

BALTASAR PORCEL

MEDITERRÀNEO

Una historia personal

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**MEDITERRÀNIA: UNA HISTÒRIA
PERSONAL**
(*Mediterranean: a Personal Story*),
Baltasar Porcel

«This work could be described both as a work of history and a travel book, yet it is also a lot more than that: the figures that inhabit the landscape of this book represent the symbolic wave of humanity that has crossed and re-crossed the Mediterranean.» This is the opening of this «personal story», in which Baltasar Porcel invites us on a journey where he illuminates with his own bright light the names and landscapes of the Mediterranean: of Homer and the Renaissance artists, of the Venice of the imperial doge of Soliman the Magnificent; of Carthage and Granada, and from there to Malta and Jerusalem; of Christopher Columbus, the streets of Marrakech and the green coasts of Majorca.

The cardinal point between three continents, the Mediterranean is the cradle of a civilisation whose origins can be found in the Nile Delta, in the pastures south of Andalusia and in the mountains of the Atlas. Moved by the tides of history and myth, Porcel crosses this sea in a fascinating, epic and lyrical journey that synthesises history with personal experience, taking us back to the foundation of a collective, ancient culture.

Baltasar Porcel (Majorca, 1937) is an author of novels and travel diaries, criticism, interviews and plays. His literary work is based on a cycle of stories set in his native Andratx, a mythologizing of his village that has become a metaphor for the human condition. Among his books, he has written: *La lluna i el "Cala Llamp"* (1963), *Els argonautes* (1968), *Difunts sota els ametllers en flor* (1970), *Cavalls cap a la fosca* (1975), *Les primaveres i les tardors* (1986), *El cor del senglar* (2000), *L'emperador o l'ull del vent* (2001) and *Olympia a mitjanit* (2004). He has won some of the most important literary prizes in Catalan: Josep Pla (1969); Prudenci Bertrana (1975, 1997); Sant Jordi (1986); Literatura Catalana de la Generalitat de Catalunya for literary creation (1987) and Ramon Llull (2001), among others. Considered as one of the most important contemporary European novelists, his works have obtained the most important Catalan literary awards and have been translated into various languages, winning recognition in Italy (Boccaccio Award) and the USA (Critics Choice).



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