

DAYBREAK PRESS

GIVING RISE TO
WOMEN'S VOICES





Rabata works to build a better society through the educational and spiritual development of women by women, amplifying the female voice in scholarship and publishing, and graduating teachers and religious leaders ready to serve their communities. Rabata is both an online and in-person learning space, where Muslim women—those who were born to the faith, those who have grown up under its shade, and those who are newcomers—can find and nurture their spiritual selves.

Rabata, Inc. is recognized as a nonprofit organization by the IRS, Section 501(c)(3). Please visit us at the Rabata Cultural Center in Arden Hills, Minnesota or online at rabata.org.



Daybreak Press publishes Muslim women writers in a variety of literary genres and academic fields, bringing to life work that cultivates positive cultural change.

Our adult and juvenile fiction titles tackle challenging issues, provide heartfelt inspiration, and serve as springboards for learning and discussion about issues such as growing up, inclusion, and mental health—breaking down walls as only literature can. Our poetry collection and book of du'ā's (prayers) offer the reader spiritual comfort, upliftment, and solace. Our nonfiction and academic works broaden the knowledge and deepen the religious lives of students and readers around the world.

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WHEN THE WILD THINGS MEND

ON HURT, HEALING, AND HERITAGE

By Sahar A. Dandan

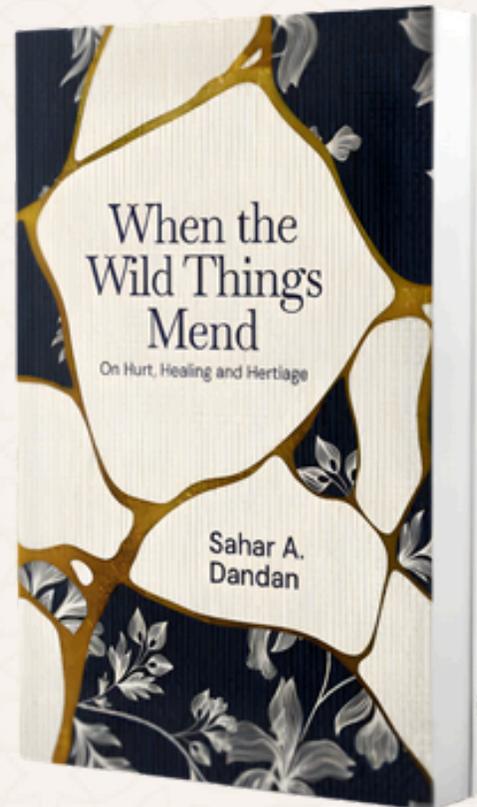
 @sahar.a.dandan

Paperback | \$22.00 | 104 pages
978-1-967369-08-9
bookshop.rabata.org

In this powerful debut poetry collection, Sahar Dandan maps the space between a woman's silence and her scream, examining the wounds that shape womanhood and the legacies mothers pass on.

Dandan's visceral and incisive poetry explores the ways women are taught to be, the shapes they are obliged to take, and the margins they are expected to confine themselves to. From generation to generation, these traditions are passed down in fairy tales left unfinished and lullabies sharpened into weapons.

Both arresting and resonant, *When the Wild Things Mend* challenges readers to plant gardens of rebellion and stitch their names into the spines of books they were told they shouldn't write.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Sahar Dandan is a chemical engineer by training and a sustainability-driven executive by vocation. She holds a double degree in chemical engineering and science from the University of Sydney.

Her passion for community development led her to shift careers, however, and she turned to pioneering programs for young refugees, Muslim women, and minority communities.

Alongside her professional and community work, Sahar continues to pursue studies in Islamic sciences and teach Islamic texts. She is currently the CEO of Greendale Garden Cemetery, where she leads efforts to integrate traditional burial practices with eco-conscious design.

MY PROPHET ﷺ, MYSELF

By Dana Nass

 @dananass_

Paperback | \$29.99 | 148 pages

978-1-7368031-4-1

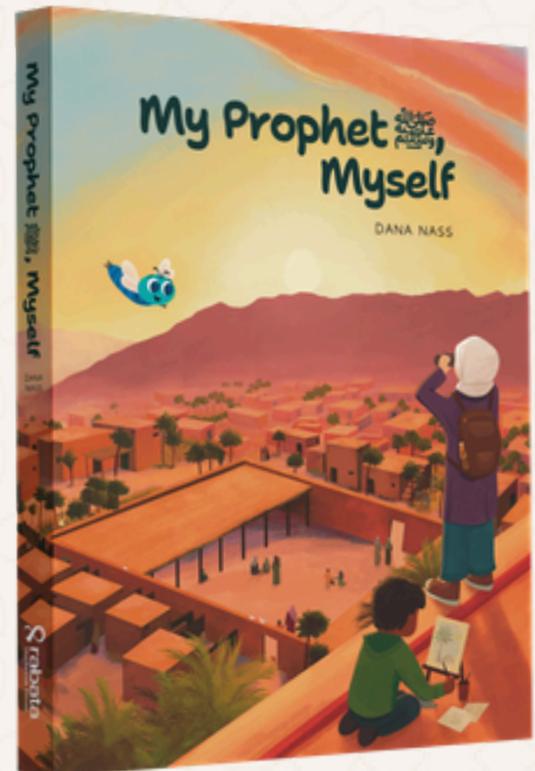
bookshop.rabata.org

Journey into the character of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and become the best version of yourself!

What did the Prophet ﷺ do when a companion asked for his new cloak? What did the Prophet ﷺ do when a tree cried? What did the Prophet ﷺ do when a family member tried to keep him from teaching about Islam?

The Prophet ﷺ was sent as a role model for us, but how can we follow his example?

My Prophet, Myself explores twenty-one positive characteristics of the best teacher of all time: Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Kids aged 6–12 will enjoy reading stories of the Prophet ﷺ and his companions as they embody virtues like generosity, empathy, and confidence. Through these stories, explanations of the character traits, and self-reflective questions, readers will learn how the Prophet ﷺ lived and how they can emulate his virtues themselves.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Dana Nass integrates character building into every curriculum she designs and every class she teaches. My Prophet, Myself is her first foray into the world of engaging textbooks for young people.

Holding a master's degree in psychology and behavioral analysis from Grand Canyon University, Nass currently serves her community as a behavior specialist and youth leader. She studied traditional Islamic subjects with renowned scholars in Damascus, Syria, as well as through Rabata, earning ijāzas in Ḥaḥḥ recitation of the Quran and the Forty Hadith of Imam Nawawī.

Residing in Arizona, Dana finds joy in life's simple moments—savoring a cup of coffee or spending time with her family.

PROSPERITY WITH PURPOSE

By Nausheena Hussain

 @nausheena.hussain

Paperback | \$24.99 | 332 pages

978-1-7368031-0-3

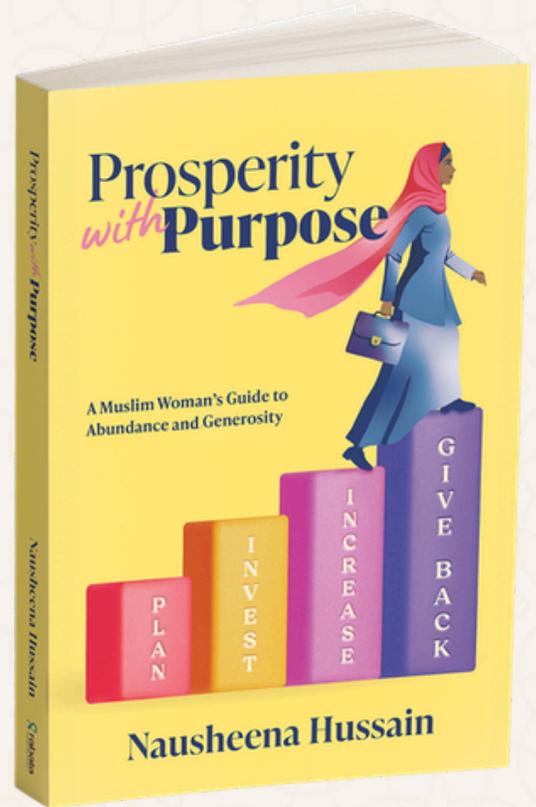
bookshop.rabata.org

What would you say if I told you that Muslim women received just 0.2% of capital funds invested in a particular year? Before I read *Prosperity with Purpose*, I would have said, "We need to seek more of those funds!"

Nausheena Hussain, however, has far bigger plans. Her answer is that we need to become the people doling out those funds! And her debut work, *Prosperity with Purpose*, shows us how to reach that goal.

From investing in ourselves to investing in our 401(k)s, Hussain guides Muslim women to an abundance mindset that is backed by the creation of actual abundance. She provides solid spiritual strategies for living a lifestyle of productive self-care, getting the most out of our credit cards, and turning our own abundance into ever-increasing charity.

Whether you are eager to learn how to handle your money—in not only halal but uplifting ways—or have always run screaming from discussions of wealth and finance, *Prosperity with Purpose* is your guide to a balanced financial present and a rewarding hereafter inshallah.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Nausheena Hussain is a nonprofit entrepreneur, mentor, and speaker dedicated to empowering Muslim women-led nonprofits through Nissa Consulting. A Research Fellow at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, she is pursuing a doctorate in philanthropic leadership, focusing on Muslim women's generosity.

When not working, she enjoys reading, traveling, and attempting water activities—despite not knowing how to swim. She holds an MA in Philanthropic Studies, a Certificate in FundRaising Management (CFRM), and an MBA in Marketing. She lives in Minnesota with her husband, two children, and a regal house cat who side-eyes her financial decisions.

FINDING GOD

By Claudia Azizah Seise

 @clazahsei

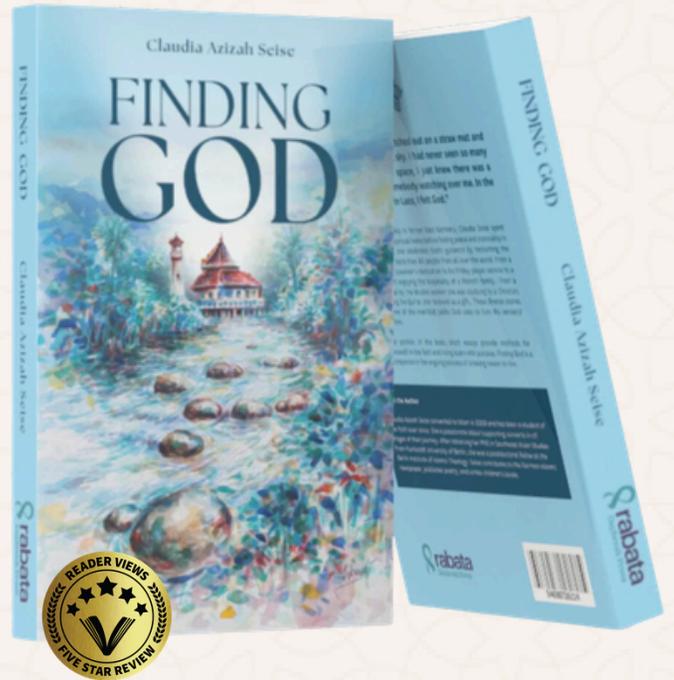
Paperback | \$23.99 | 214 pages

978-1-7345914-8-4

bookshop.rabata.org

Born into an atheist family in former East Germany, Claudia Seise spent years searching for her spiritual home before finding peace and tranquility in Islam. In Finding God, she celebrates God's guidance by recounting the conversion stories of more than 40 people from all over the world. From a young man seeing a coworker's dedication to his Friday prayer service to a high school student enjoying the hospitality of a friend's family... From a researcher inspired by the Muslim women she was studying to a Christian missionary reading the Qur'an she received as a gift... These diverse stories explore just some of the manifold paths God uses to turn His servants' hearts toward Him.

In the latter portion of the book, short essays provide methods for grounding oneself in the faith and living Islam with purpose. Finding God is a valuable companion in the ongoing process of drawing nearer to Him.



2025 IBPA Book Award: Silver Medal in the Religion category

2025 CIPA EVVY Award: Silver Medal in the Spiritual/Religion category

Reader Views: 5 Star Review

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Claudia Azizah Seise was born in 1983 in Germany and converted to Islam in 2008. Ever since then, she has aimed to study Islam and seek knowledge on becoming closer to God. One of her passions is supporting new and old converts to Islam. She obtained her PhD in Southeast Asian studies from Humboldt University Berlin, Germany, in 2016. From 2018 to 2019, she served as an assistant professor at the International Islamic University Malaysia. Besides her academic writings, she has been contributing to the German Islamic newspaper since 2008. Her poetry has been published in several collections. She also writes children's books. From September 2020 to December 2023, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Berlin Institute of Islamic Theology, Germany.

AUNTIE AISHA ANSWERS

THE TWEEN MUSLIM'S ULTIMATE
GUIDE TO GROWING UP

By Aisha Hussain Rasheed

 @auntie.aisha

Paperback | \$22.99 | 106 pages

978-1-7345914-6-0

bookshop.rabata.org

Tweens have questions—and Auntie Aisha is here to answer them!

In a world full of confusing mis-information about growing up, you may not know who to turn to for reliable, nonjudgmental guidance.

Enter Auntie Aisha!

She answers the physical, emotional, social, and religious questions you have (and a few you may not even know to ask). Aisha Hussain Rasheed's no-nonsense advice is there for you through the turbulent tween years and beyond.



Finalist: Best Middle Grades book from Booklover

Finalist: 2025 Eric Hoffer Book Award Category

2025 IBPA Book Award: Gold Medal in Middle Grade/Young Adult Nonfiction category

Independent Press Award: "Distinguished Favorite 2026" in the Religion nonfiction category

Reader Views: 5 Star Review

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Aisha Hussain Rasheed is *bint al-juzur*, a daughter of the Maldivian Islands, currently acclimating to the tropical rainforests of Malaysia with her husband and son. She holds a BA in Islamic Law and Jurisprudence and a Shahadah Alimiyya, and is honored to teach at her alma mater, Al-Salam Institute. She likes to split her spare time between contemplating life and telling bad mom jokes. Aisha brings together her knowledge as an Islamic scholar and her years of experience as a community and youth leader to gently guide tweens through their very exciting and equally confusing journey of learning to be grown-ups.

JOY JOTS: EXERCISES FOR A HAPPY HEART

By Dr. Tamara Gray

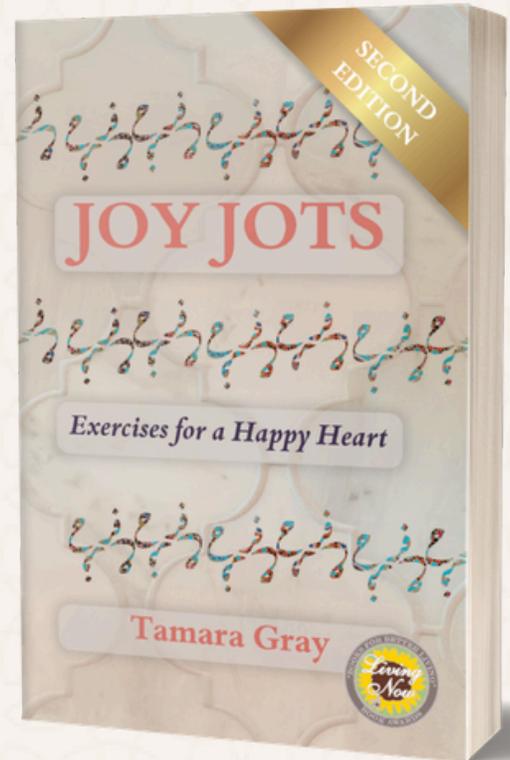
 @tamaralgray

Paperback | \$22.99 | 106 pages

978-1-7345914-6-0

bookshop.rabata.org

Joy Jots, now in its second edition, is a collection of 52 weekly essays that take the reader through a year of seasons, blessings, and joyful spiritual growth. "Joy jot" is a phrase coined around mindful gratitude. As the reader works through the reflection prompts and practical projects, she will find herself collecting joy jots- happy moments or points of deep thankfulness to God. As the habit of joy develops, the reader will begin to know herself better, draw closer to her fellow human beings, and set herself firmly upon the path that leads to real, all-encompassing joy in this life and the next.



Finalist: Living Now Book Awards |
International Book Awards | Self-
Help/Spirituality in 2023

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Dr. Tamara Gray is a founder of Rabata, an organization dedicated to promoting positive cultural change through creative educational experiences. As executive director, faculty, and chief spirituality officer, she focuses on uplifting Muslim women within community and without. She has a special interest in digital spaces in faith communities.

Dr. Gray holds a doctorate in leadership from the University of St. Thomas, a master's degree in Curriculum Theory and Instruction from Temple University and spent twenty years in traditional learning spaces studying Islamic sciences, Quran, and Arabic in Damascus, Syria.

In addition to her work at Rabata, Dr. Gray also serves as both faculty and an academic council member for The Islamic Seminary of America, is a Senior Fellow at the Yaqeen Institute and is a member of the Fiqh council of North America. She has recently taken on the position of Board Chair for the Minnesota Multifaith Network Council.

She is a mother of three, grandmother of two, an avid reader and a lover of cultures, coffee, and road trips.

SOPHIA'S JOURNAL

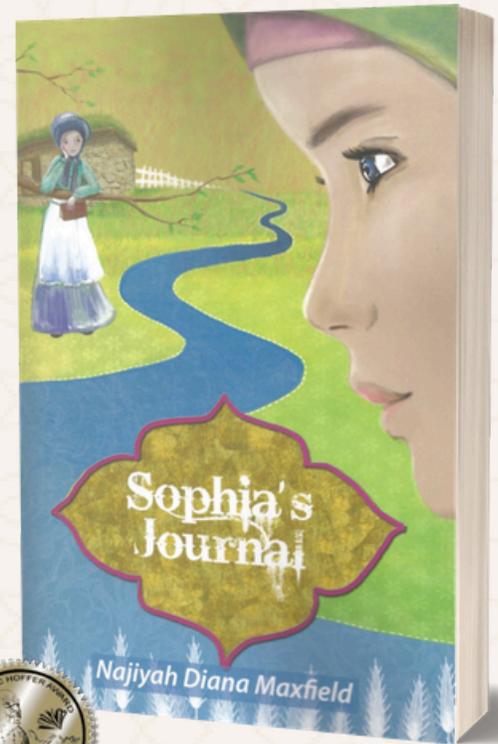
By Najiyah Diana Maxfield

📷 @najiyahwriteswrongs

Paperback | \$12.99 | 300 pages
978-0990625902
bookshop.rabata.org

After a bad fall in the Kansas river near Lawrence, Sophia, a 16-year-old Muslim-American, emerges soaking wet in what she is shocked to discover is Bleeding Kansas. Not long after her arrival, however, her worries turn from her own mystifying situation to the horrific ones endured by the enslaved people and First Nations people she meets. Sophia and her adopted sister Abby set out to help their friends, but soon learn that change can be dangerous.

Filled with adventure, self-discovery, and a dash of romance, *Sophia's Journal* offers a glimpse into a world half-forgotten from a vantage point like no other.



Finalist: Purple Dragonfly Book Awards:
Young Adult Fiction

Finalist: 2023 Eric Hoffer Book Award

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Najiyah Maxfield is the award-winning author of many articles, poems and short stories. Her young adult novel, *Sophia's Journal*, explores themes of inclusion and identity and is being taught in several middle and high schools across North America. She taught secondary level English and history in the States and university level English in Syria. She spent three years as the Managing Editor of Discover: The Magazine for Curious Muslim Kids and is now the Editorial Director of Daybreak Press, Rabata's non-profit publishing company. She lives in Canton, MI where she kayaks in the summer, knits in the winter, and divides her time between her six children, two granddaughters and studying and volunteering with Ribaat.

PIECES

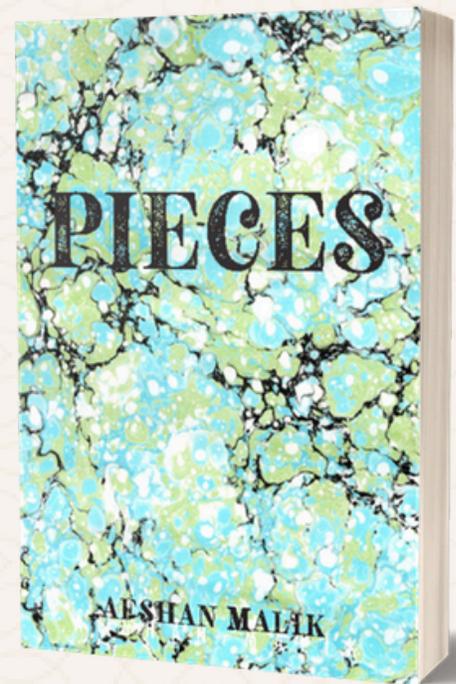
By Afshan Malik

 @afshanmalik1009

Paperback | \$19.99 | 184 pages
978-0999299012
bookshop.rabata.org

As if track practice, yearbook meetings, and tumultuous friendships weren't enough, sisters Hannah and Noreen are catapulted into a disorienting new reality when their dad returns home from his medical mission in Syria a haunted and broken man.

All of a sudden, their once tight-knit family is falling to pieces. Little do they know, things will become a lot more crazy and unpredictable as each of them fights a different battle.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Afshan Malik is a Chicago native turned southern belle who loves Dr. Pepper, afternoon naps, and historical novels. She holds a BA in English Language and Literature and an MA in Nonprofit Management. Afshan is excited to bring her interest in uplifting Muslim women at the global nonprofit Rabata. She is currently the Director of Development at Rabata working to amplify its mission of positive cultural change. She is also in the first graduating class from the Ribaat Academic Program and continues to pursue additional Islamic studies certifications under the tutelage of Dr. Tamara Gray. Afshan is the calm eye of the storm in much of what life tosses her way and enjoys soaking up the Texas sun with her husband and five children.

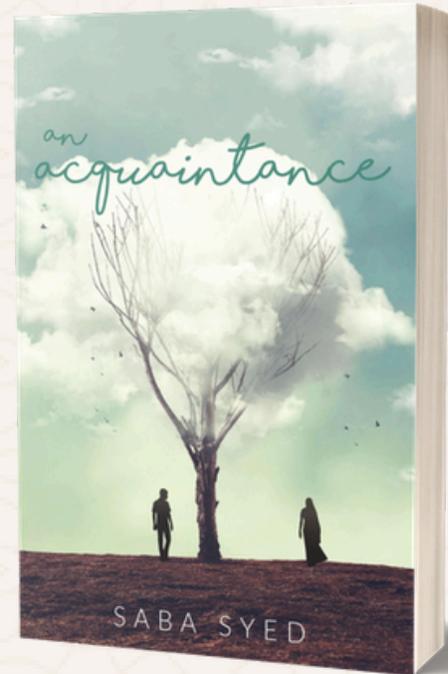
AN ACQUAINTANCE

By Saba Syed

 @saba_ummreem

Paperback | \$18.95 | 292 pages
978-0999299005
bookshop.rabata.org

An Acquaintance is the exciting story of a smart, driven young Muslim girl living in small town America who falls for the new guy at her high school. Family and friends misunderstand their developing relationship, and Sarah struggles to be faithful to her moral code. As rumors of misconduct crescendo throughout the school year, what will become of their mere acquaintance...or is it more?



Finalist: International Book Awards:
Young Adult Fiction

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Saba Syed is the author of the international award-winning novel, *An Acquaintance*. Saba has a BA degree in Islamic Studies. She studied Arabic Language & Literature at Qatar University and at Cairo Institute in Egypt.

She also received her Ijaazah in Quranic Hafs recitation in Egypt from Shaikh Muhammad al-Hamazawi. She has been actively involved with the Islamic community since 1995 through her MSA, then as a founding member of TDC, and other community organizations. In 2002, she organized and hosted the very first “Muslim Women’s Conference” in Houston, TX.

Since then, she’s been passionately working towards empowering Muslim women through the correct and untainted teachings of Islam.

BREWING STORMS

By A.M. Ramzy

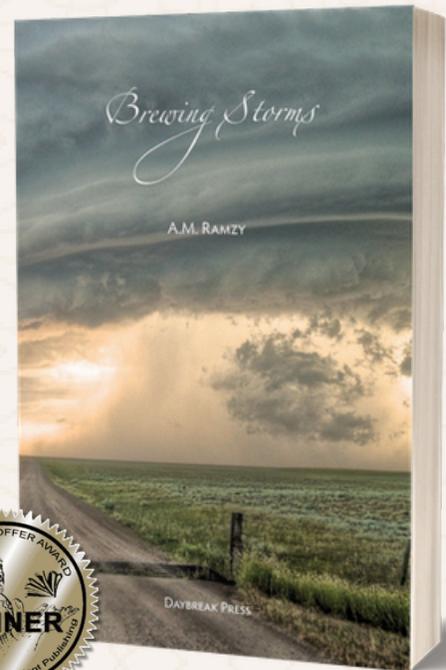
Paperback | \$9.99 | 98 pages
978-0990625926

bookshop.rabata.org

The stories of men as seeker and teacher abound in the pages of heritage texts and literary works, but the stories of women are rare. *Brewing Storms* is a collection of poems that offers a window into the spiritual path of one young woman as she navigates her way through the storms of the soul. Ramzy's poems provide deep and honest insight into the challenges of growth and spiritual development, along with moments of profound fulfillment experienced along the way.

The beauty of poetry as an art form is that it can touch readers no matter what their path or background, and it is hoped that this collection will speak to those emotions which bind us all: searching, struggle, love, and longing.

 rabata
Daybreak Press



Finalist: 2023 da Vinci Eye Award

Winner: 2023 Eric Hoffer Award: Legacy Fiction

Winner: 2023 Eric Hoffer Award: First Horizon

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Dr. Anna-Maria Ramzy learned Arabic from scratch as a non-native speaker. Her relationship with this beautiful language took her to the University of Oxford, where she gained a First Class in her Arabic degree and is now working on her PhD. Her undergraduate studies led her to the lands of Syria, where she met Dr. Tamara Gray, honed her Arabic skills through intense study, and embarked upon the journey to gain her ijaza in tajwid.

Dr. Anse Anna-Maria built the Ribaat Arabic Program and continues to oversee this department. She has been teaching with Ribaat since its inception in 2013.

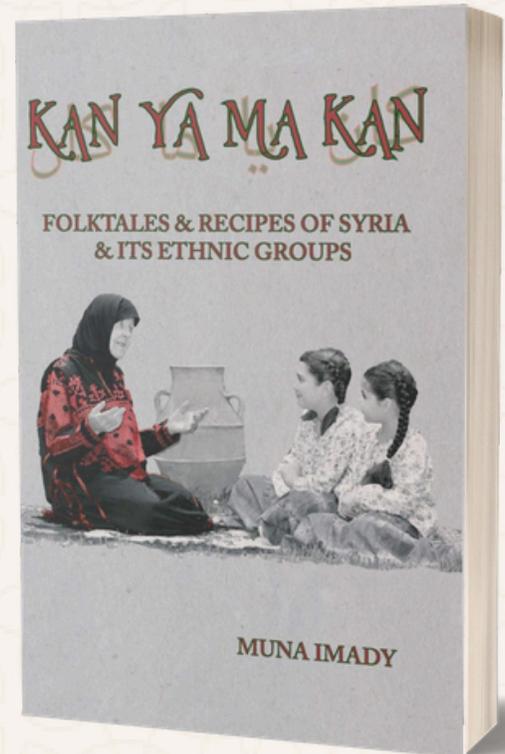
KAN YA MA KAN: FOLKTALES & RECIPES OF SYRIA & ITS ETHNIC GROUPS

By Muna Imady

Paperback | \$24.99 | 408 pages
978-0999299029
bookshop.rabata.org

With the terrible civil war raging in Syria one of Muna Imady's biggest fears was that her country's unique culture would suffer. In particular, she worried that the oral tradition of storytelling, and even the ancient stories themselves, would be lost.

The result of her quest to preserve them is this book of folktales and traditional recipes from diverse regions of Syria, handed down through generations, painstakingly collected in numerous interviews, and charmingly retold here.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Muna Imady was born to an American mother and a Syrian father. She earned a BA in English Literature and a diploma in English-Arabic Translation from Damascus University, as well as a Maitrise from the Sorbonne.

Imady designed a beginner's English reading course for children, and wrote several text books to teach children English as a second language. In addition to this work, Muna also authored *Syrian Folktales* and *Damascus Amid the War*, which was published posthumously. Muna passed away on April 23, 2016.

Muna had a lifelong interest in folktales and promised herself that one day she would write a book of the folktales she eventually collected. Her mother, Elaine, and sister, Susan, helped publish her works after she passed away.

DRUMMER GIRL

By Hiba Masood

Illustrated by Hoda Hodadi

📷 @hibamasood

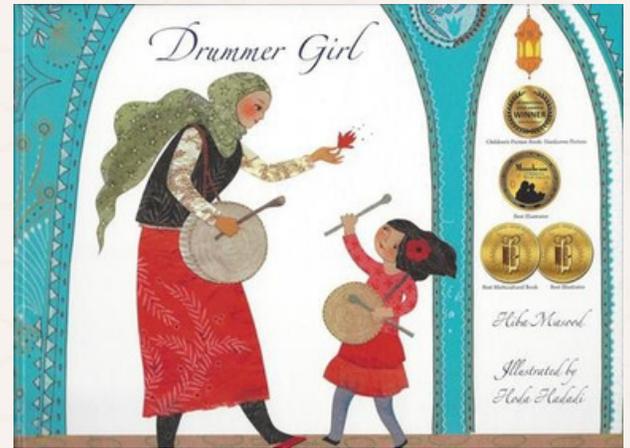
Hardcover | \$24.99 | 28 pages

978-0990625971

bookshop.rabata.org

Year after year, in the blessed month of Ramadan, little Najma has happily arisen to the drum beat of her neighborhood's *musaharati*. He walks through the streets of her small Turkish village, waking each family for the pre-dawn meal before the long day of fasting. Najma wants nothing more than to be a *musaharati* herself one day, but no girl has ever taken on the role.

Will she have what it takes to become the drummer girl of her dreams? Find out in this inspirational story of sincerity, determination, and family support.



Gold Seal Winner: International Book Awards:
Best Picture Book

Gold Seal Winner: Moonbeam Children's
Book Awards: Best Illustrator

Gold Seal Winner: Literary Classics Awards:
Best Multicultural Book

Gold Seal Winner: Literary Classics Awards:
Best Illustrator

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Hiba Masood is a Canadian-Pakistani writer, storyteller, and speaker. Apart from running her wildly popular Facebook page (Drama Mama), she is also a columnist for Muslim Matters. Currently based in Karachi, Hiba runs Happy Place, an enrichment center for women and kids, where she holds story, art, and yoga sessions centered around her primary passion, children's literature. Hiba is the author of *Aiza and Alina*, a story of friendship and Down syndrome, which she wrote for use in inclusive programs across Pakistan. *Drummer Girl* is Hiba's second book. As an uplifting story about empowered women and a supportive father, this book encapsulates her mission in life: *to encourage women to become their best, most radiant selves, and to celebrate everyone who helps them in this essential journey.*

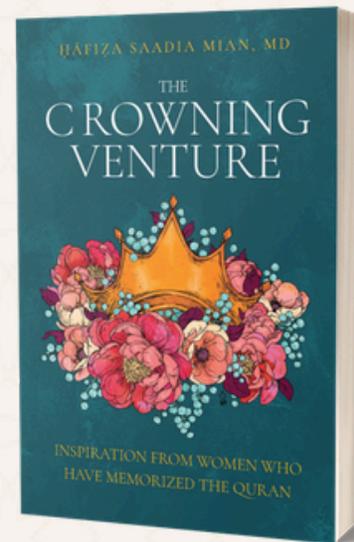
THE CROWNING VENTURE: INSPIRATION FROM WOMEN WHO HAVE MEMORIZED THE QURAN

By Hafiza Saadia Mian, MD

 @drsaadiamianmd

Paperback | \$22.99 | 156 pages
978-0999299036
bookshop.rabata.org

If you've ever sighed wistfully upon hearing of someone memorizing the Quran, wishing it was something you could do, too, then prepare to replace that wistfulness with determination! Filled with inspirational stories for your heart and memorization techniques for your mind, *The Crowning Venture* reminds us that memorizing the Quran is not an achievement to be conquered, it's a journey to savor - a journey YOU can make.



Winner: International Book Awards:
Religion, General

Winner: Fofsky's Reader's Choice Award:
Best Self-Help

Silver: Florida Authors and Publishers
Association: How-to/Self-
help/Inspirational

Finalist: International Book Awards:
Religion: Eastern

Finalist: International Book Awards: Best
Cover Design, Non-Fiction

Finalist: American Book Fest: Religion
General & Religion Eastern

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Dr. Saadia Mian is board-certified in internal medicine and endocrinology. After completing an undergraduate degree in psychology at the University of Michigan, she went to medical school at Michigan State University. She works full-time at Metro Detroit Endocrinology Center in Dearborn, Michigan.

She is a member of the founding board of Rabata and continues to serve while working full-time as an endocrinologist. She is also a member of AACE (American Association Clinical Endocrinologists), Endocrine Society, Syrian American Medical Society and Women Physicians for Humanity.

Anse Saadia leads the level 4 Quran course at Ribaah, "The Crowning Venture: Quran Memorization" and also works with tajwid students one-on-one as part of the Quran Program.

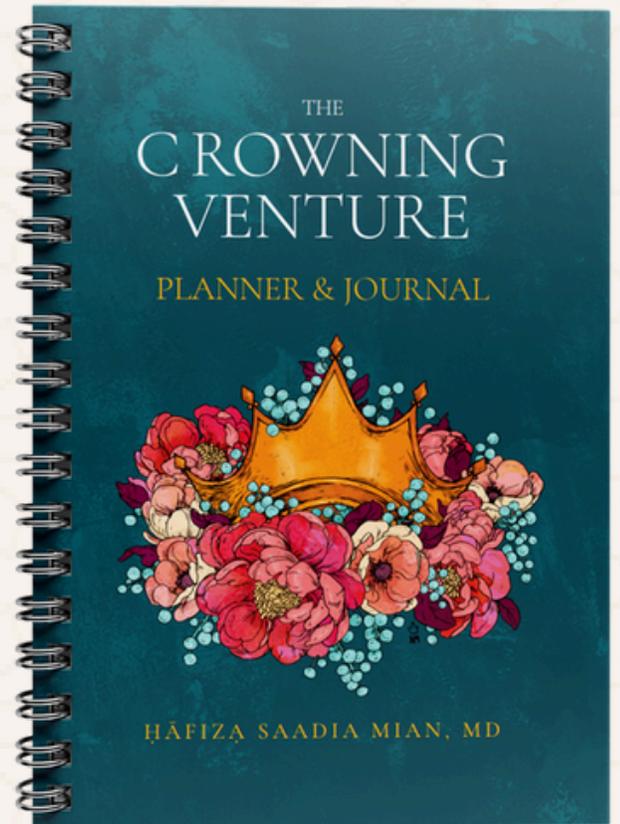
THE CROWNING VENTURE PLANNER & JOURNAL

By Hafiza Saadia Mian, MD

📷 @drsaadiamianmd

Spiral | \$24.95 | 262 pages
bookshop.rabata.org

The Crowning Venture Planner and Journal recognizes that to achieve our visions we need to first clarify those visions and then take measured steps to realize them. Whether your goal is to strengthen your relationship with the Quran, improve your health, nurture your social interactions, or sharpen your time management skills, there is something in this planner for you. We are so excited to present this all-in-one tool for embracing your life in new ways and growing past obstacles that keep you from realizing your fullest potential.

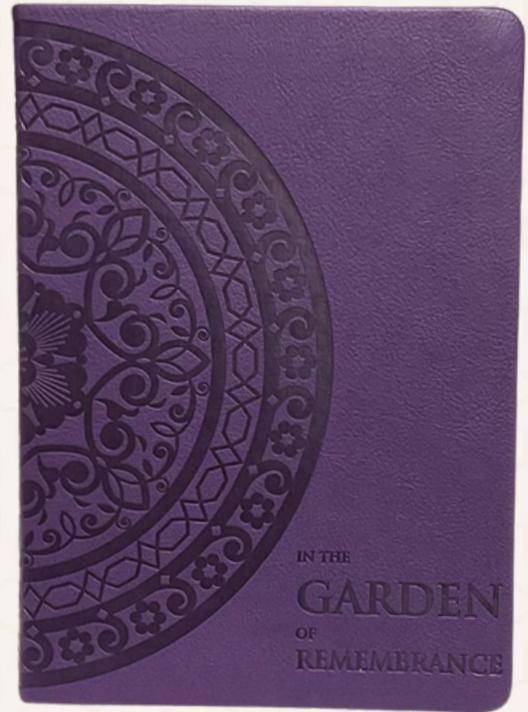


IN THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

By Murad Mujahid al-Ash'ari al-'Adnani
Translated by Nishat Lal

Smyth Sewn Binding | \$15.00 | 114 pages
978-0-9906259-8-8
bookshop.rabata.org

Allah loves to hear our voices in du'a... has He heard yours lately? Unlock the gate to the Garden of Remembrance which this du'a book published by Daybreak Press. Praise Allah as the Prophet ﷺ praised Him and echo the litanies of the *awliya* with these transformative prayers. Turn to this collection of du'as to brighten your heart, ease your burdens, and surround yourself with the fragrance of faith. In the Garden of Remembrance was translated by Ribaat Academic Institute Arabic instructor Nishat Lal, who holds a Masters in Arabic translation from SOAS University of London. It includes praises and salawat followed by du'as for forgiveness, protection, and need. Familiar du'as used at Rabata events round out this unique compilation. An essential for every Muslim home, this beautifully-bound treasury of profound and touching du'as will nurture spirits for generations to come.



Winner: 2023 International Book Awards: Religion

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR



Nishat Lal was raised in Cardiff, Wales. A born Muslim of Indian origin, she began studying Arabic at age 14, which was her springboard to receiving Bachelor's degrees in Arabic and History from the University of London. She then traveled to Syria for her third year of study, where she met Dr. Tamara Gray, earned her *ijāza* in *tajwīd* and studied at the University of Damascus.

Nishat has taught both Arabic and *tajwīd* online extensively as well as in person. Nishat has been teaching Arabic with the Ribaat Academic Institute since 2014.

PROJECT LINA: BRINGING OUR WHOLE SELVES TO ISLAM

By Dr. Tamara Gray & Najiyah Diana Maxfield

Paperback | \$29.99 | 254 pages
978-0-999299-5-0
bookshop.rabata.org

Lina is the Arabic word for palm tree, and the three modules found in this book - Know Yourself, Declare Independence, and Tend Your Ties - provide a springboard from which converts can grow like palm trees, with deep roots of faith, strong and flexible trunks of devotion, and sweet, nutritious fruits of service. Whether new to Islam or a seasoned convert with tales and advice of your own to share, *Project Lina* will help you continue to bring your whole self to Islam. It is the open arms, the spiritual guidance, and the balanced way forward that converts need for a healthy transition from newbies to vital members of their communities - and then to the leaders their communities need.



1st Runner Up: 2023 Eric Hoffer Award: Legacy Nonfiction

Short List: 2023 Eric Hoffer Award Grand Prize: Legacy Nonfiction

Finalist: 2023 International Book Awards: Self Help/Spirituality

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Anse Dr. Tamara Gray is the founder of Rabata, an organization dedicated to promoting positive cultural change through creative educational experiences. She is an Islamic scholar and holds multiple ijazas in Islamic sacred texts and subject matters.



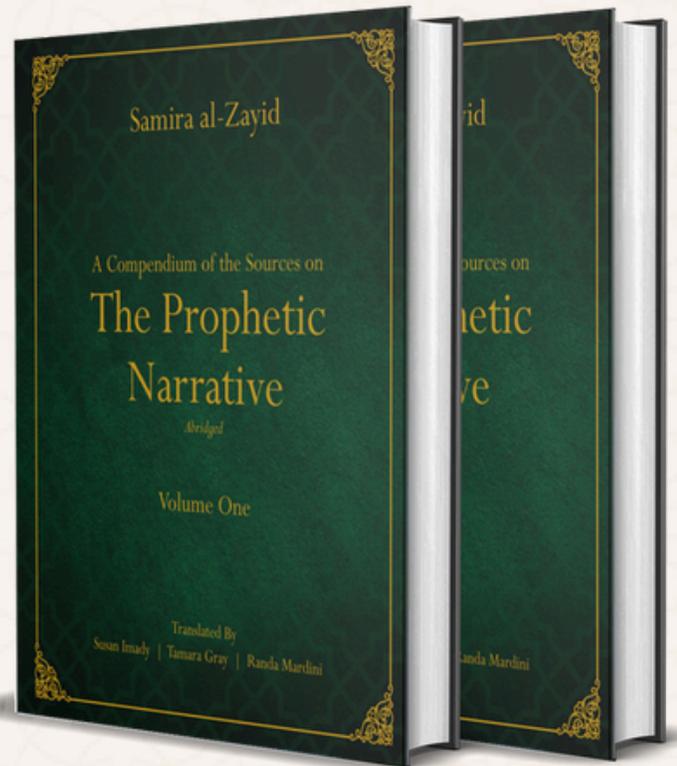
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Anse Dr. Tamara Gray is the founder of Rabata, an organization dedicated to promoting positive cultural change through creative educational experiences. She is an Islamic scholar and holds multiple ijazas in Islamic sacred texts and subject matters. Anse Tamara completed her doctoral studies in the Leadership, Policy and Administration program at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. She also holds a master's degree in Curriculum Theory and Instruction, and worked for 25 years in the field of education before moving into the nonprofit world.

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A student of Anse Samira al-Zayid, Anse Randa Mardini is the preeminent Sira scholar in the world today. She uses her background in computer science to bring the Prophet's biography to life for students in Kuwait, where she currently lives, and around the globe.



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