



Speaking in God's Name: Islamic Law, Authority and Women

Khaled Abou El Fadl

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This challenging new book reviews the ethics at the heart of the Islamic legal system, and suggests that these laws have been misinterpreted by certain sources in an attempt to control women.

Speaking in God's Name: Islamic Law, Authority and Women Details

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From Reader Review Speaking in God's Name: Islamic Law, Authority and Women for online ebook

Hakim says

good.

Sarah Lameche says

What a fabulous books! As a revert/convert to Islam I never follow anything blindly. I do my own research and find out the reasons why I have to do something. Where Ahadeeth are concerned I certainly do not believe they are all right. After all Allah has told us only the Quran has never and will never be change. However this opinion is often unshared by my fellow Muslims. If anything I am looked upon with disdain and more often than not told that its only the really authentic ones that we follow.

I disagree. If something is not logical to me, I need to know why we do it.

This book basically takes all my thoughts on the matter and puts them into a much more in depth and intellectual manner. Actually this book is so much more than my feeble thoughts. It is how I wish I could express myself when the topic comes up.

I really recommend this book. It is not the easiest of reads (the good books rarely are) but its perfectly understandable.

Sara Salem says

Important intervention against the dominance of male-centric interpretations of the Islamic legal system.

Raheel says

Wonderful book about women and Hadith

Sadaf says

Ridiculously good, rattled my cage in a good way =)

Asma says

((I have not finished the book in its entirety, I have been reading chapters here and there but Goodreads won't let me post an update longer than 420 characters so here's a mini review, or extended progress update depending on how you want to see it)))

Abou El-Fadl is putting my exact thoughts into words with clear and concise arguments.

Whenever I speak up about anything, or any "Islamic ruling" that seems illogical to me it seems like there's no room for discussion, it is what it is, even if it's a really weak hadith (or no hadith at all, just a very patriarchal view or opinion of a scholar; sometimes even opposition of many early Muslims to the new social structure Islam brought in). Abou El-Fadl brushed on the discrepancies between some of the Prophet's actions and some of the Hadith's attributed to him and things we experience day to day that are perceived generally to be Islamic teachings. What interested me was some information about the companions (or ruwat al-hadith) and their behavior, general attitudes towards each other (many narrations said they did not trust Abu Huraira), how many of their Hadith's were not taken vs the ones we do accept.

I do not think I have the same verbal ability to be able to explain everything myself, or I would be paraphrasing everything the author detailed in the book. I urge you to read chapter 7 for yourselves, you will be both annoyed (I cried at one point thinking something extremely misogynistic was an actual Hadith) and relieved.

I will take the time to reread some parts so I am more confident in speaking about it next time someone shuts me down with a Hadith that they aren't sure of. Every single Muslim is obliged to search for what is right and what God's will is. I still remember hearing many scary Hadiths as a child that only recently I know to be Mawdu'ah or weak. Wish they taught us that as children.

There's one part that I really want to share about the logic some put behind excluding women from public life with brilliant arguments against it both from a logical standpoint and with Hadiths but it is a whole section in the chapter that I cannot do justice by summarizing into one paragraph.

Ay says

this tome is weightier than his later book *The Great Theft*, but i still like what he has to say and the wealth of information and detail he offers his readers without being too verbose and overwhelming. i would like to meet this man someday, i highly value his rational thoughts and approach. he's like a breath of fresh air...

Aasem Bakhshi says

The book has been placed on my shelf for an year or so and I now feel sorry for not reading it before. I believe it should be among the modern classics of Islamic studies among Hodgson, Bennabi and Fazlur Rahman. The strength of the book is two dimensional, i.e., the amount of research Abou El Fadl has put in as well as the lucidity of expression with which such a complex subject of religion and authority has been tackled with. In a way, Abou El Fadl has tried to supply answers to most of the questions he asked in Conference of the Books and in my opinion, he is successful; at the same time, he has also raised some new questions regarding intricacies of interpretation. I believe the book is among the pioneers to take the field of Islamic Law from the domain of religious studies to the domain of law proper.

Dillon Tatum says

This book is a rather intimidating work by a well noted Islamic Legal Scholar at UCLA law school. It is essentially a book that challenges the authoritarianism that has ruled Islamic law for centuries, often depriving groups such as women of rights. It is a polemic piece, and attempts to be a text of legal theory. It is very well-done, and is accessible to the lay reader.
