

About the book

In the novel ***Simorgh - An Afghan Jew on the Silk Road***, the Jerusalem writer and researcher Benzion D. Yehoshua presents us the fascinating world of Elisha-Hai, whose father was murdered by road robbers in mysterious Afghanistan while he was still in his mother's womb. He grew up to be a trickster and adventurer. He runs away from the old world, where popular beliefs, demons and spirits rule, but a new and unfamiliar world that brings him to Haifa during the British Mandate on the Land of Israel. The journey brings him together with shrewd dealers, drug smugglers, arms and women traffickers, from whom he learned the secret of the dark life. A deep cultural and value gap lies between the districts of his childhood and the new world he built for himself in Haifa.

The stevedore in Haifa port became a rich capitalist, a cunning merchant who lives on the edge of the sword - changing identities, informing on the British and collaborating with the undergrounds. At the same time associating with the British, with Arab nationalism, with the Templars, with the Baha'is and fighting the socialists. He is a man with endless passions. Along with the women in his life, he was captivated by Trudy, the newcomer from Leipzig who harbors a secret. He also hides from her a secret from his past. She loses all her possessions and honor in his arms. Their world was destroyed in a night of upheavals. The departure of the British and the establishment of the State of Israel leaves him facing a broken trough.

The plots of the book are fascinating, dramatic and interwoven with each other against the background of the events of the time in Palestine-The Land of Israel. Readers are invited to enter a colorful, perfumed, exotic, macabre world, full of customs and beliefs, romantic, tragic and comical.

It is a meeting of new versus old, east versus west against the backdrop of events in the first half of the 20th century.