



## Saladin: Noble Prince of Islam

*Diane Stanley*

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Forty years before the boy was born, a horde of bloodthirsty barbarians thundered out of the west and conquered his native land. They had succeeded because his people, ever at war with one another, had not fought together to defend their cities. In time the boy was destined to become the very leader that was needed, a man with the courage and vision to unite his people and face the most fearsome and brilliant warrior of the age.

The time was the twelfth century; the barbarian horde was the armies of the First Crusade; the great warrior was Richard the Lionhearted; and the leader was Saladin. This is more than the other side of a familiar Western story, the Crusades. It is the tale of an extraordinary man, remarkable for his generous and chivalrous ways, a warrior who longed for peace. Courageous in battle and merciful in victory, he would be revered even by his enemies as the "marvel of his time."

In her vibrant narrative and magnificently detailed illustrations inspired by the Islamic art of the time, Diane Stanley presents a hero whose compassion, piety, tolerance, and wisdom made him a model for his time -- and for ours.

## Saladin: Noble Prince of Islam Details

Date : Published August 6th 2002 by HarperCollins (first published August 1st 2002)

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Author : Diane Stanley

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## **From Reader Review Saladin: Noble Prince of Islam for online ebook**

### **Susan says**

This book for older children tells the story of Saladin (Salah al-Din), the Muslim warrior who fought to wrench Jerusalem from the hold of the Christians, including Richard the Lion-Hearted, in the First Crusade.

The story is told with a compassion and understanding that is rarely present in most one-sided portrayals of the Crusades from the point of view of the Crusaders. It is beautifully illustrated, with Islamic-style art.

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### **Shelli says**

This is a nice additional resource when covering the Middle Ages and the Crusades in school (typically 7th grade). Unless your student has some rudimentary knowledge on these topics and some of the key people involved (such as: Richard the Lionheart, King John, and Pope Gregory VIII) this read can seem a bit confusing and would be better off being read after familiarizing yourself a bit more with the material. All in all though, a very good read that showed even in times of war compassion could be shown, even though it was not the standard.

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### **April says**

I LOVE reading history books to my kids. This one was great! Such a great example of leadership to the world! I also love that Saladin is a Muslim. Not all Muslims are terrorists. The contrast of the Christian/Muslim conflict then is interesting given the state of Christian persecution in the Middle East today. So sad. Also, so far, I just love all of Diane Stanley's books.

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### **Christina Martin says**

I came across this book at the Teachers College library. I thought it would be interesting to look through a picture book that had to do with history. While this story is a picture book (half the book is composed of illustrations), the elaborate history of the Muslim prince, Saladin is presented.

The book offers a full biography of Saladin, from his birth to the battles he fought to his later life and death. The story was mostly about Saladin, but the author did include information about Judaism and Christianity. Much of the story was devoted to telling the story of Jerusalem and how Islam, Christianity and Judaism all have religious connections to the ancient city. The author also wrote about Muslim holidays and wrote a bit about Muslim religious laws.

The illustrations, which composed half the book were elaborate and visually stunning. The artist used traditional Islamic artistic themes in the illustrations, including floral and geometric patterns, traditional rug patterns, traditional artifacts and landscapes of the desert. I would definitely use this book for a class for a

social studies section. There is plenty of information within this picture book, and it would be a great way to introduce religious studies.

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### **Nancy Meservier says**

Saladin: Noble Prince of Islam is a biography of Saladin, or Salah al-Din, who lead the Muslim forces during the crusades. Because of the important role he played in the Crusades, much of the biography focuses on the particular battles he fought during this time, with a few pages dedicated to his life before and after. The book is not over the top gory, but it does occasionally touch on many of the harsher aspects of life at war, and the death that is involved. Although this book is obviously told from the point of view of Muslims, the author does not demonize Christians as a whole, instead pointing out particular Christians who did horrible things, and ones who did not. The book is illustrated by large, rather complex illustrations filled with lush colors and a lot of detail. The illustrations are so lovely that they may end up distracting children from the text. The book ends with a few pages that tell what happens after Saladin's death, giving us more information on the individuals who played a part in his story, such as King Richard. Interestingly enough, the author chooses to end of a comment on today's life in the middle east, pointing out how the repercussions of the crusades are still felt their today in this tumultuous area.

NOTE- This review was written for a class

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### **Rhiannon Hubble says**

1. Genre: Biography

2. This biography details the life and accomplishments of Saladin. This book portrays the compassion and his rise to power during the Crusades.

3. a) Area for Comment: Illustrations

b) The illustrations in this book are so detailed and complex. With each mini chapter, Stanley produces images that portray the vast and beautiful landscape as well as the intricate details of dress, and jewelry.

c) The front cover provides intricate details in the robe that Saladin is wearing. It also provides an excellent portrayal of the dress of the geographical area and time period (such as the turban, robe, and facial hair). Stanley also conveys the geography of the area in the image with the camel and the horse. The image shows the desert and the pyramids in the background as well as the ways in which the people of that time would dress and keep themselves cool.

These images are such accurate descriptions of the time period and Saladin, himself, that one can learn much just from the illustrations.

4. Curriculum Connection: I would use this book to teach about biographies. I would allow children to compare biographies and autobiographies and they could use this excellent example of a biography to begin the learning journey. Additionally I would use this book to teach about the geographical details of the area.

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### **Deanna says**

This picture book was very long! The true story of Saladin occurs during the third crusade and Saladin is who the infamous Richard of Lionheart of England goes against and loses. The author portrays Saladin and

very virtuous and kind. The reader is left feeling anger at those "Franks" and relief that the Muslims have won their land back. So bear that in mind if you choose to read the book, whatever your opinions may be.

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### **Kathleen says**

More books about Saladin should be written--or at least this one should be read more often. Crusades too often told from just one point of view.

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### **Dan says**

where did my knowledge of the Crusades go? I can only wonder. With this book, I got it back! It's easy to read and ever-interesting. The Crusades were complicated and mostly without heroes--filled with a heap of personalities, though... Answers that question I had while reading Dante, "Why was Saladin deemed an honorary Christian?"

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### **Rachel says**

Very well done biography on Salah Al-din or Saladin as he is more commonly called. I was worried that it might be biased, as a lot of books on the Muslim characters in history have been in the past (esp when dealing with the Crusades). However, the author was very good at presenting both sides of the story, and actually made the Crusaders to handle things worse than the Turks/Saracens. In 1099, the Crusaders slaughtered hundreds of Muslims and you would think Saladin (who had heard the story growing up) would be incensed and want revenge, but he treated the Christian prisoners with the utmost care and respect.

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### **Fred Kohn says**

In an interesting twist, in this biography the Crusaders are portrayed as bloodthirsty barbarians and the Muslims as civilized. Although my knowledge of the period is limited, it seems to do this while sticking to the facts. The text is engaging, and the illustrations wonderful.

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### **Alison says**

I was interested in the history I learned about Jerusalem, Saladin, and the first Crusade. I could not believe just how brutal these wars were towards Jews, Christians, and Muslims. I would use this book to teach a history lesson about Jerusalem or the first Crusade.

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### **Peshawa says**

I have read many books about Saladin in more details, but this one is very short but raising the important station in Saladin life. He was great Kurdish Muslim nobleman which we need one like him in this terrible middle east. I think the writer mad some mistake in this book which I will point as following.

1-The writer mention that Nur al-Din is a Turkish, but actually most of the sources have been stated that Nur al-Din is from Zank family and it was written as Nur al-Din Zanki (in Arabic ??????? ??????) and Zanki is one of Kurdish tribe that still leave in north and north of Iraq, Syria, South of Turkey and West of Iran.

2- Saladin is not born in a castle or in a rich house as showing in the picture on page 5 (there is no page number of this book), but he born when his family runs from their homeland to Aleppo under a tent.

3- His uncle Sherko (the name in Kurdish mean Lion spirit) teach him and make him this great man.

4- Saladin was having the greatest spy network at that time and he is the first that use code in writing letters, this is one of the most points that make him access.

5- there is no page number for the book

6- he mentions on the last page that the Kurdish land was under the Turkish control at the Saladin time, this is completely wrong, as the Kurdish land was under Kurdish control in a different sample kingdom. What Saladin did is unite these small kingdoms under one commander, and all Saladin generals were Kurd for example, Esa Hakari (from Hakari Kurdish city), Kamal Sarazory (from sharazor area) and Shkar lashen from Shkar tribe...etc

7-The Turkish help Saladin in a special way by using them as a light armored attack way called Yazik, Yazik was a group of light armor (mainly bow and arrow) attached and moving fast to disorganize the enemy.

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### **Karla says**

Shockingly there are no histories on islamic leaders of the past in our town libraries. We got this one online for D's school report. It was completely age appropriate, full of exactly the right amount of detail and was pretty interesting too. Good for my kids to see history as described from a less anglosaxon perspective.

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### **Verdi says**

He was an important to people of the Islamic religion.

Saladin and his brother Richard never actually met face to face.

Also, he was ill when his wife died and so his advisors kept the news from him for three months for fear the shock might kill him.

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