



The Way of the World (New York Review Books Classics)

By Nicolas Bouvier

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In 1953, twenty-four-year old Nicolas Bouvier and his artist friend Thierry Vernet set out to make their way overland from their native Geneva to the Khyber Pass. They had a rattletrap Fiat and a little money, but above all they were equipped with the certainty that by hook or by crook they would reach their destination, and that there would be unanticipated adventures, curious companionship, and sudden illumination along the way. *The Way of the World*, which Bouvier fashioned over the course of many years from his journals, is an entrancing story of adventure, an extraordinary work of art, and a voyage of self-discovery on the order of Robert M. Pirsig's *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*. As Bouvier writes, "You think you are making a trip, but soon it is making—or unmaking—you."

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The Way of the World (New York Review Books Classics) By Nicolas Bouvier Bibliography

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Download and Read Free Online *The Way of the World* (New York Review Books Classics) By Nicolas Bouvier

Editorial Review

From Library Journal

In 1953, the author and an artist friend left Yugoslavia and worked their way across Greece, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan. Bouvier's recollections of their 18 months of travel captures the timeless nature of what happens when different cultures interact regardless of the events surrounding them. Originally published in 1963 under the title, *L'Usage du Monde*, the book became a cult classic in France and was translated into several European languages. Because it covers countries that have become accessible to all peoples through world events and the media, it seems appropriate that the book is available for the first time in English. For large travel collections.

- *Elizabeth Loftus, Onondaga Cty. P.L., Syracuse, N.Y.*

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From Kirkus Reviews

Lyrical reminiscences of a footloose journey from Yugoslavia to India, undertaken 40 years ago by the then-25-year-old author of the enchanting *The Japanese Chronicles* (1992) and an equally young companion. Traveling in a distinctly fractious Fiat, the two friends, appealingly optimistic and resourceful, make their way "on the cheap," settling in at peasant inns, earning their expenses by writing articles, delivering lectures, and organizing exhibitions. Perhaps because of their winning ways, they attract a colorful band of cohorts as they wend their way eastward--beggars and brigands, muezzins and Marxists. In recounting his adventures, Bouvier frequently provides thought-provoking insights: At one point, discussing the shortcomings of US humanitarian aid programs, he observes that "practicing charity demands endless tact and humility"--qualities he finds lacking even in well-intentioned Americans; later, he points out that, "like a mirror, an intelligent face is the same age as what it reflects." Wherever he travels, Bouvier displays an artist's eye for the image-conjuring detail: a moustache "like a furled umbrella"; a Tabriz cinema in which the projectionist, eager to get home, speeds up his machine until "the story would take on a disturbing pace: caresses looked like slaps, ermine-clad empresses hurtled downstairs." Throughout, Robyn Marsack's translation from the French is a model of lucidity and smoothness, capturing the author's unique blend of humanity and humor, and, as a bonus, there's a gracefully appreciative introduction by travel-writer Patrick Leigh Fermor. Travel writing to be cherished and reread. -- *Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Review

"A genuine masterpiece, an exhilarating, innocent, perceptive and wholly enjoyable young man's travel book, and a discovery of the Asian road that by rights deserves to occupy the same shelf as great classics of the genre such as Robert Byron's *The Road to Oxiana* or Eric Newby's *Short Walk in the Hindu Kush*." --*The Financial Times*

The exhilaration of the open road and the feeling of connectedness to the natural world that it can produce, is, after all, a common human experience. Simply expressed, it has produced some of mankind's greatest writing. The Swiss travel writer Nicolas Bouvier explores this territory in his youthful masterpiece, *The Way of the World*, where he conveys as well as anyone the raw intoxication of being on the road." —*The New York Times*

"*The Way of the World* is a masterpiece which elevates the mundane to the memorable and captures the thrill of two passionate and curious young men discovering both the world and themselves. Racy and meditative, romantic and realistic, the book is as brilliant as Patrick Leigh Fermor's *A Time of Gifts*, but with its erudition more lightly worn and as alive as Kerouac's *On the Road*, though without a whisper of self-aggrandisement...On every page a gem or two glitters, and the accumulation of colour, detail and inspired metaphor produce an intensely hypnotic effect...If you read any travel book this year--or indeed the next forty years--this should be it." --Rory Maclean, *The Guardian* (UK)

"Bouvier has all the gifts a travel writer could want--curiosity, tolerance, hardiness--but above all he has a poet's sensibility with words. His is a lyrical style that is as pure as spring air." --James Owen, *Telegraph* (UK)

"...it's about a journey in the 1950s from Belgrade to India. They try to go to India in a tiny battered Fiat and it takes them several years, these friends, and it probably describes the attraction of travel better than any book I've ever read." --Roy Moxam

"Bouvier wrote only a handful of books, but this relatively small production has attained classic status in Europe...His prose is at once musical and remarkably factual, while the odd detail always seems captured with the deftness of a haiku poet. His gift for summing up significant experiences often rivals Thoreau's." --*Paths to Contemporary French Literature*

"A classic on the Continent; [Bouvier's] youthful masterpiece...has something close to biblical status for the current generation of French travel writers....Like Lévi-Strauss, like Chatwin, like Sebald even, his writing binds elements of autobiography and travelogue, history and literature. Yet Nicolas Bouvier remains his own man; he is the minimalist of modern travel writing." --Ben Hutchinson, *Guardian* (UK)

"An exquisitely vivid and accurate translation." --*Paths to Contemporary French Literature*

"It is difficult to isolate the best moments of [*The Way of the World*]. Bouvier is a colourist and a miniaturist of the highest order." --*Le Monde*

"Bouvier alerts the reader to the transcendent dimensions of travel." --Jasion Elliot

"...like a meteor which comes to light up our atmosphere." --André Rollin

"In the tradition of great travel writing it is beautifully written and works on many levels - being an account of the journey, a meditation on life and an appreciation of the spirit of a place." --Sarah Anderson, founder of the Travel Bookshop, in *The Guardian*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Audrey Thompson:

As people who live in the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or info even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era and that is always change and advance. Some of you maybe can update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to you is you don't know what kind you should start with. This *The Way of the World* (New York Review Books Classics) is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Donald Chen:

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Terry McConnell:

With this era which is the greater person or who has ability to do something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple method to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to have a look at some books. Among the books in the top checklist in your reading list is actually *The Way of the World* (New York Review Books Classics). This book which can be qualified as *The Hungry Hills* can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking way up and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

Christopher Walker:

A number of people said that they feel bored when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt this when they get a half elements of the book. You can choose often the book *The Way of the World* (New York Review Books Classics) to make your own reading is interesting. Your current skill of reading proficiency is developing when you such as reading. Try to choose simple book to make you enjoy to read it and mingle the impression about book and reading through especially. It is to be very first opinion for you to like to available a book and go through it. Beside that the reserve *The Way of the World* (New York Review Books Classics) can to be your new friend when you're experience alone and confuse using what must you're doing of this time.

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