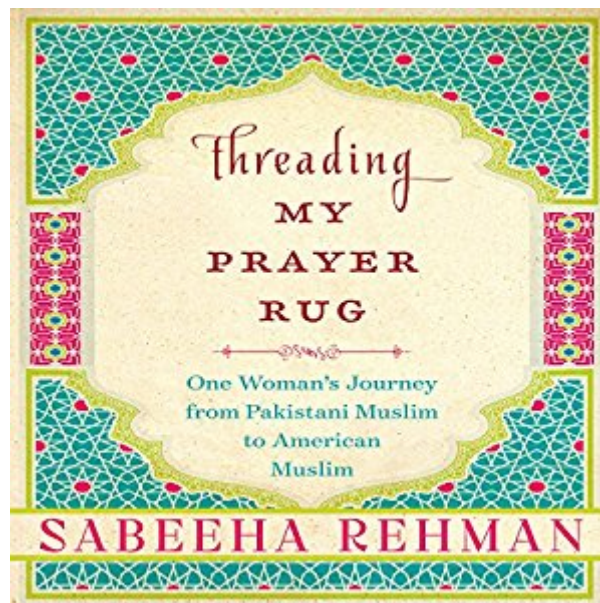




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# Threading My Prayer Rug: One Woman's Journey From Pakistani Muslim To American Muslim



## Synopsis

This enthralling story of the making of an American is also a timely meditation on being Muslim in America today. *Threading My Prayer Rug* is a richly textured reflection on what it is to be a Muslim in America today. It is also the luminous story of many journeys: from Pakistan to the United States in an arranged marriage that becomes a love match lasting 40 years; from secular Muslim in an Islamic society to devout Muslim in a society ignorant of Islam, and from liberal to conservative to American Muslim; from student to bride and mother; and from an immigrant intending to stay two years to an American citizen, business executive, grandmother, and tireless advocate for interfaith understanding. Beginning with a sweetly funny, moving account of her arranged marriage, the author undercuts stereotypes and offers the refreshing view of an American life through Muslim eyes. In chapters leavened with humor, hope, and insight, she recounts an immigrant's daily struggles balancing assimilation with preserving heritage, overcoming religious barriers from within and distortions of Islam from without, and confronting issues of raising her children as Muslims - while they lobby for a Christmas tree! Sabeeha Rehman was doing interfaith work for Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, the driving force behind the Muslim community center at Ground Zero, when the backlash began. She discusses what that experience revealed about American society.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Humorous, funny but sweet and true: Sabeeha tells her story as she traces her journey from a young bride to a mother, to an immigrant trying to make America home, to a community leader, a

professional an activist, an interfaith leader and much more. The book will resonate and enthrall if you are: From Pakistan or the Indian subcontinent : It will bring back sweet memories An immigrant: You will relive your experience A woman: You will remember the challenges A Muslim: You will relate to the various faces and shapes of Islam An Interfaith advocate: you will use it to promote your work A feminist: This is your story A non Muslim: This is an example of the American Muslim identity A Parent in diaspora: perhaps one of the roads to walk on as you raise children A Young Pakistani American: A story of the struggles of your parents An immigrant Muslim family: Your story as you built a Muslim community here in America The Face of a Moderate American Muslim. Take this incredible journey with her. Once started, you will not put it down till the journey is over and all the threads have been woven in her prayers rug.

Sabeeha Rehman's book "Threading My Prayer Rug" I received my copy and I was curious to know about her journey. As an immigrant we all have an experience of coming to America from somewhere on the globe with our culture and local traditions and then we all are somehow shaped up to become American. That's the beauty of American culture that it absorbs you and molds you in such a way that you keep your cultural diversity with all American values of liberty justice and equality. It is struggle and it is test of your ability to deal and succeed in your professional life and cultural diversity. I am amazed how Ms Rehman was able to narrate her journey with such an eloquence that the stories have not lost a bit of its flavor. . We immigrants from similar back ground can really relate to it. Beauty of the book is that she was able to narrate her story in such a beautiful way to make it easy for readers to understand describing events in cleverly simple way with engaging and charming style of writing that a person who has no background of that culture can enjoy the story with benefits learning something new . She really was able to redesign and re-thread her rug in to red white and blue . It's a delightful read of Journey of integration, assimilation of cultures faith and aspirations along with dreams to arrive at a destination called American and Sabeeha Rehman exactly knew how to connect with readers and keeps them engaged on this incredible journey

I read this for a book challenge; the subject for this week was a book about a different culture, religion or sexual orientation. I wanted to know more about what it is like to be a Muslim women in America. This was a wonderful peek into another culture and I loved the stories around her wedding, moving to America and her religious development. I think the one thing that really stood out was that Sabeeha Rehman is just another American; she loves her family, she wants the best

for her children, she is active in her neighborhood/community, she works, uses a computer, watches TV and so on and so on. The differences seem to be no more or no less than anyone else from a different culture and/or religion. I feel like I learned more about Muslim Women and maybe some of the differences in how the religion is practiced. I think a lot of what I have seen in the media portrays a much more conservative approach and what Ms Rahman lays out is a much more moderate approach. It seems that she really grew into her religion and her experiences and reflections impacted her practice. My only issue with the book was that the time line wasn't linear and it would leave me wondering about how some of her stories connected. More of a preference but found it a little difficult to follow at times.

Mrs. Rehman, in my opinion, did a superb job in conveying to her readers her story and really brought to life her experience as a young immigrant in the US during the 1970s. She has a way of telling you a story based on truth by telling it like a story. It's witty, clever, sarcastic (without being mean) and directly personal. She will often write as if she is speaking directly to the reader, which I thought was done really well. At least twice in her book, she refers to the younger generation as "Millennials" (those of us born between the mid 1980s and the late 2000s). I recall her mentioning the use of a phone book, and she briefly explained to the "Millennials" that that was what people used before the era of smart and iPhones. Truly prodigious! So it's the clever way of writing (like what I explained above) that she uses that makes this a great and captivating read. And of course, her story is quite fascinating as well. It is a wonderful book for everyone (for both Muslim and non-Muslim readers) and I guarantee that you will not be able to put this book down. At least, I wasn't able to. Overall, I give "Threading My Prayer Rug" a 5 out of 5.

Rehman did a good job revealing her struggle to maintain her sense of self, family, culture, religion while acquiring an American way of life. She tells of support from the Jewish community and Muslims from countries other than Pakistan. Her intellectual seeking to understand Islam as a religion vs. a cultural interpretation is enlightening--she came to that as a parent wanting to guide her sons since her family in Pakistan had been more secular. All in all I gained a greater appreciation of Islam and its practice in America. I admired Rehman's intellectual and multi-cultural growth throughout her adulthood. I also think she had an amazing partner in her arranged marriage husband.

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