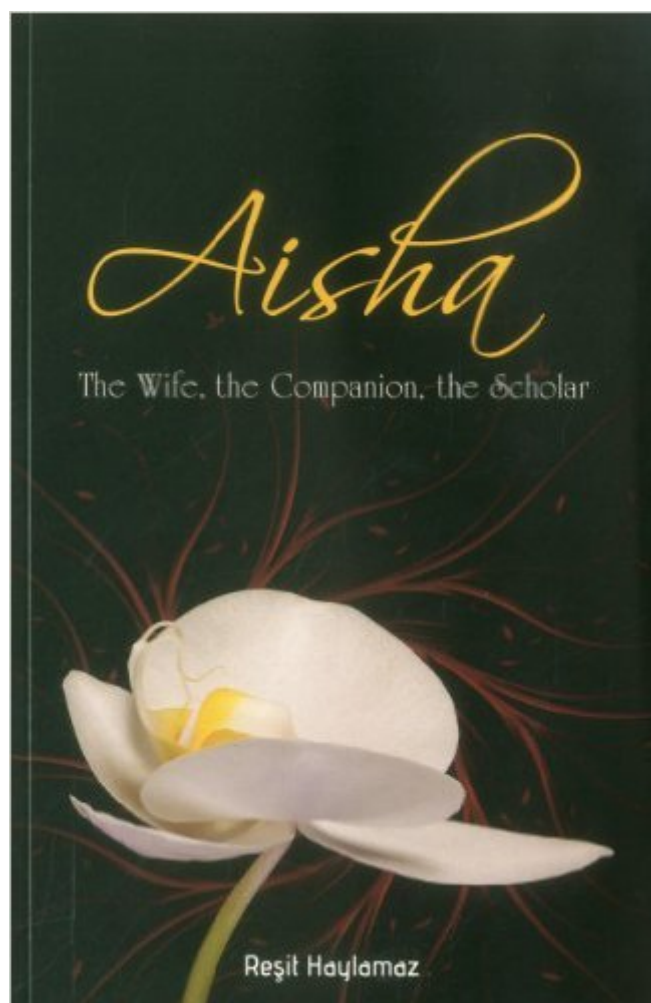


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Aisha: The Wife, The Companion, The Scholar



Synopsis

This book portrays one of the most significant personalities in the history of Islam. Taking the misunderstandings and defamation about her into consideration, Aisha needs to be understood correctly. This study by Dr Resit Haylamaz, an expert on the life of the Prophet and his leading Companions, reflects her life in various aspects based on reliable reports. The book clarifies her critical role at establishing the Islamic teaching, with particular reference to her role in the transmission of private matters concerning women and marital relations, as well as recording the authentic sayings of the Prophet. As her sensitivity at practicing religion is related in a rich variety of examples, much disputed issues like her marriage age and her stance about Ali ibn Abi Talib are covered as separate topics.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was recommended to me by a colleague who raved about how he was drawn into the colorful accounts of the relationship of the Prophet and one of his wives, Aisha. He was right. I thoroughly enjoyed the conversations and found the comments on Islamic history and explanations of practices very instructive. I'm recommending this book to my book club where we read and critique books on interfaith dialog. I know my fellow members will enjoy it as much as I did and will enter into hours of lively discussions about Aisha, her life with the Prophet, his other wives and the legions of companions whose stories are so expertly woven into this little gem of a book

This book is lovingly written. And respectfully written as well. The life of the Prophet

Mohammadâ™s PBUH wife Aisha is told from the numerous âˆˆhadith,âˆ™ or traditions about her. Unlike other literature, Islamic writings after the al-Qurâ™an which concern spiritual things have what we Westerners might term âˆœchains of authorityâˆ• to determine if a tradition is true; in other words, were you to ask, âˆœWhere did this saying come from?,âˆ• the record of it back to its source is available. These records of historical references are termed âˆˆisnadâ™ in Arabic. This book is filled with nothing but material about Aisha which were drawn from the foremost hadith, each with impeccable isnad. The writing is artless; by that I mean it has a simple lucidity to it that makes it flow like water. I would add that this is NOT an âˆˆhagiography,âˆ™ that is a writing that only glorifies its subject. Examples of hagiography abound in Christianity and Buddhism: the Christian Gospels and numerous Buddhist sutras portray their respective subjects as faultless, supermundane beings. The portrait of Aisha which emerges here is one of a remarkable yet very human being, one who was privy to so much of the founding of Islam.

Aisha means, in a sense, half of what we know of Islam, for she had the unique opportunity of being the closest person to the Prophet. This book covers almost every detail about her, reflecting a very extensive research on the literature mostly available in Arabic only. A most striking example is her marriage age, which is popularly known - and unfairly abused - to be 9. The author claims with substantial evidence that she was around her 17 when she engaged with the Prophet. This is no doubt a must-have reference book on the early history of Islam and about a remarkable woman who took lead in shaping it.

Being a Christian with a pronounced interest in the life and times of the prophet Muhammad -whom I quite like- and his close companions, I was very interested to read more about Aisha. Alas, after about 50 pages I gave up on this book. Quite clearly, the author's intention is to present a sanctified version of a real flesh-and-blood person. It's done so blatantly that I no longer believe that this book represents Aisha in her totality or even realistically. It represents her ideologically, as the saint islam no doubt turned her into as time progressed. On top of this, I cannot escape the feeling that the author wrote this book normatively, to sort of present modern muslims, and especially muslim women, with an exaggerated role-model of "the good and pious muslim" they should all be. No good, at least not for me. Aisha, great and pious as she no doubt was, was also extremely jealous of the prophet's other wives and she had a razor sharp tongue (which the prophet loved). Such details about her personality are mentioned, inter alia, in Martin Lings' acclaimed biography on Muhammad, but this is not the image which the present book seeks to convey. Not to be used as a reliable

source for the biography of Aisha. A book solely for devotional readers.

I found this book a bit different from those in the same category. certain events and reports are found in most of them. but this one contains interesting details and commentaries. I cannot say it is a five-star work, but I recommend reading it.

The book got my attention because the author has a book on Khadija too (the first wife of the Prophet Muhammad), and it was an easy read. A non-fiction in novel taste. So I started and finished 200 something pages book in couple days. Especially the argument between her and prophet's son-in-law Ali and also the rumor that she was married very early in age are explained convincingly (sources of the information included). As a Muslim I was very confused about these two issues and now I am convinced. Strongly advice to read who is curious. A must for whom read the novel about her but be aware this is not a fancy novel but reality.

One of the greatest books I've read..Very nicely written and a pleasure to read.I would recommend to every Muslim and non-muslim :)

I really appreciate for this tremendous piece. Demonstrating the necessity of the subject along with the author's fluent style was an excellent job.

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