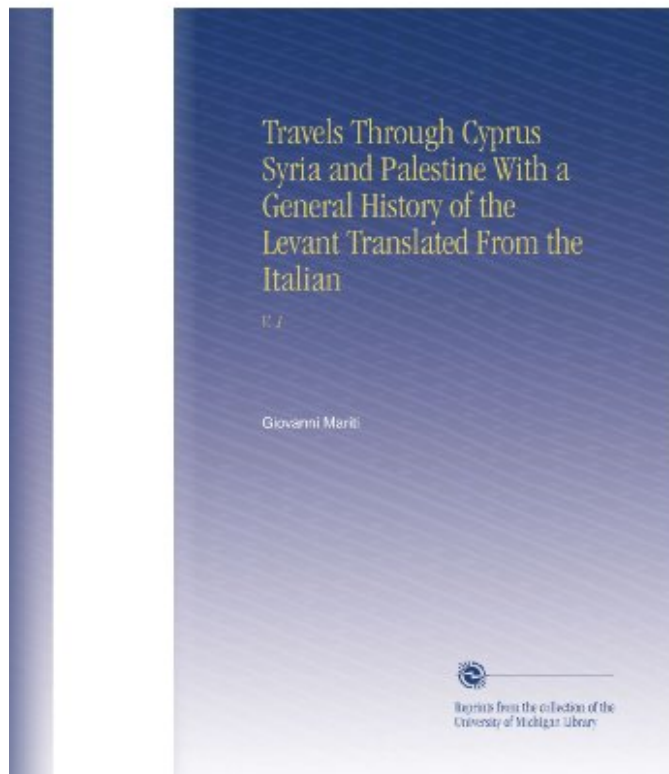


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# Travels Through Cyprus Syria and Palestine With a General History of the Levant Translated From the Italian: V. 1

*Giovanni Mariti*

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They acknowledge no sovereigns but the emirs of their tribes, who are their natural princes, and to whom they pay obedience. They have also schieks, or chiefs, who are persons of an advanced age, whom they often consult, and whose advice they follow. As there are no fixed judges among the Arabs, these schieks supply their place, and from their determination there is no appeal. These Arabs follow the religion of the Mahometans; and, after their example, observe circumcision, ablution, the fast of the ramadan, and prayer. They, however, very seldom agree with the Turks; which fully proves, that to be of the same religion is not a sufficient bond to bind men together. Too proud of the high nobility which they ascribe to themselves, they consider the Turks as bastards, and as the usurpers of their natural heritage. The Arabs are of a middle stature; their complexions are brown, owing to the climate; and they have always a grave and melancholy air. By being accustomed to every kind of fatigue at an early period of life, they acquire a remarkable share of resolution; and on this account have a ferocious aspect. Misfortunes give them no pain; and they derive no pleasure, from prosperity because they receive with resignation from the hand of God both good and evil. Equally insensible to the cries of their children, and to the tears of their wives, their visages exhibit no kind of alteration whatever. They seldom laugh, and never weep: to do either in their opinion shews great weakness; and on this account they have very little esteem for a man who weeps or laughs too much. It is necessary, therefore, for the Europeans to affect great indifference when amongst them, and to imitate their serious and melancholy behaviour: with a littl...