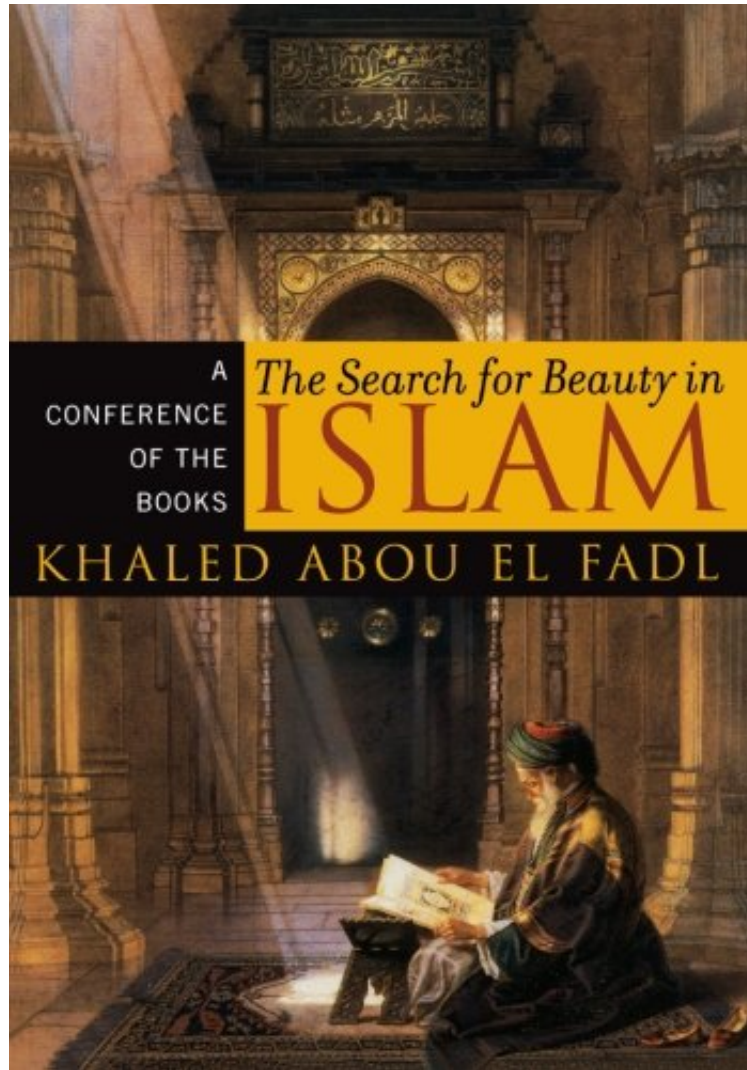


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The Search for Beauty in Islam: A Conference of the Books

Khaled Abou El Fadl

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Khaled Abou El Fadl : The Search for Beauty in Islam: A Conference of the Books before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Search for Beauty in Islam: A Conference of the Books:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. a beautiful book! marvelous! very personal, written in an easy to understand way, a must have! By shaima al love this book! I've bought several over the years and given them as gifts. This book is very unique because it's written in a very personal form, almost like a diary, where the author, each evening has philosophical discussions about modern issues with wise muslim scholars of the past. Abou El Fadl whom I actually went to meet after reading the book is a progressive muslim, with many shared views to my own and my

upbringing. I feel this book must be required reading for all Muslims, for them to truly see the beauty in Islam, and not what they see on TV done by non-spiritual people in the name of faith. A true tragedy. This book is divided into separate chapters, so you don't have to read them sequentially, and you don't have to be an expert in religion (there's no such thing actually) to enjoy this book, just have an open mind and an open heart. His other books are more academic and more for the serious student, but for me, this book, and the book by Elif Shafak called *The Forty Rules of Love* are beautiful books to truly move you, and to come to the realization that all faiths are the same in essence, and the true practice is kindness and compassion to yourself and others. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An eye-opener. By Former Bookworm The title is not normally something I'd be attracted to, because I would assume that the content is boring. However, I had listened to the author online, and found him to be knowledgeable and intelligent, capable of employing reason as a tool toward finding the truth, while remaining authentic to the sources and consistent in his methodology (or at least as consistent as humans can strive to be). The book was an eye-opener - I knew our discussions on tradition had been far more rich than they are now, but hadn't realized the extent of it. Highly recommended. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. At a time where Islam has been hijacked by rogue ... By Michael Meguid At a time where Islam has been hijacked by rogue elements, this book is a timely reminder that Islam has a gentle philosophical side

Khaled Abou El Fadl is a classically-trained Islamic jurist, an American lawyer and law professor, and one of the most important Islamic thinkers today. In this updated and expanded edition of *The Search for Beauty in Islam*, Abou El Fadl offers eye-opening and enlightening insights into the contemporary realities of the current state of Islam and the West. Through a "conference of the books," an imagined conference of Muslim intellectuals from centuries past, Abou El Fadl examines the ugliness that has come to plague Muslim realities and attempts to reclaim what he maintains is a core moral value in Islam—the value of beauty. Does Islamic law allow, or even call for, the gruesome acts of ugliness that have become so commonly associated with Islam today? Has Islam become a religion devoid of beauty, compassion and love? Based on actual cases, this book tackles different issues and problems in each chapter through a post-9/11 lens, discussing such topics as marriage, divorce, parental rights, the position of women, the veil, sexual abuse, wife-beating, terrorism, bigotry, morality, law, and the role of tradition. Abou El Fadl argues that the rekindling of the forgotten value of beauty is essential for Muslims today to take back what has been lost to the fundamentalist forces that have denigrated their religion.

El Fadl attempts to offer interpretations that are humanistic and accommodating to modern values, yet simultaneously challenging for traditionalist scholars and preachers. (An-Chi Hoh Dianu *The Library Quarterly*) This highly original book is in part a dialogue with Muslim scholars in the past, and, in part, a hymn to an enthralling vision that 'beauty' is to bring life to the truth of the Prophet. The dialogue shows the enormous breadth of [the author's] reading in classic works of learning by Muslims, and his vision suggests a new spiritual esthetic, which is both inspiring and challenging. (Roy Parviz Mottahedeh, Gurney Professor of History, Harvard University) Khaled Abou El Fadl is emerging as a major Muslim voice for the twenty-first century. *Conference of the Books* is an excellent introduction to the ideas, insights, and reflections of this important scholar of Islam and Islamic law, author, and poet. (John L. Esposito, Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University) Dr. Khaled Abou El Fadl, the most important scholar writing on Islamic jurisprudence and its development in the American context today, sets a high standard here for legal discourse and practice among North American Muslims. (Karen Leonard, Professor of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine) Each independent essay may be read in any order, but collectively they illustrate richness and diversity. (Charles C. Kolb, National Endowment for the Humanities, Religious Studies) About the Author Dr. Khaled Abou El Fadl is Professor of Law at the UCLA School of Law where he teaches Islamic law, immigration, human rights, and international and national security law. He holds degrees from Yale University (B.A.), University of Pennsylvania Law School (J.D.) and Princeton University (M.A./Ph.D.). He serves on the Board of Directors of Human Rights Watch and was also appointed by President George W. Bush as a commissioner on the US Commission on International Religious Freedom. Author of numerous books and articles on Islamic law and Islam, his most recent work focuses on issues of authority, tolerance and democracy in Islam.