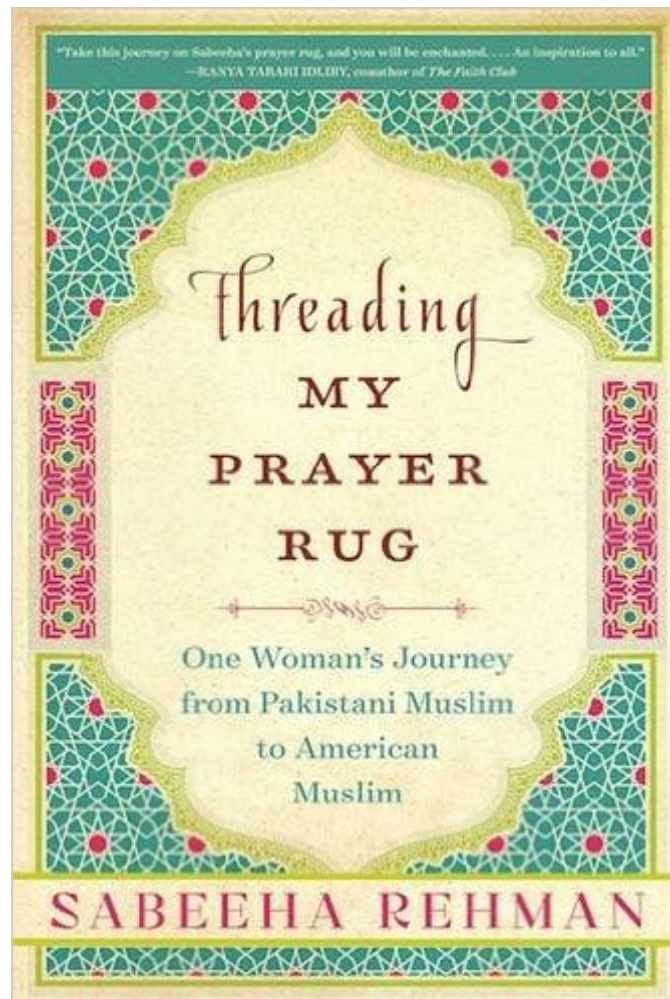


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# Threading My Prayer Rug: One Woman's Journey From Pakistani Muslim To American Muslim



## 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 forty 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.

If you would like to be uplifted by a little blue sky and feel some sunshine on your soul to counter the gloom cast by the Muslim connection to mass shootings and terrorism, I encourage you to read this book. The interesting insights into culture and tradition as well as the warmth of Pakistani family life are reason enough to read the book. The experience of transformation for an immigrant is equally illuminating. The ongoing inner struggle about religion and the conflict of its roots with modernity is quite mainstream to all religions. But the greatest comfort for me was the ordinariness of humanity for Muslim parents, children, neighbors and friends since there is so much similarity among all of us.

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

An outstanding informative and uplifting book. Sabeeha Rehman's book is a great and valuable contribution, it will resonate with immigrants' experience who are often faced with and have to deal with cultural and linguistic challenges. It will definitely resonate with folks who have an interest in learning about Islam. It's an easy read, it's engaging, entertaining and provides a ground level view of American Muslims and the challenges they face in developing a cohesive contributing community in USA. The author takes the reader deep into the Staten Island mosque and provides her personal experience in dealing with the role of women in the mosque. The style of writing is indeed unique, there is a sense of suspense, excitement, what's next ?. The chapter on arranged marriages is indeed very informative and the love and respect Sabeeha develops for her husband Khalid is an outcome most marriages--arranged or not- would yearn for. Fast forward and enjoy reading about the manner in which Sabeeha managed the marriage of her two sons, one within the faith and the second one interfaith. The personal struggle Sabeeha faced with her faith is another fascinating aspect--from secular to extra observant and finally to a moderate is something many of us can relate to. Finally, Sabeeha addresses the "Elephant in the room"--terrorism and what are American Muslims doing about it. I particularly liked the final chapter 32 which provides the author's 'vision' for American Muslims within the fabric of American pluralistic society, which in my view is no different than the previous groups who came to USA--Jews, Christians who after a few generations dropped the cultural habits they came with and developed an America-Jewish-Christian identity. In summary, an inspiring book, three hundred plus pages and an easy read with loads of "pearls of wisdom". I recommend it highly.

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