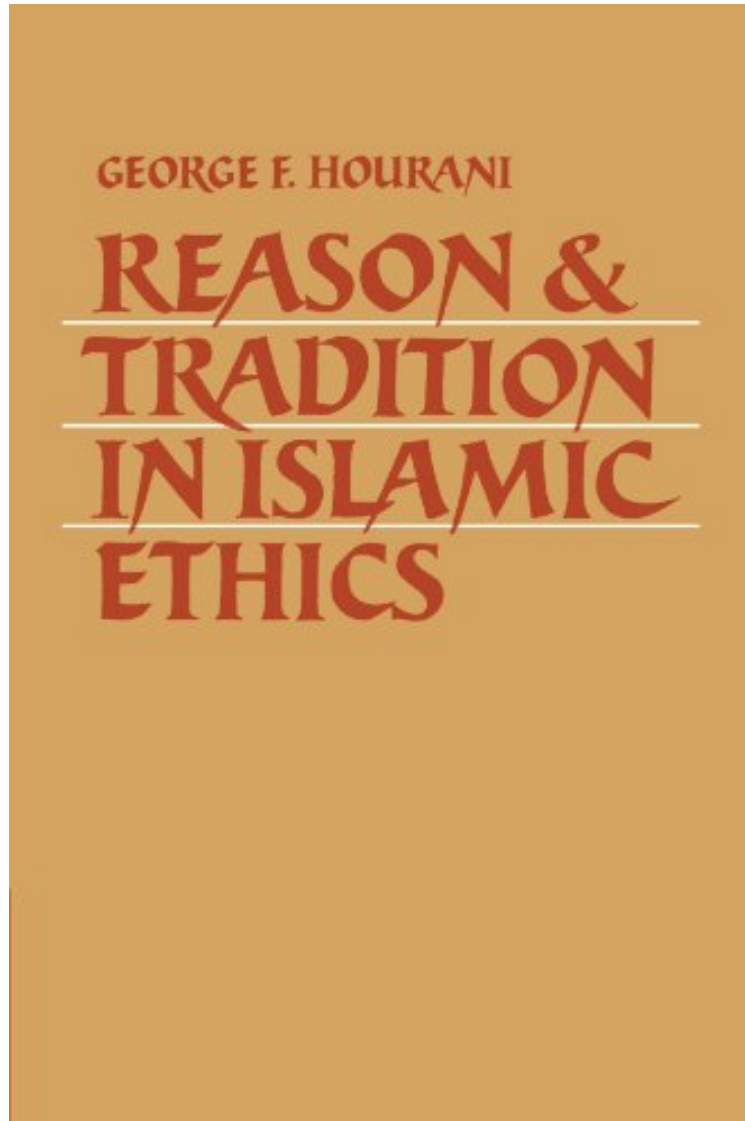


## Reason and Tradition in Islamic Ethics

*George F. Hourani*

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**George F. Hourani : Reason and Tradition in Islamic Ethics** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reason and Tradition in Islamic Ethics:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of a kindBy MJIt's not easy to find books on this subject. Hourani was an academic in his own class, and his only successor, Michael E. Marmura, has now also kicked the bucket ('09). This leaves the field of Islamic ethics rather impoverished, at present.Upon sitting down with this illuminating volume, one will realize, also, that any future meaningful (to non-orientalist-philosophists) studies in

Islamic ethics will inevitably imitate Hourani's approachable method. Islamic ethics is not Koranic exegesis, and it is not modern Western philosophy, which means that even if there are people remaining to study it, they hold stuffy positions in stuffy rooms and lack basic communication skills. George F. Hourani, who looked like a '20s film star and taught at two U.S. state universities, did not have these common academic deficiencies, and it shows in his clear-headed assessment of classic ethical problems in Islamic thought, with reference to the most stuffy Islamic scholars of classical Islam. This book is not a "must-read" in the common academic sense. Very few have read it, and anyone can get away without reading it. However, I urge the potential reader to understand that there are very valuable illuminations within this collection. This is modern "Muslim philosophy" at its rarest, and finest.

This volume collects the published essays of the late Professor Hourani on Islamic ethics in the earlier classical and formative periods of Islamic civilization. Ethics was from the start at the core of Islam, and the construction of philosophical theories to support normative ethics made those centuries among the most profound and intensely active in the history of ethical thought. The book opens with two general and contextual pieces and thereafter it is organized by schools of thought in a broadly chronological order. The essays centre around two related debates in Islamic philosophy: over the ontological status of value, and over the sources of our knowledge of value. The answers developed follow similar lines to the rational theology and philosophy of the West, and Professor Hourani brings out the frequent parallels. As a whole, the volume will introduce and establish the importance of the Islamic tradition of thought about ethics.