



MIRROR ON THE VEIL
A COLLECTION OF PERSONAL ESSAYS
ON HIJAB AND VEILING

EDITED BY
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Nausheen Pasha-Zaidi has degrees in Communications, Education, and Psychology. She has worked as an international educator for almost 20 years, focusing on language development and cultural studies, with an emphasis on Muslim populations. Her articles have appeared in a number of professional journals, including *Ethnicities* and *The Journal of International Women's Studies*. She is the author of *The Colour of Mehndi*, a novel exploring acculturation, family values and mental illness within the Pakistani-American community.



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What does the word “veiling” mean to you? For some it is an emblem of piety, while others condemn it as a patriarchal tool of oppression. Love it or hate it, the veil is one of the most prevalent and misunderstood symbols of feminine identity and power today. This anthology of personal essays from around the globe demystifies the individual significance of the veil by taking you inside the hearts and minds of those who have experienced it first hand. How do different societies relate to a veiled woman? Can covering the hair be an act of defiance and empowerment? Can the veil be seen as an expression of one's own sensuality? Part academic and part confessional, the stories inside help answer these questions by moving beyond the religious significance attached to this controversial stretch of fabric.

Instead they explore the psychological, sociological and spiritual implications of veiling, giving voice to men and women of varied religious and cultural backgrounds who have been touched by the veil.

“Hijab has long been a deeply misunderstood expression, where many assign their own meaning to it instead of listening to those who choose it. This important collection of essays offers a window into the personal narratives of the women who observe this practice, allowing Muslim women to speak for themselves. A must read for anyone wishing to go beyond assumptions and stereotypes.”
Dalia Mogahed, Director of Research, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU)

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