

40 DAYS
and
1001
NIGHTS

*One Woman's Dance Through
Life in the Islamic World*

TAMALYN DALLAL



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To understand a people you must live among them for 40 days.

— Arabic proverb

Simplistic perceptions of the Islamic world quickly dissolve in *40 Days and 1001 Nights* as globetrotting American dancer, author and filmmaker Tamalyn Dallal takes you on an unforgettable journey.

Without an agenda or expectations, Ms. Dallal sets out to live in five Islamic cultures for 40 days each. She finds herself in the tsunami-ravaged city of Banda Aceh, Indonesia, then ventures deep into the Egyptian Sahara to the Siwa Oasis, where donkey carts are the main form of transport. She follows a beautiful song to the forgotten island of Zanzibar, where sun and surf crash against a tumultuous past. Next, she lands in Jordan, a peaceful kingdom and haven for refugees from strife-torn lands, and finally spends 40 days in China's largest province, the predominantly Muslim Xinjiang Autonomous Region.

Join the adventure, release your fears and gain a new perspective on a wide slice of our world that we hear so much and know so little about. You will be surprised, delighted and sometimes shocked at the fascinating web of true-life tales told by this 21st century Scheherezade.

About the Author

One of the world's most respected exponents of the art of belly dancing, *Tamalyn Dallal* has taught and performed in 34 countries. She mentored thousands of dancers around the world. Through 16 years of directing a nonprofit arts organization, Ms. Dallal produced numerous stage productions and dance festivals, including the famed Orientalia Festival of Ethnic Dance in Miami Beach for 14 years. She previously authored two books, *They Told Me I Couldn't*, about living and dancing in Colombia, and the instructional book *Bellydancing for Fitness*.

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