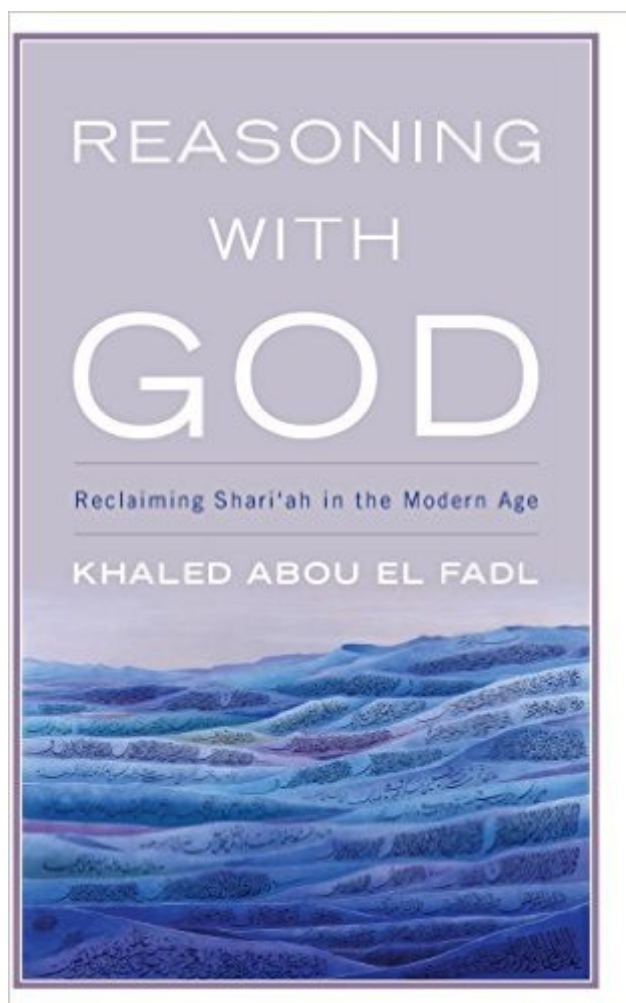


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Reasoning With God: Reclaiming Shari'ah In The Modern Age



Synopsis

In light of recent concern over Shariâ™ah, such as proposed laws to prohibit it in the United States and conflict over the role it should play in the new Egyptian constitution, many people are confused about the meaning of Shariâ™ah in Islam and its role in the world today. In Reasoning with God, renowned Islamic scholar Khaled Abou El Fadl explains not only what Shariâ™ah really means, but also the way it can revitalize and reengage contemporary Islam. After a prologue that provides an essential overview of Shariâ™ah, Abou El Fadl explores the moral trajectory of Islam in todayâ™s world. Weaving powerful personal stories with broader global examples, he shows the ways that some interpretations of Islam today have undermined its potential in peace and love. Rather than simply outlining challenges, however, the author provides constructive suggestions about how Muslims can reengage the ethical tradition of their faith through Shariâ™ah. As the worldâ™s second largest religion, Islam remains an important force on the global stage. Reasoning with God takes readersâ™ both Muslim and non-Muslimâ™ beyond superficial understandings of Shariâ™ah to a deeper understanding of its meaning and potential.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book presents a complex and nuanced portrayal of the systems and institutions that have comprised the Islamic legal tradition in pre-modernity and especially in modernity. Abou El Fadl provides much insight into the challenges and issues that face Muslims--and their ethical and legal traditions--in the contemporary age. Abou El Fadl grapples honestly with some of the most entrenched and difficult challenges, including: the proper role of law in the lives of Muslims, the

relationship and differences between law and ethics, and the role of the conscience, intellect, context, and culture in the practice of Islam and the lives of Muslims. I think this book deserves to be read by all thoughtful Muslims who seek to gain a deeper understanding of Islamic law and the ethical issues that confront us, as well as those Muslims who feel disenchanting with or disconnected from the Islam they see being practiced. While as another reviewer has noted, the book is on the longer side and is not necessarily easy reading, in my opinion, those who read this book carefully will be amply rewarded by the knowledge, insights, and perspective they gain. The narrative style also makes the book quite engaging; Abou El Fadl artfully combines personal narrative and anecdotes with a more scholarly and historical approach.

A very good book that should be carefully read by anyone seriously interested in contemporary Islamic legal discourses. But it could have easily been edited down about 100 pages without losing the force and depth of the main argument.

The combination of personal experience and deep scholarly expertise make book is a must read for anyone who wants a clear understanding of what is going on in the Muslim world today.

This is an important book for non-Muslims who want to understand Islam.

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