

# The Muslim West | Jewellery: Wealth, Prestige and Protection

## Wedding gifts

In the Muslim West during the Middle Ages, it was customary for the groom to give the bride a wedding gift consisting of jewellery, clothes and cosmetics so that she could present herself appropriately for the marriage celebrations, which would last for several days. The bride's father would also lend her jewellery to wear in public which she returned to him after the wedding was over. The wedding would begin with the women of the family visiting the bride, who would have had her hair and clothes prepared especially for the occasion. The bride would wear as much jewellery as the economic position of her groom and her family would allow. She would receive the congratulations of her visitors impassively seated on a throne or positioned in the place of honour.



**Name:**  
Earrings

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 524–668 / AD 1130–1269 or Hegira 627–982 / AD 1229–1574 Almohad or Hafsid

**Details:**  
National Museum of Setif  
Setif, Algeria

**Justification:**  
Muslim women from powerful families adorned themselves with colourful, brilliant, decorative and elaborate jewellery.

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**Name:**  
Coin

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 516 / AD 1123 Almoravid

**Details:**  
Royal Coin Cabinet  
Stockholm, Sweden

**Justification:**  
Muslim women from powerful families adorned themselves with colourful, brilliant, decorative and elaborate jewellery.

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**Name:**  
Necklace (lebba)

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 13th century / AD 19th century Alawid

**Details:**  
Museum of the Udayas  
Rabat, Morocco

**Justification:**  
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**Name:**  
Medallion (bracteate)

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 524–668 / AD 1130–1269 or hegira 627–982 / AD 1229–1574 Almohad or Hafsîd

**Details:**  
National Museum of Cirta  
Constantine, Algeria

**Justification:**  
As well as being ornamental, some jewellery had a prophylactic function, offering protection against the evil eye.

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