

A Sinner in Mecca

A Gay Muslim's Hajj of Defiance

Parvez's heroism is rare and his courage well-documented. Putting his own life at risk, he takes us on a surprising and compelling journey through the frontlines of his much contested faith.

—Reza Aslan, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Zealot*

ABOUT THE BOOK

This is the Islam you've never been allowed to see, forbidden to most of humanity for centuries—now daringly reported from its frontlines.

The Hajj pilgrimage is a journey every Muslim is commanded by God to embark on at least once in a lifetime if they are able and, like millions, Parvez Sharma believes his spiritual salvation lies at Islam's ground zero in Saudi Arabia. But unlike the journeys of his fellow Muslims, the consequences of his own could be savage and deadly—from being thrown off a cliff to public beheading as mandated by Saudi Sharia.

In *A Sinner in Mecca*, author and filmmaker Parvez chronicles his pilgrimage as a very openly gay Muslim to Mecca, where Islam's heart beats and where non-Muslims have not been allowed for 14 centuries. Living under the shadow of death threats since he made *A Jihad for Love*, the world's first film on Islam and homosexuality, Parvez has continued his work clandestinely in the Muslim world for more than a decade. And with this book he takes us into forbidden territory from Mecca to Beirut, from Cairo to Karachi to Paris and more, on a remarkable multi-continental journey that unfolds with cinematic thriller-like alacrity.

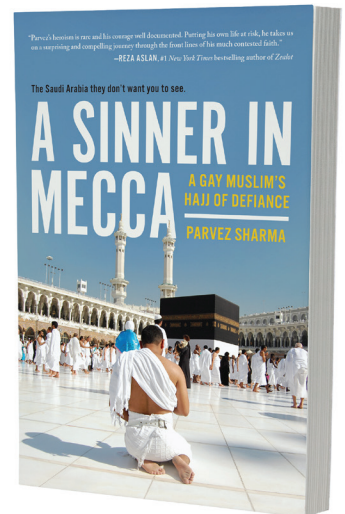
Following the *New York Times* Critics' Pick hit documentary of the same title, *A Sinner in Mecca* unflinchingly showcases the dangerous ideology that governs today's ISIS and comes directly from Saudi Arabia's sacred yet treacherous dogma, Wahhabi Islam.

If you think contemporary Islam has a problem, this book offers real solutions from within the faith; truth-telling, as only a believer working from the trenches of his embattled religion can.

A Sinner in Mecca is simultaneously one man's personal odyssey as well as a groundbreaking, provocative revelation of the world's fastest growing and most contested religion.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Parvez Sharma makes fearless, multiple-award-winning films about faith, identity, religious extremism, and social justice. Two of the best known are *A Jihad for Love* and *A Sinner in Mecca*. The latter was named *The New York Times*' Critics' Pick. He has been hailed as a "gifted filmmaker" (*Wall Street Journal*), "frankly brave" (NPR), "provocative" (*San Francisco Chronicle*), and as carrying out "an attack on Islam" by Ayatollah Khamenei's regime in Iran. Parvez's writings on Islamic, racial, and political issues have appeared on the Huffington Post, the Daily Beast, *The Guardian*, and elsewhere. He is a prominent speaker on Islam, politics, extremism, personal identity, and the media, having spoken at more than 200 live events around the world and conducted work-shops with the United Nations, European Union, US State Department, and the Department of Homeland Security. Parvez was named one of "50 Visionaries Who Are Changing Your World" in a list headed by the Dalai Lama. For direct bookings and/or speaking events for Parvez, email info@asinner-inmecca.com. You can also contact his agency, Lavin, at <http://bit.ly/2npO0uR>.



BOOK DETAILS

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