



Description of Syria, including Palestine: By Mukaddasi (circ. 985 A.D.)

Muḥammad ibn Alḥmad al-Muqaddasī,

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1886 Excerpt: ... derings), is a land on the position of which there is much discussion. The most reliable account is that it is the desert country, lying between Syria and Egypt, which same is forty leagues across in every direction; everywhere are sand tracts, salt marshes, and red sandstone hills, while occasionally palm trees and springs of water may be met with. The limits of this district are, on the one hand, the district of Al Jifar, and on the other Mount Sinai; to the west the desert limit is conterminous with the Egyptian province of Ar Rif; and on the other side the Tih goes up to Syria. Through it lies the pilgrim road to Makkah. TfJR Sjna (Mount Sinai) lies not far from the Bahr al Kulzum (the Red Sea); and one goes up to it from a certain village called Al Amn,1 which same is the place where Moses and the Children of Israel encamped. There are here twelve springs of fairly sweet water, and thence up to Sinai is two days' march. The Christians have a monastery (Dair) in Mount Sinai, and round it are some well-cultivated fields, and there grow here olive trees, said to be those mentioned by Allah in the Kur'an (chap-xxiv., ver. 35), where it is written concerning that 'blessed tree, an olive neither of the East nor of the West.' And the olives from these trees are sent as presents to kings. ACCOUNT OF THE GENERAL FEATURES AND PECULIARITIES OF THIS PROVINCE. The climate of Syria is temperate, except in that portion which lies in the centre region of the province, between Ash Sarah (Mount Seir) and Al Hulah (the Waters of 1 The reading of this name in the MSS. has, without doubt, been corrupted. We have here most probably the traditional Arab transcription of the name of the place called Elim, in Exodus xv. 27, where the Israelites encamped before coming 'into t...

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