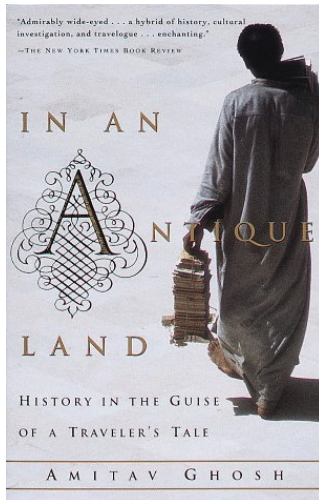




In an Antique Land

One of the most difficult topics addressed in Ghosh's book is the issue of slavery in the medieval Muslim world. How does the slavery experienced by Bomma differ from system of chattel slavery known to us from U.S. history? Is "slavery" even an appropriate term for this institution?

What is the orientation of Ghosh himself to Islam? And to "the West?" Is he an outsider, or an insider, or neither? How is his own position, and the ambiguities surrounding it, communicated through his writing?

What is the relationship between history and the present in *In an Antique Land*? Is it one of harmony or of conflict, symmetry or contrast? How is this reflected in the title? And in the way the book itself is organized?

Compare *In an Antique Land* with at least one of the other books in this list. (*Note to librarians: select a book or two in advance to keep discussion on track.*) In what ways are they in conversation with one another, be it in terms of subject matter, or genre, or content? Are there things that the unorthodox style and structure of Ghosh's book allow him to communicate that the others do not? At what cost? And how does this relate to the problem of writing "Connected History"?