



Utopian Landscapes: Asia Through The Looking Glass

Blair Bourassa

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Utopian Landscapes: Asia through the Looking Glass is Blair Bourassa's intriguing first volume of the "Roadwork" series, dealing with his travels in Burma, India, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Singapore, Nepal, and Tibet. Highlights of the writing include an interview with the last king of Burma, a meeting with the world leader of the Hare Krishna movement, an encounter with a man who sold his own children to finance his travels, a fight with motorcycle thieves, and a visit to Tibet on the surreal fortieth anniversary gala celebration of its "liberation" by China. The author lived in Asia for five years, and can speak and read several of the local languages. The accounts of his travels are supplemented with well researched discussion about the culture, history and eccentricities of each country he visits, including appendices on Buddhist and Hindu iconography, the Burmese struggle against totalitarianism, and the idea of Tibetan independence. Similar in style to the Asian travel classics The Great Railway Bazaar and Video Night in Kathmandu, this book would appeal to anyone planning a tour of Asia who is interested in learning about the political and historical facts while still being entertained by an engaging travelogue narrative.



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