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.

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.

Name: Necklace (lebba)
Dynasty: Hegira 13th century / AD 19th century Alawid
Details: Museum of the Udayas
Rabat, Morocco
Justification: Muslim women from powerful families adorned themselves with colourful, brilliant, decorative and elaborate jewellery.
Name: Medallion (bracteate)

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

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.

Name: Medallions (bracteates)

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