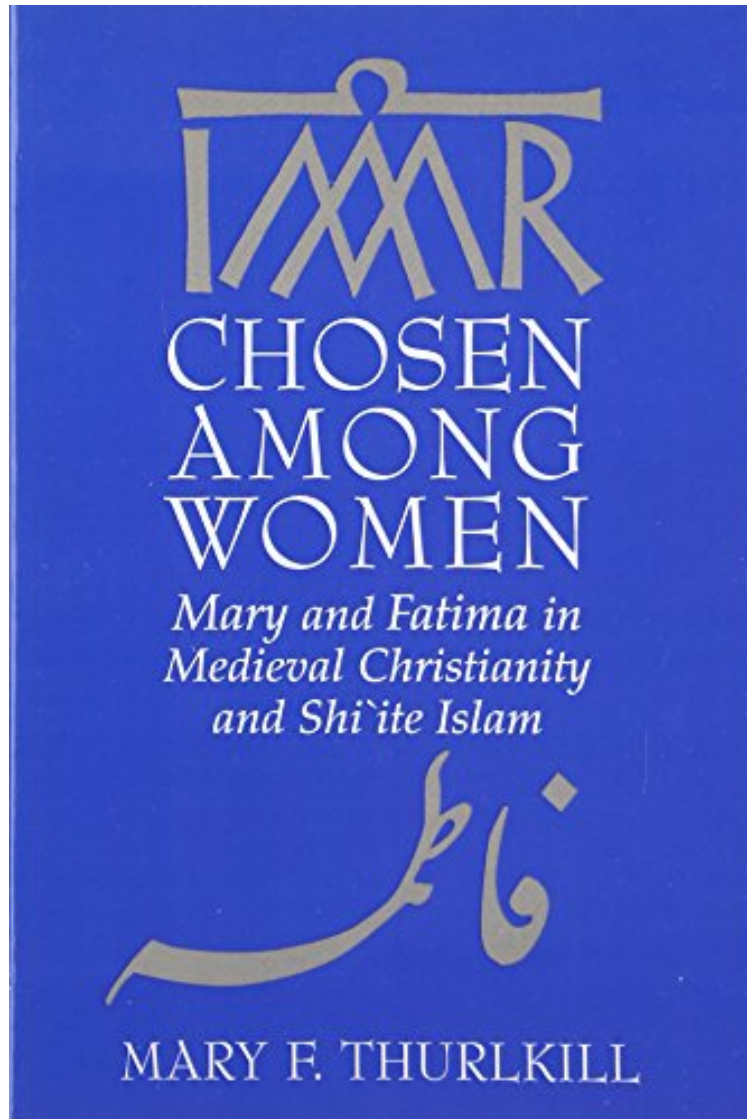


[Free pdf] Chosen among Women: Mary and Fatima in Medieval Christianity and Shi'ite Islam

## Chosen among Women: Mary and Fatima in Medieval Christianity and Shi'ite Islam

Mary F. Thurlkill

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**Mary F. Thurlkill : Chosen among Women: Mary and Fatima in Medieval Christianity and Shi'ite Islam** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chosen among Women: Mary and Fatima in Medieval Christianity and Shi'ite Islam:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Interesting comparisonBy KatherineI liked the comparison that the author made between Fatima, daughter of the prophet Mohammed and Mary, the mother of Jesus. There were

interesting parallels drawn between how early scholars in Christianity and Islam viewed the two women.

*Chosen among Women: Mary and Fatima in Medieval Christianity and Shiite Islam* combines historical analysis with the tools of gender studies and religious studies to compare the roles of the Virgin Mary in medieval Christianity with those of Fatima, daughter of the prophet Muhammad, in Shiite Islam. The book explores the proliferation of Marian imagery in Late Antiquity through the Church fathers and popular hagiography. It examines how Merovingian authors assimilated powerful queens and abbesses to a Marian prototype to articulate their political significance and, at the same time, censure holy women's public charisma. Mary Thurlkill focuses as well on the importance of Fatima in the evolution of Shiite identity throughout the Middle East. She examines how scholars such as Muhammad Baqir al-Majlisi advertised Fatima as a symbol of the Shiite holy family and its glorified status in paradise, while simultaneously binding her as a mother to the domestic sphere and patriarchal authority. This important comparative look at feminine ideals in both Shiite Islam and medieval Christianity is of relevance and value in the modern world. It will be welcomed by scholars and students of Islam, comparative religion, medieval Christianity, and gender studies.

Doing substantial comparative work in rhetoric, gender, and religion, Thurlkill is outwardly interested in holy women. Her study provides a side-by-side examination of the ways in which men in medieval Christianity and Shiite Islam constructed and enshrined feminine images 'without seriously compromising conservative gender designations.' Extensively footnoted and with a rich bibliography, this is recommended for academic gender and religion collections.