

Water the Willow Tree: Memoirs of a Bethlehem Boyhood



**Vortrag von
Dr. George Kiraz
Universität Princeton**
Vortrag in englischer Sprache

DIENSTAG, 28. JAN. 2025, 18:15 UHR
Hörsaal THIELALLEE 67, 14195 Berlin
***U3 Dahlem-Dorf oder Freie Universität
Berlin (Thielplatz); Bus 110, M 11, X 83***

The talk will give a history of the Syriac community in Palestine and a journey through his Childhood and Boyhood memoirs. George first traces his ancestors' migration from Upper Mesopotamia—present-day Turkey—to Palestine in the aftermath of the horrific Sayfo genocide of 1915 (known more popularly as the Armenian genocide); in doing so, he provides a personal history of the Syriac presence in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. He then describes the realities of that presence through memories from his own boyhood, offering an intimate look at myriad aspects of Syriac life in Palestine in the 1970s and '80s: church community and religious identity, brushes with ancient history and artifacts, conflicts with the Israeli occupation, fraught custodianship of Christian holy places in Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

George A. Kiraz is a Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton and the founder and director of Beth Mardutho: The Syriac Institute. He earned an M.St. degree in Syriac Studies from the University of Oxford (1991) and an M.Phil. and a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge (1992, 1996). He has published extensively in the fields of computational linguistics, Syriac studies, and the digital humanities. His latest books include *The Syriac Orthodox in North America (1895–1995): A Short History* (2019) and *Syriac-English New Testament* (2020).