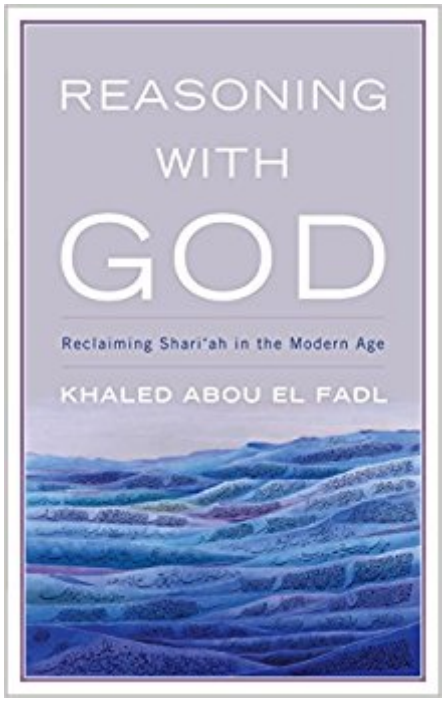
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# Reasoning With God: Reclaiming ShariÃ¢â‚¬Ëœah In The Modern Age




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## Synopsis

From laws against the implementation of ShariÃ¢â ¬Ëœah in the United States to anger about the role of ShariÃ¢â ¬Ëœah in EgyptÃ¢â ¬â„¢s new constitution, many people are confused about the meaning of ShariÃ¢â ¬Ëœah in Islam and its role in the world today. In Reasoning with God, renowned Islamic scholar Khaled Abou El Fadl explains not only what ShariÃ¢â ¬Ëœah really means, but also the way it can revitalize and re-engage contemporary Islam.After a Prologue that provides an essential overview of ShariÃ¢â ¬Ëœah, Abou El Fadl explores the moral trajectory of Islam in todayÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 re-engage the ethical tradition of their faith through ShariÃ¢â ¬Ëœah.As the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s second largest religion, Islam remains an important force on the global stage. Reasoning with God takes readersÃ¢â ¬â •both Muslim and non-MuslimÃ¢â ¬â •beyond superficial understandings of ShariÃ¢â ¬Ëœah to a deeper understanding of its meaning and potential.

## Book Information

Paperback: 556 pages

Publisher: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers (October 1, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0742552330

ISBN-13: 978-0742552333

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #452,847 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #87 inÃ Â Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Theology #119 inÃ Â Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Fundamentalism #157 inÃ Â Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Quran

## Customer Reviews

Islamic law is widely viewed in the West as synonymous with Nazi law; it cannot be reformed or redeemed. In Reasoning with God, Khaled Abou El Fadl demonstrates not only how distorted this perception is but also how bigoted it can be as well. Part memoir, part scholarly analysis, and part message to the perplexed, this book is essential reading for anyone interested in the relationship

between Islam, Muslims, and modernity. The common leitmotif that runs throughout this volume is Abou El FadlÃ¢â ¬â„¢s unwavering ethical orientation. His survey and critique of the good, the bad, and the ugly within Muslim societies and his prognosis for the future of Islam is both persuasive and morally compelling. (Nader Hashemi)This book is a personal intellectual journey of a knowledgeable mind. Khaled Abou El Fadl calls for a new methodology in dealing with both the scriptural sources and the world. A much-needed voice, constructively critical and full of hope. (Tariq Ramadan, University of Oxford)Seldom have courage and vulnerability combined with erudition in as riveting a fashion as displayed in this book. Abou El Fadl is exacting without being abstruse, passionate but never loud. There is much to be debated in this highly informative, critically argued text. And one can only delight in the thought of how much learning and inspiration will come to those who engage it. (Sherman A. Jackson, King Faisal Chair of Islamic Thought and Culture; director, Center for Islamic Thought, Culture, and Practice; professor of Religion and American Studies and Ethnicity, University of Southern California)In this important new book, Khaled Abou El Fadl solidifies his well-earned reputation as a leading scholar and public voice on Islam by undertaking a bold and thorough exploration of the role of Islamic law and theology in the modern age. The author firmly situates Islam in the modern world and asks piercing questions about what it means to be Muslim. He stakes out a theological path to Ã¢â ¬Ëœreclaim Shari'ahÃ¢â ¬â„¢ by drawing on deep historical knowledge and cross-cultural training, making this a fascinating read regardless of one's personal religious beliefs. (Joel A. Nichols, University of St. Thomas School of Law)

Khaled Abou El Fadl is Omar and Azmeralda Alfi Distinguished Professor in Islamic Law at the University of California Los Angeles School of Law, where he is also chair of the Islamic Studies Program. He was named a Carnegie Scholar in Islamic Law, has served on the U.S. Commission for International Religious Freedom, and served on the board of directors for Human Rights Watch, among other honors. He is the author of numerous books, including The Great Theft and The Search for Beauty in Islam.

I wrote a more thoughtful review, but it was too many characters to post. So, this is my revised shorter review:This book is amazeballs. Don’t be put off by the # of pages. This book is written in three parts, which all can stand on their own. Powerful, nuanced, thought-provoking. Easily the best book I have read on the subject. Like all the truly rare occurrences of brilliant and highly spiritual scholarship in history, El Fadl is derided for his nonconformity & his arguments are essentialized by those on all extreme sides. Thus, you must put aside such peripheral noise & read it for

yourself.The short of it, as RZA says in, "Who is the Man," feat. Rev. William Burk, "Allah don’t like ugly."

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

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.

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 disenchanted 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.

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.

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