

SALAFISM AND TRADITIONALISM

One of the most contentious topics in modern Islam is whether one should adhere to an Islamic legal school or follow scripture directly. For centuries, Sunni Muslims have practiced Islam through the framework of the four legal schools. The twentieth century, however, witnessed the rise of individuals who denounced the legal schools, highlighting cases where they contradict texts from the Qur'ān or Sunna. These differences are exemplified in the heated debates between the Salafi ḥadīth scholar Muḥammad Nāṣir al-Dīn al-Albānī and his Traditionalist critics. This book examines the tensions between Salafis and Traditionalists concerning scholarly authority in Islam. Emad Hamdeh offers an insider's view of the debates between Salafis and Traditionalists and their differences regarding the correct method of interpreting Islam. He provides a detailed analysis of the rise of Salafism, the impact of the printing press, the role of scholars in textual interpretation, and the divergent approaches to Islamic law.

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Salafism and Traditionalism
Scholarly Authority in Modern Islam

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Dedicated to my parents Mohammad
and Etidal, my wife Sana, and my
daughters Zayna, Safiya, and Maryam.

أَجِبُّ الصَّالِحِينَ وَأَسْتُ مِنْهُمْ
لِعَلِّي أَنْ أُنَالَ بِهِمْ شَفَاعَهُ
وَأَكْرَهُ مَنْ تَجَارَتْهُ الْمَعَاصِي
وَلَوْ كُنَّا سِوَاءَ فِي الْبِضَاعَةِ
- الإمام الشافعي

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