consider the complexities of belonging and alienation. This theme is critical to understanding how cultural heritage can both nurture and confine.

## Narrative Style and Literary Devices

Faqir employs a narrative style that is straightforward yet poetic, blending realism with symbolic undertones. The prose is characterized by a stark, unembellished quality that intensifies the emotional impact. The use of first-person narration allows an immersive experience of the protagonist's internal struggles, while shifts in time and perspective add layers of complexity.

Symbolism is woven throughout the text, with the "pillars of salt" metaphor serving as a constant reminder of the consequences of resistance and the cost of silence. This literary device enhances the thematic resonance and invites multiple interpretations.

## Critical Reception and Scholarly Perspectives

Since its publication, "pillars of salt fadia faqir" has been the subject of numerous academic discussions and literary critiques. Scholars often highlight its importance in giving voice to marginalized Arab women and challenging Orientalist stereotypes. The novel's candid depiction of taboo subjects such as honor killings and forced marriage has sparked both praise and controversy.

In educational settings, "Pillars of Salt" is frequently incorporated into curricula focusing on postcolonial literature, feminist theory, and Middle Eastern studies. Its relevance is underscored by

ongoing debates about women's rights and cultural reform in the Arab world.

## Comparisons with Contemporary Works

When compared to other Middle Eastern feminist literature, Faqir's novel stands out for its directness and emotional intensity. Unlike more allegorical or abstract texts, it confronts harsh realities head-on. This approach aligns it with authors like Hanan al-Shaykh and Leila Aboulela, who similarly explore the intersections of gender, culture, and religion.

However, Faqir's work is distinct in its blending of Western narrative techniques with Arab storytelling traditions, creating a hybrid literary form that appeals to a diverse readership. This fusion enhances the accessibility and impact of her message.

## Implications for Readers and Cultural Discourse

"Pillars of Salt" serves as a vital lens through which readers can examine the challenges faced by women in patriarchal societies. Its unflinching portrayal encourages empathy and critical thought, fostering a better understanding of cultural complexities beyond simplistic stereotypes.

For readers interested in human rights, gender studies, and cross-cultural narratives, Fadia Faqir's work offers a compelling case study. The novel's ability to humanize sociopolitical issues makes it a powerful tool for advocacy and education.

## Strengths and Limitations

- **Strengths:** The novel's emotional depth, thematic richness, and authentic voice make it a standout in Middle Eastern feminist literature.
- **Limitations:** Some readers may find the narrative's bleakness challenging, and the cultural specificity might require contextual knowledge to fully appreciate certain nuances.

Despite these potential drawbacks, "pillars of salt fadia faqir" remains a significant work for its courageous storytelling and insightful social commentary.

In sum, Fadia Faqir's "Pillars of Salt" continues to resonate as a powerful narrative that challenges readers to confront uncomfortable truths about gender, culture, and freedom. Its place in contemporary literature is well-earned, marking it as a critical voice in the ongoing dialogue about identity and justice in the modern Arab world.

## **Pillars Of Salt Fadia Faqir**

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**pillars of salt fadia faqir:** *Pillars of Salt* Fadia Faqir, 1997-05-06 A novel on the lot of Arab women. Set in Jordan in the 1940s, the protagonists are two women in a mental hospital who exchange stories. One is a mother of eight who was repudiated by her husband so he could marry a younger woman. By a Jordanian writing in English, author of Nisanit.

**pillars of salt fadia faqir: Arab Voices in Diaspora** Layla Al Maleh, Layla Maleh, 2009 Arab Voices in Diaspora offers a wide-ranging overview and an insightful study of the field of anglophone Arab literature produced across the world. The first of its kind, it chronicles the development of this literature from its inception at the turn of the past century until the post 9/11 era. The book sheds light not only on the historical but also on the cultural and aesthetic value of this literary production, which has so far received little scholarly attention. It also seeks to place anglophone Arab literary works within the larger nomenclature of postcolonial, emerging, and ethnic literature, as it finds that the authors are haunted by the same 'hybrid', 'exilic', and 'diasporic' questions that have dogged their fellow postcolonialists. Issues of belonging, loyalty, and affinity are recognized and dealt with in the various essays, as are the various concerns involved in cultural and relational identification. The contributors to this volume come from different national backgrounds and share in examining the nuances of this emerging literature. Authors discussed include Elmaz Abinader, Diana Abu-Jaber, Leila Aboulela, Leila Ahmed, Rabih Alameddine, Edward Atiyah, Shaw Dallal, Ibrahim Fawal, Fadia Faqir, Khalil Gibran, Suheir Hammad, Loubna Haikal, Nada Awar Jarrar, Jad El Hage, Lawrence Joseph, Mohja Kahf, Jamal Mahjoub, Hisham Matar, Dunya Mikhail, Samia Serageldine, Naomi Shihab Nye, Ameen Rihani, Mona Simpson, Ahdaf Soueif, and Cecile Yazbak. Contributors: Victoria M. Abboud, Diya M. Abdo, Samaa Abdurraqib, Marta Cariello, Carol Fadda-Conrey, Cristina Garrigós, Lamia Hammad, Yasmeen Hanoosh, Wail S. Hassan, Richard E. Hishmeh, Syrine Hout, Layla Al Maleh, Brinda J. Mehta, Dawn Mirapuri, Geoffrey P. Nash, Boulus Sarru, Fadia Fayezy Suyoufie

**pillars of salt fadia faqir: Literary Madness in British, Postcolonial, and Bedouin Women's Writing** Shahd Alshammari, 2016-09-23 This book considers the ways in which madness has been portrayed in writing by women writers. It readdresses the madwoman trope, opening up multiple sites of literary madness, examining places and spaces outside of the 'madwoman in the attic.' In particular, a transnational approach sets itself up against a Eurocentric approach to literary madness. Women novelists from the Brontës to the Indian writer Arundhati Roy and Arab writers Fadia Faqir and Miral al-Tahawy interrogate patriarchal societies and oppressive cultures. Female characters who suffer from madness are strikingly similar in their revolutionary subversion of patriarchal environments.

**pillars of salt fadia faqir: Nostalgia in Anglophone Arab Literature** Tasnim Qutait, 2021-04-22 This book offers an in-depth engagement with the growing body of Anglophone Arab fiction in the context of theoretical debates around memory and identity. Against the critical tendency to dismiss nostalgia as a sentimental trope of immigrant narratives, Qutait sheds light on the creative uses to which it is put in the works of Rabih Alameddine, Ahdaf Soueif, Hisham Matar, Leila Aboulela, Randa Jarrar, Rawi Hage, and others. Arguing for the necessity of theorising cultural memory beyond Eurocentric frameworks, the book demonstrates how Arab novelists writing in English draw on nostalgia as a touchstone of Arabic literary tradition from pre-Islamic poetry to the present. Qutait situates Anglophone Arab fiction within contentious debates about the place of the



past in the Arab world, tracing how writers have deployed nostalgia as an aesthetic strategy to deal with subject matter ranging from the Islamic golden age, the era of anti-colonial struggle, the failures of the postcolonial state and of pan-Arabism, and the perennial issue of the diaspora's relationship to the homeland. Making a contribution to the transnational turn in memory studies while focusing on a region underrepresented in this field, this book will be of interest for researchers interested in cultural memory, postcolonial studies and the literatures of the Middle East.

**pillars of salt fadia faqir: Modern Arab American Fiction** Steven Salaita, 2011-04-13 Within the spectrum of American literary traditions, Arab American literature is relatively new. Writing produced by Americans of Arab origin is mainly a product of the twentieth century and only started to flourish in the past thirty years. While this young but thriving literature varies widely in content and style, it emerges from a common community and within a specific historical, political, and cultural context. In *Modern Arab American Fiction*, Salaita maps out the landscape of this genre as he details rather than defines the last century of Arab American fiction. Exploring the works of such best-selling authors as Rabi Alameddine, Mohja Kahf, Laila Halaby, Diana Abu-Jaber, Alicia Erian, and Randa Jarrar, Salaita highlights the development of each author's writing and how each has influenced Arab American fiction. He examines common themes including the Israel-Palestine conflict, the Lebanese Civil War of 1975-90, the representation and practice of Islam in the United States, social issues such as gender and national identity in Arab cultures, and the various identities that come with being Arab American. Combining the accessibility of a primer with in-depth critical analysis, *Modern Arab American Fiction* is suitable for a broad audience, those unfamiliar with the subject area, as well as scholars of the literature.

**pillars of salt fadia faqir: Learning and Teaching about Islam** Caroline Ellwood, 2012 With a foreword by HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, this collection of contributions from leading contributors on the teaching of Islam in schools is aimed as a step towards improving intercultural understanding. '...Powerful and elegant... offers the reader a deeper knowledge of Islamic history and faith, its views on education and its perceptions of Western culture.' Jackie Holderness, *International School magazine*

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**pillars of salt fadia faqir: Arab, Muslim, Woman** Lindsey Moore, 2008-05-14 This groundbreaking book analyzes a wide range of literary and visual texts, many of which have not received treatment elsewhere, and promotes an emergent canon of women's writing and film.

**pillars of salt fadia faqir: Islamic Postcolonialism** Hasan Majed, 2015-09-18 Islamic postcolonialism is a theoretical perspective that combines two components which have up until now existed in a state of tension. As a secular theory, postcolonialism has notably failed to account for Muslim priorities; it has, for instance, had severe problems critiquing the anti-Islam polemics of *The Satanic Verses*, as is evidenced by Edward Said's support for Rushdie, in spite of his criticism of the stereotypical representation of Islam and Muslims in the West. Islamic postcolonialism applies the anti-colonial resistant methodology of postcolonialism from a Muslim perspective, exploring the

continuance of colonial discourse in part of the contemporary western writing about Islam and Muslims. This book explores how Islam is depicted and Muslim identities are constructed in four representative works of contemporary British fiction: Hanif Kureishi's *The Black Album* (1995), Monica Ali's *Brick Lane* (2003), Fadia Faqir's *My Name is Salma* (2007), and Leila Aboulela's *Minaret* (2005). Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses* (1988) is also discussed in terms of its crucial role in fostering what some Muslims might consider polemical and stereotypical positions in writing about Islam.

**pillars of salt fadia faqir:** Modern Arabic Literature Reuven Snir, 2017-06-02 The study of Arabic literature is blossoming. This book provides a comprehensive theoretical framework to help research this highly prolific and diverse production of contemporary literary texts. Based on the achievements of historical poetics, in particular those of Russian formalism and its theoretical legacy, this framework offers flexible, transparent, and unbiased tools to understand the relevant contexts within the literary system. The aim is to enhance our understanding of Arabic literature, throw light on areas of literary production that traditionally have been neglected, and stimulate others to take up the fascinating challenge of mapping out and exploring them.

**pillars of salt fadia faqir:** *Arab Women Writers* Raḍwā 'Āshūr, Ferial Jabouri Ghazoul, Hasna Reda-Mekdashy, Mandy McClure, 2008 Arab women's writing in the modern age began with 'A'isha al-Taymuriya, Warda al-Yaziji, Zaynab Fawwaz, and other nineteenth-century pioneers in Egypt and the Levant. This unique study--first published in Arabic in 2004--looks at the work of those pioneers and then traces the development of Arab women's literature through the end of the twentieth century, and also includes a meticulously researched, comprehensive bibliography of writing by Arab women. In the first section, in nine essays that cover the Arab Middle East from Morocco to Iraq and Syria to Yemen, critics and writers from the Arab world examine the origin and evolution of women's writing in each country in the region, addressing fiction, poetry, drama, and autobiographical writing. The second part of the volume contains bibliographical entries for over 1,200 Arab women writers from the last third of the nineteenth century through 1999. Each entry contains a short biography and a bibliography of each author's published works. This section also includes Arab women's writing in French and English, as well as a bibliography of works translated into English. With its broad scope and extensive research, this book is an indispensable resource for anyone interested in Arabic literature, women's studies, or comparative literature. Contributors: Emad Abu Ghazi, Radwa Ashour, Mohammed Berrada, Ferial J. Ghazoul, Subhi Hadidi, Haydar Ibrahim, Yumna al-'Id, Su'ad al-Mani', Iman al-Qadi, Amina Rachid, Huda al-Sadda, Hatim al-Sakr.

**pillars of salt fadia faqir:** English Literature for the IB Diploma Carolyn P. Henly, Nic Amy, Angela Stancar Johnson, Kathleen Clare Waller, 2019-12-02 Developed in cooperation with the International Baccalaureate® Everything you need to deliver a rich, concept-based approach for the new IB Diploma English Literature course. - Navigate seamlessly through all aspects of the syllabus with in-depth coverage of the new course structure and content - Investigate the three areas of exploration, concept connections and global issues in detail to help students become flexible, critical readers - Learn how to appreciate a variety of texts with a breadth of reading material and forms from a diverse pool of authors - Engaging activities are provided to test understanding of each topic and develop skills - guiding answers are available to check your responses - Identify opportunities to make connections across the syllabus, with explicit reference to TOK, EE and CAS

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and worked in both Anglophone and non-Anglophone countries. To many of them English is their dominant language, but not the mother tongue. All of them are bilingual or even trilingual. Thus their scholarly investigations are flavoured with their personal experiences or “adventures” with the language and its users. Their unique visions reveal a process of adoption, adaptation, reinvention and appropriation of both the language and its literature in a multi-national, multi-cultural, and multi-lingual community of a world where English has become the most recognizable sign of globalization. This book will appeal to all scholars and practitioners of English language and literature, particularly those interested in colonial and postcolonial studies, modern and post-modern studies, ethnic and minority studies, feminist studies, cross-cultural studies, linguistics, semantics, ESP and curriculum development.

**pillars of salt fadia faqir: Muslim Narratives and the Discourse of English** Amin Malak, 2004-12-16 Examines novels and short stories by Muslim authors who write in English.

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**pillars of salt fadia faqir: Edinburgh Companion to the Arab Novel in English** Nouri Gana, 2015-04-17 Opening up the field of diasporic Anglo-Arab literature to critical debate, this companion spans from the first Arab novel in 1911 to the resurgence of the Anglo-Arabic novel in the last 20 years. There are chapters on authors such as Ameen Rihani, Ahdaf

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**pillars of salt fadia faqir: Historical Companion to Postcolonial Literatures in English** Prem Poddar, 2019-08-07 This is the first reference guide to the political, cultural and economic histories that form the subject-matter of postcolonial literatures written in English. The focus of the Companion is principally on the histories of postcolonial literatures in the Anglophone world - Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, South-east Asia, Australia and New Zealand, the Pacific, the Caribbean and Canada. There are also long entries discussing the literatures and histories of those further areas that have also claimed the title 'postcolonial', notably Britain, East Asia, Ireland, Latin America and the United States. The Companion contains: \*220 entries written by 150 acknowledged scholars of postcolonial history and literature; \*covers major events, ideas, movements, and figures in postcolonial histories \*long regional survey essays on historiography and women's histories. Each entry provides a summary of the historical event or topic and bibliographies of postcolonial literary

works and histories. Extensive cross-references and indexes enable readers to locate particular literary texts in their relevant historical contexts, as well as to discover related literary texts and histories in other regions with ease.

**pillars of salt fadia faqir: On the Move** Geetha Ganapathy-Doré, Helga Ramsey-Kurz, 2012-12-18 In the postcommunist world of organized mobility, commodified hospitality and portable devices, the category of people labelled as migrants, the displaced and refugees symbolize a different kind of movement. Among them, the postnational figure of the refugee stands out. Fleeing their land alone or in a group, on foot or on buses and trains, or via makeshift boats and commercial flights, dressed in unfamiliar clothes and borrowed identities, the refugees travel "to dare a future from the taken roads." Their journey of escape is fraught with danger and despair, their survival complicated by the politics of suspicion, and their right to return compromised by the power game between sovereign states. Waiting for ever in transit zones or living underground like animals but exploited for their labour, the refugees are the "untouchables" of the 21st century who put to test the universal and moral duty of hospitality. When the international legal regime of human and humanitarian rights does not come to their rescue, refugee women and children feel twice abandoned. This volume of collected essays tries to explore the journey of refugees as represented in New Literatures in English. Who are these refugees? What circumstances triggered their movement? At what point in history? Where do they go? How do they cope? What are their dreams? When does the refugees' silence break into speech and story? How does life assert itself in spite of impending death? Could the death of a refugee be as insignificant as her bare life of exile? Scholars from Europe, Africa, India and Sri Lanka give here a comprehensive picture of the refugee movement across the globe since the Second World War. The refugee narratives highlight the need to extend the logic of protection from persecution to asylum from economic crisis and ecological imbalance, in order to offset the after effects of imperial outreach and industrial expansion. With a short story by Chika Unigwe by way of a foreword and contributions from Petra Tournay-Theodotou, Helga Ramsey-Kurz, Marta Cariello, Stavros Karayanni, Jean-Marie Soungoua, Federico Fabris, Evelyn Hanquart-Turner, Annie Cottier, Geetha Ganapathy-Doré, G. Sujatha and V. Vinod Kumar.

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