



Close Relationships: Incest and Inbreeding in Classical Arabic Literature

By Geert Jan van Gelder

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This is a groundbreaking and comprehensive study of the diverse facts and opinions concerning incest and close-kin marriage found in literary and non-literary pre-modern Arabic texts. Incest is a motif found in lampoons, anecdotes, stories, legends, dream interpretation, and polemics with other religions, in particular the Zoroastrians, who in pre-Islamic times allegedly recommended next-of-kin marriage. Many of the relevant passages are presented as English translations in this richly documented book that will be of interest to philologists and students of Arabic literature or Islamic culture.

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Bibliography

- Rank: #5575317 in Books
- Published on: 2005-06-11
- Released on: 2005-05-19
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.42" h x 1.07" w x 6.38" l, 1.30 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 278 pages

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About the Author

Geert Jan van Gelder is Laudian Professor of Arabic at the University of Oxford.

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