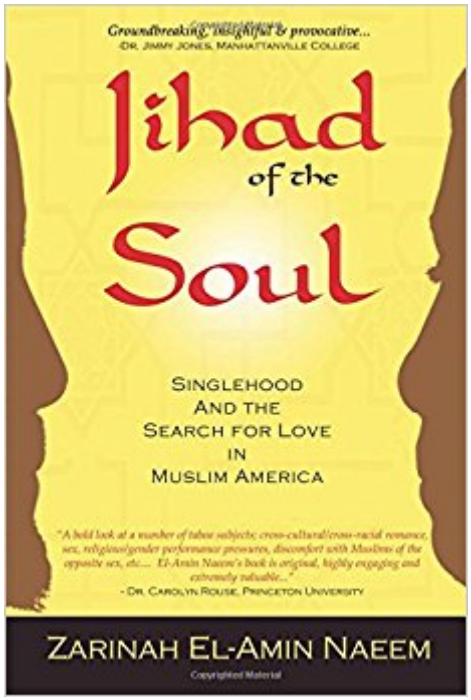
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Jihad Of The Soul: Singlehood And The Search For Love In Muslim America



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Synopsis

WHY IS BEING SINGLE AND MUSLIM IN AMERICA SO HARDWhy a "Jihad?"Ã Â Many Muslim communities are filled with beautiful, smart, talented, unmarried, single people. But don't believe the hype! Most of them want to get married. Unfortunately however, many find the road to marriage filled with unnecessary delays, social stigma and spiritual pain. But why? And how do young single American Muslims balance their faith with western culture? Is the Muslim and Islamic way of life so incompatible to the American "hook-up" culture that many young Muslims are bred in? What's happening and how can we fix it? This book is revealing for all religious minorites.Ã Â An Ethnographical StudyÃ Â The first book of its kind, Jihad of the Soul: Singlehood and the Search for Love in Muslim America, by Zarinah El-Amin Naeem, blends first-hand accounts of the attitudes, experiences, and emotions of single Muslim adults with an anthropological exploration on issues of identity, religion and desire into an intimate, rare look at young Muslim singles' navigation of love and faith. Through interviews with single Muslims aged 18-32, Zarinah identifies nine key reasons singlehood is a "jihad." The book ends with key recommendations to the community as well as the leaders with ways the author feels we can improve the marriage process and build strong communities.Ã Â What do you ask a potential spouseÃ Â Here Dr. Cheryl El-Amin, licensed social worker and pre-marital counselor, provides a sampling of questions to ask your potential mate. We know it can sometimes be hard to crack the ice and get to the real nitty-gritty. A sampling of "So You Wanna Know," Dr. Cheryl's questions for marriage are included to help you out!Ã Â A Letter to the Brothers by Dr. Halim NaeemÃ Â Manhood, relationships, marriage - Dr. Halim Naeem, husband and psychologist pens a letter discussing some of the most important issues for men to consider prior to marriage. Brothers you don't want to miss this.Ã Â A Letter to the SistersÃ Â Not to leave the sisters out, this emotion and revealing letter from Zarinah to the sister readers is one of healing and growth.Ã Â ReviewsÃ Â "A bold look at a number of taboo subjects...original, highly engaging and extremely valuable" - Dr. Carolyn Rouse, Princeton UniversityÃ Â "A wonderful and creative book that provides an opportunity for single American Muslims to share their stories regarding the challenges of developing a self-identity, finding a compatible mate, and maintaining a healthy relationship in a non-Muslim society." - Azizah Kahera, Azizah MagazineÃ Â "Lively and succint... Zarinah El-Amin Naeem's own experiences as an American Muslim woman make for a compassionate, thoughtful, and useful study of the experiences and perspectives of Muslim singles seeking morally workable Islamic alternatives to mainstream American dating." - Dr. Kristina Wirtz, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Western Michigan UniversityÃ Â "Reading this book was like

talking to my daughter about everything she doesn't want to say." - Muhammad R. from New YorkÃ Â "...Groundbreaking, insightful and provocative...a useful departure point to a larger conversation" - Dr. Jimmy Jones, Manhattanville College, NYÃ Â ABOUT THE AUTHORÃ Â Zarinah El-Amin Naeem is a global presenter, publisher and author from Detroit, Michigan. She uses public anthropology to reveal and address contemporary issues facing the Muslim community. In addition, Zarinah works through her company Niyahpress.com, Beautifully Wrapped, and the Enliven Your Soul Foundation for Global Advancement to create events, products, and experiences that help people tap into their souls. Her ultimate goal is to create a global culture of love by building connections between peoples of various backgrounds. A mother wife and community member, Zarinah would love to connect (zarinah@niyah.net)

Book Information

Paperback: 2008 pages

Publisher: Niyah Net; First edition (June 27, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0982221509

ISBN-13: 978-0982221501

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,534,760 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Religious & Sacred Music > Muslim #293 inÃ Â Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Women in Islam #307 inÃ Â Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Rituals & Practice

Customer Reviews

A bold look at a number of taboo subjects; cross-cultural/cross-racial romance, sex, religious/gender performance pressures, discomfort with Muslims of the opposite sex, etc.... El-Amin Naeem’s book is original, highly engaging and extremely valuable. Before we can get a theoretical handle on what is going on in this very diverse community, we are going to need more ethnographies like Jihad of the Soul. --Dr. Carolyn Rouse, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Princeton UniversityTaking us deep into the thoughts and lives of young Muslim Americans, Zarinah El-Amin Naeem weaves together a powerful, refreshing, and intimate narrative, in their words, about the challenges they face in understanding their own souls, and in searching for their soul mate. The reader is bound to

appreciate the gap that the book fills by way of redirecting our attention away from the current ill-conceived and socio-political driven scrutiny of Muslim youth towards a more humane, and human-centered examination of the youth as being unique, and special as they come of age in post 9-11 America. --Altaf Husain, Ph.D. Howard UniversityA landmark publication which discusses in a scholarly manner, contemporary challenges that single American Muslims face in regards to marriage. Definitely an eye opener for those who seek to promote healthy marriages within the American Muslim community. --Dawud Walid, Executive Director of Council on American Islamic Relations- Michigan

Zarinah El-Amin Naeem, M.A. uses public anthropology to reveal and address contemporary issues while creating opportunities for discussion and bonding between groups of "difference." Drawing on her compelling life journey as an cultural specialist and global presenter, she infuses her talks and workshops with intriguing stories and a keen understanding of the human condition. Zarinah is an active member of the American Muslim community, and the founder and chief spiritual officer of NIYAH, a publishing and creative-living company working to enliven and uplift the souls of humanity through one-of-a-kind events and goods. Married to Dr. Halim Naeem, Zarinah and Halim are raising their three children to be responsible social agents of change. Email her at zarinah@niyah.net to connect.

Jihad of the Soul is in a unique class of its own. I read this book six years ago and I haven’t encountered another book that goes so in depth to the individual experiences of Muslim men and women and the trails, errors and offenses that are faced on the road to marriage. Reading this book was like having a superpower; being able to tell what everyone was thinking and wanted to say, but doesn’t. This book removes the veil on taboo topics that you will not find much dialogue on such as homosexuality and premarital sex. This books offers great insight into the experiences of many Muslims and offers an opportunity to have a greater conversation about the real everyday problems that young Muslims are facing daily and the dual pressures that are felt from being American and Muslim.

This book is gives unflinching and honest accounts on the difficulties of Muslims seeking marriage in the United States. While founding a spouse comes easily to many, others struggle for a myriad of reasons that cannot and should not be written off. Zarinah El-Amin Naeem is non-judge mental in her approach and gives a voice to so many who have been shamed because of their singlehood.

This book is a must read counselors, Muslim religious leaders, parents and young adults.

Zarinah El-Amin Naeem has given us "Jihad of the Soul: Single Muslims Struggling with Identity, Religion and Desire", a study of what it means to be young and single in today's society; specifically, young and single in American society. She takes scores of interviews of people between the ages of 18 and 40 and presents their experiences and opinions in a coherent fashion.Divided into 3 parts, Jihad tackles important questions, such as: * What does it mean to be Muslim? * Is marriage still necessary? * Are my expectations to high? * How much say so should my family have in my decision? * Where do I find a mate?This book contains a wealth of information. Whether you are a person seeking answers to chase away confusion or simply desire to know "what's really going on", this book needs to be read! Overall, it reminds us that there is no single mindset about Muslims.How I wish this book was around when I was single!

first I would like to say alhamdulillah May Allah reward you on your efforts in examining the life of single Muslims, I can indentify with that being a single Muslim myself lol...it does good in the way that in dives into the lives of Muslims and their struggles and their decisions....in the beginning of the book you mentioned the purpose for the book, one for your field of study and then for the singles Muslims,I think thats what it was I dont have the book in front of me....I think it does an excellent job for your field of study, but for the Muslim side of it I think it does a good job showing some of the real issues of single Muslims....but it is too open,like the part about homosexual Muslims...we shouldnt be too rigid in our Islam like sum ppl r makin it hard and ridiculous shoutin haram at everything, but at the same time, we cant be too open about things either....from reading it, it seems that not all of them, not all of them, but a good majority of the Muslims interviewed seems like they didn't have strong Iman, and they were not only struggling with being single, but struggling with their Deen itself....and I know that struggling with Islam is real, it happens,but I think if you would have interviewed more Muslims who were more firm in their Deen it would have made it more inspiring...but then again,if they are not struggling how can it be called Jihad of the Soul? idk...jus my 2 cents...

There is simply no other book out there like this. The study and research and the candid accounts of the American Muslim population as they struggle through their internal desires is magnificent. Little to no book will take such an angle and give you such an intimate passage into the depths of the American Muslim population's struggle inside the heart. Jihad of the Soul is a Must Read for anyone

who is passionate and curious about the single lives of Muslim populations in America, marriage, courting, and other hot button topics. It is profoundly relevant to other religious populations and faiths as the same denominator of struggling to reconcile heart and behavior in a hyper sexualized and secularized society.

I have never read a book on Islam that is as honest as Jihad of the Soul. The author discusses topics that are often deemed taboo in Islam but are very prevalent in relationships. Many Muslims think that the relationship issues that plague the greater American Culture do not affect Muslims and thus when our teens and young adults encounter these issues they have no where to turn and think they are alone. This book forces its readers to realize that other Muslims may have some of the same experiences (such as premarital sex and homosexuality) that they are facing.Jihad of the Soul is a must read for Muslim Teens and their Parents.

This is a pivotal publication, which brings an honest in depth look at relationships within the American Muslim Community. This is the first work of it's kind and a necessary work for this generation. I was moved by the shear honesty displayed in covering the varying and layered topics regarding single-hood for Muslims in America. I believe this book can be used as stepping stone towards opening an internal conversation within the Muslim community and for greater understanding for the world community. I applaud the author for exploring this long neglected topic in such a transparent way. We need more works like this!

This book relates to Muslim and non-Muslim God conscious singles. Christian friends who read it note the common concerns and challenges faced by all who which to negotiate today's singlehood, seeking marriage while trying to remain "right with God." Jihad of the Soul goes along way toward destroying the myth that Muslims are "so very different" without compromising Islamic principles. I've recommended it to many!

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