

Full Draft Profile Piece

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Prof. Maryam Alsada is an inspiring Qatari scholar who has devoted her life and knowledge to serving others. What began as an academic pursuit became a deeply personal journey. Her journey began when she was just an 18-year-old woman, freshly graduated from high school, full of curiosity but uncertain of what the future held. As she applied to colleges in Qatar University, she was drawn to the College of Humanities, where she chose to major in Islamic Studies. At that time, her decision came purely from interest and demand of self-growth, not from a grand vision or a clear sense of purpose. She had not yet imagined herself as an educator or a changemaker.

As she delved into her undergraduate studies, Prof. Maryam found herself slowly changing in ways she could not have anticipated. She started to see the world through a new lens, things that were once ordinary to her became extraordinary. She started to focus on the deeper aspects of life, like the very creation of the sky, the grass, and all things created by God. She started to see the beauty in all creations including humans. Instead of focusing on what appeared on the surface, she looked deeper into what lay beneath. She saw potential in everyone and that quality is what inspired her to become an educator herself. Her degree was no longer just a means to an end, it became a path towards a deeper connection with her faith and a desire in helping others.

The more she learned about Islam, the more she realized how little she had truly known before. She began learning not just from books or lectures, but from life itself. Her understanding of Islamic principles began to go beyond theory, it became a way of living. After graduating, however, Prof. Maryam felt an unexpected void. The satisfaction she thought would feel after graduating was missing. She realized that her academic journey had only opened the door to a

much greater calling. She started to dream of reshaping how people perceived Islamic Studies, not as a rigid or limited field, but as a bridge that connects knowledge with humanity, reflection, and change. She wanted to challenge the misconception that studying Islam reinforces the narrative of striving for unattainable perfection or rigid religiosity. Instead, she wanted to highlight its relevance to everyday life, its compassion, and its role in personal and societal growth.

Determined to bring this vision to life, Prof. Maryam pursued a Master's degree in Islamic Studies at Qatar University, specializing in the Science of Qur'anic Explanation (Tafsir). This advanced stage of learning deepened her understanding of how education shapes individuals and communities. It was during this time that she discovered her true calling not merely as a student of knowledge, but as an educator, a mentor, and a voice for transformation. Teaching became her means of giving back, of nurturing the next generation of thinkers who would approach Islamic knowledge with openness, curiosity, and sincerity.

Upon completing her master's, her passion for deeper understanding and global impact led her to Morocco, where she pursued a Ph.D. in Islamic Studies and Community Issues at Mohammed V University. Over the years, Prof. Maryam authored three books and numerous research papers, each contributing to knowledge that redefines the purpose and perception of Islamic Studies. Her works gained recognition, earning her invitations to participate in the Doha International Book Fair multiple times, where she engaged with readers, scholars, and students who were inspired by her insights. Her scholarly contributions not only enriched academic discourse but also ignited meaningful conversations about the role of Islam in shaping ethical, inclusive, and progressive societies.

Today, Prof. Maryam Alsada continues to be a figure of knowledge and transformation. Her growing influence and dedication eventually caught the attention of the Ministry of Education, which officially appointed her as the setter of university-level curricula for Islamic Studies across Qatar. This recognition was not only a professional milestone, it was the embodiment of her vision. Now, her impact extends far beyond the walls of her classroom, reaching communities, institutions, and individuals who seek guidance and inspiration. Through her life's work, she has proven that true scholars do not simply teach, but transform the world around them.