



# Women and the Transmission of Religious Knowledge in Islam (Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization)

*Professor Asma Sayeed*

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## **Women and the Transmission of Religious Knowledge in Islam (Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization)** Professor Asma Sayeed

Asma Sayeed's book explores the history of women as religious scholars from the first decades of Islam through the early Ottoman period (seventh to the seventeenth centuries). Focusing on women's engagement with *ʿadʿth*, this book analyzes dramatic chronological patterns in women's *ʿadʿth* participation in terms of developments in Muslim social, intellectual, and legal history. Drawing on primary and secondary sources, this work uncovers the historical forces that shaped Muslim women's public participation in religious learning. In the process, it challenges two opposing views: that Muslim women have been historically marginalized in religious education, and alternately that they have been consistently empowered thanks to early role models such as *ʿʾisha bint Abʿ Bakr*, the wife of the Prophet *Muʿammad*. This book is a must-read for those interested in the history of Muslim women as well as in debates about their rights in the modern world. The intersections of this history with topics in Muslim education, the development of *Sunnʿ* orthodoxies, Islamic law, and *ʿadʿth* studies make this work an important contribution to Muslim social and intellectual history of the early and classical eras.

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