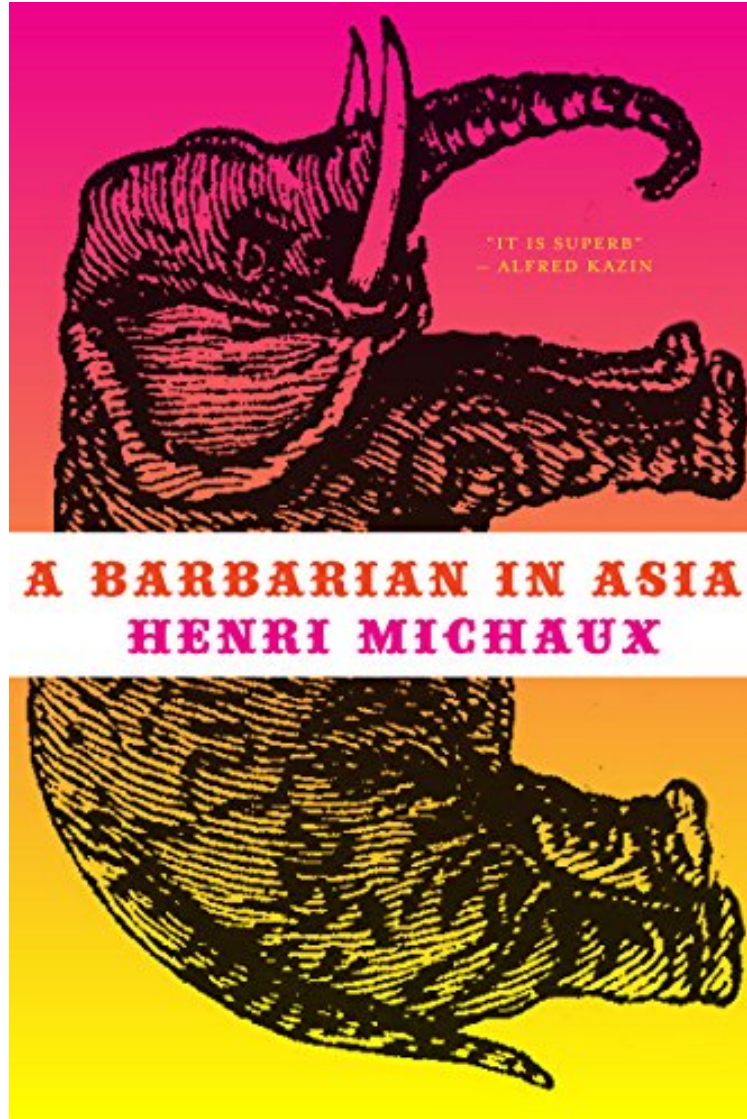


A Barbarian in Asia

Henri Michaux

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1023116 in Books Henri Michaux 2016-05-31 2016-05-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .60 x 5.40l, .0 #File Name: 0811222136198 pages A Barbarian in Asia | File size: 78.Mb

Henri Michaux : A Barbarian in Asia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Barbarian in Asia:

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. An european look at asiaBy David ChatenayHenri Michaux was travelling by himself in Asia in the 30's when he wrote his first book. Without knowing the language, the culture, the way of life, he tried to describe what he was looking at, the very first impressions he was having, before consience altered his vision. He had a very sharp "eye" for the countries he was living in, the people he was meeting, the stories he read. His perception is very european, but his curiosity for Asia, the "snapshots", images, comparisons, the

knowledge he found there makes it a great read.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Surrealistic poetry!By A CustomerThis book, which appeared in France originally in 1933, is translated by Sylvia Beach.If you love surrealism and descriptions of people from other cultures, you will love to read this book written by the surrealist poet travelogue writer, Henri Michaux.The thoughts are presented in a special poetic ethnographic genre. Michaux exults in excess and takes up thousand different elements in the different cultures that he presents here. For instance, the Hindu are contemplative, idolatrous, intolerant and immovable. The Chinese are skillful, modest, delicate and precise. The Japanese are too serious. The Malayan are clean, noble and very sympathetic.3 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Conversions into otherness and co-existence across postcolonial Asia...By Rob WilsonFor the weird surrealist poet cum travelogue writer, Henri Michaux, as "barbarian" from culture capital of surrealism and Tahitian fantasy, Paris, travel (here using the travelogue as poetic ethnographic genre) enacted and mimed a form of self abnegation, a way of abandoning habits and smug values; with the culturally coded "I" fleeing from its past into a perpetual present which is always outside itself, always other (beholding, praying to, invoking the other).Asian peoples were for this poet traveller of altered states, "the last resistants" to western monotony; everywhere in A Barbarian In Asia Michaux exults in excess, difference, makes poetic propaganda "for an endless variety of civilizations" by which to counter the idea of only one (monologue). His 'orientalism' is made explicit, ironic, and exaggerated enough to become what I would call, tonally, "mock orientalism," such as claiming that political domination is hard "even for an Asiatic."Particular national or local cultures comprise for Michaux a hybrid personality "of a thousand different elements"; each culture in Asia provides a kind of sensuous style and confronts the barbaric outsider as a landscape not of humanistic sameness but of utter estrangement and a halting of predictable codes. Going beyond Marxist analysis and Christian pieties, Michaux contends that a miner's strike should be supplemented, and is, by "a miner's civilization."Michaux journeys into cultural co existence: "To avoid war construct peace." That is, to avoid the monologue of imperialism, both political and cultural, construct estranging dialogues and multiple styles, interrogations of oriental and occidental, so called civilized and so called barbaric. Rather than a conversion experience into the commodity form there should be a conversion through voicing otherness, outsideness

A wild journey to the East narrated by a writer who is without equal in the literature of our time (Jorge Luis Borges) Henri Michaux (1899-1984), the great French poet and painter, set out as a young man to see the Far East. Traveling from India to the Himalayas, and on to China and Japan, Michaux voices his vivid impressions, cutting opinions, and curious insights: he has no trouble speaking his mind. Part fanciful travelogue and part exploration of culture, *A Barbarian in Asia* is presented here in its original translation by Sylvia Beach, the famous American-born bookseller in Paris.

Michaux excels in making us feel the strangeness of natural things and the naturalness of strange things. - Andr GideMichaux travels via his languages: lines, words, colors, silences, rhythms. And he does not hesitate to break the back of a word, the way a horseman does not hesitate to wind his mount. Language as a vehicle, but also language as a knife and a miners lamp. - Octavio PazIt is superb in its swift illuminations and its wit. - Alfred Kazin, *The New Yorker*Imagine Arthur Rimbaud carrying his peculiar poetic vision with him to Abyssinia and describing the country, natives and customs for us. Or just fancy Lewis Carrollwith whom Henri Michaux also has something in commonreporting a trip to Africa. In either case the result would be somewhat like this original and stimulating refraction of the Orient through a very special personality. - Justin O'Brien, *The New York Times Book Language Notes*Text: English, French (translation)About the AuthorHenri Michaux (1899-1984), born in Belgium, studied mysticism as a young man and traveled throughout South America and Asia before settling in Paris. He wrote more than twenty volumes of poetry and prose and showed paintings he created under the influence of mescaline. In 1965 he was awarded the French National Prize for Letters but refused the award, saying that it threatened his independence.Founder of the Left Bank bookstore Shakespeare and Co., Sylvia Beach was a luminary in the Parisian literary scene and the first publisher of *Ulysses* by James Joyce.