

NADIA ABU-ZAHRA

The  
*pure*  
AND  
**POWERFUL**

STUDIES IN  
CONTEMPORARY MUSLIM SOCIETY

# Contents

Acknowledgements	vii
Notes on Transliteration and Referencing	ix
Introduction	xi

## PART ONE

### New Analytical Concepts for the Anthropological Study of The Performance of Islamic Rituals

1. The Rain Rituals as Rites of Spiritual Passage	3
2. The Comparative Study of Muslim Societies and Islamic Rituals	35

## PART TWO

### In the Marble Courtyard: A Study on al-Sayyida Zaynab, Patron Saint of Women

Introduction	85
1. Al-Sayyida Zaynab in Cairo and in the Hearts of the Egyptians	103
2. Al-Sayyida Zaynab, Patron Saint of Women: The Dream and the Reality	145

3. Women's Lives and the Fatawi that Guide Them	171
4. The World of the Mawlid: Celebrations by People and Government	205
5. The Great Night and the Dawn Festivities	231

PART THREE

A Comparative Study of the  
Performance of Islamic  
and Secular Rituals

1. Ramadan in Cairo	289
2. Spring Rites in Cairo	303
<i>Street Map</i>	131
<i>Diagram of the Women's Section of al-Sayyida Zaynab Mosque</i>	132
<i>Index</i>	309