

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

A woman's inalienable property

Muslim women used jewellery throughout their lives: as children, they wore prophylactic jewellery to protect them against the evil eye; once they were engaged they would be given family jewels by their parents, along with a dowry. Marriage was a further opportunity for women to amass jewellery. The groom would give his bride jewellery as a gift, so that on the day of her wedding the bride would appear in the place of honour with her most beautiful adornments. This, and other jewellery acquired subsequently, constituted a woman's inalienable property.



**Name:**  
Pair of fibulae

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

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

**Justification:**  
The jewellery worn by women from the ruling classes included brooches, belts and other adornments made from precious metals worked with filigree and granular decoration and set with precious stones.

---



**Name:**  
Fragment of a brooch

**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:**  
The jewellery worn by women from the ruling classes included brooches, belts and other adornments made from precious metals worked with filigree and granular decoration and set with precious stones.

---



**Name:**  
Adornment from small chest

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira end of 5th century – first half of 6th century / AD end of 11th century – first half of 12th century Almohad

**Details:**  
Museum of Mértola  
Mértola, Beja, Portugal

**Justification:**  
The jewellery worn by women from the ruling classes included brooches, belts and other adornments made from precious metals worked with filigree and granular decoration and set with precious stones.



**Name:**  
Chest

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 422–55 / AD 1031–63 Taifa kingdoms

**Details:**  
National Archaeological Museum  
Madrid, Spain

**Justification:**  
The jewellery worn by women from the ruling classes included brooches, belts and other adornments made from precious metals worked with filigree and granular decoration and set with precious stones.

---